

Australian National Maritime Museum

Artifacts are safe with iOmniscient

Museums hold artifacts of national and international importance and hence they can often be the targets of sophisticated robbers. In June 2007 a painting called *Le Cavalier* worth \$1.4 million was stolen from the Art Gallery of NSW in Sydney. Thieves dressed as maintenance workers walked in and dismantled the painting and took it away from under the watchful gaze of security guards.

In May 2010, five paintings worth Euro 100 million in all, including Picasso and Matisse were stolen from the Museum of Modern Art in Paris.

Apparently the thief was commissioned to steal one work but when he got to the museum he found that the CCTV was not working so he took five.



Such incidents have become more and more common and unfortunately, the installation of a CCTV system has not reduced the number of thefts as thieves understand the limitations of such systems.

The Australian National Maritime Museum contains priceless artifacts that illuminate the maritime history of this seafaring nation – things like Captain Cook's diaries cannot be replaced. The museum has therefore implemented iOmniscient's IQ-Museum system which amongst other things will raise an alarm if any exhibit is removed – even in very crowded scenes where the item may be obscured even while it is being stolen.

They use the IQ-Healthcheck system to raise an alarm if their cameras stop working or are sabotaged. The system cannot be compromised by the types of tricks used by Tom Cruise. But security is just an aspect of the museum's requirements. For them it is even more important to understand the footfall of visitors, to know how long they spend in each exhibition and they need to have a flexible system as they change their exhibitions at regular intervals. Peter Haggarty, Director of Security at the museum, said, "We used iOmniscient because of the accuracy of their system. They were able to minimize false alarms and provide us with the management information that our stakeholders required. The system runs month after month, year after year without problems."

