A SECURITY CONTROL ROOM FACELIFT

I am sitting in the lobby of one of Australia’s iconic commercial high rise CBD buildings. From the comfort of the leather lounge chair the slick modern appearance and feel of the sandstone, marble and steel that surrounds me the building exudes luxury and opulence. The grand lobby gives no indication that this well-known high profile tower is over 25 years old.

However as with a lot of buildings the back of house does not always keep pace with the look and feel of the façade. This was the case here as the security control room had changed little from the original design when the building was commissioned, and it showed.

I am here to meet Roger Pearce of Sydney Building Technology Brokers who is the Security Consultant given the brief by the building managers to update this space.

Roger explains what he found on his first inspection of the room.

“Although some of the technology had been updated in recent years no holistic view had been taken of how to refit these new systems into the space. The managers wanted to start all over with a fresh new look and modern design.

This would require some demolition of walls, a new ceiling and new floor coverings. While that was being done new workstations and large screen monitors would have to be installed. All while keeping the 24/7 hour security operation going uninterrupted.

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The first thing I did was an audit of everything in the room from strobes and indicator panels on the walls to all equipment on and under the workstations.

This enabled us to identify redundant equipment which could be removed and would not have to be reinstalled. This saved space and reduced unnecessary clutter which was making the space feel untidy and uncomfortable.

At the same time the operators were consulted on exactly how they used the equipment and what the work flow was. This information was used to plan the new layout.

It was also the ideal opportunity to upgrade some of the technology to make the systems more user friendly and work better for the operators. The Gallagher system was upgraded to the latest version of Command Center which allowed for better alarm handling. Because new megapixel cameras had been installed recently the Honeywell DVM servers were upgraded to increase bandwidth which improved the performance and large flat screen LED monitors replaced a collection of old monitors which allowed many more cameras to be displayed at once.

All new matching workstation monitors were used to replace a mismatch of monitors that had been supplied over the years.

Some new BPT intercom units were installed in the car park to replace some other door stations which meant that now there is only the one intercom system instead of two separate systems.