

# Case Study

## Trumbull County, Ohio Video Arraignment Benefits Public Safety



## Background

Trumbull County, the county seat, located in Warren, Ohio, consists of a combination of both urban and rural communities situated in the northeast corner of Ohio. It is situated roughly between the Youngstown, Cleveland and Akron corridors. It was established on July 10, 1800, serving as the seventh county in the northwest territory. The County's population is approximately 225,116.

In 1998 Trumbull County built a new jail system and in that jail system they put a mini-court room with a 2.4Ghz wireless radio network. When they approached Warren City officials about the prospect of video arraignment, it was quickly agreed to.

process.”

## Why VCON?

The main reason for choosing VCON was the company's expertise in video over IP. Also, most VCON systems are dual-mode, making it easy to make an IP call, then hang up and make an ISDN call. VCON's windows user interface proved not only easy to use, but also easy to train others on. VCON's price performance was also a key factor. While VCON was not the least expensive, it was the best priced solution that included all the capabilities they were looking for in a system. VCON PacketAssist also proved helpful in ensuring clear, crisp communications between the two main site.

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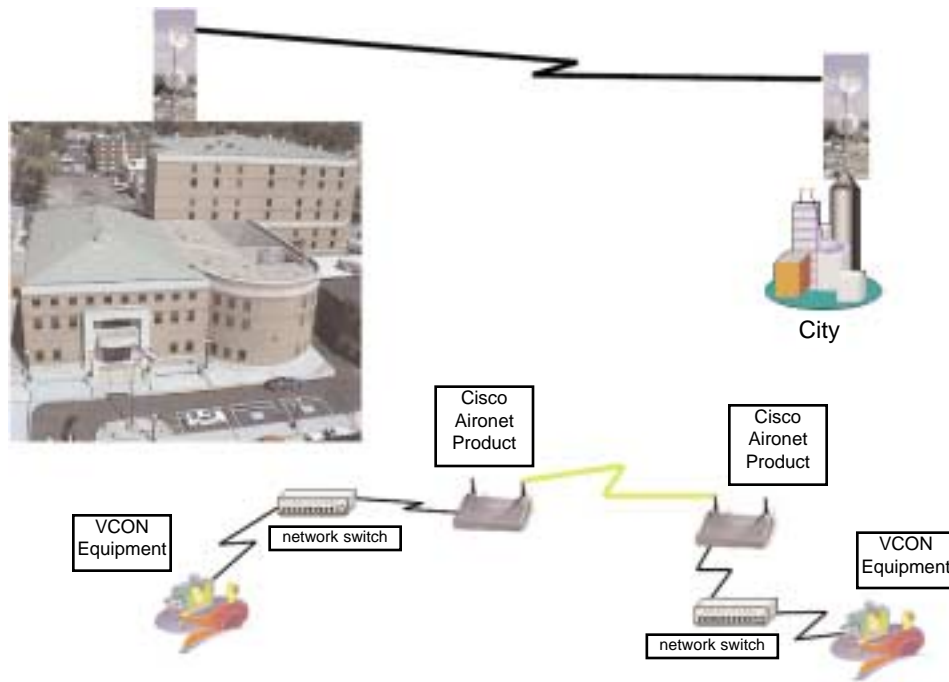
## The Need for a Videoconferencing Solution

When prisoners never leave their secure facility for arraignment purposes, the costs of transportation go down, saving the county money. In the case of dangerous prisoners, they can be arraigned from their cell, reducing the risk of escape and increasing the safety of the officers. “Being able to arraign prisoners over videoconferencing without either the judge or the prisoner traveling, not only provided additional security, but sped up the judicial process,” said Dan Elston, NT Network Specialist for Trumbull County Data Processing. “Now more prisoners can be arraigned in a shorter amount of time, conserving more of the county's resources and providing the prisoner a swift judicial

## Installation and Operation

The desktop systems are installed in Warren City and in Trumbull County at the jail. Traffic flows over a wireless 2.4Ghz radio network through Cisco AiroNet Bridge devices. There is a videoconferencing system in the jail facility and two system in the judicial building in Warren City. The systems are VCON Cruiser 384 desktop videoconferencing units, able to transmit up to 1.5Mbps over IP and up to 384Kbps over ISDN lines. While videoconferencing over ISDN is possible, most of the traffic is IP since there are no recurring costs when using the system over the wireless radio network. The two systems in the judicial building are mobile and can be moved from courtroom to courtroom, making it convenient for any

Trumbull County Network Diagram



particular judge to use it for arraignment purposes. Additionally, the systems are used for administrative purposes between the two locations, but they are primarily used for arraignment. The videoconferencing systems are used approximately 10 hours a week, or up to 2 hours a day.

**An Eye to the Future**

Trumbull County officials are very pleased with the success of this system and are planning on installing another eight videoconferencing units between the two sites for more video arraignments, family visitations, and for allowing various law enforcement personnel to share vital information regarding criminal investigations. Additionally, when more systems are installed, a multipoint conferencing bridge would be used to link up multiple sites for consultations, session recording and administrative meetings.

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