



SOUND MASKING IN CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTS

CASE STUDY — Brewer Insurance Information Services



Brewer Insurance Information Services Headquarters in Columbia, SC

Space: A 2,500 sq ft office suite in an existing commercial office and retail building.

Challenge: An office environment within a busy commercial office building and retail shopping center.

Solution: A Qt Quiet Technology™ sound masking system covering the entire office suite, including the open cubicle spaces, communal areas, and private offices.

Result: An environment that ensures privacy for students and helps reduce distractions from the adjoining shopping center and nearby offices.

Challenge

A quiet office within an urban office and shopping center

Mary Brewer established Brewer Insurance Information Services (BIIS) in 1981 after recognizing that South Carolina needed a resource for interested individuals to learn the intricacies of the insurance industry. BIIS has six locations throughout South Carolina and is headquartered in Columbia. The headquarters of BIIS is located within the Dutch Center, a busy urban shopping center with commercial office space.

The office suite features presentation space, open office workstations, private offices, and communal space separated by modular walls built only to the acoustical tile ceiling. Employees and students at BIIS have increasing been distracted by the easily overheard conversations from adjoining spaces as well as the surrounding offices and retail outlets. Additionally, people expressed concerns about privacy since they knew conversations could be overheard.

Solution

A Quiet Technology sound masking system restores order

Due to the variety of spaces within the BIIS suite, a multi-zone sound masking solution was needed to meet each space's acoustic requirements. The suite was separated into five distinct zones based on each area's use. Additionally, BIIS staff needed to access the sound masking settings easily to adjust the levels during presentations and events.

To meet the team's requirements, a Qt 600 sound masking system was installed in the suite. The Qt emitters were installed in the space's acoustic ceiling tiles throughout the space. The system was rack mounted in the BIIS server equipment rack and connected to the school's local area network.



Brewer Insurance Information Services

Results

A comfortable and quiet work environment with plenty of student resource space.

“[The Qt 600] has solved our problem,” says Frank Seeby, Facility Manager at BIIS. BIIS employees have reported a much quieter and more productive workspace. As Frank Seeby explains, “The various levels of masking in each area are very beneficial. The end result is that the noise that was bleeding from room to room is now almost completely unnoticeable. Any voices that do make it into the room are unrecognizable as they are very faint.”

The Qt 600 sound masking system can easily be controlled using the system’s Qt Monitoring and Control Software should the BIIS team need to adjust settings for presentations and events. As Mr. Seeby explains, “The software is easy to use and helps us adjust the masking level easily for presentations. I would say the [Qt 600] solved our problem.”



The Qt 600 sound masking system provides BIIS with the flexibility to cover the sounds in the variety of spaces within their office suite