



AECC

Case Study

Anglo-European College of Chiropractic



About the organisation

The Anglo-European College of Chiropractic (AECC) have a global reputation as a leader in musculoskeletal healthcare. AECC are proud to offer students the opportunity to benefit from state-of-the-art facilities and reputation, which they have earned through continuously driving innovation and development.

Since opening their doors to students in 1965 as the first chiropractic college in Europe, AECC have built on their success each year, through their commitment to excellence in all that they do, they now offer a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

AECC remain committed to excellence in education, clinical training and research that allows them to cultivate an environment in which students are encouraged to achieve the highest standards and the teaching staff is regarded among the best in the world.

The Problem

The college had an existing access control system that was becoming difficult to support due to age and availability of spare parts. Furthermore, the management of cards and access rights was a manual process requiring a lot of input from various teams.

Additionally, only portions of the site were secured with ID cards. Some areas were using keypads, which led to issues with entry codes being divulged, other areas were using keys that were difficult to manage, to issue and return as well as dealing with lost keys.

Students were already issued with existing ID cards with a magstripe, which they used for photocopying and door access, but the college wanted to do more with their cards and streamline the production process, which had historically required manual processes to be followed in order to ensure the card was printed correctly and operated the necessary systems.

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“AIT understood what the college was trying to achieve and offered a practical and cost effective solution to deliver this. We now have a robust base which we can extend to include other services such as cashless payments”

Phil Mordecai,
IT Officer, Anglo-European
College of Chiropractic

Anglo-European
College of
Chiropractic also
use AIT solutions
to manage their
print management
with Pcounter and
their email filtering
using FuseMail

The solution

Phase one – ID cards

Firstly, AIT recommended utilising CardExchange® this would allow the automation of acquiring the card data for printing and encoding of cards. The software would link directly to the college SRS (Student Records System) to obtain data relating to currently enrolled learners, including photographs.

For staff, the college Active Directory information would be extracted in order to provide an accurate list of staff details and AIT suggested that integration work was carried out to ensure that any changes in AD were propagated to the card production software automatically.

Provision would also be made for “ad hoc” cards for contractors or students from other institutions who shared AECC’s facilities but where the college did not have details within any internal systems to produce a card. In the past, these cards may have required manual data entry in order to be printed. But the synchronization AIT recommended with college systems that utilised the cards, would be performed automatically.

With the above implemented and with new contactless cards distributed, work could begin on installing the new access control system.

Phase two - Access Control

In many cases this was a case of replacing existing equipment, but re-utilising existing hardware (such as lock mechanisms) wherever possible in order to reduce costs. Maintenance was carried out on existing equipment to ensure that it was performing correctly and connected to new controllers and card readers. The AIT engineers also took care with ensuring old mounting points for hardware were covered and leaving the installation area neat – particularly important on some of the stone walls.

Ease of Implementation

Throughout the installation, it was important to utilise existing information to reduce duplication and errors, and to automate the process of producing a card that was ready to be used once handed over to the individual.

Working closely with the IT team throughout the project enabled AIT to understand how AECC have historically managed the existing systems and work towards streamlining the processes.

Previously it would have taken a great deal of time to produce cards for a new intake, but the new system has the ability to display a list of students who have not yet had a card produced and then to quickly batch-print cards without duplication.

Equally, the process for re-printing a lost/damaged card is now significantly simpler as well as the day-to-day management of the solution as a whole has been lessened.

The Benefits

Phil Mordecai, IT Officer at AECC explains the benefits “We had been running an aging door access system using magnetic stripe cards and door access and card printing based on one PC in our reception office. As AIT were able to utilize our existing staff account records (Active Directory) and also our student account records (our bespoke Student Records System or SRS, based on SQL Server), this meant we could remove much of the workload from our reception team in data entry and image imports. This also increases accuracy as AD and SRS are always kept up to date. We are a growing organisation, and this greater efficiency will really help us as we expand”.

Phil went on to say “The software installation and configuration went very smoothly, and by the end of the same week that AIT setup CardExchange® and SALTO RW to use our AD and SRS data, I had finished printing in-house over 700 door access cards, as replacements for all staff and students. The ability to setup automatically assigned access levels according to student or staff member is a great time saver too.

As we can distribute SALTO RW to key administrators, it means they don’t need to travel to one computer to perform access level changes, which is a big increase in efficiency and security.

I’m confident that when we are running our next new student induction, our new door access system will massively speed up our card production cycle, as it eliminates time consuming data entry duplication for over a hundred cards, and our students’ experience will be much more positive. This important need was identified after our previous induction, and I think AIT will have helped us achieve it.

All user feedback I received is positive, including many who remarked on how smoothly the migration from the old system to the new went. I think that AIT’s thorough capability to work with us on complex software setup and IT training, and high standards of hardware installation were key to making this major project a success”