While ecommerce continues to grow, many shoppers still prefer the traditional mall experience. Because safety remains a growing concern in large public places, shopping mall operators worldwide must adapt to these issues to ensure they give their customers the safest shopping experience. These facilities also rely on non-emergency paging and communication with their patrons to notify them of store hours, as well as to manage background music in common areas. Creating paging zones allows targeted messaging to designated areas or zones of the mall, or to a specific department in a large anchor store, such as footwear or home furnishings.

Regardless of their size, most shopping malls feature one or more anchor department stores and dozens of smaller specialty shops. Larger malls often have onsite food courts, offices, lounges, and children’s play zones. With reflective surfaces, large open areas, and thousands of visitors, shopping malls can generate significant ambient noise. With so many people passing through the mall each day, clear communication is crucial during emergency situations. Mall staff must be able to communicate effectively with guests in the event of an emergency.

In this Hospitality scenario, boutiques, large department stores, and common areas require different audio capabilities. Biamp’s Vocia platform can keep pace with a rapidly changing retail environment, allowing the mall to accommodate different levels of demand, from slow weekday mornings to major holiday shopping seasons. For emergency situations such as police activity, hazardous weather conditions, and other potentially dangerous events, Vocia supports clear, intelligible paging that will alert shoppers and workers in the affected zones or throughout the entire mall facility.
Vocia is Life Safety and EN-54 certified, and serves as the hub for all paging and emergency system support needs. Integrating paging with ambient noise compensation (ANC) allows the paging volume to adjust automatically to the space's ambient volume, thus ensuring pages are audible and intelligible, which is crucial in times of emergency and during everyday mall activities. Vocia also supports pre-recorded messages for broadcasting common notifications such as mall closing times, as well as background music functions. Furthermore, Vocia integrates into the mall’s emergency and fire panel, allowing first responders to access Vocia’s paging functions as needed.

With Vocia’s multiple zoned paging capabilities, mall administrators can be assured that their pages will be delivered to the correct areas without disturbing unaffected shoppers or employees. In addition, the integrated emergency communication system provides the utmost security and dependability, giving owners and managers peace of mind.

**Vocia Features**

- Scalable to grow with a facility's needs
- Decentralized networking with no single point of failure
- Standard paging and critical paging in one platform
- Loudspeaker line monitoring

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**System Design Guide**

**Shopping Mall**

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