

# Security and Cost Reduction in Transport Business



Forwarding agent Keimeier & Finke GmbH has been moving goods around the world for over 70 years. However, the company's growth and the subsequent increase in the number of employees and vehicles on its books had begun to make key management a real challenge. A need to find a more efficient and secure system led the company to Traka, which recommended one of its L-series key cabinets, capable of accommodating up to 360 key locations.

Prior to the installation of the Traka system, Keimeier and Finke used a conventional key board: in their words 'a really chaotic system'. The company holds hundreds of keys for trucks, storage depots, offices and maintenance units. Keys often went missing, nobody ever knew who had been the last person to use the missing keys or if they were ever brought back.

Truck keys were a particular problem: modern trucks are equipped with coded keys which can cost €80.00 to replace. Sometimes even the replacement key couldn't be found, putting trucks out of action until new ones could be delivered. And with completely new keys, the truck's ignition lock had to be replaced as well, an additional expense. Although the company knew it needed a system which could be used by all employees at any time, an added complication was the 500 metre distance between its two buildings.

## The Hardware Technology

Researching potential solutions on the internet, International Distribution Manager Ines Owen came across Traka. After a detailed presentation, Traka proposed a system to fit the company's particular requirements and installed an L-series electronic cabinet.

At the heart of Traka's key cabinets is the iFob: an intelligent bullet-shaped device which contains a chip with a unique serial number, giving each one an individual ID. Keys are attached to the iFob using self-locking security seals, so that they cannot be easily detached. Highly robust, the iFob is made from nickel-plated brass and is suitable for use in cold stores at -30 C and even by navy divers. Its special shape allows it to automatically lock into the Traka cabinet and its smooth surface is inherently self-cleaning, eliminating problems associated with dust or other contaminations.



### The Silver Bullet



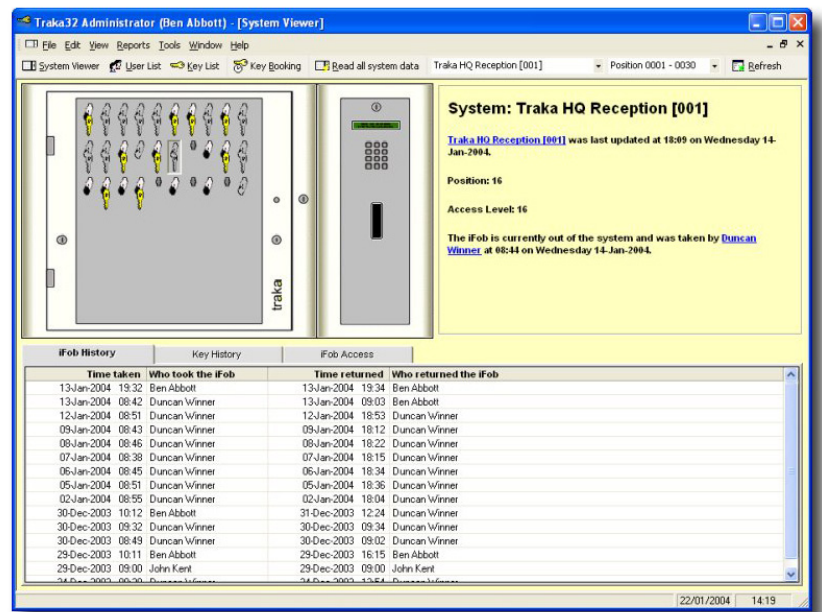
Enabling you to control, monitor and record the use of almost any physical asset, including: premises, facilities, equipment and vehicles, Traka intelligent access solutions can significantly reduce the cost to your organisation of losses through accidental damage, theft, personal injury and downtime. They can even assist in encouraging employees to take greater personal responsibility for the resources they use. This ability to manage and protect assets more effectively can significantly reduce operating costs, improve efficiency and increase productivity, enabling many customers to enjoy a return on their investment in a matter of months.

"The Traka cabinet has really solved our problems," says Ines Owen, Transport Manager. "No more looking for keys - we can follow up at any time who was the last to use which key and whether or not they returned it. To log into the system, every employee has their own unique PIN number which is used in conjunction with a biometrics fingerprint reader - so there's no chance of a mix-up."

## The Software Technology

Traka32 is the support software for Traka cabinets and lockers. Whilst Traka cabinets or lockers do not need to be on-line to the support software, the software is required to configure and maintain the cabinets and the lockers. The software does not need a dedicated computer and can run as an application on any Window 98 or later computer.

The software gives a graphical representation of the cabinets or the lockers and allows the user to easily see what activity is happening on each Traka cabinet. The software is used to set up the Users and the Key details and to record long term the events that have taken place. The software will also record any alarms that have been activated, perhaps to show who left the door open or if the power supply has failed.



The software has a wide range of options such as Key Booking where keys can be reserved and Fault Logging allowing maintenance staff to manage reported faults perhaps with the vehicle fleet. An extensive range of reports are included with the ability to tailor their design to suit the user.

Login admin rights allow each user to have their own access profile, perhaps to only access specific regions so for example a police officer cannot see the activity of covert vehicles in other regions.

Traka32 contains its own highly detailed on-line Help facility covering all aspects of the system from installation to use and is maintained to match each software release. Traka32 is also supplied with an easy to use Excel spreadsheet template to help with the initial import of existing User and Key details.

Traka32 is available with Access or SQL Server database to suit the size and network requirements of the customer. Traka32 software is inherently supplied in all the major European languages which automatically match the Windows Regional Settings.

## Alcohol Testing

This solution is ideal for those organisations where operatives 'start from base' such as a factory, distribution centre or central depot. Each user must approach the cabinet, identify themselves by means of swipe card, proximity token, PIN or biometric (fingerprint) – ask for a specific key, and then take the Alcolock test if requested. Only if the test is passed will the key be released for the user to take.



Managing Keys for Vehicles, Property and Equipment has been a primary focus for Traka since 1991. Integrate Traka solutions with the UK Government Home Office approved Alcolock 500 (supplied by GB Alcolock), requiring key users to take either compulsory or random sample alcohol tests to check that they are below the drink-drive limit, and you have a very cost effective mechanism to ensure users of hazardous equipment or drivers of vehicles, are safe in their place of work.

The Alcolock500 unit is an industry recognized and Home Office approved device. It is rugged in design and intended for the industrial marketplace, because of its serious implications, this highly accurate piece of equipment requires to be recalibrated twice yearly by qualified staff under a service contract agreement.

## In summary

Although Keimeier & Finke's staff were initially sceptical, they soon saw the advantages. Getting used to individual accountability was a culture change, as was the company's decision that whoever loses a key pays for its replacement. However, staff responded positively and adapted quickly. Different levels of authorisation were set to ensure no operator had access to vehicles they were not authorised to drive. "Lost or missing keys are a thing of the past!" says Ines Owen. "The initial purchase price of the cabinet was quickly recouped and we would recommend Traka to anyone facing similar challenges. Working without an electronic key management system is unimaginable now."

The Traka system has evolved from working closely with some of the world's largest corporations in many different market sectors. The system is in use in the UK and more than 25 other countries, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.