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Tracking Attendance—A Whole New Outlook

Overview

In today's day and age, technology is advancing faster and faster, delivering solutions that replace many manual tedious everyday tasks in the workplace. With innovative features and applications available, businesses address deeper issues in hopes of finding an effective solution through technology. It wasn't long ago when nearly all day to day tasks, including tracking time and attendance, needed to be entered manually, creating room for inaccuracies and leaving this a daunting and extremely time consuming task.



Like most larger universities, the University of Colorado is home to hundreds of faculty members, for whom they provide various training courses. In order to keep track of each session's attendance, the attendees were required to fill out paper sign-in sheets. This process not only took away from the valuable training time, but was also found to be very inaccurate and inefficient all around. The University realized this was a significant issue that needed to be addressed and set out on a mission to find a solution with the assistance of QUE Accounting.

Problem

The University of Colorado was in search of an easier way for tracking attendees in all of their training activities. They worked with QUE Accounting to adapt an existing database application to one that would be useful and suitable for their needs. Since some of their trainings included more than 250 attendees, the tracking solution had to be quick, easy and accurate. Additionally, the University was looking to avoid purchasing any other added credentials, such as magnetic stripe cards, since that would lead to replacing existing campus ID cards, therefore increasing their costs.

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Solution

QUE Accounting’s focus and dedication in providing customized solutions for time and attendance tracking along with their extensive experience in the industry reassured University of Colorado that they had chosen the right company for the job. QUE Accounting turned to RF IDEas for this solution, a leader in designing and manufacturing card readers that support nearly every proximity, contactless, and magnetic stripe card in use worldwide.

QUE Accounting was able to modify an application solution to meet the University’s needs through implementing a proximity reader, RF IDEas’ pcProx® Enroll, which could read the ID numbers on the existing campus ID cards. Rather than having attendees sign themselves in, they could now quickly confirm their attendance by simply waving their existing ID cards on the RF IDEas proximity reader. This reduced any risk of fraud and error in attendance tracking.

The application database QUE Accounting developed was designed to reside on a server network to enable use and connectivity from various locations on campus. A laptop with an attached pcProx Enroll reader was used to connect remotely to the network and gain access from throughout the campus.

Results

To ensure accuracy and functionality of the solution, the entire project took approximately two years to complete, from conception to implementation. Initially, the users were hesitant about the new process, but quickly realized the ease of use in tracking attendance. Now, over 230 campus faculty staff members rely on the system to keep track of their attendance. The solution works perfectly and the results were delivered exactly as the University had imagined.

“Implementing the reader and the new procedure was easier than I’d expected,” said Ned Frank, University of Colorado Manager of Training & Certification. “It saves everyone so much time and effort in keeping track of attendance, allowing more time to be spent on training. The best part is, that it eliminates errors while making the entire process so much faster.”

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Benefits

With the solution provided by QUE Accounting that was powered by RF IDEas readers, the University of Colorado was able to eliminate the tedious task of tracking attendance from the work load of their training seminars by simply utilizing attendees' existing campus ID cards. With some modifications to the application, QUE Accounting made it possible for instructors to connect remotely from any campus location, through the use of a laptop equipped with an RF IDEas pcProx Enroll reader to easily enable and provide the attendance tracking solution. The solution was extremely cost effective for the University by allowing the use of their existing campus ID cards. As a result, the training team is now also looking into converting over to additional web-based solutions designed for tracking each individual's progress.

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