

Locked and Loaded



University turns to management system for locks solution



By Bill Gannon

Bill Gannon is the Keystone 600 product manager for Stanley Security Solutions.

It was like “A Nightmare on Elm Street.” University officials chased after hundreds of door and key holders and thousands of keys at Anderson University. The four-year liberal arts university has an enrollment of 2,800 undergraduate and graduate students, with 1,800 students living on campus.

The problem was the campus itself. There are 47 buildings, 2,900 doors, 2,600 key holders and more than 10,000 keys. With such an overwhelming number of keys being used by faculty, staff and students, recording and tracking key possession and access control on campus was a nightmare, although it remained a necessary task.

A CHAOTIC SYSTEM

Originally, Anderson University used a key management system in which records were maintained on 5 x 7 cards. Laborious to upkeep, the system relied on part-time student help, but keys often went unrecorded. In 1992, university officials recognized they were in dire need of a more efficient key and core management system, and they turned to Best Lock Corp. (now Stanley Security Solutions) for help.

At that time, Best Lock was in the process of conducting tests on a new key and core management software solution called G600. G600 was a DOS-based software program that eventually evolved into a Windows®-based program, called the Keystone® 600. University officials agreed to test the product and provide

feedback. This was 15 years ago—and since that time, the campus has upgraded the original software to the Keystone 600N5, which Stanley Security Solutions introduced in September 2006.

“The Keystone 600N5 software completely revamped our original key management system,” said Dave Walker, locksmith at Anderson University. “Once uploaded, the software organized our key and core management systems, maintaining accurate current and historical records of all keys, key rings, cores and locks used on campus. It also notes all key ring holders and which buildings and doors the students, faculty and staff can access.”

ORGANIZED AT LAST

Designed to support multiple buildings, like those on campus, the Keystone 600N5 software provides a complete picture of the campus keying system, displaying the doors, cores and locks within an individual building on an easy-to-navigate user screen. Furthermore, the software also organizes the people, keys and departments with access to a building and lists departmental access, designating the people, keys and key rings that are able to access that department for easy management.

Additionally, Keystone 600N5 connects people with their assigned keys, key rings, cores and locks. As a result, when a key is found and turned into the university’s security office, the software enables the administrator to determine whose key it is, and then the student can be notified. Not only does this feature save money for students, but the college also saves time and money in excessive key fabrication.

“Prior to installing the software, managing the campus’ keying system could only be accomplished from one central workstation,” Walker said. “Since installing the software, we can now share our key and core control information with multiple users. We have been experiencing a myriad of benefits and, most importantly, our campus keying system is organized and maintained, which provides an effective layer of security that further protects our students, faculty and staff.”