



PETER PIPER PIZZA STAYS COOL IN THE SUMMER, THANKS TO VENSTAR'S COLORTOUCH THERMOSTAT WITH SKYPORT

CHALLENGE:

Remotely monitor HVAC systems at 36 stores in two states

With only two technicians to maintain the HVAC systems at 36 stores in two Southwestern states, Peter Piper Pizza's maintenance team was challenged to keep the restaurants cool and comfortable in the Southwestern summer heat. Its technicians wanted a way to remotely access, program and manage thermostats at the restaurants without having to drive to each location.

The two technicians also wanted to be able to remotely diagnose and troubleshoot issues when a restaurant manager reported that a location was too hot or too cold. And, they wanted the thermostats to be easy to install and intuitive to use. Overall, the primary objective was to maintain comfortable temperatures across the pizza chain with very reliable thermostats that could be remotely accessed and controlled.

SOLUTION:

Venstar's ColorTouch thermostat with Skyport Cloud Services

Tom Duncan, service technician of Peter Piper Pizza, recommended Venstar's ColorTouch® Wi-Fi® commercial thermostats with free Skyport™ Cloud Services. ColorTouch with Skyport met the company's objective of allowing its technicians to remotely access, program and manage thermostats at its restaurants. Duncan quickly met this energy management and maintenance challenge by installing multiple ColorTouch thermostats at each location.

Having ColorTouch thermostats with Skyport connectivity eliminates the need for technicians to physically go to the restaurants to check the supply air temperatures. Instead, they can easily use a smartphone, tablet, computer, or most any mobile device to remotely monitor the temperature of the supply air entering the restaurant from the HVAC equipment. Being able to remotely check the supply air sensors eliminates the time and trouble to unnecessarily check rooftop HVAC equipment, allowing the maintenance technicians to increase their productivity.

The most frequent complaint that Duncan receives from restaurant managers is that it is too hot inside. Duncan can now remotely check dining room and kitchen temperatures and evaluate HVAC equipment performance. In one case, a restaurant manager complained the store was too hot, and a quick remote check by the technicians using Skyport Cloud Services facilitated an easy fix to make the environment more comfortable for everyone while avoiding a costly site visit.

In the past, Duncan relied on restaurant managers to alert him of any inside temperature issues. Now, ColorTouch can send an alert email to the appropriate personnel if the temperature goes above or below the temperature limits defined by Duncan.



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 touch screen, 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 thermostat display.

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

Preventing unauthorized adjustments of the thermostats was also an important objective. Duncan uses ColorTouch's advanced security settings to lock the settings of the thermostats so that guests and employees cannot change the settings. He has provided his restaurant managers with special security codes that allow them to unlock and access the thermostats' settings. The managers are then free to change the setpoints within specific guidelines provided by Duncan.

ColorTouch thermostats also met Duncan's objective of being easy to install and program. Duncan says that ColorTouch is very intuitive compared to competitive programmable thermostats he's used in the past. He said, "Installation and programming is easier on the ColorTouch than on any other thermostat, so you don't even need a manual. If you can read, you can do it. It's that easy."

Results:

ColorTouch helps keep Peter Piper Pizza stores comfortable year round

Venstar's ColorTouch with Skyport Cloud Services helps ensure consistent, comfortable temperatures in Peter Piper Pizza restaurants, no matter how hot or cold it is outside. Supply air sensors report the temperature of the air coming out of the HVAC equipment, so it's easy for the technicians to determine when there is a real problem or when it's just a busy store full of people driving up temperatures. Skyport Cloud Services provide remote access to the thermostats, so technicians can easily access, monitor and program the thermostats from virtually anywhere there's access to Internet.

Duncan said, "I love the ColorTouch thermostat with Skyport Cloud Services. It's easy to install, program and use. It reduces service calls, helping save time and money. It's affordable, fully featured, and the best programmable thermostat at any price."

About Peter Piper Pizza

Peter Piper Pizza opened its doors in 1973 when founder Tony Cavolo debuted its flagship restaurant in Glendale, Arizona, which remains in operation to this day. Today, Peter Piper Pizza is a leading pizza and entertainment restaurant chain in the Southwestern U.S. and Mexico. Based in Phoenix, Arizona, parent company Peter Piper Inc. currently operates 36 company restaurants in Arizona and New Mexico plus more than a hundred additional franchise locations in the remaining United States and Mexico.



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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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