

Case Study

University of Baltimore adopts smart credentials

Landscape

Faculty, staff and students at the University of Baltimore were managing multiple cards for campus use: a photo ID card, a parking card and different stickers on these cards for the campus library and recreation center. Additionally, the university was beginning to realize it was limited by the basic functionality of the magnetic stripe and proximity cards. The fact that the cards were easily duplicated was another concern. They were less secure and increased the risk of unauthorized access into buildings on campus. The primarily offline card readers installed throughout the campus created other security hazards by preventing instantaneous, campus-wide lockdown of buildings—a key capability in emergency situations. As a largely commuter school, the University of Baltimore wanted a true access control solution that would protect its people and assets, as well as help it better manage and monitor university services.

Desired outcome

The university wanted an open architecture access control system that would:

- Enable greater security and more immediate access control
- Consolidate many campus services onto one card
- Improve the overall student/staff experience
- Integrate with Lenel and the university's PeopleSoft system

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Solutions

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“We knew that aptiQ was compatible with Lenel,” says Joshua Offermann, access control administrator at the University of Baltimore. “Lenel is particular about who they partner with so we had confidence that if aptiQ readers and MIFARE smart cards worked with Lenel, then they would give us the functionality we desired.”

aptiQ Multi-Technology Readers

Initially, approximately 70 aptiQ readers were installed on academic and administrative buildings throughout campus. The university liked the aptiQ readers for a few key reasons:

- **Flexibility:** They interface with nearly any credential type, including magnetic stripe, proximity and smart cards. While the university was moving to smart cards, it would be done in phases and they still needed a reader to work with existing magnetic stripe or proximity cards that would remain in use for a period of time.
- **Design:** The reader’s sleek design blended well with the university’s aesthetics. It was easily identifiable without being intrusive on building architecture.
- **Future-ready:** aptiQ readers are NFC-compatible, giving the university the ability to upgrade to mobile credentials in the future if desired.
- **Easy installation:** With quick-connect cable and simple mounting brackets, the aptiQ readers are easy to install.

MIFARE Classic smart cards

The university chose aptiQ smart cards with MIFARE Classic technology because they provide more security than magnetic stripe and proximity technology. A single smart card can be used for multiple applications, helping consolidate services and provide greater convenience. MIFARE Classic cards can be used for enrollment, access control, data storage, cashless vending, public transit and more. On a college campus, the possibilities are endless.

Result

Since its first implementation in late 2011, the university has installed 121 readers on campus and more than 95% of faculty, staff and students have picked up for their University of Baltimore Bee Card—an all-time high.

The University of Baltimore Police Department manages the Lenel/aptiQ access control system. There are now several secure areas on campus that utilize card readers. Students and staff feel more secure and the university is able to monitor, track and control access into those buildings. Campus-wide lockdown is possible with the push of one button.

The Office of Campus Card Operations manages the card technology, including production and distribution of the Bee Card. Prior to the implementation in 2011, the campus card manager worked with Allegion and IdentiSys, Inc./Capital Card Systems, and found that they could not only record the secure number from each card, but also encode different information on the MIFARE chip inside each card. To date, each Bee Card has several sectors encoded with information that allows for a wider list of card uses on campus.



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The Bee Card is currently being used for 10 different campus functions:

- Photo ID
- Building access
- Library checkout
- Campus Recreation and Wellness Center membership
- Parking
- University shuttles
- Rental of AV equipment and laptops
- Bookstore credit
- Campus Cash (on-campus locations, vending machines and a dozen off-campus establishments)
- Time and attendance management of plant operation employees

“Today, the Bee Card really adds value to the campus experience,” says Zach Griffey, Campus Card Manager. “We’ve seen a ten-fold improvement with them. Secure door access has grown exponentially, and Campus Cash wasn’t even possible before we launched our new card program. It’s really opened up a lot of possibilities and helped us to improve processes and tracking.”

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The University of Baltimore was founded in 1925 as a private institution. Its founders were a group of Baltimore civic leaders who wanted to provide low-cost, part-time evening study in business and law for working adults. Today, more than 6,500 students are enrolled in the school. With steady growth in recent years, the university has begun planning for its future with UB21, a collaborative planning effort that engages the University of Baltimore community’s best ideas concerning the future of both higher education and UB.

About Allegion

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