

University of Tennessee

Gallagher - the platform for security & resource scheduling at the University of Tennessee, College of Business



As the state's flagship, research-intensive university, the University of Tennessee is the leader in promoting education, research and public service.

At the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, the Technology Integration Services department provides infrastructure, customer service and web application support to the faculty, staff, students and units of the College of Business. Its focus is to facilitate the use of the campus infrastructure and support while adding complementary infrastructure and services to meet the unique needs of the College.

The University had a ground-breaking event in 2008 as the College of Business opened its new 174,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art, \$40 million James A. Haslam II Business Building. The new building preserves the college's history while housing a technology infrastructure that complements the college's culture of innovation. It reflects the level of educational distinction that the college always has delivered and will propel it to an even higher level of excellence.

The College also took a very innovative approach to operating and securing the new Haslam Business Building. Aside from classrooms, the architect's plans supported the need for both formal and informal meeting space. The building

design incorporates numerous "huddle" areas for informal meetings and over 40 meeting rooms for project work. To assure ready access to meeting rooms it was obvious that the technologically advanced facility needed a way to efficiently schedule and fill classrooms and conference rooms yet maintain security and control.

The University had been using an antiquated access control and security system across the campus, and realized it did not meet the demands of this new "high-tech" facility. Ramsey Valentine, the Director of Technology for the College of Business, turned to WWR Engineering of Knoxville, and Coactive Systems (CSI) of Canton, Ohio to design and deploy a state-of-the-art integrated security business solution.

THE CHALLENGE

The challenge involved in deploying this solution was that certain components, like physical access control, were readily available, but other components such as digital signage information kiosks and the integration of all components of the system, were not off-the-shelf.

THE TEAM

CSI's Brad Green and John Kortis worked with Director Valentine to understand and develop what the College required in order to deliver on their expectations.

CSI identified the Gallagher security management system (formerly Cardax FT) as the foundation for the system. Gallagher systems are installed in approximately 90% of Australia's and New Zealand's universities. With proven strength in the tertiary market internationally, the Gallagher system was selected because of its open architecture, Application Programming Interface, and published Software Developer's Kit.

The Gallagher system was selected because of its open architecture, Application Programming Interface, and published Software Developer's Kit. CSI also teamed with the local office of Simplex Grinnell. Led by Mitch Hall, Simplex was the prime contractor and responsible for the assembly and installation of the security system, provided by Gallagher, and kiosks provided by CSI. WWR was responsible for the engineering drawings and interface to the existing security systems.



Gallagher delivers access control and booking management for 40 meeting rooms via integrated information kiosks.

The College utilizes Meeting Room Manager from NetSimplicity for room scheduling; CSI created an integration from Meeting Room Manager with Gallagher Command Centre software. CSI also designed and custom manufactured the 42 kiosks that the College would use at each classroom and in meeting room areas.

The students' "VolCard", named after the University of Tennessee "Volunteers", serve as the primary access token for access to rooms and the kiosk. CSI developed a system to consolidate the critical card data from other campus card systems and allow UT personnel to administer the user database for room scheduling.

TOPOLOGY

Each touch-screen kiosk contains digital signage showing the classroom name

and detailed information about the room schedule and its status. Users can also access current weather, news, and stock information via the touch screen. The kiosk may be programmed to display emergency messages and egress data if needed. Mounted to each kiosk is a card reader, enabled to read the VolCard carried by all students and faculty. The card reader communicates via the kiosks; the kiosks are connected to the College's network on which Gallagher Command Centre resides. The Gallagher system controls and monitors the door functionality including electric lockset and door position switches.

HOW IT WORKS

The kiosks are the user-interface to the "system" for room access and scheduling. Use of the kiosk for access and scheduling requires a valid VolCard. Meeting Room Manager (MRM) is utilized

to schedule rooms and assign students via the campus Intranet. Staff also use MRM to schedule rooms for classes. Gallagher Command Centre controls the door and access to the classroom. To connect and administer all of these systems, CSI created a custom software application based on their GEMM engine and Microsoft® SQL.

GEMM receives data, manipulates it, and transmits the appropriate data wherever it needs to go within the system. Card data for each user is consolidated from several existing campus systems and annotated by a GEMM utility to reflect specific building privileges that restrict or allow individuals to schedule rooms based on time, day and user level. As room schedules are entered or modified in MRM or at the Kiosk, GEMM sends coded data to the Gallagher system. This data includes the meeting schedule which

creates an Access Group and user names which create cardholders in Gallagher Command Centre. Access is then available to the appropriate card holders via the kiosk. When the kiosk is used to schedule room use, GEMM updates MRM with the new schedule. The system also automatically unlocks classroom doors for scheduled classes.

Gallagher Server and Controller Application Programming Interfaces plus XML and OPC interfaces extend the functionality and flexibility of the Gallagher system as the platform for integration.

At the University of Tennessee, utilization of the integrated system provides continuous communications security and access control for the College of Business, while allowing students unencumbered access to the meeting rooms and classrooms. Through the room kiosk or on-line, students and faculty are able to view room schedules and make reservations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Gallagher would like to acknowledge the support of the University of Tennessee and their security partners Coactive Systems of Canton and Simplex Grinnell, Knoxville in the development of this in-site study.

CSI is a full service IT integration company providing technology solutions for audio, video, data, voice, dispatch, asset management, inventory, kiosks, security, communication, insurance, retail and medical systems. CSI's services include custom software development, system installation, maintenance and cabling.

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ABOUT GALLAGHER

Gallagher security systems (formerly Cardax FT) are the choice of market leaders in a diversity of sectors: Mining and Resources, Government, Education, Industry, Banking and Finance, Health, Communications, Commerce and Transport.

CONTACT US

To find out more about the security system that companies put their faith in every day, contact your nearest Gallagher office, or visit us at www.gallaghersms.com.

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