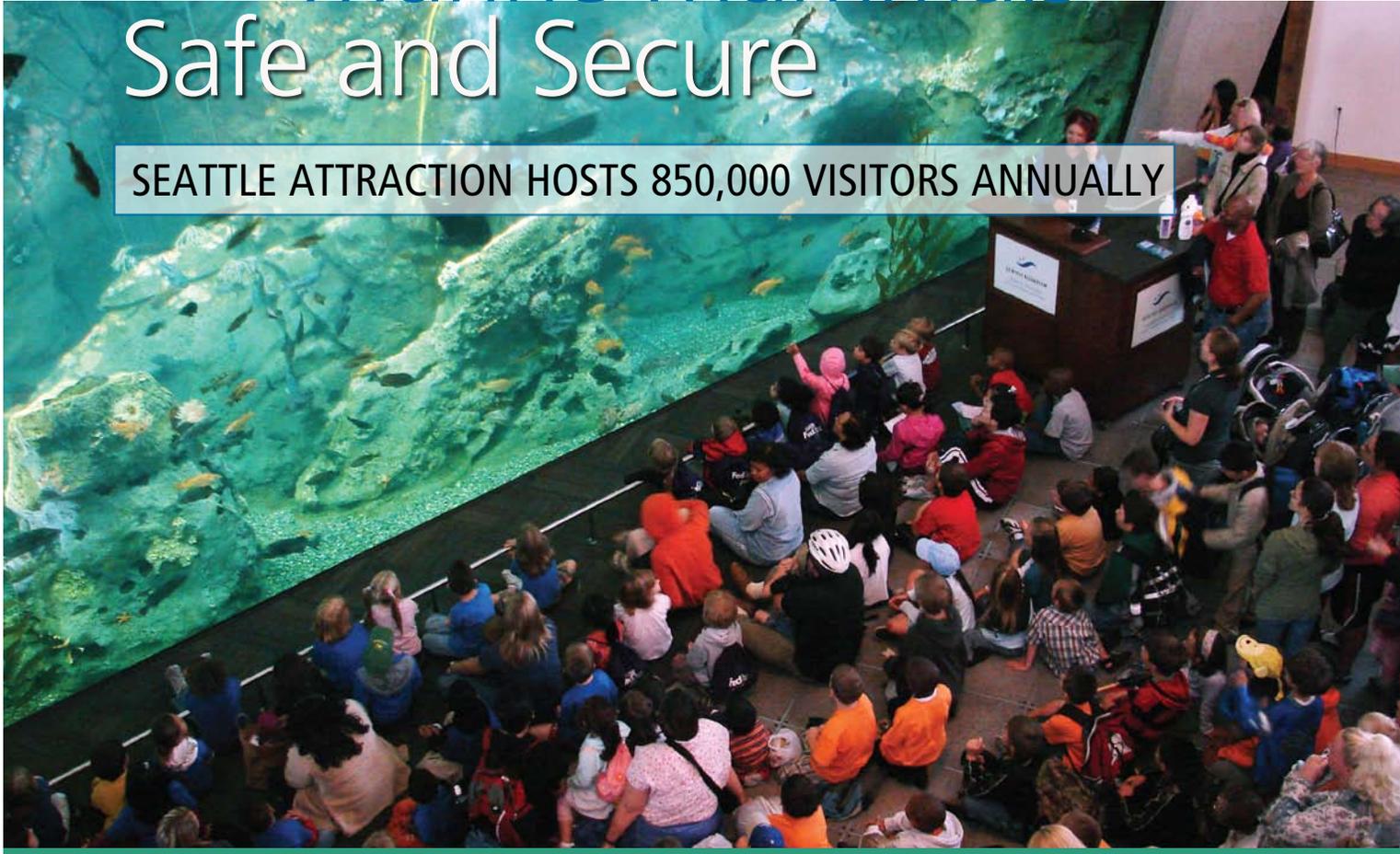


Aquarium Keeps Kids and Marine Mammals Safe and Secure

SEATTLE ATTRACTION HOSTS 850,000 VISITORS ANNUALLY



A major attraction like the Seattle Aquarium can't afford to take safety for granted. With 850,000 visitors a year – many of them parents struggling to keep an eye on their children – aquarium management required a video surveillance system they could rely on to keep guests, staff and marine life safe and secure.

