



Attendance Monitoring at Middlesex University – a Mobile Solution

Recent legislation meant that Middlesex University - like many other HEI's – had to devise a way of monitoring student attendance. A security system from G4S was already in place and students had Mifare smart cards. As Jonathon Tanner from Middlesex University explains:

“We had to come up with something that was simple to implement – but could provide the departments with the data they needed. Installing a wall reader on every possible location was cost prohibitive – so a mobile solution seemed to fit the bill”

The Smart Media Innovations (SMI) solution is already integrated with the Symmetry access control system installed by G4S – allowing student data to be uploaded to the hand held devices. The ST4 device from Pradonet was utilised – as it was both rugged and had the necessary Mifare reader. The system was supplied by G4S – as an addition to the overall security system already installed.

Some 24,000 records are uploaded to each device using software supplied by SMI. When a card is then presented to the device the appropriate student details are displayed – and that “read” is recorded. This data is then synchronised back to a PC - and distributed to the various departments – allowing reconciliation between who was due to attend a particular “event” and who actually did attend.

The system of ten mobile devices has been trialled for several months, and is now due to be utilised for exams - as Mr Tanner details

“Using the system we can display the picture of the student on the device itself – allowing us to check the identity of the actual individual sitting the exam”

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