



# Hitachi Storage Solutions at Work

Foothill – De Anza Community College District  
Police Department

**INDUSTRY** Education/Law Enforcement

**SOLUTIONS** Capacity: Scalability/Reliability

**Hardware** — Hitachi Simple Modular Storage 100  
**Software** — Symantec Backup Exec 12 and Hitachi Storage Navigator Modular 2 software



“We found that the combination of Hitachi Simple Modular Storage 100 and Symantec Backup Exec 12 software would give us an excellent price point along with all the enterprise-class features in a cost-effective, easy-to-use solution.”

*Ron Levine  
Chief of Police  
Foothill – De Anza Community College District Police Department*



# College Police Department Uses Hitachi – Symantec Solution to Protect Video Surveillance Data

The Foothill – De Anza Community College District Police Department uses state-of-the-art digital surveillance as part of a cohesive security program. If a crime is committed the surveillance data becomes evidence, so protecting surveillance assets is critical. The Chief of Police needed a highly reliable, scalable storage solution to fit a tight budget. Hitachi Simple Modular Storage delivers enterprise-class storage features and RAID-6 data protection with an outstanding performance/price point. Symantec Backup Exec 12 provides for a reliable and easy-to-use backup product.

Law enforcement is not what comes to mind when most people think of a thriving college campus. But preventive security measures are essential to the welfare of students and staff at any school today. In the Foothill – De Anza Community College District, located in California's bustling Silicon Valley, a full service police department takes responsibility for the safety of 44,000 students and hundreds of faculty and staff across two large campuses. The schools are nationally recognized for many academic programs, and a third campus is being considered to accommodate the needs of the community. With a set of high-visibility initiatives in place to deter campus crimes,

the Foothill – De Anza Police Department is also gaining its share of accolades.

## Investigating How to Serve and Protect Surveillance Data

When Police Chief Ron Levine was hired by the college in 2004, he implemented the community-oriented policing philosophy and cops-on-bike patrol to help reduce and discourage crime. While campus police calls typically range from traffic incidents to minor property offenses, the 11 sworn officers and 25 departmental staff proactively partner with the college community to identify and solve problems.

More recently, Chief Levine initiated a video surveillance program to support campus safety. The police department uses a mix of analog and digital cameras that are strategically mounted throughout facilities on both campuses. Because the data generated and collected from the cameras must be retained indefinitely and always accessible, Levine immediately realized the prevalent need for ample data storage.

“Anything we record has the potential to be evidence in court, so we want to be able to retain data for as long as we can. Finding a storage solution that would be extremely reliable and scalable was critical, as was the need to find something to fit our budget,” says Levine.

## Conducting the Background Check for Highly Reliable Storage

The surveillance application used by Foothill – De Anza operates on an HP Netserver L Server series running Microsoft® Windows. This progressive video solution runs both standard video cameras and the digital surveillance equipment that relies on IP-based network connections for streaming video. It is the Chief's goal to have a consistent policy for managing all of the surveillance assets for as long as they might need to be retained.

To support the video surveillance program and accommodate future data growth, Levine began investigating potential storage products. Finding a highly reliable platform was a top priority in order to guarantee the safety and accessibility of data. “Redundancy is essential to a new storage solution because we cannot risk any disk failure whatsoever — if our surveillance information is needed for a court case, I am not going to want to go in front of a district attorney or a judge to say that we can't access the information,” says Levine.

Scalability is also critical to supporting surveillance data for the long term. Levine expected the surveillance assets to require up to 1TB in the immediate future, with as

much as 8TB to support all the active cameras over time. Not to be overlooked would be the ability to maintain a storage system within the campus police department rather than having to rely on the college IT staff for everything. And ultimately, the storage vendor would need to meet budgetary constraints.

Because the data generated from the cameras must be retained indefinitely, having



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Ron Levine  
Chief of Police  
Foothill – De Anza Community College District Police Department

a product like Backup Exec 12 makes it possible to back up data for offsite storage. In addition, the Backup Exec 12 Advanced Disk Based Backup Option allows for reducing the time required for backups. The Backup Exec 12 wizards make it possible to create and schedule backup jobs without having to be a storage expert.

“During our discovery process, Hitachi Data Systems proved to have an exceptional reputation for highly reliable storage hardware and software. As we explored further, we learned that the Hitachi Simple Modular Storage 100 would give us an excellent price point along with all the enterprise-class storage features in a cost-effective, easy-to-use platform,” explains Levine.

## Arresting Data Security Concerns with RAID-6 Redundancy

Foothill – De Anza implemented the Hitachi Simple Modular Storage 100 and Symantec Backup Exec 12 to help manage its video surveillance data. Designed as a highly reliable solution for small and midsized businesses, Hitachi Simple Modular Storage offers

enterprise-class features and data protection while providing simplified storage administration. Using a wizards-based interface, the system can be quickly installed and set up without expertise and instantly integrates with Microsoft applications and other common software, including the video surveillance solution used by Foothill – De Anza.

The Simple Modular Storage solution at the college includes high availability with RAID-6 for nondisruptive operations. “When it comes to potential evidence, data loss is just not a viable option. The reliability of Hitachi Simple Modular Storage with RAID-6 is a huge win for us. This system comes with dual parity, which means that even if any two drives were to fail at the same time, we still won’t lose data. These are the kind of assurances we like,” Levine says.

Built into the system is the Hitachi Storage Navigator Modular 2 software, which handles everything from automated data migration and LUN management to performance monitoring and troubleshooting.

## Keeping the Peace of Mind with Simple Modular Storage and the Backup Exec 12 Off Host Backup Solution

Hitachi Simple Modular Storage provides the growing college district with a secure, intuitive storage system that cost-effectively promotes data protection without complexity or time-consuming efforts. Symantec’s Backup Exec 12 continues the ease-of-use paradigm for the department’s backup and restore requirements. The combination of Hitachi storage and Symantec’s Backup Exec 12 software delivers enterprise-class features at a price point that is appropriate for the department’s budget. “With very little training required, our non-technical staff is able to manage and maintain the storage system in house, without worry. One of the things fresh in our minds today is the series of violent, tragic events happening across some college campuses. We take our responsibility to protect everyone who comes onto our campuses very seriously. Knowing we have a reliable storage solution in place gives us great peace of mind,” the Chief says.

Having the Hitachi system in place has also enabled the police department to be positioned for additional phases of growth. “We are looking to integrate an Oracle solution and to fully centralize security operations in the near future. Our vision includes streaming video directly to patrol cars and electronically bundling security functionality for consistent, comprehensive campus safety. We are confident that our Hitachi solution will help us get there,” Levine extols.

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