Customer Case Study

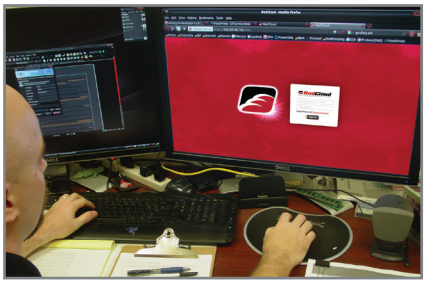
Georgia Tech Police Department

Managing Campus Facility Access within a Virtual Server Environment

The Georgia Institute of Technology is one of the nation's top research universities, recognized for its excellence in science and technology. Georgia Tech's campus occupies 400 acres in the heart of Atlanta, with 900 full-time instructional faculty and more than 20,000 undergraduate and graduate students. The Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD) is responsible for ensuring campus safety and building security 24/7 and is responsible for managing access to more than 1,800 doors across multiple campuses, buildings and parking garages using the Georgia Tech BuzzCard access control system.

The Challenge

Georgia Tech's campus buildings were controlled by proprietary door hardware, which locked GTPD into an inefficient physical access control system (PACS) supported by a single regional vendor. The existing software-based PACS required building managers to assign access control privileges from a specific workstation, with limited web browser support. The legacy, Windows-based PACS server required continual IT support and maintenance, weekly and monthly security patches and significant vulnerability testing before deploying software updates. All of these factors limited the effectiveness of GTPD's access control system as well as the productivity of its IT and security teams.



GTPD deployed RedCloud Virtual to leverage its virtual IT infrastructure, reduce system maintenance and simplify facility access management.

RedCloud virtual

Results

Manage Facility Access from any Web Browser

Partition Role-Based Access Control Privileges by Building

Synchronize with Campus-wide Identity Management Systems

Eliminate the Cost and Complexity of Legacy Security Systems

Leverage IT Investments in Hardware Virtualization

Install Non-Proprietary Door Hardware and Controllers

Customer Experience

"When you press a button and the doors are supposed to lock, you want that to work. With RedCloud, everything works as advertised and it does what it's supposed to do."

"When we show building managers how easy it is to remove access, add access and change door schedules, they're basically like, 'What am I going to do with the rest of my time?'"

Steve Travis,
IT Support Professional Lead,
Georgia Tech Police Department

The Solution

GTPD worked with ICE Automation Group, a supplier of integrated automation solutions, to identify a cost-effective, web-based access control platform that could run in GTPD's virtual server environment. GTPD selected RedCloud Virtual, a VMware Ready access control solution purpose-built for organizations that have migrated their IT infrastructure to a secure, private cloud environment. GTPD further leveraged RedCloud Virtual's support for open, non-proprietary door hardware to future-proof its investment and regain control of its access control system.

The Results

After an initial pilot deployment, GTPD converted 60 doors in the Student Health Center and the Institute of Paper and Science Technology (IPST) to the RedCloud Virtual access control platform. RedCloud Virtual synchronizes card access credentials with Georgia Tech's centralized identity management system. IT administrators are now able to partition role-based access control privileges by building, course schedule or time of day and no longer need to maintain stand-alone application and database servers.

Building managers can now assign and remove card access privileges, modify door schedules and have the ability to stream surveillance video from its Pelco Endura IP cameras through a 100% browser-based web interface that is accessible anytime, anywhere from desktops, laptops and mobile devices, including smartphones and tablets with Internet access.

Now that Georgia Tech has a physical access control system that meets the needs of its IT and security teams, GTPD plans to roll out RedCloud Virtual to another 100 panels in the next 3-4 months with a couple hundred panels brought online by the end of the year.

RedCloud
THE LOGICAL CHOICE IN ACCESS CONTROL

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RedCloud is a revolutionary access control solution, engineered from the ground up by IT and security veterans to deliver a new standard in performance, integration and efficiency that can only be achieved through convergence. RedCloud's patented, web-based, physical and virtual appliance platform leverages an open architecture, integrates identity management and video surveillance and achieves the highest level of scalability with the lowest cost of ownership, making RedCloud the logical choice in access control.