

Key Management Solutions For Colleges & Universities



A major university addresses asset protection and key management problems common on campuses throughout the world.

Key management and asset protection present unique problems for universities and educational campuses all over the United States. With so many facilities, employees, vehicles, equipment and other resources under one umbrella, the risk of low efficiency, wasted time, misplaced assets and damage is often higher than a regular business or corporation.

For one university in particular, a student base of 40,000 and the facilities to match have brought on many of the asset protection and key management problems that are common on college campuses all over.

A lack of efficiency and accountability in the facilities department for the university was a clear area of need. The department consists of 800 users, from areas such as space management, design and construction, grounds, building services, facilities IT, finance and maintenance.

A number of common problems were spread throughout all of the different areas within the facilities department. When looking for a solution for the department, a variety of specific problems they were looking to address were highlighted, including:

- Failure in tracking efficiency
- Deficient key organization
- Damaged vehicles and equipment
- Poor user accountability
- Inferior storage processes

“We needed a solution that could be managed centrally, was scalable, easy to use from an end-user perspective and could be reported on.”

Addressing University Needs with a Central Solution

Despite other alternatives in the key management market, Traka stood out as a clear solution to the issues facing the department. With the implementation of the Traka 32 system, the department would experience many of the benefits they were looking for, including:

- Ability to run on an SQL server
- The advantage of an iFob over a standalone, conventional key
- Enterprise systems instead of a one-time solution
- Strong customer support with knowledgeable experts
- Reporting ability
- Alerts for chosen conditions
- Versatility and scalability

Implementing Traka

For the facilities department, the Traka 32 system provided the perfect solution for their efficiency and accountability issues. The software takes a step further than common key management solutions, including a wide range of functionality and customization options perfect for an educational setting. With students on campus throughout the year, a quick turnaround was a crucial part of the process, but that didn't hinder the thorough implementation strategy.



"People love it. They no longer have to hunt around for pooled vehicle keys for half an hour before a meeting."

The collaborative planning process began with auditing all of the keys that would reside in the Traka system, along with attaching those keys to iFobs and getting them inventoried. Then, each of the facilities departments were consulted for the development of different security groups. Employees were tagged in the school's work management system within those security groups and they were setup on the Traka system.

Once the system was setup, the different groups received the appropriate iFobs, as their employee information was transferred into the system. Policies and processes for the Traka system were then written and the different alerts were setup for corresponding departments, based on issues such as the wrong key location, delayed shift starts and much more.

The Traka 32 system is managed by three people at the university and is simple for the users. Despite needing a system administrator with required knowledge and a database administrator for transition from the current system, daily maintenance for the Traka system was minimal and very user friendly following the initial setup.

Efficiency and Accountability with Key Management

Once Traka's system was implemented at the university, it was met with a bit of hesitation. Employees initially felt that their individual control was being lost, but they enjoy the benefits of the new central system that are just too large to ignore.

Time is being saved all around the departments, as the standard search for different keys has been cut down heavily. Tracking also allows for the university to identify who is being ticketed in campus vehicles, given the time of violation.

A great example of the cost-cutting and efficiency raising power of Traka with education and campuses involves a prior event at the school where a delivery truck was turned away as a lift truck was located in front of the desired location. Because the lift truck supervisor was out sick and had the keys at home, the products could not be dropped off. This cost the university a second, full delivery fee along with the additional costs of delaying the drop.

Incidents like this begin to rack up and can cost a college or business a lot of money, but now that can be avoided with a full key management solution that allows for customizable access, tracking and rotated equipment use.

With the increase in efficiency and accountability in the facilities department, the school will continue using Traka to benefit the rest of the college. In the next 12 months, the school is planning to implement new, campus-wide key management solutions so that costs are cut even further and efficiency is maximized throughout all of the university's facilities.