Spider Technologies provides North Wales School with reliable and cost effective biometric solution

North Wales High School Emrys ap Iwan commissioned local security and IT specialist Spider Technologies to research a replacement solution for their exhausted swipe card system. After extensive investigation Spider Technologies recommended none other than the robust *i*evo ultimate™ fingerprint reader

Stood Out From The Crowd

Specialising in ICT and Electrotechnical Services, **Spider Technologies** has been providing PAT Testing, Bespoke Software and Digital Signage installation alongside access control management since 2005. Driven by a strong technical background, Spider Technologies quickly became a registered Paxton installer in order to provide easy to use yet performance driven security solutions.

Spider Technologies was initially approached by Emrys ap Iwan before IFSEC – the International Fire & Security Exhibition to investigate fit for purpose and robust access control solutions that would be used to replace their original swipe card system that was causing them problems at the school. After attending IFSEC and researching each possible solution, Managing Director of Spider Technologies Steve Jones decided upon **the *i*evo ultimate™ fingerprint reader as it stood out from the crowd** at the security event, mainly due to its capabilities and indisputable reliability. After receiving a one to one demonstration with one of *i*evo™'s account managers in August 2011, Steve quickly made an order of six ultimate™ readers which he would later install at the school to be activated as early as September, just in time for the next academic year.

The school previously used a swipe card system, were approximately 250 sixth form pupils and 100 teaching staff would gain access between different points around the building. Not only was the system difficult to maintain but it became **increasingly expensive to run** because pupils kept losing their cards. All six *i*evo ultimate™ readers secure and monitor access on entry points between two main school buildings on the one site.

Fully Protected: *250 pupils as well as 100 teaching staff are registered on the ievo ultimate™ system and provides excellent security as well as flexibility through monitoring access levels*

" Having researched an access control solution to solve the problems faced at Emrys ap Iwan there was no doubt in my mind that *i*evo™ would be fit for the job. Obviously, I had never installed an *i*evo™ biometric reader before therefore I did have some technical questions but I was visited a couple of times on site by my *i*evo™ account manager who was more than hands on with the installation.
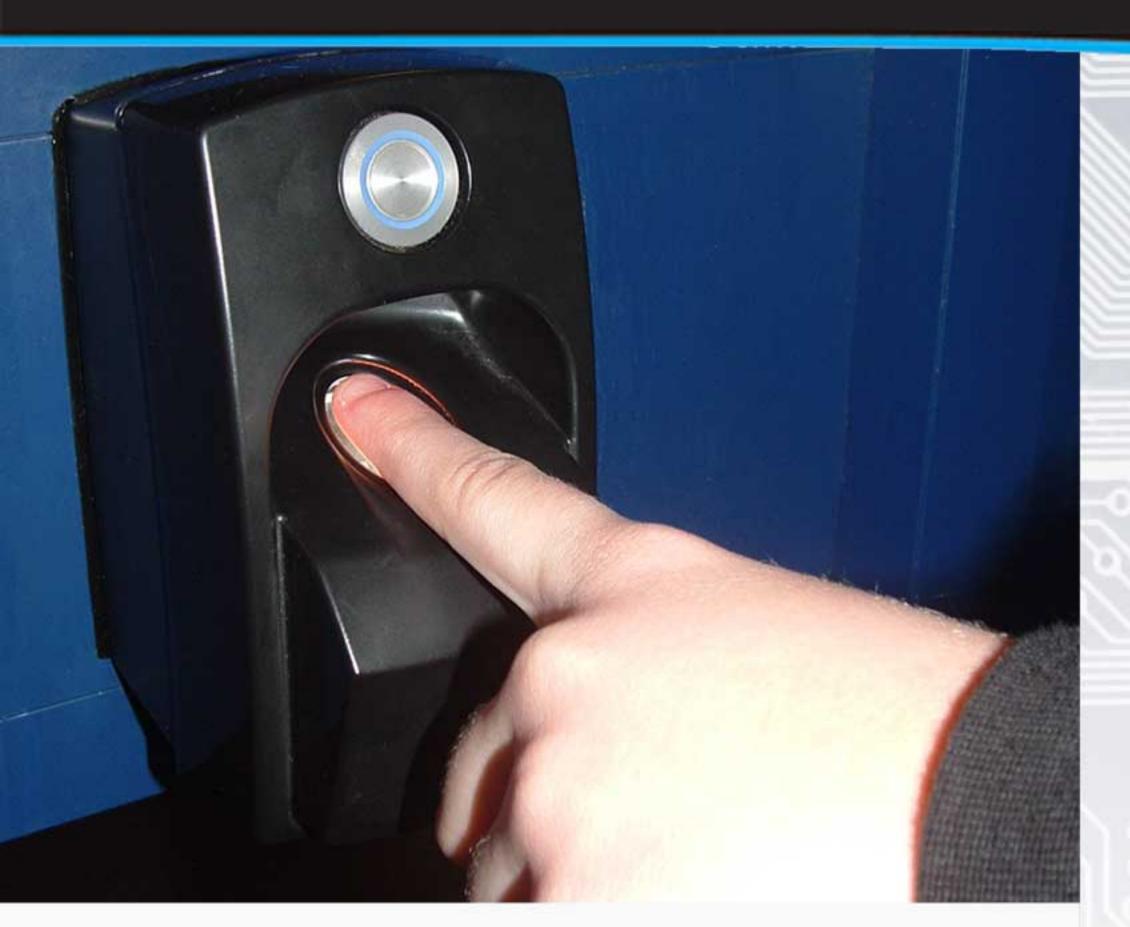
I was incredibly pleased by how well *i*evo ultimate™ interfaced with Paxton Net 2, it made the installation process run a lot smoother and of course reduced disruption on site, which was a major relief because I had a tight schedule to abide by in order for the system to be completed before the next school term began. "
Steve Jones
Managing Director of Spider Technologies

