

University of Texas at Austin EDS Financial Trading & Technology Center

A customized, state-of-the-art data and telecommunications installation for a "real world" educational facility

This \$ 9.0 million EDS Financial Trading & Technology Center is a facility that promotes a "real world" teaching atmosphere and a basis for on-the-job learning. It is located in the University of Texas at Austin's Graduate School of Business.

NORDX/CDT and Data Connection (one of NORDX/CDT's Certified Systems Vendors) freely donated a portion of their time and materials to the project in support of President

Bill Clinton's initiative to see all of the nation's schools "wired" by the end of the century. "We have looked forward to working on the University of Texas project to serve as a symbol of what our product line can contribute to relevant, successful learning in this technologically oriented age that we live in. We hope that it has set an example for others in the educational and industrial arena", said Bruce Good, Vice President of Sales for NORDX/CDT.

A key factor of importance of a cabling system in any building, is the need for a uniform structured system. "If you're going to install cabling, do it once, plan for the inevitable growth of your information applications, and do it right the first time, because you don't want to have to do it again", said Neil Iscoe of EDS, who was a major visionary of the Center project. "Fiber is there for the future, but we are running ATM over NORDX/CDT's IBDN Category 5 unshielded twisted pair cables, and that could be all we'll ever need. All



The south entryway to the Graduate School of Business at UT Austin.

cross connections, from POTS (Plain Old Telephone Service) to the high speed data services, are handled by NORDX/CDT's BIX patch panels because we wanted ultimate flexibility and speed in executing reconfigurations." Iscoe added, "A major challenge in meeting the design and provisioning needs of the Center was to strike a balance between technology used today so that the facility can be useful for day-to-day instruction, while allowing for future

technologies to be 'Alpha' and 'Beta' tested. This enables the facility to be used as a test bed for future technologies."

Upon the Center's completion, it received an IBDN Certification. NORDX/CDT's IBDN Certification has allowed the Center to receive a written assurance that its IBDN cabling system (components, installation and design) will support not only the applications of today, but also those that it will require in the future. IBDN Certification positions the EDS Financial Trading & Technology Center as a state-of-the-art data and telecommunications installation.

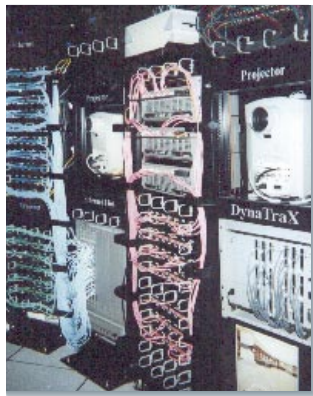
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The IBDN Certification practice has been around for many years. This particular Certification is of interest because this site is comprised of a high-tech financial information center

that is the first of its kind in education. It is also special because it includes one of the first installations of NORDX/CDT's latest product, DynaTraX.

DynaTraX is installed in the University of Texas' Graduate School of Business, in the administration building's main distribution room. It supports EIA/TIA Category 5 applications and 155 Mb/s ATM links. The DynaTraX system allows the university to perform on-demand, remote reconfigurations of its cabling systems' channel assignments. This is controlled through the convenience of the Center's desktop management station thus eliminating the need for manual network intervention. The DynaTraX software includes an intuitive graphical interface for managing and administering connections between end-users and network resources. The system is capable of handling FDDI (Fiber Distributed Data Interface), ISDN (Integrated Service Digital Network), 155 Mb/s ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) and even video signals.

The DynaTraX switch is located at the cross-connection point in the building's structured cabling system. It supports IBDN Category 5 applications and 155 Mb/s ATM transmissions. It allows for remote



The Main Equipment Facility at the EDS Financial Trading & Technology Center

configuration of the cabling system channel assignments without requiring a technician to be dispatched to the site. As he wrapped-up his second visit to the site, Mr. Wayne Bowles, President, Data Connection, Inc., commented, "If ever there was a site for DynaTraX, this Center is it".

The "real world" experience at the Center focuses on the process of managing investment portfolios and in developing relationships with clients. This is accomplished through the use of a computerized trading room that is operated by 15 University of Texas graduate students who manage the MBA Investment Fund, L.L.C. The fund is the first legally constituted, student-managed, private investment

fund in the United States. It is accredited under the securities laws and it now has more than \$ 3.5 million in assets.

Within this "test bed" lies a key secondary role of the Center. It can not only produce better informed investors, but it can, and already has, produced special relationships among the forty participating vendors and it has facilitated a better understanding of the technology and its applications.

This creates a fundamental change in education," said Dr. George Gau, Finance Professor and Chair of The University of Texas at Austin's Finance Department, "It's not just for show, it really produces special students", he added.



PHOTO: ROBERT PANDYA

Even a technological neophyte visiting the Center would likely notice the innovative convergence of existing technologies. Such notable technologies include: Video cameras with special lenses and servo-driven mounts used for quickly locating and zooming-in on a student wishing to ask or respond to a question by touching a key on their Smartouch interactive classroom response system, and new rear-projection touch screen allowing presenters to write directly upon, which supports video and computer displays.

Bowles, is pleased with the outcome of the project, and stated that the specifications called for a number of diverse data, audio/visual and telecommunications systems that required special engineering. "We designed custom-made cabling bulkheads in floor receptacles and our chief engineer insisted on personally installing a majority of these connections himself. It's that kind of dedication and integrity that makes me very proud of our team at Data Connection and the team at NORDX/CDT. They all did a first class job".

For more information on NORDX/CDT and our product lines, please call:
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