

CAMPUS SECURITY STAFF GETS A TECHNOLOGY BOOST

Bishop's University, located in Sherbrooke, Quebec was determined to modernize its security infrastructure, consolidating and standardizing multiple systems under one platform. The result? A significant multiplier for the effectiveness of its modest security team, and a safer learning environment.

Case Study

"If a student is missing, we can call up their key card activity, so we know which building they accessed most recently. We can then look at the security camera footage we have from that location. We've actually tracked down missing students with this capability."

DANIEL RAMAGE
SECURITY SYSTEMS
ADMINISTRATOR



Honeywell

A SAFE SECURE CAMPUS MAKES AN ATTRACTIVE CHOICE FOR STUDENTS

In the competitive world of higher education, recruiting and retaining students and faculty is critical for success, and research shows that campus safety is an important factor in the college selection process for students and their families.

The campus security team at Bishop's University, a liberal arts institution with close to 3,000 students in southern Quebec, was trying to manage multiple security systems with different interfaces and many manual processes. This put a huge strain on security staff.

The University shares its campus with a community college, which brings another 2,000 students to campus every day. The University handles security with a lean force of 16 people, and it needed a more modern and efficient way to keep up with the demands on its security personnel.

"We've had many parents tell us during orientation week that they're happy we have a strong 24-7 security presence. We wouldn't be able to provide the level of security we have now. It would have required a lot more employees. I can't imagine life without this system. It has been invaluable."

DANIEL RAMAGE
SECURITY SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

THE NEEDS

A campus-wide security system including:

- Access control
- Key tracking and management
- E-locks
- Video management system
- Intrusion detection

THE SOLUTION

Security Systems Administrator Daniel Ramage, who oversees security systems and technologies for the University and his colleagues within the security services team worked with Honeywell to implement a campus-wide security system, which includes key tracking and management, electronic door locks, video networks, and intrusion detection – all managed from the Honeywell Enterprise Buildings Integrator (EBI) interface.

"Honeywell's system had the best features to meet our needs," Ramage says.

The Honeywell solution is designed to provide control over who has

access to campus buildings and when. Most of the doors on campus are outfitted with electronic key card readers, and the University issues key cards to students and employees.

Through the EBI platform, security personnel can access an interactive campus map that shows the current status of sensors and door locks in every campus building at a glance. Ramage and his colleagues can control the locks remotely and can lock them all instantly in the event of a lockdown.

The Honeywell system also helps extend the presence of security personnel with security cameras and panic buttons located throughout the campus, as well as motion sensors and even water sensors in rooms with valuable archival materials.

"We want to know if a pipe breaks or if a room is flooding so we can respond quickly to preserve those materials," Ramage explains.

The system also provides the security team with alerts on their phones and walkie-talkies when an alarm is triggered. This has helped to significantly reduce emergency response times on campus.



Moving to electronic key cards has simplified the management and distribution of keys on campus. Now, when students, faculty or staff submit a key request, they can get a new key programmed in minutes, without high replacement fees being charged back.

“Our students love this convenience,”
Ramage notes.

Automation rules within the EBI platform make it easy for security personnel to limit or grant access to buildings for certain people or scenarios. For instance, if students have to evacuate a dormitory in an emergency,

due to the cold climate they would be sent to a campus recreational facility. The system allows dorm supervisors to access the rec building after hours if necessary, while also immediately alerting the security team.

The Honeywell system also allows for decentralized management of key card access. Using the EBI platform, supervisors and department heads can grant key card access for the buildings for which they are responsible. “This takes a lot of work off our shoulders and frees up security staff to engage in more important tasks,” Ramage observes.

THE BENEFITS

The Honeywell system has helped make Bishop’s University safer, helping to transform the university into a more attractive destination for students, faculty, and professional organizations. And the system has done this without a corresponding increase in security personnel by allowing the staff to be more effective.

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