



PS-4

### Traffic monitoring under budgetary constraints

When the city of Garden Grove, California (165,000), wanted to monitor traffic at its 24 major intersections, it found that fiber-optic and wireless networks were too expensive. Instead, the city found a vendor that could convert the signals from the closed-circuit, television-type cameras at each intersection so that the signals could be sent through the city's existing twisted-pair wiring. Once the signal comes into the office, it is converted into a digital format. The city purchased computer monitors, which are cheaper than the usual television monitors. Each of the 12 monitors has a split screen, and up to 16 intersections at a time can be viewed on the city's 96-inch television screen. A fiber-optic network would have cost the city \$3.5 million, but only \$880,000 was needed for the hard-wired network. The images from the television cameras provide the city with instant control over the 106 traffic signals at the city's busiest intersections.

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