

Electronic access control with automated workflows

Heidelberg Children's Hospital



Giving parents quick access to their children

Not without good reason, the authorities at the Heidelberg University Hospital, decided again for the primion access control system, during the construction of its new children's facility

As Melanie was admitted to the children's hospital with persistent abdominal pains, her mother Christine was very happy that she would be able to stay overnight, not far away from her daughter. She wasn't going to be in the same room but close by in the parent accommodation. This accommodation block is connected directly to level 99 by a corridor so that parents can get to the wards in the shortest time and in all weathers.

And an important element in all this is the electronic access control. Access control in hospitals has to fulfil two contradictory requirements: On the one hand, the buildings must be accessible to doctors, paramedics, patients and their relatives. On the other hand though, certain areas, including treatment rooms and the hospital pharmacy should only be accessible to those with the right authorisation. This calls for a well thought out concept and the deployment of flexible technology.

Software prime WebAccess

For some time now, the Heidelberg University Hospital has been using the prime WebAccess software and the corresponding hardware. As a result, some of the rooms in the hospital are permanently locked and can only be opened by presenting an authorised credential. The technology is deployed in the hospital's main administration area, in the surgical department, in the medical clinic and the Heidelberg Ion Beam Therapy Centre (HIT), a cancer research centre.

When the new construction of the centre for child and adolescent health was on the cards, the project team decided at an early stage of planning to use the tried and tested technology here as well, in no small part due to the efficient way that data administration could be handled centrally through an interface to the SAP system that the hospital used. A pre-requisite from the start was that the staff could continue to use their "hospital card" as the method of identification. Currently, there are around 1,000 cards integrated into the electronic access control system. The

deployment of a key-based access system had been rejected up front, because of the high level of administration that such a system brings with it.

Along with the new building with its 16.6 million Euro price tag, the children's hospital also got a new name. It was called the Angelika Lautenschläger Hospital after the chair of the board of trustees of the Manfred Lautenschläger foundation, which in part financed the construction work. The general ward has 120 beds, the dialysis ward 10 and the intensive care unit has 25. In addition there are departments specialising in radiology, MRI, endoscopy, intracardiac catheters and a special laboratory. It is clear that the very latest, not to mention expensive equipment is in use here, which doesn't just set the medical staff's hearts racing. Anybody who knows anything about hospitals knows that theft can also be a problem there, if suitable security measures are not in place.

Workflow for access control

With prime WebAccess from primion, the University Hospital is well equipped. It is an open solution with high levels of integration, not just in the existing architecture but also in the IT systems already in use. The Workflow for the automatic assignment of access rights is done through a standardised Internet browser. No special software has to be installed on the client PCs. All commonly used badge technologies can be deployed and if required, biometric identification can also be integrated. Thanks to the extensive staff data administration options, the electronic access control system can grow effortlessly if the number of users increases, as the Heidelberg Hospital application ably demonstrates.

Up to 128 access zones

The access control units demonstrate this same high level of flexibility. There is no limit as to the number of controllers that can be connected and each of them can administer up to 128 access zones. This makes countless variations possible and imposes virtually



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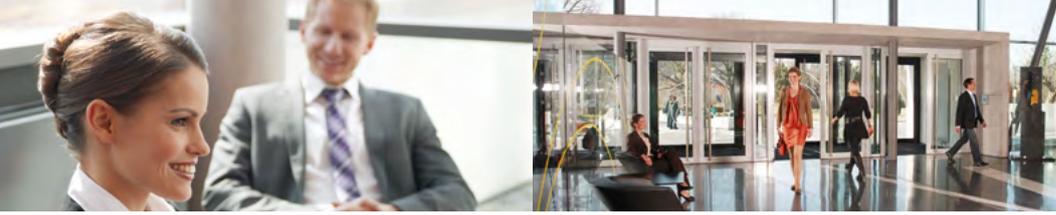
no constraints on time and location-dependent access control.

A further component of the system is the ability to connect fire detection and alarm systems. In terms of alarm management, different alarm priority levels and types can be defined. Alarm messages can be clearly shown on screen and processed, e.g. through an acknowledgement with text.

If required, alarms can also be sent by e-mail or GSM within a defined time window. Access authorisations are distributed by the hospital itself. Who else should know the local procedures and requirements better? Example: Rooms where drugs are stored should only be accessible by doctors and nursing staff at all times. The children's library is open for general access daily from 9 am to 6 pm. At other times it is only accessible to the cleaning and building management staff, who use their hospital cards to get in.

Also local changes in staff deployment can be easily handled from an access point of view by the primion system. If staff move temporarily from the medical clinic to the children's department, with just a few mouse clicks, the access rights for the offices in one building can be removed and replaced by some for rooms in another building. The parent accommodation is of course also integrated in the system.

It was also very important for the decision-making team that the some 350 terminals and readers at the doors should fit well into the overall appearance of the hospital. For this reason, they decided to deploy equipment from the primion crystal line product range in particularly representative areas, which in 2008, was awarded a prestigious iF product design award.



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