

Case Study Brakes Group

»Spoof-proof time attendance with low IT effort.«

Thomas Bengs, Head of Security Solutions, FUJITSU



The customer

Country: UK
Industry: Food service
Employees: 10,000
Website: www.brakesgroup.com



The challenge

- To obtain a centralised modern solution for the varied time attendance needs of the Group
- The need for accurate biometric identification of staff for attendance
- Minimal impact upon local and national IT infrastructure
- Minimal local site IT support requirements

The solution

- Allday Time Manager - Workforce Management Software with SQL database
- PalmReader terminals at each site, using Fujitsu PalmSecure
- Full training for managers and super-users at each site
- Ongoing access to Allday Time Systems professional support

The customer

The Brakes Group is a leading supplier to the food service sector in the UK, Ireland, France and Sweden. With over 10,000 committed staff based in over 80 locations, the Brakes Group is a leading European supplier to the catering industry. It has been in existence for over fifty years during which time it has grown both organically and through acquisitions, and is now the largest and best-known food service provider in the UK.

The Group is made up of a family of specialist businesses which are able to deliver everything the caterer needs, operating at more than eighty locations in the UK.

The challenge

Allday Time Systems Ltd have been the recommended Time Attendance supplier for the Brakes Group for over 30 years. The company identified the need for a more modern, centralised system to effectively manage the time attendance for their growing and geographically diverse workforce, so they approached Allday Time Systems to discover what options were available. The intention was to first replace the existing mix of old attendance systems. The proposed solution needed to use the latest biometric technology giving both maximum security and accuracy of attendance data.

Any software solution also had to be easy to distribute across the network and require minimal local IT staff.

The solution

The proposed solution was the Allday Time Manager system complemented by the use of the Fujitsu PalmReader Biometric terminal. This terminal takes full advantage of Fujitsu Palm Secure technology to provide maximum biometric identification security.

The proposed system could easily handle the complex and varied requirements of the Brakes Group where some sites need standard time attendance and others require more complex arrangements such as 24-hour working and annualised hours.

The system can also provide live roll-call reporting straight from the site managers desktop. Local managers can access the system via the internet enabling them to easily check on staff attendance.

The benefit

- The system is easy to install and operate
- Minimal effort as regards member administration due to high level of automation
- Uncomplicated, fast registration process
- Highly secure authentication through palm vein recognition of the person – not of a medium
- Fast authentication process
- Impervious to environmental influences
- Exceptionally high level of user acceptance
- Simple implementation of 'true authentication'
- High degree of data security
- Biometric data only has to be entered once in a lifetime

The PalmReader terminals are connected via a mobile phone network allowing for centralised set-up and maintenance which minimises IT staff requirements at each site.

How palm vein detection works

The human palm vein pattern is extremely complex. The position of the veins remains the same throughout your lifetime and is different for each and every individual. Dirt or superficial injuries to the skin have no impact on the palm vein pattern. And beneath the surface of the skin it is best protected against any misuse and manipulation.

Palm vein recognition is based on the absorption of infrared rays, i.e. heat rays, which encounter venous blood in the palm veins, i.e. blood that is flowing back to the heart. The sensor in the PalmReader terminal sends near infrared light to the palm. The oxygen-reduced blood in the veins absorbs the infrared light.

Products and services

- Fujitsu PalmSecure

The camera of the PalmSecure sensor makes a picture of the vein pattern, encrypts it into a special algorithm and then transforms it into a biometric template, which is then saved in a database.

Palm vein recognition with PalmSecure is practically resistant to environmental influences and is due to its touch-free nature a very hygienic procedure. It only works with living tissue and in view of the present state of technology is free from manipulation. PalmSecure also provides significantly higher precision and security than the biometric recognition of a finger print or an iris. As the use of PalmSecure at Brakes Group shows, it is easy, quick and convenient for the user to handle.

The benefit

Biometric palm vein sensor technology is also increasingly proving itself in everyday life. The advantages of this technology are:

- Age-independent, individual vein structure
- A secure and manipulation-free biometrical feature under the human skin is scanned
- Insensible to dirt, dust, moisture and superficial injuries of the hand
- High degree of precision and protection against forgery, CC-certified (Common Criteria)
- Ergonomic, simple handling
- Error rate in practice of 0.00008% as regards an unauthorized person falsely gaining access or 0.01% for an authorised person being incorrectly denied access.

Contact

FUJITSU
Address: 22 Baker Street, London, W1U 3BW
Phone: +44 (0) 870 242 7998
E-mail: askfujitsu@UK.fujitsu.com
Website: www.fujitsu.com/UK
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