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## **Case Study: Chicago**

### **Background**

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) is one of the largest transit systems in the United States. It operates 1,890 buses.

### **Challenge**

Violent crime is becoming an increasing problem on transit vehicles. Criminals often see buses as places they can commit a violent act nearly anonymously and then make a quick getaway before law enforcement officials can respond. CTA officials wanted a way to hold criminals responsible for their behavior and also to deter future acts of violence.

### **Solution**

CTA installed GE Interlogix MobileView systems on 1,349 of its buses. The MobileView systems include video cameras installed throughout the buses to view passengers, the front and rear of the bus and the entrance doors from the outside. A removable onboard recorder captures images from all the cameras to be viewed on site or at a central security location.

The MobileView systems have been effective for both resolving and preventing violent incidents.

In one highly publicized case, a group of teenage boys approached a bus one night and talked the driver into letting them board despite their fare cards being invalid.

“Their fare cards were deleted, but he let them ride anyway; he was being nice to them,” says police Lt. Clark Schroeder.

The driver continued on for several blocks before feeling a pain in his right shoulder. One of the boys, a 13-year-old ward of the state, had for unknown reasons set the driver’s shirt on fire. (The driver suffered second-degree burns but recovered.)



The MobileView cameras caught it all. CTA supplied video images of the incident to Sgt. Richard Aztlan of the Chicago Police, who reviewed the images and apprehended the boy, who was charged as an adult with felony aggravated battery.

Both the CTA and the police agree that having mobile surveillance equipment aboard the bus was the key to resolving the chillingly violent incident.

“This is the first time that a crime happened on a bus equipped with a camera where a person was hurt and we were able to retrieve the video and arrest the subject,” says police Public Transportation Section Cmdr. Ed Gross.

The media covered the incident widely, spreading the word about mobile surveillance and raising the perception that now it’s hard to get away with crimes committed on CTA buses.