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RELIABLE. BIOMETRIC. SOLUTIONS.

Case Study
Emrys ap Iwan

Spider Technologies provides North Wales School, Emrys ap Iwan, with reliable and cost effective biometric solutions...

North Wales High School Emrys ap Iwan commissioned local security and IT specialist Spider Technologies to research a replacement solution for their exhausted swipe card system. After extensive investigation Spider Technologies recommended none other than the robust **ievo** ultimate™ fingerprint reader.

STOOD OUT FROM THE CROWD
Specialising in ICT and Electrotechnical Services, Spider Technologies has been providing PAT Testing, Bespoke Software and Digital Signage installation alongside access control management since 2005. Driven by a strong technical background, Spider Technologies quickly became a registered Paxton installer in order to provide easy to use yet performance driven security solutions.

Spider Technologies was initially approached by Emrys ap Iwan before IFSEC - the International Fire & Security Exhibition - to investigate fit for purpose and robust access control solutions that would be used to replace their original swipe card system that was causing them problems at the school.

After attending IFSEC and researching each possible solution, Managing Director of Spider Technologies Steve Jones decided upon the **ievo** *ultimate* fingerprint reader as it stood out from the crowd at the security event, mainly due to its capabilities and indisputable reliability. After receiving a one to one demonstration with one of **ievo**'s account managers in August 2011, Steve quickly made an order of multiple **ievo** *ultimate* readers which he would later install at the school to be activated as early as September, just in time for the next academic year.

The school previously used a swipe card system, where approximately 250 sixth form pupils and 100 teaching staff would gain access between different points around the building. Not only was the system difficult to maintain but it became increasingly expensive to run because pupils kept losing their cards. All the **ievo** *ultimate* readers secure and monitor access on entry points between two main school buildings, which enables further control over sixth form pupils and the remainder of the school year groups.
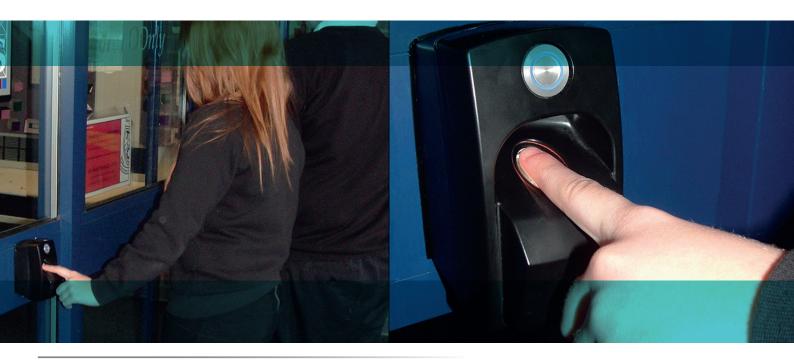
*"Having researched an access control solution to solve the problems faced at Emrys ap Iwan there was no doubt in my mind that **ievo** would be fit for the job. Obviously, I had never installed an **ievo** biometric reader before, therefore I did have some technical questions. My **ievo** account manager visited the installation site on a couple of occasions in order to facilitate technical support. I was incredibly pleased with how well **ievo** **ultimate** interfaced with Paxton Net 2, it made the installation process run a lot smoother and of course reduced disruption on site, which was a major relief because I had a tight schedule to abide by in order for the system to be completed before the next school term began."*

Steve Jones, Managing Director, Spider Technologies

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ONLY THE HIGHEST STANDARDS

There were three main reasons why the **ievo** *ultimate* fingerprint readers increased efficiency, security and reduced the cost of maintenance at the school.

1. Firstly, using the **ievo** *ultimate* reader permitted school management to control access rights between the two separate buildings on the grounds. Using Paxton's market leading access control system, Net2, Emrys ap Iwan management are able to control what times each year group enter each school building. The buildings are accessible by all pupils however some parts are designated for staff and sixth form only, such as main entrance and access to an adjoining further education college on one of the sites. Access levels are therefore granted to sixth form pupils and staff continuously whilst remaining year groups gain access to general exterior doors between five minute lesson changeovers only.

2. Secondly, management at the school were worried about vandalism, which is why one of their requirements was a robust access control product that would be able to function in any adverse environment. At Emrys ap Iwan the **ievo** *ultimate* reader was installed on main external doors, which caused no problems for the robust reader. **ievo** *ultimate* is manufactured in Polycarbonate ABS and the fingerprint sensor is encased within toughened glass. In addition it is IP65 rated meaning it will function with water and is dust tight.

3. Finally, they required a security system that would be up and running within a short period of time. Therefore, ease of use and usability played a major factor. The registration process of enrolling and training the pupils and staff on how to use the system took around two days. End user guides and posters were supplied with each reader so that there was no confusion on how to use the product. The guides also provide information on data protection, this was useful for parents or guardians of young adults being registered.

"Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan in Abergele, N.Wales is a very large school, spread over several sites with multiple entry/exit points. This has always posed a significant access and security problem for us, with students, staff and visitors alike. Our existing swipe card system was proving to be inadequate for need and increasingly difficult to maintain.

*We contacted Spider Technologies to look into the issue and they operated with great speed, professionalism and efficiency to investigate our concerns and to come up with a reliable and cost-effective solution. The rapid installation of the **ievo ultimate** fingerprint readers has proved to be a tremendous success, immediately solving all of our access and security problems in one fell swoop."*
Nayland Southorn, Headteacher, Emrys ap Iwan

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