Western Digital

Western Digital and RAIDIX Help King's Casino Keep an Eye on Operations

The largest poker club in Europe employs fast and reliable RAIDIX-based storage featuring Western Digital's Ultrastar® Storage Platform for its video surveillance system

RAIDIX

VTK SVYAZ
Video Telefonní Komunikace a Telecom

Challenge

Customer's existing storage infrastructure was reaching maximum capacity and needed upgrading to accommodate growing video archive and ensure safekeeping of valuable video content.

Solution

An open, flexible storage solution based on Western Digital Ultrastar Data60 and Data102 storage platforms and RAIDIX storage management software.

Key Results

- Capacity to store all the video footage from all cameras, recording 24/7, with a 2-year data retention period
- Higher storage reliability delivered by Western Digital's innovative technologies and powerful RAIDIX algorithms
- Cost-effective capacity to meet today's requirements with the flexibility to easily scale capacity on demand if needed in the future

Company Profile

Located on the border of the Czech Republic and Germany, King's Resort is Europe's largest poker club and casino. In addition to gaming, the complex includes a hotel, a spa and wellness center, two restaurants and exhibition halls. The luxurious event hall is the crown jewel of the hotel. With an interior design inspired by Faberge's works, it was awarded top honors at the Design Excellence Awards in 2018.

Safeguarding Guests Around The Clock

Since 2017, King's has hosted the World Series of Poker Europe (WSOPE) and is well-known for providing guests with first-class service, luxury and convenience. With so much invested in the facility and with so many high-profile visitors, ensuring the safety of all guests, visitors and staff throughout the complex, around the clock, is of the highest priority. That is why King's has invested in a top-notch video surveillance system that covers every inch of the vast complex.

Video surveillance in the casino complex was of particular importance. As an effective tool to detect and prevent probable offenses and malpractices, the casino uses high-resolution and high-frame rate cameras to capture any suspicious activity. Over 600 fixed and rotary cameras provide full coverage of the entire casino area, with special attention being paid to the gaming area where fixed cameras are installed above each table. Video is recorded 24/7 and the footage is used by the security team to analyze misconduct and resolve conflicts. King's maintains its video archive for two years to meet regulatory requirements.

To cope with their growing video archive, King's needed to upgrade their storage infrastructure and expand its capacity to accommodate increasing storage demands. King's needed a flexible, reliable and easy-to-scale storage infrastructure to maintain their video surveillance operations.

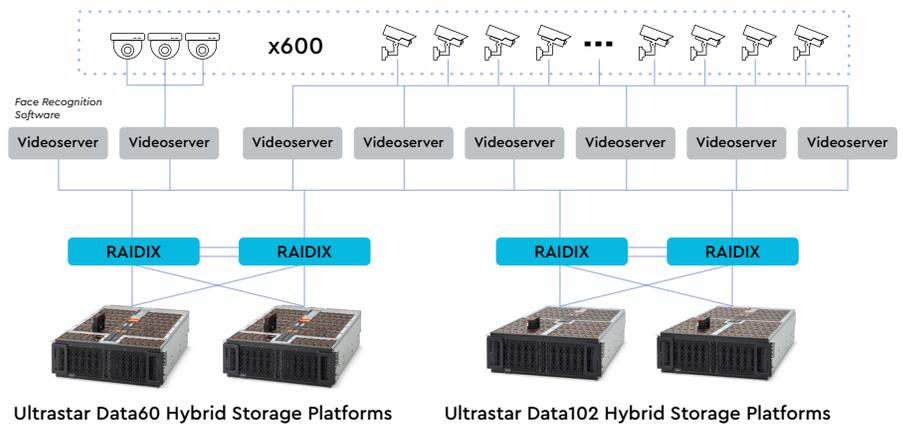## Western Digital, RAIDIX and VTK SVYAZ Were the Perfect Solution

To address these challenges, King's turned to its technology partner, VTK SVYAZ, for assistance. VTK SVYAZ is a Czech provider of telecommunication solutions that develops, designs and maintains security systems, access control systems and centralized multimedia audiovisual complexes for private and corporate clients. VTK SVYAZ designed and implemented a state-of-the-art video surveillance storage infrastructure for King's Casino complex.

"The Integrity of our games is of the highest priority. Honorable players must be provided protection and safety while thieves must be caught and punished. The high-performance solution provided by Western Digital and RAIDIX and implemented by VTK SVYAZ makes monitoring activities throughout the casino easy!"

Lukas Machek
Master Croupier and Director of casino operations

Having worked with Western Digital on other projects, VTK SVYAZ chose the Ultrastar Data60 and Data102 storage platforms for their high density, extreme reliability and easy scalability. Most importantly, VTK SVYAZ chose the Ultrastar storage platforms for the unique technologies not found in any other storage platforms: patented IsoVibe™ and innovative ArcticFlow™. IsoVibe reduces vibration-induced performance degradation, while ArcticFlow overcomes heat related issues by introducing cool air into the middle of the platform. Both these technologies contribute to long-term reliability and reduced drive failures, enabling the safekeeping of all the digital content stored on the platform.

To manage the system, VTK SVYAZ chose RAIDIX storage management software installed in a dual-controller configuration to further increase the reliability and fault tolerance of the system. The video surveillance system includes eight video servers, two of which are dedicated to the facial recognition system and rotary cameras. The remaining six servers handle streams from the fixed cameras. Each Ultrastar storage platform is connected to all eight servers via 10Gb iSCSI/Ethernet network.

Ultrastar Data60 Hybrid Storage Platforms   Ultrastar Data102 Hybrid Storage Platforms

Complete Coverage Ensures Guest Safety

VTK SVYAZ was able to deploy the new solution very quickly, just weeks from design to the final setup. With the upgrades finished, King's security team quickly saw the value of the new solution. The capacity provided by the Ultrastar storage platforms is enough to store all the video footage from all cameras, recording 24/7, with a 2-year data retention period.

The average stream rate from each video server is approximately 1Gbit/s, 6–5Gbit/s (625MB/s) in peak load mode and each of the two RAIDIX-based storage systems provides up to 17GB/s bandwidth for read and write operations. This is almost three times more than the total peak load from eight video servers (about 5GB/s). This makes it possible to record high-quality data with no lost shots, providing King's Casino security with full access to all events throughout the casino complex.

The dual-controller mode of the RAIDIX system ensures the necessary level of protection against equipment failures, eliminating even the shortest system downtime and loss of important video data. RAIDIX software minimizes the risk of data loss when recording and storing video footage from surveillance cameras at King's Casino. With the solution, casino security service gets quick access to the archive with no worries about the safety of the footage. The RAIDIX system is the perfect match as it was purpose-built for video surveillance environments.

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