

# Case In Point



An Access Control Solution featuring HandKey II Readers

## Grand Rapids Community College Gets the Upper Hand on Security

Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) serves nearly 22,000 full- and part-time students in an eight-block campus located in the heart of the city's downtown. With the challenges presented by a metropolitan location, complex demographics, a large number of public buildings and a high level of movement, security is a natural and ongoing area of concern for the college community.

Of particular interest were the main computer data center and the cashier's office, where substantial amounts of cash are handled. According to Scott A. Martin, of GRCC's facilities department, "Because we had a number of specific issues at play, the Board of Trustees asked us to investigate enhanced security measures. The first

well-monitored. One problem was that cards were easy to pass from one person to another, and lost cards could be misused. To overcome these obstacles, GRCC had previously migrated to a Blackboard one-card system, using the cards for parking and point-of-sale purchases as well as door security.

### Hand Geometry Protects Safety of Data and Finance

While that product is sufficient for those applications, a higher level of security was needed for the data center and financial areas. The solution? Working with Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies, GRCC selected Schlage Recognition Systems HandKey II readers, utilizing field-proven hand geometry technology so



Two HandKey readers protect the college's records and financial assets. One controls entrance to the Cashier's office, while a second, visible next to the door inside, protects the vault.



Entrance to critical areas such as this computer room at Grand Rapids Community College are protected by Schlage Recognition Systems HandKey II readers that utilize hand geometry technology to map and verify the size and shape of a person's hand in less than one second.

step in that initiative was to determine what access level and credentials were needed."

The card access system in place at the campus did not provide critical areas with sufficient protection against potential theft of data and resources or vandalism. And although the card access system in use at the time was adequate for most locations it was not

only authorized people can gain entrance to critical areas. Each hand geometry reader is a complete door controller that provides door lock operation, request for exit and alarm monitoring. All biometric data and decision-making capabilities reside locally to ensure that the doors are secure and will continue to operate properly even if all communications to the main access control computer are lost.

GRCC now has three HandKey readers deployed to protect data and finance areas. The readers are integrated into the building's security network, which includes door position sensors, motion sensors and CCTV cameras, and the entire system is easy to operate remotely. Martin says, "We can do everything from a laptop, controlling the doors and monitoring activity." Audit trails provide empirical data and information needed to investigate problems that may occur within the secure areas.

Network Analyst Erich D. Flynn, with GRCC's IT department, says the hand geometry readers offer the protection of dual credentials, using both the biometric hand characteristics and a PIN number. "This system combines something you know with something you are," he explains. "A traditional one-card system is something you carry and that can be penetrated, so the dual credential really protects these areas. In fact, it's working so well, we're now looking at applying the hand readers to other sensitive areas like laboratories and chemical storage areas."



Software makes it easy to monitor door activity and status from a laptop computer.



Grand Rapids Community College occupies an eight-block downtown campus and serves approximately 16,000 full-time students and close to 6,000 continuing education students.

### **About Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies**

Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies is a leading global provider of products and services that make environments safe, secure and productive. The sector's market-leading products include electronic and biometric access control systems; time and attendance and personnel scheduling systems; mechanical locks and portable security, door closers and exit devices, steel doors and frames, architectural hardware and technologies and services for global security markets.

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