Knowledge is the Key to the University’s Success

Information is very important in everybody’s lives. This is especially true for a university, where life is based on the gathering and distribution of information and data.

The University of Groningen in The Netherlands has therefore introduced a VASCO Data Security system for its large computer network to control how the students and employees access the data.
Use  
Providing secure and remote access to the university’s large computer network.

Problem  
Students and employees need remote access to the university’s network, but data must be kept safe and this without spending too much money.

Aim  
To find a new way to control access to the university’s information systems, which can be used with the existing system, and also makes it possible to expand the system in the future.

Solution  
With the help of Dutch data communications company Q&I Networks, the university chose the Digipass/VACMAN solution developed by VASCO Data Security. This allows using 2,000 Digipass devices which students and employees already have. By using the applications developed by one of the many VASCO partners, a new way for personalised access to the university’s Internet, Intranet and Extranet is now possible.

The new Digipass/VACMAN system is big enough to help all of Groningen’s 20,000 students and 5,500 university employees.

The system allows students and staff to use the university’s network and Internet for free. In order to access the system remotely – from outside the university – and in a secure way, the user needs a small hand held device known as a Digipass and has to remember his password or PIN code.

This means that students and lecturers can get the information they need, when they need it, from wherever they are at that moment. Both the individual users and the university benefit from this flexibility, because limited resources are used more cost-effectively and efficiently.

The solution itself offers real value for money, as Robert Janz, the university’s Technical Director explains: “The VASCO Data Security products cost less than their competitors, yet offer greater possibilities.”

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The VASCO Data Security option fits in with existing systems and allows expansion in the future. This was an important decision factor for Janz when choosing for the VASCO Data Security solution. Students and employees can continue to use the 2,000 Digipass, which were already in use at the university. At the same a planned project for personalised access to the University’s Internet, Intranet and extranet is made possible. All this thanks to the fact that the VASCO solution together with the applications of it’s partners, is so flexible and easy to use.

How it Works
The VASCO Data Security solution is based on 2-factor authentication and uses the Digipass (a small hand held device). To access the university’s system, users must have a Digipass and also remember a secret password or PIN code. The Digipass works together with VASCO’s VAC-MAN solution.
In this way the computer system can check the identity of the user (authentication), allow access to the system (authorisation) and create reports on how the system is used (accounting). The authentication process confirms the identification of the user wanting to use the system. Authorisation allows the user to do a pre-selected range of operations. The accounting software keeps a record of what each user has done.

Results
The VASCO Data Security solution can be used by anybody with a permit (a Digipass and an access code) from amongst the 20,000 students and 5,500 staff at the University of Groningen. The new system works well with the existing access control system. It will also form the basis for a new way to access the university’s Internet, Intranet and Extranet.
University of Groningen

Organisation
Established in 1614, the University of Groningen is the second oldest in The Netherlands. However, its 10 faculty houses include modern subjects like Management & Organisation and Social Sciences, as well as traditional subjects such as Law and Medical Sciences. The University has almost 20,000 students and 5,500 staff.

Website
www.rug.nl

Q&I Networks

Q&I Networks is a division of Q&I Nederland, which is a System Integrator, based in Maassluis, The Netherlands. With more than 80 employees, they currently provide many information technology products: network security, remote access, Local Area Network switching and Internet Protocol tools. Q&I can combine these areas into one single solution for its customer, ranging from pre-sales advice to maintenance contracts for hardware and software.

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