



Press Release

Open Architecture Lets Teachers Credit Union Easily Transition to Upgraded Security *April Noblitt, Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies, Director, Commercial Real Estate Vertical Market*

With the simple change of a lock and leveraging web-enabled programming, the credit union increased productivity by saving time, money and their presently-installed electrified door hardware.

Teachers Credit Union, headquartered in South Bend, Ind. is the largest credit union in Indiana, reaching from inside the Michigan border in Niles, Michigan to Greenwood, Indiana south of Indianapolis. The institution has 51 locations, including the 4-story corporate office, and continues to buy and build additional branches. For access control, Teachers Credit Union had been using offline computer-managed (CM) locks. They were placed at strategic locations such as at the outside entrance, the door to the teller line and access to the vault room.

While these self-contained locks had been easy to install, they required significant resources to manage. Data that controlled access was downloaded to each lock individually, using a PDA. Audit trails and other information were uploaded to the PDA and transferred to a computer. The database itself was managed on the computer, allowing for response to personnel changes, lost credentials and changing access requirements.

However, with each branch having its own CM standalone access control, the growing number of branches and the widening geographic coverage of the credit union were starting to create big problems for Mike True, the credit union's director of security.

"Every time that some employee left the credit union or another employee was hired, we had to drive out to that branch and reprogram all the locks," reflects True. "It was costly in time, mileage and hotels. It just wasn't working anymore. We were scrambling." It also meant that security was compromised from the time the need was reported until the lock was reprogrammed.

True knew they needed to upgrade but didn't want to have to replace all their electrified door equipment, including power supplies, closers and exits. They just might have to continue working with what they had. However, Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies gave the credit union a demonstration of its Schlage bright blue IP-enabled security management system along with their new AD-Series locking systems. They could provide the credit union with wireless access control. Importantly, instead of having a proprietary design, they were created using open architecture, giving them the flexibility to work with Teachers Credit Union's existing electrified door hardware.

"This bright blue unit did everything that I wanted it to do," exclaims True. "Most importantly, since it was open architecture design, we could keep our current door hardware intact even though we were going to be integrating a Schlage wireless system."

With bright blue, Teachers Credit Union's authorized personnel can access, monitor and manage any lock from any computer running a standard web browser. The system's plug-and-play design made configuration easy and the embedded application eliminated the need for special software, a dedicated



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PC or IT resources. The unit connects to the network and a power source and is ready to go. The installed door hardware was left untouched.

The modular, open architecture AD-Series would let Teachers Credit Union customize door openings with options such as credential reader type, networking, finish and levers to create a perfect fit. The credit union chose wireless locks using proximity cards. Yet, if business needs change, the credit union can quickly switch to new credential technologies, a variety of network protocols, increased security levels and system expansions. Upgrades can be as simple as interchanging a module. The AD-Series electronic locks are compatible with all popular exit devices and include a wide variety of finishes and levers.

With the wireless locks solution, True and his team have simplified control of who goes when and where because they interact with bright blue in the same way they do with any web page on the Internet. The system application is embedded on the control panel which connects easily to the credit union's present network. Adding and deleting personnel, setting up doors and assigning access based on time schedules is straightforward. If there is a new employee or an employee leaves the credit union, True and his staff can simply add or delete that person from their computers without getting out of their chairs.

"There is a bright blue unit at each branch," True explains. "They are connected into our IT network. All I have to do is to pull up the IP address of the particular branch and make the changes."

At Teachers Credit Union, three log-on levels, including User, Operator and Administrator, provide different sets of access rights to the system, assuring that system users will access only the functions management wants them to manage or view. All user ID's and passwords are protected with security encryption, providing safe access to monitor, control and manage sensitive personnel data, transactions and activities. Since the controller is built on a Linux operating system, bright blue is very stable and sheltered from external threats.

Why Wireless instead of Wired?

Teachers Credit Union originally went with the standalone locks so that they wouldn't have to pull wires throughout their facilities. Likewise, wireless electronic locks from Schlage eliminated the need to pull wires to each opening while still providing online access control. This approach also made instant access control data changes possible from headquarters and the branches available at every lock.

According to True, "Now, we don't have to drive to the branch to reprogram locks if someone loses their credential. And, if we don't get a credential back when someone leaves, we can disable their access instantly. This is absolutely improving our operations."

All branches will be running with the bright blue-based wireless access control solution by the end of September (2011). As branches are added, through building or acquisition, they too will be brought online. According to True, the changeovers are transparent to the branch managers and their employees.

"This was such a simple solution," remarks True. "My team loves it and so does IT because they know, with wireless access control; it takes only a couple days to switch over from the standalone locks. When



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I'm at financial institution conferences, I like to tell others about it. They reply is usually that 'I'd like to go with something like that myself.'"

True also said that it has been a pleasure working with Mike Hinsey at Ingersoll Rand, and Jeff Bell with Lazzaro company and they have done a great job during the transition to the new wireless locks.

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