



Black Diamond Lodge Relies on Venstar Thermostats to Remotely Control Temperatures and Manage Energy Costs

Venstar's Skyport Cloud Services Enables Remote Changes in Minutes

CHATSWORTH, Calif., Jan. 16, 2019 — [Venstar®](#) today announced that its [Explorer®](#) and [Explorer Mini](#) thermostats and [Skyport®](#) Cloud Services are being used by Black Diamond Lodge at Deer Valley Resort in Park City, Utah, to remotely control temperatures and manage energy costs. A significant utility rebate covered 45 percent of the cost of the Explorer thermostats in the common areas. Installation was done by Green Planet Corporation.

"With Venstar's Explorer thermostats and Skyport, we access and control the settings of every thermostat on the property in minutes rather than a day. It's priceless for us," said James O'Reilly, general manager, Black Diamond Lodge.



Chris Parker of Green Planet, James O'Reilly and Kirk Pettigrew of Black Diamond Lodge

Challenge: Find Thermostat with Mobile Access for Remote Control

Kirk Pettigrew, maintenance manager at the exclusive Black Diamond Lodge was challenged with finding a way to remotely control and manage nearly 100 thermostats in the lodge's 28 one-to-four-bedroom suites. Guests would frequently leave the thermostats set too high or too low when they left, resulting in unnecessarily heating or cooling unoccupied suites.

Checking on the thermostats in all of the suites took the maintenance staff nearly an entire day, so he wanted to save time by having remote access. In addition, because the suites are individually owned condos that are managed by the resort's homeowner's association, the general manager James O'Reilly wanted to control energy costs so that the owners would not experience higher energy bills.



Kirk Pettigrew and James O'Reilly of Black Diamond Lodge control the Venstar thermostats using Skyport Cloud Services from the front desk computer.

Solution: Venstar Explorer and Explorer Mini Thermostats

To find a solution, Pettigrew and O'Reilly turned to Chris Parker of Green Planet Corporation, which helps businesses implement their green initiatives. Parker recommended Venstar Explorer® (Model T3700) and Explorer Mini (Model T2000) thermostats for the lodge's suites and common areas because they could be remotely accessed and controlled.

They chose Explorer thermostats because they can be managed easily using Venstar's Skyport Cloud Services browser-based app on a computer or by using the free Skyport Mobile App. Pettigrew prefers to use his computer to check on the thermostats while his lead tech uses his mobile phone. O'Reilly appreciates the ability to check on suite temperatures and receive high and low temperature alerts when the weather suddenly changes.

Because the Explorer thermostats replaced very old thermostats, there were some wiring issues in some locations. Parker's team used Venstar's Add-a-Wire kit to solve the issue and install the new thermostats. Add-A-Wire re-wires five-wire thermostats to use only four wires.

Results: Remote Access and Control of Thermostats, Controlled Energy Costs

Using Skyport Cloud Services via a Web browser, the front desk staff now checks on the thermostats as guests check out so that the HVAC equipment is not unnecessarily running when the suites are unoccupied. As guests check in, the front desk staff can remotely change the thermostat settings to ensure a comfortable environment.

Pettigrew and the maintenance team are able to remotely check on thermostat settings, which they can do in minutes rather than taking nearly a day to physically visit all the suites. It also helps Pettigrew and the maintenance team deal with any equipment issues. In one case, being able to look at the thermostats helped him identify an HVAC equipment failure in minutes rather than hours.

“Using Skyport, we can easily tell if there are any equipment issues and quickly head them off before they become a real problem,” said Kirk Pettigrew, maintenance manager, Black Diamond Lodge.

Rounding out the benefits was a significant utility rebate that covered 45 percent of the cost of the Explorer thermostats in the common areas, thanks to Chris Parker of Green Planet Corporation.

About Explorer & Explorer Mini

Venstar’s Explorer and Explorer Mini programmable Wi-Fi® commercial and residential thermostats are the most affordable Wi-Fi thermostats on the market. Just 3.2 inches wide by 3.2 inches high and less than an inch deep, Explorer Mini thermostats take up less wall space and help save energy and improve indoor comfort.

About Venstar Skyport Cloud Services

Venstar’s free Skyport Cloud Services enables users of Venstar’s Wi-Fi thermostats to use the free Skyport Mobile App on their Apple® iOS and Android™ mobile devices or directly from the Web to instantly access and control thermostats.

About Black Diamond Lodge

Located slope-side at the Snow Park base area of Park City, Utah’s Deer Valley Resort, Black Diamond Lodge offers a warm and inviting mountain ambiance. With the ease and comfort of its unique location, Black Diamond Lodge offers one- to four-bedroom luxury ski-in/ski-out residences that help create an unforgettable vacation environment for the entire family. The added comfort of the lodge’s ski valet services, ski locker room, fitness center, on-site concierge, children’s game room, steam room and private hot tubs offers endless enjoyment opportunities.

About Green Planet Corporation

Green Planet Corporation is a recognized pioneer providing innovative eco-friendly and utility-saving products and services. Working with businesses nationwide, Green Planet Corporation helps clients implement utility-saving solutions working together with their local utility companies to help customers receive rebates for their upgrades.

About Venstar Inc.

[Venstar Inc.](http://www.venstar.com) is a leading thermostat and energy management system (EMS) manufacturer, known for providing value to its customers via ease of use and installation, proven cost savings, improved energy efficiency, quality and reliability. Founded in 1992, Venstar is one of the largest thermostat suppliers in the world and designs and produces Venstar-branded products, as well as OEM thermostat products for the biggest names in HVAC. Venstar’s Surveyor is a leading energy management system, typically saving small-box retailers 20–35 percent of their energy costs, which translates to tens of millions of dollars in savings each year and dramatic reductions in CO₂ emissions. Surveyor currently controls the energy usage of 30,000+ retail locations across the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and Mexico.

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