STid
Electronic Identification

The challenge of multi-application access control combining security and ease of use

Case study

Banque Populaire Provençale et Corse - Headquarters, Marseille, France

BPPC is a regional bank which operates in the Bouches-du-Rhône and Vaucluse départements of south-eastern France and on Corsica, and is part of the Banque Populaire et Caisse d'Epargne group. It currently has 1000 staff, over 90 branches, and 190,000 customers, including 77,000 companies. In May 2015, BPPC's Management Board unveiled its new 11,300 m2 Head Office – Pythéas Prado – located in the heart of Marseille on the famous Avenue du Prado.

The innovative manufacturer STid and its integrator Unicacces were selected by Banque Populaire Provençale et Corse (BPPC) to provide them with a secure multi-application access control solution.

"We needed an access control system, to secure the Head Office, manage the flow of hundreds of staff and to integrate all our applications into a single system."

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Issue

BPPC wanted to implement an access control system, not only to ensure a level of security consistent with its brand image, but also to have a single multi-application card and centralize security management. To develop the project, the Security Department worked in close collaboration with integrator Unicacces, which provided consulting and a solution that perfectly meets BPPC specifications.

"The multi-application card means that our applications can be managed using a single device, simplifying the multiple uses in day-to-day activities. This reduces the number of physical keys and considerably reduces the associated risks – losing them, forgetting them, malfunctions etc.", says BPPC Security Manager, Isabelle Bianco.

In addition to a multi-application card, BPPC was looking for RFID card readers to secure access to the building and its parking lot. The main selection criteria were as follows:

- **Sturdy and vandal-resistant** (IK09 minimum): resistant to physical attack for external access control, in particular on Avenue du Prado, which is a busy street.

- **Aesthetics and design** : the readers must seamlessly blend into their environment.

Solution

The collaborative STid & Unicacces solution, with Architect® readers, UHF systems and dual frequency cards, has been adopted to meet all these demanding criteria.

▶ Use of a single multi-application card

BPPC wanted to implement an access control system, using a secure solution to operate all business services that require identification with a single device that would not only provide physical access, but also be used for purchases from vending machines and storage of personal data etc.

The BPPC Security Department has implemented a secure access control system based on dual-frequency 13.56 MHz MIFARE® & UHF STid cards to centralize all applications onto a single device. MIFARE® technologies make it possible to integrate numerous applications, while providing a flexible and dynamic memory management solution. The card, combined with several dozen readers, is used daily for physical access, payment in the cafeteria, purchases from vending machines, and access to shared resources (such as printers) and secure cabinets etc.

Improved, centralized, and well-managed security

" We manage significant flows of people, such as staff, visitors and maintenance workers, so it was crucial to create fully secure zoning," adds Isabelle Bianco.

In order to facilitate access management and reduce overhead, a Bodet access control system is used to centralize management of people flow, various profiles and uses, access authorizations based on time slots, and maintenance operations etc.

With this in mind, BPPC installed about forty upgradeable Architect® readers to secure and manage flows for all sensitive areas: external doors, elevators, internal ground floor doors, Kaba access gates, and server and IT rooms etc. These High Security readers are combined with URC systems, high-performance long-distance UHF readers, to secure and control access to the parking lot. These ensure reliable identification of vehicle drivers on successive entries, while providing more convenient reading distances.

Installation of vandal-resistant readers

STid readers are IK10 and IP65 rated, and designed to withstand acts of vandalism: fire, impact, and liquids. Their sturdy design provides high resistance in high traffic environments subject to extreme conditions (bad weather, sea air, pollution, large temperature swings etc.).

To enhance security, Architect® readers are fitted with an accelerometer-based tamper detection system to protect sensitive data.

" As it was crucial to install sturdy readers in the high traffic areas around the building, the Design Firm based its decision on the video highlighting the resistance of STid readers to validate the performance of the Architect® range," confided the BPPC Security Manager.

high resistance

See the video

SHOCKS (IK10)

FLUID Water, detergents, oil

FIRE self-extinguishing

Enhancing brand image

The card reader was chosen not just for the level of security; integration into the environment was also an essential selection criterion.

The new Pythéas Head Office is a bright, aesthetic, modern building. As the only visible part of the system, it was crucial for STid to offer readers that blend seamlessly into their environment, matching BPPC colors. The architects and Security Department were immediately won over by its design and customization options (color of LEDs, printed logo, casing color or stylish trim etc.).

BPPC thereby offers its staff the highest levels of security without compromising their user experience when accessing the various secure areas

when accessing the various secure areas. Implementation of an RFID access control system enables BPPC to launch a multi-application system while remaining in control of access and flow management.

" The RFID solution offer many options for the management of everyday functions and applications. While simplifying and optimizing the management of our 500 users, it provides the opportunity to enhance our security based on our current requirements and to be ready for our future needs," adds Isabelle Bianco.

BPPC is also pleased with the Architect® card readers, which fulfil their objectives of being sturdy with a stylish design. As vehicles of our brand image, they blend seamlessly into the Pythéas Head Office, cleverly combining modernity and understated style.

" A key challenge for a company like BPPC is to successfully manage diverse resources, security levels, and staff mobility. However, it must not neglect its image by installing readers that miss the bar in terms of aesthetics and security. The solutions that we offer can meet all current and future requirements," concludes STid CEO, Vincent Dupart.

About STid

Your contactless identification partner

Since 1996, STid specializes in contactless Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technologies. STid designs, manufactures and markets solutions (readers, tags and software) for the security and industrial track & trace markets.

www.stid.com

About Uniaccess

Unicacces is a security system integrator and distributor specialized in access management and control. Our know-how is based on our experience in:
• Designing tailored solutions
• Securing varied environments
• Offering flexible, effective access management
• Adapting security levels to the environment to be secured
• Designing new methods of use, promoting intuitiveness and simplicity for installation and use.

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