Case Study › Electronic Time Clocks

Client › Information Controls

The Challenge:
Help Information Controls meet market demand for wireless network connectivity in its next-generation line of electronic time clocks.

The Solution:
Embed MatchPort® b/g Pro into Information Controls' electronic time clock systems to deliver Wi-Fi networking as a standard feature.

The Result:
Information Controls' wireless time clocks help its customers maintain a high level of security while saving, on average, 33% of the total cost of installation and wiring.

The Challenge: Information Controls Decides It's High Time for Wireless Connectivity

Information Controls, Inc. has been helping businesses manage employees' time and attendance for over twenty years. One of the company's most popular product lines consists of electronic time clocks that collect employee information in a number of ways — PIN entry, magnetic stripe cards, bar code cards, proximity cards and even a biometric hand reader — for organizations employing from 50 to 25,000 employees. The time clocks eliminate the challenge of collecting individual employee time-and-attendance information from remote areas, thus simplifying the payroll process.

Recently, Information Controls began development on its next-generation time clock systems. The previous hardware incorporated the Lantronix MatchPort® Architect (AR) to affordably deliver SSL/SSH-ready Ethernet connectivity to the time clock terminal. For the upgrade, Information Controls wanted a secure, wireless connection to address the needs of companies that either wanted to save time and money by not running Ethernet wires throughout their buildings, or that were unable to do so because of a lack of Ethernet-wired access points. Based on its past experience with Lantronix products, Information Controls was confident that Lantronix could recommend the best solution.

> "Information Controls strives to provide a tailored integration of new hardware and software with existing payroll and HRIS applications. The wireless MatchPort b/g Pro has helped us to carry out that commitment."
>
> **Michael Kuss,**
> President,
> Information Controls

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Think it. Connect it. Control it.

The Solution: Lantronix's MatchPort b/g Pro Provides a Timely Answer

Lantronix took into consideration Information Controls' desired capabilities and technological requirements for the new time clock systems and recommended the MatchPort® b/g Pro. This highly secure, embedded networking module delivers reliable Wi-Fi networking to virtually any electronic product. Because the MatchPort b/g Pro provides secure wireless connectivity in the same compact, single-socket form factor as other MatchPort modules, Information Controls found that its original board design could easily incorporate the MatchPort b/g Pro with few redesign requirements, minimizing engineering risk and reducing development time and cost.

With the MatchPort b/g Pro's built-in SSL (Secure Socket Layer) capabilities, Information Controls was able to quickly turn around a wireless solution that met the market demand for highly secure data transmission. According to Information Controls president Michael Kuss, "Given our good history with MatchPort products, the development of the wireless server provided an easy way to fulfill our customers' needs and continue to provide them with the same quality and support."

The Results: Information Controls Provides Measurable Benefits

Information Controls has embedded the MatchPort b/g Pro into its full line of time clocks, including the Intelligent Terminal™ 2100, which can record employee punches in a variety of ways, and the HandPunch 3000, a biometric hand measurement recorder. The wireless time clocks securely send time-and-attendance information to the payroll department, allowing Human Resources and payroll personnel to spend less time performing administrative functions and more time on strategic activities.

Among Information Controls' many new customers was a large, Chicago-based food manufacturer that needed time clocks installed at multiple points that would be easily accessible for its employees. As is frequently the case, however, points convenient for employees were nowhere near existing Ethernet connections. The standard MatchPort b/g Pro-enabled time clock system allowed the time clocks to connect to the existing WiFi network, saving the company a significant amount of time and one-third of the total cost of installation.

While the standard MatchPort b/g Pro-enabled time clock system is appropriate for most companies, Information Controls can easily customize time clock devices for its customers using the MatchPort Software Developer's Kit. Says Kuss, "The MatchPort b/g Pro module makes it easy for us to provide a seamless connection to any customer's wireless network."

About Information Controls

For more than 20 years, Rockford, Illinois-based Information Controls has been helping companies collect and monitor their employees' time and attendance data from employee punch to electronic transmission to payroll. The company has a successful track record with a diverse clientele of organizations with 50 to 25,000 employees. Information Controls prides itself on providing award-winning technical training and support throughout the life of its systems.

Visit www.icico.com for more information.

For more information on the MatchPort b/g Pro, visit: **www.lantronix.com/matchport-bg-pro**

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