

Great Ape Trust of Iowa

*NextLAN® Provides Network Infrastructure
for Advanced Research Facility*



Dr. Sue Savage-Rumbaugh communicating with Kanzi via lexigrams. With the new Smart Board Lexigram Touch Screen supported by the NextLAN infrastructure, every keystroke will be recorded.

At the Great Ape Trust of Iowa, researchers are actively communicating with primates through the use of electronic touch screens and chalkboards. In this new facility, every piece of data communicated, every control to access doors, and every hidden camera throughout the 230 acre compound is operated using CAT 6+ copper and fiber optic cables manufactured by Superior Essex. The network trusted to tie all the elements together and record this ground-breaking research is called NextLAN, a jointly created cabling solution by Superior Essex and Leviton.

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streaming data to outside researchers. Every bit of data runs over the NextLAN network and not one piece can be lost.

Developing Critical Partnerships

According to Executive Director Kirk Brocker, the Bonobos Kanzi and PanBanisha are quite possibly the two most important animals in the world and may be mankind's closest relatives. "That's a huge responsibility. That's why developing partnerships was so critical."

Great Ape Trust wanted a contractor who was going to be there for the long term. They knew they would always have new technology needs. Because of that, Great Ape Trust put their trust in T3 Technologies, Inc. Per Brocker "The guys from T3 told us what we needed to do. There were a lot of things we just couldn't anticipate, but Steve and his crew came through for us in every way. In fact they insisted on fiber optics even before we needed it. It's already paid off a number of times. That's why T3 was the obvious partner."

Steve Boers, owner of T3 Technologies, thinks about partnership in a similar way. After 25 years in the business, he thinks of himself as a technology coach. But, he says, "I work with a team. I can only be a good coach if I have good players, good partners." Steve worked with the research team to understand their vision and make it a reality, even going to Atlanta to meet the apes before they moved to Des Moines. Because he believes first and foremost in partnership, he went looking for the ideal product partner. That was Leviton.

Other competitors may not have understood the magnitude, the incredible impact, of this project but Mitch Nibberich, Leviton District Sales Manager, understood immediately. Steve explains, "Mitch and Leviton became our partners and helped us develop an end to end solution."

"Leviton was absolutely a huge help. For example, a couple deadlines



The new SmartBoard™ Lexigram Touch Screen, supported by the NextLAN infrastructure, features hundreds of icons to help scientists communicate with the apes.

came sooner than expected and we couldn't wait. The folks at Leviton helped us get what we needed. Fast. It was a total collaboration in design and engineering. I took the vision, came up with a plan and Mitch helped me finalize in ways I might not have thought of."

T3 wired the building with Leviton eXtreme® 6+ connectivity and Fast-Cure Fiber Optic Connectors with Superior Essex Cabling

(NextGain® and fiber optic cable) for security, fire, on-site paging, data connectivity and infrastructure. The system had to be absolutely reliable. As Steve said, "Everything the apes do is another data point. Every bit of data is logged for future study."

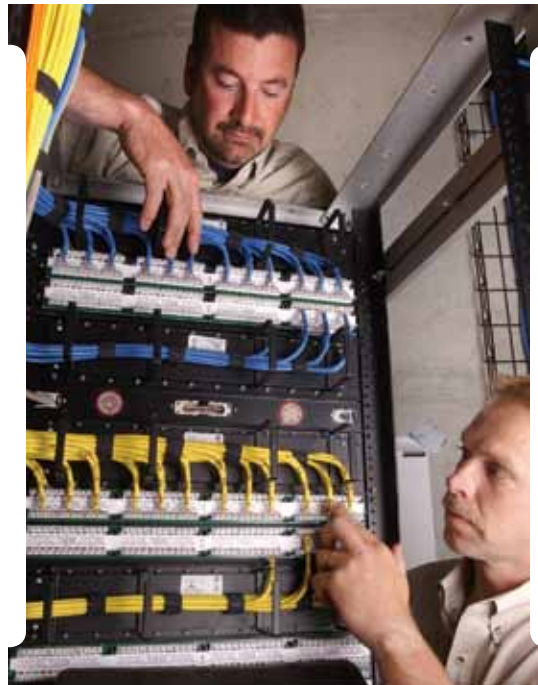
The network is the backbone of the research. Eventually students from outside of the facility will be able to observe and communicate with apes directly from their classrooms anywhere in the world.

Moving Into the Future

There's still much to do. New houses will be built for the Orangutans, Gorillas, and Chimpanzees. Remote lexigram screens will be developed for schools to allow students

to communicate with apes and study their behavior directly from their classrooms anywhere in the world. Connections with other research facilities in Spain and Japan will be developed so Great Ape residents in those locations will be able to communicate with the ape residents at Great Ape Trust. Plus, all that data is going to need to be stored, so a Data Center is planned.

"We hope we live up to the honor of calling it a trust," says Executive Director Brocker. The Great Ape Trust of Iowa is well on the way to meeting that hope. With all it encompasses, and all it promises, Leviton, Superior Essex and T3 are happy to be their technology partners.



Kevin Clark and Terry Pohlman, lead technicians at T3 Technologies show off an equipment room where the NextLAN copper and fiber systems come together.

