

West Midlands Police case study

Tailored security solutions



Security has always been a top priority for the police force and access control is a major issue for both access to buildings and access to the force software applications.

West Midlands Police's requirement was to use the latest Smartcard technology to enable users to have single sign on to their relevant software applications instead of having to remember multiple log-ons, as well as knowing exactly who had entered their premises. They also wanted to ensure the health and safety of their staff.

Challenges

West Midlands Police recognised that they needed a system where they could easily identify the presence of certain persons at any time. They also needed the information linked to their central applications database and internal HR Oracle database. The system had to be unique, capable of expansion to the force's 150 premises, identifying and logging person activity, and producing reporting.

G4S solution

Initially the project we installed for West Midlands Police was a 'Proof of Concept' for a 'Human Identification System', which progressed to a live system.

The system has two main elements:

- Physical access
- Logical access.

The physical access is the control of people through doors and turnstiles by means of Smartcards and/or fingerprint biometrics.

People can be controlled to specific rooms or areas by day and time. For the more secure areas a triple authentication means of access – card, fingerprint, PIN – is used. The fingerprint template is stored in the access control database and on the Smartcard itself.

The logical access is the control of people on to the police software applications. The credentials of the user are stored on the Smartcard. These credentials are verified at individual workstations by means of a Smartcard reader or biometrics and will log the user on to their permitted applications.

The two systems were then integrated to allow users to log on to their workstations only if the physical access control system has recorded that they have entered into the building and/or permitted area before the user can log on to the computer network.

Working in conjunction with the customer, G4S helped West Midlands Police see their "vision through to reality" as quoted by Paul Williamson, Gateway Programme Manager of West Midlands Police. He also went on to say that the notion of having a "logical and physical access control system was too much of a temptation to resist".

Results

West Midlands Police now have an integrated system which allows users to log on to their workstations only if the physical access control system has recorded that they have entered into the building and/or permitted area before the user can log on to the computer network.

The police authority intends to roll this integrated system out to all police stations throughout the region over a two-year period.

G4S was chosen because we were one of the only companies who were able to provide such a unique and technologically sound system.

Contact us now to find out how
G4S can tailor a security solution for you.

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A World of Security Solutions

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