There were **three main reasons** why the *i*evo ultimate™ fingerprint readers increased efficiency, security and reduced the costs of maintenance at the school

Case Study

Only the Highest Standards

1) Firstly, using the *i*evo ultimate™ biometric allows school management to control access rights between the two separate buildings on the grounds. Using Paxton's market leading access control system, Net2, Emrys ap Iwan management is able to control what times each year group is able to enter each school building. Access levels are granted to sixth form pupils for five minutes during lesson change over so that at any one time, only one year group will be present in each building. This is incredibly useful for fire roll call and **monitoring health and safety** regulations. Especially during inspections, which could improve overall rating provided by regulation boards.

2) Secondly, management at the school were worried about vandalism, which is why one of their requirements was a robust access control product that would be able to **function in any adverse environment.** At Emrys ap Iwan the ultimate™ reader is installed on main external doors, which is no problem for the robust reader. ultimate™ is manufactured in Polycarbonate ABS and the fingerprint sensor is encased within toughened glass. In addition it is IP 65 rated meaning it will function with water jets and is dust tight.

3) Finally, they required a security system that would be up and running within a short period of time. Therefore, **ease of use and usability** played a major factor. The registration process of enrolling and training the pupils and staff on how to use the system took around two days. End user guides and posters are supplied with each reader so that there is no confusion on how to use the product and also provides information on data protection, this is useful for parents or guardians of young adults being registered.

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> Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan in Abergele, N.Wales is a very large school, spread over several sites with multiple entry/exit points. This has always posed a significant access and security problem for us, with students, staff and visitors alike, and our existing swipe-card system was proving to be inadequate for need and increasingly difficult to maintain.
>
> We contacted Spider Technologies to look in to the issue and they operated with great speed, professionalism and efficiency to investigate our concerns and to come up with a reliable and cost-efficient solution. The rapid installation of the *i*evo ultimate™ fingerprint readers has proved to be a tremendous success, immediately solving all of our access and security problems in one fell swoop.

Nayland Southorn, Headteacher of Emrys ap Iwan

SPIDER TECHNOLOGIES LTD

*i*evo ultimate

Emrys ap Iwan