NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY
United Kingdom

OVERVIEW

Northumbria University, located in Newcastle upon Tyne, and operating over two campuses, is the largest research and teaching university in the North East of England, with 35,000 students and over 3,000 staff. Northumbria University's security system started in 2002 as a library access system with 20 readers.

Access control was introduced into both campus libraries to enable opening hours to be extended at minimal cost and to provide a secure working environment for library staff and users.

The City Campus Library, a nine storey building, is now open 24 x 7 in term time and up to midnight at other times, with the smaller Coach Lane Campus Library opening until midnight all year.

Staffed services are available only during core hours, outside those times the only staff presence is at the Welcome Desk.

PACOM SOLUTION

The University were quick to see the benefits of the system which has now been extended from the original 20 card readers in the two libraries to over 400 readers across more than 20 buildings with a database of more than 50,000 users which includes visitors, exam invigilators, mentors, contractors etc.

The PACOM access control system operates on the University LAN/WAN and in the City Campus library alone handles over one million access transactions a year.

Integration between PACOM Graphical Management System (GMS) and the Bell ID ANDiS system has enabled the use of the student (smart) cards for a variety of applications apart from access to buildings, e.g. Sports Centre membership, Library membership – allowing items to be returned or loaned using the self service machines throughout library opening and Student Union membership. The use of the card as an e-purse is also under consideration, as is attendance management at lectures.

SUMMARY

Over 400 card readers across 20 buildings and a user database in excess of 50,000

Integration with AndiS smartcard system for other applications, e.g. Library membership, so eliminating the need for multiple cards to be carried

PACOM

RESULT

Carol Thompson, Service Manager at Northumbria University, stated "We are extremely impressed with the robustness of the PACOM system and its ability to handle the heavy traffic we experience, particularly during enrolment, without any detrimental impact on the University's network.

It is also an extremely flexible system allowing us to easily control access to all areas from those of high security such as machine rooms to areas where most users can have access at varying times, including 24 x 7 access to some buildings.

It has proved to be a cost effective system to manage and I have immediate access to reports and statistics when required."

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