CommScope Solutions for Korean Broadcasting System HQ

Leader in digital broadcasting turns to the SYSTIMAX® iPatch® System for real-time management of its network infrastructure

KBS is Korea's largest broadcasting company and a world leader in terrestrial digital multimedia broadcasting services. More than 90% of Korea's population has access to digital TV broadcasts and all seven KBS radio channels are going digital. Internationally, KBS WORLD TV can be viewed in 32 million households across 40 countries.

When the company upgraded the data center at its HQ in the Youido area of Seoul, it wanted cabling infrastructure to match its own standards of technical excellence. As well as high performance copper and fiber cabling, KBS also required a real-time infrastructure management system.
This not only had to monitor and help manage connections within the data center but also throughout the HQ campus.

In total the campus has 10,000 UTP ports and 3,000 fiber ports, connected to voice, data and multimedia services via cabling from a mix of suppliers. To manage all these connections, KBS chose the SYSTIMAX iPatch System from CommScope. It also chose SYSTIMAX GigaSPEED® XL copper and LazrSPEED® fiber cabling for use in its data center.

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> IT Infrastructure Team Manager of KBS

During the tendering process, the CommScope sales team suggested a detailed performance comparison between the iPatch System and competitive solutions. This demonstrated that the iPatch System met cabling management challenges at KBS' HQ more effectively than the alternatives. It provided network managers with a connectivity map more comprehensive and up-to-date than anything they had before, and gave them a set of powerful tools for managing the physical layer.

CommScope and its BusinessPartner, YUILIT Co,.Ltd, also highlighted the benefits of using standard patch cords. Competitors' intelligent patch cord management systems rely on the complexity of special cords that are expensive and inconvenient to use.

Its simple hardware and software configuration, and savings it gives by automating manual processes in network management, made the iPatch System the best solution. As a result, KBS is now using the system to manage both copper and fiber connections, including those supporting real-time streaming media.

Commenting on the choice of the iPatch System, the IT Infrastructure Team Manager of KBS said: "We will gain benefits through using the system to standardize and automate moves, adds and changes. And we will improve network administrators' and technicians' productivity by helping them complete both routine and troubleshooting tasks more quickly.

"The new system has resolved network management issues by allowing us to create accurate, up-to-the-minute connectivity maps and documentation. There is no risk of manual input errors in these records and changes to the network infrastructure are registered immediately."

Other benefits of the System include lower Mean-Time-To-Recovery (MTTR) in the event of network faults and improved security. Features such as real-time intrusion detection, real-time alerts and advanced switch port utilization control help managers address security issues before they develop.

The iPatch installation at KBS was designed by CommScope in conjunction with YUILIT Co,.Ltd, When the design and planning phases were completed, a team of 10 cable installers guided by an iPatch engineer installed the system. Throughout this process, they had to ensure there was no disruption to the network services on the campus.

The team installed iPatch intelligent patch panels and rack managers in the data center together with iPatch software on managers' PCs. They also customized the patch panels to suit KBS requirements and ensured the system was fully integrated with existing connectivity hardware on the site. The complete solution now enables data center staff to monitor and manage connectivity across the HQ campus.

In addition to the iPatch System, the team installed 324 new GigaSPEED XL UTP outlets and 420 LazrSPEED fiber ports within the data center. These are connected via 2.1 kilometers of 1Gb/s GigaSPEED copper cabling and 1,100 meters of 10 Gb/s LazrSPEED fiber in a configuration with three level redundancy.

Commenting on the KBS installation, JH, Lee of CommScope in Korea said: "The new system makes it easy to change the network and ensure it operates efficiently with minimum downtime. As media groups, such as KBS, move into the digital arena, they become more heavily dependent on their network infrastructure. Any disruption of connectivity will have an immediate impact on their operations, so it is vital to ensure the physical layer is secure and well managed. The SYSTIMAX iPatch System is the best available means of doing this."

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