

Case in Point

Diablo Valley College Goes Wireless to Integrate with Network Security

When Diablo Valley College converted an existing building to an advanced technology center, it upgraded the building's security with wireless electronic locks that are integrated into its security network without the need for hard wiring. The Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies solution also makes it easier to install locks on additional doors quickly and inexpensively.

Diablo Valley College is one of three publicly supported two-year community colleges in the California's Contra Costa Community College District. The college opened in 1949 and now serves more than 22,000 students in Pleasant Hill, Dougherty Valley and downtown Walnut Creek.

To provide increased access control for the renovated advanced technology center—a necessity based on the 45-year-old building's new purpose—administrators selected Schlage WA Series wireless locks.

It was a major remodeling of an existing building, but it was still a retrofit, so these wireless locks lent themselves to it very nicely. We're getting access control without having to pull cables to each opening," said Jack Shaffer, facilities project manager for the district.

The locks are especially beneficial for upgrading to an electronic security system in existing buildings because they eliminate the need to pull wiring and provide power supplies for each controlled opening. Instead, Schlage WA Series wireless locks are battery powered but linked to the network for real-time control by wireless data transmission.

The ease of installation of locks on additional openings has



Schlage's Security Management System seamlessly integrates a variety of technologies using open architecture design standards. The Schlage system offers advanced access control, alarm monitoring, digital video, asset tracking, photo ID badging, and visitor management functionality.

proven to be especially helpful. Initially, we installed the new locks on the classrooms to secure high-dollar items, such as computers and projectors. Then the technology department decided to upgrade security on office and storage areas, so all we had to do was bolt on another wireless lock for each door and enter it into the system, said Shaffer.

The wireless transmitters are housed in the building's equipment closet, where they are connected to the district's Internet server. Each wireless transmitter panel handles 15 doors; additional panels can be added to expand the system at any time. To date, almost 50 doors have been equipped with the wireless locks.

The college worked with Concord, California-based Opening Technologies, Inc. (OTI), who provided three technicians to complete the installation in a single day.

Access control is managed by a Schlage Security Management System (SMS), a Windows-based software program that enables the district to link all its Schlage wireless locks in real time. It has the capability to integrate the district's complete access control functions, with the potential for adding hard-wired Schlage card readers, digital video, and alarm monitoring systems. The complete system resides in a central server in the district office.

If someone swipes a card on the Diablo Valley campus, it shows up as an activity in the office 60 miles away, said Shaffer. In addition, the system creates an audit trail that can be useful in any investigation that may be necessary.

OTI installed and programmed the system and now provides back-end programming and configuration before a new building comes on line. Once it is up and running, it is handed over to the campus police force, which operates the system and adds or deletes cards, and set access parameters for various individuals as needed, thus allowing instructors broader access for after-hours work while restricting students and custodial staff to specified times.

Credentials are identification badges that come with imbedded proximity codes. The codes are printed by the college and assigned to individuals as needed by scanning the code into the system.

The wireless locks include a key override for use in emergencies. To prevent unauthorized key usage, a restricted Schlage Primus key system is used, and only the campus police carry the keys. This high-security key system is separate from the standard key system used on other campus buildings.

Two new buildings are planned for the Diablo Valley campus. Schaffer says that future remodeling projects and the new buildings will include card readers that tie into the SMS. Asked whether the wireless locks will be used on all future projects, he said some new construction could use hard-wired electronic locks, especially on exterior doors, but he likes the flexibility of being able to add or move locks easily with the wireless system.

DVC DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE

Diablo Valley College is one of three publicly supported two-year community colleges in the Contra Costa Community College District in California and was first opened in 1949. Current enrollment is 26,000 students and it has 300 full-time and 370 part-time instructors. DVC has satellite centers in San Ramon and Walnut Creek and also offers classes in other facilities in Concord, Martinez, Danville, and San Ramon. DVC offers a variety of occupational specialties, including hotel/restaurant management, culinary arts, dental technology, and real estate.

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