

Time to leverage that badge

Overview:

More than ever before, businesses must try to get the greatest possible returns on their capital expenditures, no matter how long ago they were purchased. With the help of RF IDEas, companies can breathe new life into their old, costly security systems. Convergence enables you to build upon your installed base of employee ID badges and use them for other applications throughout the interior of the building. It is illustrated clearly in the example below, in which a more versatile ID badge is now being used for building access and tracking time and attendance of hospital employees.

Problem:

With over 11,000 employees at seven hospitals and 37 other facilities throughout Southeast Louisiana, tracking hourly employees had become a daunting task for Ochsner Health Systems. Human Resources management knew that the accounting department could spend less time and money counting and verifying time cards if they found a way to automate time and attendance without replacing the initial investment in Kronos clocks and associated infrastructure.

Solution:

Ochsner Health Systems, in cooperation with Omni Systems, the security integrator, evaluated the disparate systems and determined that HID iClass® contactless smart card technology offered multi-application capabilities. Since the current system used proximity cards limited to reading a building ID# number and the proposed changes required the use of an existing payroll ID#, all old cards were upgraded to a contactless card. The contactless card allowed each employee's existing payroll ID number to be written securely to his or her ID badge so that the backend database remained intact. The payroll ID# identifies the employee to the payroll system and ensures that employees are paid properly, based on current employee records.



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Problem:

With all pieces in place and installed, the new process was activated. Employees walk up to the door reader outside a facility, wave their badge in front of the HID iClass reader, and gain access to the facility. They go to the nearest time clock, present their ID badge to an RF IDEas' AIR ID® Playback reader attached to the Kronos clock. The AIR ID Playback delivers the payroll ID# instead of the iClass building ID# to the payroll department's software. Because the real payroll ID# is delivered and the time cards have been eliminated, the payroll department can use the time saved to work on other issues within finance and accounting. According to Charlene Breaux, director of business applications at Ochsner, “RF IDEas and their products have enabled us to become more efficient in collecting employee time logs by synchronizing our accounting department employee database with the Kronos time clocks throughout all our campuses, which total over 37 to date. We look forward to working with them again in the future.”

Benefit:

Now that the hospital has a completely automated time and attendance program, payroll is able to spend less time putting time card data into a database and can spend that time working on other areas to “grow the business.” Advancements in contactless smartcard badge technology enabled the use of a single badge for separate systems while retaining the integrity of the payroll system. With this new technology in place, Ochsner Health Systems is positioned to utilize additional RF IDEas solutions to expand their badge use to other systems, including cafeteria point-of-sale, single sign-on, and secure printing. Technology and imagination together will continue to drive internal benefits.

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