boston networks

What is an Intelligent Building?

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Essentially, an Intelligent Building is a building in which the use of technology and process create a safer and more productive environment for its occupants and more operationally efficient for its owners.

Delivering multiple user, operator and environmental benefits an Intelligent Building can be managed and monitored from a single, centralised control room and can incorporate:

- **Access Control and Biometrics**
- **Asset Tracking**
- **Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)**
- **Audio Visual Technology**
- **Building Management Systems (BMS)**
- **Cabling Services**
- **Fire Alarm & Detection**
- **Intercom & Door Entry Systems**
- **Intruder Detection**
- **IP CCTV**
- **Unified Communications (Data, Voice & Video)**
- **Wireless LAN and Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)**

The purpose of an Intelligent Building is to fully harness multiple technologies to provide a superior, safe and environment and streamline business processes. Quite simply, the result is that the buildings cost less to operate yet are worth more to their occupants.

The Catalyst for Intelligence

Most buildings contain disparate, proprietary control systems. An Intelligent Building facilitates the convergence of systems to collect multiple streams of valid data, whilst greatly streamlining business processes.

System interoperability lies at the heart of an Intelligent Building and the IP network, or fourth utility, is the pillar of any Intelligent Building infrastructure. Essentially by maximising your IP network your Intelligent Building will become an effective, efficient and critical business asset.

IT and Estates – Bridging the Gap

"An Intelligent Building is the integration of technology, building, and energy management systems. An intelligent building takes a number of building systems and brings them together to reduce energy consumption and make the building as efficient as possible."

Common definitions of Intelligent buildings place the spotlight on energy efficiencies and as compelling as energy efficiencies are, this benefit no longer seems to remain the cornerstone of an Intelligent Building's value proposition.

As technology evolves, Intelligent Building solutions have proven to ease the facilities burden and pave the way for IT and Estates to bridge the gap between departmental responsibilities. Delivering Estates and Security managers all the critical information they require to monitor, maintain and protect their assets, employees and data is, in effect, intrinsically weaved in to the role of the IT department.

Interoperability and Integration Capabilities

IP has been embraced rapidly over the past decade. A few popular examples include:

- IP Telephony - to converge voice and data over one network
- IP Storage - to achieve economies of scale by managing storage capacity over existing networks.

IP networks deliver the mechanism to control, manage and maintain multiple systems centrally, thus accelerating the opportunities for interoperability and information sharing and greatly enhancing efficiency and sustainability.

Key Trends in 2013…

- Early adoption - of integrated security systems within Intelligent Buildings, at the point of construction, delivering greater cost savings and accelerated interoperability.
- Physical Security Information Management (PSIM) - An increase in the demand for PSIM to create truly unified and centralised systems.
- Edge CCTV storage – to record CCTV footage locally and reduce the transportation of non-critical information when the network is busy.

intelligence. everywhere.