



IMPERIAL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT USES SKYPORT'S GLOBAL CHANGES TO MANAGE ENERGY USE THANKS TO VENSTAR'S COLORTOUCH THERMOSTATS

CHALLENGE:

Remotely Control HVAC Performance in Classrooms and Auditoriums

Brandon Machado is responsible for maintenance utilities and HVAC for Imperial Unified School District. Located in Southern California near the Arizona and Mexico borders, Imperial City has temperatures that range from below freezing on winter nights to more than 120 degrees on hot summer days, making efficient HVAC essential. With more than 340+ thermostats across six campuses, Machado wanted to be able to remotely monitor, control and make global changes across all the thermostats via the district network and also be alerted remotely of any HVAC issues.

SOLUTION:

Venstar's ColorTouch Thermostat With Skyport Wi-Fi Services

Venstar's ColorTouch® commercial thermostats allow Machado to use his mobile phone or desktop computer to remotely access and control the ColorTouch thermostats anywhere on the district's six campuses. Whether he's in his office, at home or traveling, he can quickly and easily access the ColorTouch thermostats using Venstar's free Skyport™ Mobile App via the on-campus Wi-Fi® networks or virtually anywhere there is Internet access.

Machado relies on Skyport's global changes feature, which allows him to make the same change to all the thermostats on the network. At the beginning of the school year, he checks to make sure the system run times are appropriate and updates all the holidays and school vacation days. On days when school is not in session, the thermostats are set to the unoccupied setting. Being able to program the thermostats for 365 days per year helps to ensure that HVAC systems are not running unnecessarily. ColorTouch also has an automatic time change for daylight savings time.

In addition to managing room temperatures, Machado also uses Skyport to monitor the temperatures of all the walk-in freezers in the cafeterias at each of the campuses. If the temperatures vary outside of the setpoints, he is automatically notified so he can quickly take care of the issue.

The classroom thermostats are programmed with setpoint limiting, giving occupants some flexibility of temperature within reasonable limits. They can change the room temperature by a few degrees without a passcode, allowing them to set their own comfortable temperatures while maintaining the security of the thermostats. Since the keypads remain locked, no other changes can be made. If there are complaints about classrooms being too hot or too cold, Machado can use Venstar's free Skyport Mobile



About

ColorTouch.

Venstar offers six models of its award-winning ColorTouch smart programmable residential and commercial thermostats. Top-ranked by Consumer Reports, all six ColorTouch models have a multi-functional, simple-to-use, touchscreen, which can be programmed to display a picture gallery of up to 100 files to be used as a digital picture frame when not in use as a thermostat.

ColorTouch thermostats are compatible with Venstar's free Skyport Cloud Services, which allow both commercial and residential users to use Venstar's free Skyport Mobile App on their Apple iOS® and Android™ mobile devices or directly from the Web to instantly access and control multiple thermostats at numerous locations.



App to check the room temperatures, allowing him to respond quickly to any potential problems.

The free Skyport Mobile App also allows Machado to send text messages directly to the thermostats, which display the messages right on the color touchscreen. He uses the messaging feature to send text messages to teachers to let them know when the HVAC equipment is being serviced.

Before the ColorTouch thermostats were installed, the schools had non-programmable thermostats, and anyone could change the temperature. During hot days, they were frequently turned down to 60 degrees, which ran up energy costs and could even damage the HVAC system. It was also time consuming for Machado and his team to manually program each thermostat, which took days.

The school district also uses Venstar's remote-mounted temperature sensors in school gyms and some cafeterias where thermostats are located in separate rooms. According to Machado, the remote sensor sends notifications whenever the temperatures are out of tolerance, allowing him accurate readings to help ensure comfortable environments.

RESULTS:

Comfortable Environments, Energy Savings

Venstar's ColorTouch with free Skyport Cloud Services helps ensure consistent, comfortable temperatures in all buildings at the Imperial Unified School District campuses, no matter how hot or cold it is outside. Skyport Cloud Services provide remote access to the thermostats so Machado can easily access, monitor and program the thermostats from virtually anywhere there's Internet access, including his mobile phone.

Using Skyport's global changes feature saves Machado and his team days' worth of work. Because all of the changes can be done for all 340+ thermostats at the same time from a computer or mobile device, there's no need for them to visit each of the thermostats to make programming changes.

Since the ColorTouch thermostats were installed, the district has enjoyed a significant savings on its energy costs. The thermostats are also helping to extend the life of the HVAC equipment at the schools since notifications are sent whenever the temperatures are outside of the setpoint limits, allowing Machado and his team to solve issues before they become real problems.

About Imperial Unified School District

Imperial Unified School District is committed to maximizing each student's potential to learn so they graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve significant educational, civic, and personal goals to enrich society. The district encompasses six campuses in the City of Imperial, California.



“Venstar’s ColorTouch with Skyport is the Ferrari of thermostats, and we have the key to ensure a smooth-running yet powerful experience.”

*– Brandon Machado, Maintenance
Imperial Unified School District*

About Venstar

Founded in 1992, Venstar Inc. is a leading thermostat and energy management system (EMS) manufacturer, known for providing value to its customers via ease of use and installation, proven cost savings, improved energy efficiency, quality and reliability. Venstar is one of the largest thermostat suppliers in the world and designs and produces Venstar-branded products, as well as OEM thermostat products for the biggest names in HVAC. Venstar's Surveyor is a leading energy management system, typically saving small-box retailers 25–35 percent of their energy costs, which translates to tens of millions of dollars in savings each year and dramatic reductions in CO2 emissions. Surveyor currently controls the energy usage of 25,000+ retail locations across the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and Mexico.

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