FOLLOWING a \$41.5 million expansion of the attraction in 2007 and a subsequent inspection by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, aquarium management turned to Niscayah, its security systems integrator, to replace an aging, trouble-prone video surveillance system that had fallen out of favor and was rarely used.

“They said March Networks® was the best video surveillance system available, so I said ‘I trust you. That’s what we’ll get,’” recalled Sue Donohue Smith, the Seattle Aquarium’s Guest Experience Manager.

One of the top 10 aquariums in the U.S., the Seattle attraction is home to hundreds of fish, marine mammals and birds native to



the Pacific Northwest. An underwater dome provides guests with a 360-degree view of a 400,000-gallon tank filled with salmon, ling cod, sharks and sturgeon. Also popular with guests is the aquarium's Giant Pacific Octopus, the largest octopus species on Earth, and a marine mammal exhibit, which features several species of otters and seals.

The March Networks video surveillance system records video from cameras installed in and around the facility, covering five cash registers, a safe room, lobby, loading dock, exhibit areas and all outside entrances.

A reputation for reliability was the main reason for selecting March Networks technology for the Seattle Aquarium, said

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Niscayah Project Manager Greg Thomas. “One of the nice things about March Networks is that it’s a Linux-based system with an embedded operating system. If there’s a hard drive failure, you get an alarm and you can replace it. You can still monitor live video. With other systems, you have no video and, before you can get it up and running, you have to reprogram everything, which can take hours and hours.”

In the event of a missing or lost child, Donohue Smith is able to review video from cameras covering the aquarium exits. Fortunately, there have been no serious incidents involving the safety of children, but aquarium staff are relieved to know that there’s a reliable video surveillance system in place should it be needed.

Visitors are generally well behaved and respectful of the marine mammals, but in the event of any inappropriate behavior or risk to the otters and seals, Donohue Smith can retrieve and save video as part of any investigation.

A camera installed at the aquarium’s loading dock captures video of shipping and receiving activity, and came in handy when aquarium management discovered damage to the building’s exterior shortly after the commissioning of the March Networks system.

“We didn’t have a clue how it happened, but we went back in the archives and retrieved video of a delivery truck hitting the side of the building,” said Donohue Smith. “We reported the incident to the company and they paid us for the damage.”

Ease of use contributes to the aquarium’s satisfaction with its March Networks solution.

“I’m not the most computer-savvy person, but I can access the system and use the March Networks Investigator software,” she said. “If I run into a problem, my Niscayah rep can either talk me through it on the phone or show me what to do by going into the system through our virtual private network.”

“We’re very happy with our March Networks system. We haven’t had any problems with it, and it does exactly what we need it to do.”

SEATTLE AQUARIUM

The Seattle Aquarium serves as a vital force for the conservation and appreciation of marine life native to the Pacific Northwest. Owned and operated by the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Seattle, the aquarium attracts more than 850,000 visitors per year. It is home to hundreds of species of fish, invertebrates, birds and marine mammals, including four of the 21 Northern Sea Otters and three of the 13 Northern Fur Seals in captivity in the United States.

www.seattleaquarium.org

NISCAYAH, INC.

Niscayah Inc. provides a complete range of security solutions, including access control, video surveillance and intrusion systems for the retail, financial, health care and education sectors, among others. Formerly Securitas Systems USA, Inc., Niscayah Inc. is based in Duluth, Georgia and is a subsidiary of the Swedish-based Niscayah Group. www.niscayah.us