University of Portsmouth

The Project: University of Portsmouth

Type of Site: University student accommodation.

Number of Users / Doors: 600+ hardwired doors, 750 wireless locking doors.

Solution Required: Integration of wireless locks with a centralised security system.

Products used: SimonsVoss Technologies SmartIntego wireless locks, TDSi EXgarde security software.

The University of Portsmouth is a world-class institution that can trace its roots back to 1908. Since 2005 it has invested in a programme of continuous campus improvements.

In 2014 the university was looking to install a wireless battery-operated access control solution for its Student residences, as part of a Fire Door replacement programme.

Graham Giles, Director of the University's security partner, Network Security, made an Initial enquiry with SimonsVoss Technologies regarding a possible solution.

The Requirement

After a trial of SimonsVoss Technologies' own proprietary solution was successful, the University

specified that the ideal solution would also need to integrate with its existing TDSi EXgarde security management software system.

With the University rolling out the door replacement programme, it wanted to extend its existing TDSi solution to include these doors. The previous system utilised a separate solution, which had resulted in additional time and cost to manage it in parallel with the EXgarde solution.

The University's requirement was for each bedroom and kitchen within its Harry Law Hall and Bateson Hall accommodation blocks to have a battery-operated electronic handle set.

The Solution

Having already been in discussion with SmonsVoss Technologies Ltd with regards to an integrated solution, TDSi incorporated SmartIntego handles and cylinders in time for the first handles to be installed at the University.

The first 125 handles were installed over the 2014/2015 Christmas holiday. The fully online access control solution includes 600+ hardwired doors and over 750 SimonsVoss SmartIntego battery operated electronic handles sets.

Each SmartIntego electronic handle set communicates with a Gateway node which is directly connected to the University's network and communicates with EXgarde on the University Server.

The Benefits

The installation costs of switching to a battery-operated solution were greatly reduced from a traditional hardwired solution, whilst still maintaining the important features associated with the functionality of a hardwired solution.

The replacement doors were prepared at the factory in readiness for the SmartIntego handles to be rapidly fitted by Network Security once the doors were installed on site. This meant a phased delivery programme could be implemented with minimal disruption to the University's operations.

The integrated system facilitates real-time changes to access rights (including deleting of lost or stolen cards within minutes), across all doors. It also receives a live audit of traffic around various sites and a low battery status message is sent immediately back to EXgarde every time the door is used.

In the event of the connection to the server being disrupted, each SmartIntego handle set retains a unique predetermined set of 250 authorised users within the device's memory to maintain approved access. This list of users is continually updated from EXgarde via the network.

Overcoming Challenges

Sean Edwards, Strategic Maintenance Manager of the University of Portsmouth commented, *"Whilst there were a number of initial 'teething troubles' with the integration of the systems, TDSi's software engineers worked tirelessly with SmartIntego's field application engineers to not only create but also fine-tune the solution to fully meet the University's requirements."*

Sean Edwards continued, *"The University, Network Security, TDSi and SimonsVoss Technologies Ltd worked together to resolve any issues. All the parties involved used their own expertise to first identify then eliminate each possible cause until all topics had been resolved."*

The Result

The University of Portsmouth signed off the project as fully complete in December 2017. With no reported issues since, the system exactly meets the needs of everyone that relies upon it. The University now has a fully integrated security and access control solution that meets the needs of the faculty, staff and students.

Sean Edwards concluded, *"Network Security, TDSi and SimonsVoss Technologies Ltd worked together as partners to create a powerful, reliable and highly usable access control solution capable of managing hundreds of doors and thousands of users over multiple sites across a city, from a central location, all in real time."*