

Christopher Columbus High School

CCHS uses Singlewire InformaCast for campus wide communication.



- **Industry**
K-12 Education

- **Challenge**
The need for a reliable live paging and two-way inter-com system as well as a tool for scheduling and managing school bells

- **Solution**
Implementation of InformaCast paging software, clock synchronization, and DORA for emergency notifications

- **Benefits**
 - Ease of installation and use
 - Complete control in message content, scheduling, and destination
 - Usable for campus-wide or building-specific broadcasts
 - Bell scheduling with the click of a button

The Client

Christopher Columbus High School in Miami, FL, is a private, college preparatory high school. Conducted by the Marist brothers, CCHS has been providing educational excellence since 1958 and currently has an enrollment of approximately 1,400 students and a campus spread out across four main academic buildings on 19 acres.

The Business Challenge

In 2007 Christopher Columbus High School owned both an analog two way paging system and a separate system for scheduling and maintaining their school bells. The paging system was starting to fail in some of the classrooms. The bell system had to be programmed manually by one of the few employees that understood how to use it. In addition, each clock throughout the school had to be synchronized by hand including the two times per year when the time changed due to daylight savings time.

At that time the school was beginning work on a new technology center, and it was time to take a serious look at replacing the old system that was in place. "Since we were in the process of constructing the new Mas Technology Complex we decided to take a look at what would be the best for the school as a whole at the time and in the future" explains Elena Alvarez, the Technology Director at Christopher Columbus High School. They were looking for a system that would integrate all of their technology and make use of their existing Cisco phone system, as well as

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Elena Alvarez
Technology Director
Christopher Columbus High School

allow them to communicate efficiently throughout the school and across its multiple buildings.

The Solution

In 2007, United Data Technologies introduced Christopher Columbus High School to InformaCast and Atlas Sound two-way IP Speakers with clocks. By that fall they had implemented a Singlewire solution to address the challenges of mass communication and clock synchronization throughout the school. “Having a bell, clock, and paging system that works together is a necessity for the school, especially in an emergency,” notes Alvarez. “It was great to have the time synchronized in the computers, IP phones, and IP speakers.”

InformaCast made use of the Cisco IP phones the school had already invested in and the new IP Speakers they installed, but it also integrated with their existing analog speakers allowing them to save money in the process.

CCHS now has a two-way intercom and live paging system that allowed them to communicate effortlessly across their entire campus. “InformaCast provided us with a unified system with ease of management that allows us to even communicate with the baseball field and the weight-lifting room wirelessly” notes Alvarez.

In addition to providing CCHS with a two-way intercom system, InformaCast also came with a bell scheduler. With only the click of a button, school administrators could now make changes in the school’s bell schedules.

Christopher Columbus High School’s solution also includes Singlewire’s DORA. CCHS uses DORA as a panic button in their classrooms. “Each classroom has been equipped with a wall plate that has a red button for teachers to press in case of an emergency. If this button is pushed, all of our administrators receive a message on their phones that consists of a special sound and text stat-

ing what room is calling and what number to use via the intercom system to investigate,” explains Alvarez.

The Benefit

InformaCast provided Christopher Columbus High School with a new mass notification and overhead paging system that lets them make use of their existing technology and reach every corner of their campus. The bell scheduling capabilities of InformaCast also meant no more manual programming or changing every clock by hand.

“The InformaCast software is very easy to manage and use, has allowed us to take advantage of the IP phones as well as the IP speakers,” states Alvarez. “InformaCast allowed us to assign the same code we had for each area in the old system. This was very important for us since it made the change easier for the users. It provided us the flexibility of creating different groups.”

About Singlewire

Singlewire Software develops and supports innovative voice applications centered around secure, fast, and reliable mass notification capabilities. Our main application offerings: InformaCast, PushToTalk, and DORA allow our customers unprecedented control in designing mass notifications, assigning them to specific recipients, and determining the medium for dissemination—IP phones, IP speakers, email, etc.—all with the peerless capacity for customization to our customers’ specific environments. Singlewire is devoted to maintaining the agility and imagination needed to fulfill our customers’ needs and fostering an environment for successful partnerships between our customers and our company.