

Toy Storage



Industry

Small Businesses

Location

Denver, Colorado, United States

Products

Stratocast™

Partners

Secure View, Axis Communications

How a specialty storage site protects high-value property using cloud monitoring

Toy Storage is not your average storage site. Located in Denver, Colorado, United States, the company offers 64 individual garage units for sale to people who need extra space for large-scale items such as recreational and leisure vehicles. Mostly, owners use the garage space to keep motor homes, boats, four wheelers, rally cars, and other vehicles safe and protected from the elements. Owners can come on site and access their storage space and the common facilities at any time, ensuring convenience for all. Toy Storage reinforces property security with 24/7 video surveillance, so owners know their valuables are always protected.

Challenges – Calling it quits on failing surveillance

With high-value items on site, Toy Storage requires superior security. Should an incident occur, the board of directors needs to quickly find out what happened. In the past, retrieving video from an older analog system was anything but speedy. Someone had to go on site, sit at a monitor connected to a DVR, and look through recordings to find evidence. Sometimes, this process took hours. Grainy images were also problematic for the team who often couldn't make out details in a video frame. Over time, things got worse as cameras began failing. Toy Storage wanted a modern surveillance system that could provide easier access to higher-resolution video.

Solution - Getting instant video access in the cloud

Today, board members access video from anywhere using their phones or laptops. Toy Storage chose the Genetec Stratocast™ cloud-based video monitoring system as recommended by their security integrator, Secure View. During a pilot project, the board experienced how easy and reliable the Stratocast system was. Retrieving video took minutes, not hours, no matter where they were. When they found out how affordable the new security solution was, they were sold. Secure View bundled installation, configuration, software, and hardware into a low monthly subscription fee. Toy Storage also selected their own cameras, which provide 180-degree views and excellent resolution. Now, if anything happens, the board is ready to take quick action.

Toy Storage gets video access from anywhere using the Stratocast cloud-based video system

At Toy Storage, video monitoring is a breeze with the Stratocast system. Terry Lewand, a board member at Toy Storage, checks in on the site from time to time, pulling up live video to see if anything unusual is happening. Video records on motion and every recording is bookmarked for easy retrieval.

“It’s an absolute advantage to have a cloud-based video solution. Whether I am on my PC at home or on the go using my phone, I can manage the Stratocast system from anywhere. I have easy access to information which I can then share with other board members if needed,” said Lewand.

One day when Terry arrived on site, he noticed a drainage grate that runs through the property had failed and was broken. He immediately turned to the video system and searched through the saved on-motion recordings.

“Everything was handled in 5 minutes. Using Stratocast, I quickly found the video, exported it, and sent it to all board members, advising them of the problem. An owner’s vehicle had also been damaged by the broken grate. I called him, acknowledged what happened, assumed responsibility on behalf of the business, and explained how we would get everything resolved. The owner didn’t have to chase anyone down. I was able to proactively address the issue before it caused any further damage,” said Lewand.

Getting full video coverage in one day

Since there were no servers to install, Secure View was able to get the cloud video system up and running in one day. Most of the time was spent installing the four Axis Communications 180-degree-view cameras which now provides coverage of the entire site. System setup and device configuration were complete in minutes.

“With our older system, we had 10 cameras which barely covered the site. With only four IP cameras today, we’re able to get full video coverage of our property. With the Stratocast system, we had the flexibility to choose cameras which provided the right balance between resolution and cost,” said Lewand.

Toy Storage also set frame rates for each camera in the system to enhance the video viewing quality in certain areas. “At the main entrance, for example, we want to clearly see vehicles and their license plates coming on to the property, so we’ve set those cameras to record at 10 frames per second (FPS) instead of 5 FPS,” continued Lewand.

Easy on a small business budget

Secure View has been instrumental to the success at Toy Storage. Not only did the board get the system they needed, but they stayed on budget. Secure View offered Toy Storage a very affordable



package, which includes service, software, and hardware in one monthly fee with a five-year contract.

“The bundled video system was a big selling point for our board members. Our discussions kept circling back to ‘What’s our initial investment?’ and ‘How do we manage the equipment?’ Having an option where the only equipment onsite is the cameras, where we can access the video from our phone, where extra support is included if we need it, and all we pay is a monthly fee—it was huge. Everything is included in our agreement. With this system, there’s nothing for us to worry about, and it’s easy for our team to budget,” said Lewand.

Keeping high-value toys secure

With the security system working at peak efficiency, the board is going to see if they can reap any savings on their insurance premiums. Other than that, it’s business as usual. Today, owners and board members are confident that their property and high-value toys are well protected.

“The Stratocast solution is a great option for small businesses because of the system’s ease-of-use and affordable cost. Today, we have a modern video system with the flexibility to choose our own cameras and access video from anywhere. Owners have entrusted us to keep their property secure and that’s exactly what we’re doing with Stratocast,” concluded Lewand.

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