



COVENTRY UNIVERSITY PROVIDING A SECURE CAMPUS FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

Coventry University, located in the heart of England, can trace its roots back to 1843 as the Coventry College of Design. Much has changed since then, not least the challenge of securing the people and property of a busy city centre university campus.

Within Coventry, the University covers over 35 acres of land including 32 multi-storey buildings. Add to that over 25,000 potential card holders and the logistical difficulties of protecting such a city centre location start to become clear.

G4S Technology and the University embarked on a program of implementing a site-wide electronic access control system. The objectives of the program were:

Replace mechanical keys, which through loss and retention by key holders and former key holders were resulting in many instances of unauthorised building and room access:

- Improve staff and student safety;
- Reduce levels of theft from the University;
- Reduce security costs;
- Provide a technological platform for future growth with a security partner.

Coventry University was one of the pioneers in the Education sector to look at replacing many of its original mechanical locks with electronic access control systems. Proximity card readers needed to be distributed to over 375 doors across

the campus, ensuring a safe and secure environment for staff, students and visitors alike, whilst at the same time preventing trespass.

The system needed to enable major cost savings to be implemented. These included security manning, where the effective deployment of two dedicated staff in maintaining the Symmetry™ system has now removed the necessity for an increase in physical security patrols alongside a considerable growth in the number of University buildings.

"All at the University are pleased and encouraged by the positive impact the G4S Technology system has had. There was a significant decrease in unauthorised access to University buildings; none occurring in an area controlled by the Symmetry access control solution. That's excellent news and enforces the feeling that we made the right decision in appointing G4S Technology as our security provider," said Coventry University Security Manager.

"The needs at Coventry were a natural fit for our Symmetry Access Control solution, the long opening hours of 0800 to 2200 hrs and 250+ access points meant that a reliable, robust and flexible solution was required and we met those criteria, comfortably," said G4S Technology MD, Keith Whitelock.

The solution, Symmetry™, is a scalable enterprise system capable of coping with unlimited cardholders and configurations. Equally, as an intuitive, user-friendly software package, it is simple to manage and maintain; one of its many rich features.



"Offences, trespass and loss from theft are greatly reduced"

Other benefits derived by Coventry University from acquiring the Symmetry system are:

- Centrally controlled software, ensuring minimum effort in adding or adjusting information, user details and security profiles;
- Instantaneous information ensures events are responded to as they occur, in 'real' time;
- The integral door alarms and 'event-to-action' alarms reduce administrative time by using dynamic maps. This ensures manpower can be deployed quickly and directly to the alarm activation point, which also minimises the risk to both people and property;
- Use of lost, stolen and unauthorised cards can be monitored in real time, enabling action to be taken quickly for recovery and thus improving safety all round.

With over 130,000 card transactions a week, response from the access control system needs to be instantaneous, and it is! Through a blend of centralised and distributed intelligence, the Symmetry system provides "best of breed" responses to cardholders, whilst a Personal Identification Number (PIN) ensures that the areas which need that extra degree of security can have it. Each card is easily entered onto the operating system and only allows access to those areas permitted to that particular individual. The administration could hardly be simpler, delivering benefits to both user and operator.

"When we made the decision to go with G4S Technology, we took true independent advice. After a rigorous tender process out of 50 responses, G4S Technology came out top,"

So has Symmetry met the objectives set by the University?

"Can our decision be justified? We have a first class working system and we've made major savings on our staff salaries.

Offences and trespass are greatly reduced, as is loss from theft, and we have increased the staff and students' perception of safety. So we really do think we made a wise and right decision," said Coventry University Security Manager.

The campus-wide G4S Technology solution has systems on all of the 32 buildings. Each of the 25,000 users carry a convenient ISO standard identity card, containing a unique ID that cannot be duplicated.

About G4S Technology

G4S Technology is part of G4S plc, the world's leading international security solutions group.

G4S Technology designs, manufactures, installs and maintains fully integrated building security systems, protecting everything from small offices and schools to large multi-national organisations and high security Government facilities. G4S Technology has been providing unified security solutions for over 30 years, delivering 30,000 systems across 80 countries, to mitigate risk and protect staff, premises and assets.



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