

SYSTIMAX®

SOLUTIONS

SYSTIMAX® SCS Stands the Test of Time

SYSTIMAX GigaSPEED® Solution Helps Animate Learning at Santa Monica Community College



Specifications

- 200,000 feet (61,000 m) of SYSTIMAX GigaSPEED 1071 Cable
- 850 data terminations
- 16 384A Video Adapters 8 380A Video Adapters 2 380B Video Adapters
- 18 48 Port GigaSPEED PATCHMAX® Distribution Modules
- Two 600B Fiber-Optic Distribution Panels
- 400 feet (122 m) Fiber-Optic Cable
- 48 SC Fiber-Optic Connectors
- 1,100 GigaSPEED Multimedia Outlets

Students who combine creativity and technical sophistication can look forward to exciting career opportunities in the entertainment industry. New technologies and an increasingly global marketplace have created a need for skilled technicians... especially in California, where more than half of U.S. multi media firms are located. To meet this demand, Santa Monica Community College has teamed up with prospective employers to establish an Academy of Entertainment and Technology.

The academy's unique program combines a general education emphasizing art, mathematics, and business courses with technical training in widely used animation and special-effects software such as 3D Studio Max®, Maya, and Macromedia's Dreamweaver, Director, and Flash programs.

In addition to their academic work, students learn "hands-on" through internships at more than 140 entertainment and multimedia companies in the Los Angeles area. These employers range from small creative boutiques and video game developers to major film and television studios like Dreamworks, New Line Cinema, and Sony Pictures (TV division).

SYSTIMAX GigaSPEED® Solution Offers Value and Performance

When choosing a cabling infrastructure for the Academy's new facility, located two miles from the main Santa Monica campus, decision-makers had to consider the enormous bandwidth requirements of these graphics-rich programs.

Cost was also an issue. As part of California's exemplary community college system, Santa Monica Community College is committed to providing a quality education at an affordable tuition. Any investment in infrastructure had to be a long-term one, capable of meeting anticipated growth.

"The academy needed a cabling system that would support their high-speed, high-bandwidth applications well into the future," said Teresa Hadler, an Account Executive for Anixter, a SYSTIMAX® distributor. "We recommended a SYSTIMAX GigaSPEED Unshielded Twisted Pair (UTP) solution because it offered the best value." Greg Brown, Director of Telecommunications for Santa Monica Community College, explained, "The SYSTIMAX SCS installation meets our tremendous bandwidth needs, easily and economically. This solution also eliminates the time and labor costs required to install coaxial cable. We can run video as well as data applications over the same infrastructure, simply by installing SYSTIMAX 384A video adapter baluns."

“ The SYSTIMAX GigaSPEED Solution helps us deliver the education and training our students need to launch technology careers in the fast-paced entertainment and multimedia industries. ”

Greg Brown, Director of Telecommunications, Santa Monica Community Colleges

High-Speed, High-Capacity Networking

Working on PC and Macintosh computers in a Windows® 2000 environment, students at the academy use complex animation and graphics software to add shadows, texture, and movement to images. Rendering these images requires a tremendous Central Processing Unit (CPU) power. To free workstations for classroom use, student work is transmitted to remote highpowered Intel™ servers for processing. The manipulated images are stored, then downloaded to workstations in time for the next class. As a result, network traffic is always heavy. “The ability to transmit enormous files over copper cabling, rapidly and reliably, is a key advantage of the SYSTIMAX GigaSPEED Solution,” said Brown. “That was an important selling point for us, because we constantly transfer files as large as 500 Megabytes – and the size keeps increasing. With our SYSTIMAX GigaSPEED Solution in place, we don’t have to worry about network slow-downs or degradation of images.”

Recently, the academy upgraded from a 100 Mb/s to a Gigabit Ethernet network. “As a Cisco technology partner, we are among the first to utilize their Gigabit Ethernet solution over copper,” said Brown. He pointed out that the SYSTIMAX® Solutions’ Extended Warranty and Applications Assurance program, which assures that future applications will run smoothly over existing infrastructure, helped make the transition a smooth one.



Easy Upgrades, Simplified Administration

The academy was able to accept only half of all qualified applicants for its first class in 1998. Since then, the size of the student body has tripled, while the number of workstations available has more than doubled. Other recent improvements include the addition of audio and video editing suites.

“We’re continually adding new workstations and upgrading our existing ones,” said Brown. “Fortunately, our SYSTIMAX cabling system makes additions, changes, and rearrangements easy. To accommodate new equipment, all we need to do is add patch cords.”

Another design feature that impressed the decisionmakers was the ability to color-code the SYSTIMAX installation for easier administration. Each of the eight classrooms — plus a large, open computer laboratory — is cabled in a different color. To conform with the high-tech look that the entertainment industry prefers, the academy chose to install the cable in highly visible open trays.

Distance Learning Creates New Opportunities

Recently, the academy launched a distance-learning program that permits students to take some courses online. They can view advanced video and graphics, submit their own work, and engage in lively discussions with other students and faculty...all of it over the Internet.

“Distance learning makes it possible for us to accept talented students from all over the world, while eliminating commuting headaches for local students,” said Brown.

“The SYSTIMAX GigaSPEED Solution has performed so well at the animation academy that we have decided to extend it to other facilities at Santa Monica Community College,” Brown summed up. “These include our \$30 million science complex, a new media center and administration complex, and a remodeled library building.”

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