

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY: MANY ROADS LEAD TO ROME.

The Colosseum, St. Peter's Basilica, the Trevi Fountain - just three keywords and everyone knows you are talking about Rome, the Eternal City. Lucky are those who have more than just a few days to stroll around, staying several months to study there. Every year, approximately 800 students from all over the world enroll at the renowned St. John's University Rome Campus, aiming to achieve their Master's degree (MBA or MA), or complete a term abroad as part of their undergraduate degree. The campus can be accessed with just one click: the Italian site has opted for digital transponders by German security expert SimonsVoss.

St. John's University is not only a well-known private university, but also the second largest Catholic university in the US. St. John's has four campuses in New York alone - Queens, Manhattan, Staten Island and Oakdale and a site in Paris, France. With the inauguration of the campus in Rome in 1995, the long-established university basically returned to its roots: the Vincentian Fathers who founded St. John's University in New York in 1870, originally came from Rome. The Vincentian University still very much cultivates the heritage of Saint Vincent de Paul, founder of the order and patron saint of Christian Charity.

A TRICKY TASK.

Values such as commitment to social causes and the open, cooperative atmosphere on the campus are proof of this. But there are limits to this openness, especially when it comes to building security and access control. Both issues are part of day-to-day business for Claudio Marinangeli, Director of Operations and Information Technology. "My team and I make sure that the campus is open to the public during the day, but secured well at all other times", he says. Not an easy task with people constantly going in and out. At a size of approximately 7,000 square meters, the campus comprises classrooms and conference rooms, student lounges, computer lab and library, faculty and administration offices, a typical Roman courtyard and over 200 student beds.

But Marinangeli has everything well under control: since November 2010, about 300 people in Rome use digital transponders and 80 percent of the doors have been equipped with digital locking cylinders by German security expert SimonsVoss, with priority given to the main entrance, sensitive (technical) areas and student rooms. Marinangeli explains why: "The old system was unreliable and insecure. Therefore, we were looking for alternative solutions." But why choose the digital locking and access control system by SimonsVoss? The Technology Director's prompt reply: "SimonsVoss showed maximum reliability at minimal costs. We were also very impressed with the system's scalability and performance. After successfully testing it in several rooms, we knew we wanted it."

Improved security, flexibility and economic efficiency - those are the main advantages of SimonsVoss' digital locking and access control system 3060 when compared to the competition's traditional systems. With a single click, the digital transponders unlock digital locking cylinders via wireless data transmission and this innovative idea has since become a global success: since



its foundation in the 1990s, the company has equipped over 12,000 organizations in all industries with its digital systems. In the Rome Campus, it's the students who are the main users of the system, followed by administrative staff and external bodies.

IMPRESSIVE KEY SKILLS.

Individual access rights are assigned using one central PC, based on the simple rule: "If you must have access, you should be allowed access". We don't even have to ask an expert such as Marinangeli whether he faces any technical challenges. He says: "There are none. My colleagues and I found the online system as well as the locking system management software by SimonsVoss very easy to use. The system is clear, simple and runs steadily. When new students enroll with us, we assign the necessary rights to them; once they leave, we revoke those rights." The responsibility for creating the locking plan and monitoring the system lies with the Director, a second colleague assigns access rights online and a third member of staff handles the programming device, ensuring that data are transmitted from the locking plan to the digital cylinders on the campus. "Everything can be done very quickly, even if a transponder gets lost or something has to be changed later on. The system adapts to every situation!" Only at the beginning of a new term, with many students starting university and old ones leaving the campus, large-scale re-programming is usually required and many new transponders have to be distributed. This process takes slightly more time, according to the IT Director. But even that task could soon be a thing of the past: "We are currently testing the WaveNet relay network. With it, we could complete all our tasks from the PC – what a fantastic thought!"

... RESULT IN TOP SCORES.

And what about money? The purchase of digital technology in particular is widely regarded as expensive. "I don't agree", Marinangeli says. "The initial costs are not high. No cables are needed for the installation in the building, so it costs very little. People tend to forget that." And since there are hardly any follow-up costs, the system is even more beneficial in the long run. St. John's seems to be completely happy with this German-Italian partnership. "Absolutely", Marinangeli insists. "We haven't regretted the use of SimonsVoss for one minute. Digital technology is far better than mechanical systems, especially if there are many users. It is effective, cost-efficient and very secure. Today we can calmly say: not all roads lead to Rome – but many do."





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Claudio Marinangeli, Director of Operations and Information Technology,
St. John's University, Rome Campus, Italy

THE CHALLENGE:

- :: The new installation of a digital locking and access control system for one building and the distribution of transponders to approx. 300 internal and external users
- :: Central administration
- :: Free assignment of access authorizations

THE SOLUTION:

- :: Digital, wireless locking system
- :: Central access administration from PC with graphical user interface, wireless communication for new programming of access authorizations

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