

case study



East Los Angeles College Reaps the Benefits of Integrated Access Control

Nestled in Monterey Park, 10 miles east of downtown Los Angeles, East Los Angeles College (ELAC) is a two-year community college that serves more than 30,000 students. Established in 1945, the 88-acre campus has grown to encompass 58 buildings including a library, multi-media instructional centers, a bookstore, and a

20,000-seat sports stadium. Throughout its history, the safety and security of its students, faculty and staff has remained a top priority for ELAC.

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The Situation:

The design of the college's access control is the result of its open education environment. ELAC offers classes of various durations year-round and at various times during the day, in the evening and on weekends. In 2004, ELAC began converting existing classrooms to "smart classrooms" with technology upgrades. Before the expensive electronics were installed, the classrooms had previously been left unlocked, but school officials decided to expand the existing networked Honeywell card access into the newly renovated rooms.

Beyond the integrated framework, ELAC's access control system includes approximately 1,800 access cards in circulation, which are used for 302 card readers and electric door strikes — a slightly different setup than most traditional systems. Over the years, the college's security and safety measures have evolved, and the result today is an integrated access control system from Honeywell that serves as an example of how to meet a campus's unique security needs and protect existing investments while allowing for seamless future technology upgrades.

The Solution:

Honeywell's WIN-PAK® PE with VISTA Integration software enabled the college to replace existing obsolete intrusion alarm control panels with the VISTA alarm panel. The card access system here varies from traditional card access in that it encompasses card readers and electronic door strikes. Instead of carrying a large ring of door keys, staff members simply use one access card and one low-security metal staff key. When staff members first arrive at their offices or classrooms, they use their access card to unlock the strike, allowing the door to be pulled open. They then use the staff key on the inside lock cylinder to unlock the door's outside handle. When rooms need to be locked again, staff members use the same metal key. Card access enables the college to quickly recognize new staff, add new or additional access areas, and delete access to areas that are not currently being used. The college can also revoke access when a card is lost or shift access levels to a new card when a card is replaced. The college can usually complete all of these transactions within 24 hours. In comparison, making changes to an access system the only uses metal keys usually takes much longer.

The Benefits:

The college is saving valuable time and effort by using cards and readers to activate intrusion alarms, and they no longer have to use low-security PIN codes. ELAC staff can now arm and disarm their security system using existing contactless smart cards, and also monitor the alarm panels with the Honeywell card access software.



Card access has helped ELAC not only improve security, but also save time and money in other ways. "The Honeywell system provides a complete transaction record of every card presented to any of the card readers, whether access is granted or not," Strinz said. "Those history reports have also helped us to recover items removed from offices and storage areas. We've greatly reduced the number of items missing from these rooms."

Strinz tracks the number of cards deleted from the system. According to his records, as of April 2010, if the college still used metal keys for those rooms currently accessed with cards, ELAC would have had to replace more than six million metal keys. Best of all, the money saved from the system's efficiencies can be applied elsewhere, including hiring more instructors and teaching more students.

According to Strinz, the system's key benefits remain the same: scalability, security and cost-effectiveness. "The hardware and software upgrade paths have been very simple and helpful," Strinz said. "Given the additional service and security the Honeywell card access has brought to ELAC, this system has already paid for itself many times over," he said.

The Products:



WIN-PAK® PE with VISTA Integration



VISTA-128FBP



PRO2200

For more information:

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