
ACCESS SOLUTIONS: GOVERNMENT SITE PROFILE

Waitakere City Council

Securing Waitakere City Council's new facilities with cutting edge Gallagher technology.



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Waitakere Central is set to become New Zealand's first "city for the 21st century", through a focus on sustainability and investment in future focussed technology.

WAITAKERE CITY COUNCIL

In an endeavour to meet the changing needs of the region's ever growing public and business communities, Waitakere City Council has been involved in a significant development programme which provides new state-of-the-art facilities to its residents.

Developments include the Corban Estate Arts Centre, a Bus/Rail transport centre, Enterprise Waitakere and WestSmart (eco-tech business incubator), Henderson Vineyards business campus, a new Central Library and Civic Centre.

Part of Waitakere City Council's philosophy under-pinning this expansion is to future proof their systems and facilities to ensure they meet the requirements of their stakeholders now and in the future.

In terms of security on-site, this has led to the installation of Gallagher to provide access control and intruder alarms monitoring for several of the Council's sites. All system activity is monitored from a central server. Gallagher provides an ideal means of rationalising disparate security and facilities management systems going forward.

Gallagher was installed by Waitakere City

Council two years ago as a replacement of an old system. Warren Cornor, Security Manager for the council, began reviewing potential security systems due to the fact that multiple systems were being used with no integration or continuity.

Warren's first role as Security Manager was to develop the council's security strategy and analyse various systems in terms of scalability and flexibility to accommodate their requirements. "From that we chose Gallagher," states Warren.

His philosophy and approach to security supports the overall strategic direction of the council. In Mayor Bob Harvey's words, "The only answer is to look to what the technology and know-how of today offers us and use it to build for the future."

Warren comments that they chose Gallagher because the system is designed with open architecture which lends itself well to integration with other systems. Gallagher has tremendous potential for the future and provides significant efficiencies in facilities management.

Waitakere City Council was impressed by the R&D behind Gallagher, the user friendly nature of the system and the

technical support offered. He was also impressed that Gallagher is manufactured in New Zealand. "If we can source local, we will. Having said that, it must stack up with the international competition," comments Warren.

Warren believes Gallagher measures up well against other security systems in terms of both cost and performance. "In my view, it is way in front of any other system. Gallagher technology is leading the way. It was an easy choice, to be honest. It's so stable compared to other systems we've had - we haven't had any issues with it"

As part of Warren's analysis of security systems on the market, he needed to fit the system to their security strategy. "One system that controls 70% of our buildings - Gallagher allowed us to achieve this," states Warren.

The council employs 1200 staff plus contractors, has 159 doors secured and has 37 buildings around the city. They currently have in excess of 1600 cards in use and a typical day would see around 23,000 events.

Warren comments that he spent a huge amount of time up front assessing the



Centralising security management across multiple facilities with Gallagher.

capabilities of different systems and confirms that this has paid off – “specifying what we wanted and getting it right from the beginning was important.”

“Overall, Gallagher is a great system that gets great feedback from people who use it. It is simple and easy for the end user and with each upgrade, it gets even easier.”

Warren envisages future integration of their CCTV system from Dedicated Micros into Gallagher. The Council has the option to make use of the high level interface which already exists between Gallagher and Dedicated Micros’ systems. The integration will mean events recorded in the system can be matched with visual footage, providing a comprehensive audit trail.

Waitakere City Council uses Mifare smart card technology for the flexibility it provides. While used as identification and access control cards at present, Warren sees tremendous potential for extending the application of Mifare technology

going forward. “Mifare technology means we can use one card for a range of applications – it’s easy for us and secure.”

The application of the Mifare smart cards is already being seen at the council by way of their printing and copying system. With the Mifare cards linked to their printing system, employees press print from their PC and go to any printer within the building and swipe their card to print. Warren comments that this has “saved us an enormous amount of money, now we only print what we need”. Warren also sees the application being used further and he looks forward to implementing cashless vending in their cafeteria.

Gallagher interfaces to the lift system in Waitakere City Council buildings so that only cardholders with the appropriate access privilege are granted access to certain floors. Using industry standard OPC, Gallagher interfaces to building management systems for efficient energy management. When employees enter a building after hours and use the lift

system, the lights are activated on the floor they are about to access. In the future Waitakere City Council aims to utilise the System Division capability within Gallagher, so that the unique security requirements of different tenants within a single building can be managed independently of other tenants. System Division is ideal for large enterprise-wide systems where it is more practical to divide the site for ongoing management and monitoring.

Waitakere City Council has collaborated closely with UNITEC on the new library – they share the facility. UNITEC has around 1250 equivalent full-time students (EFTS), and 85 FTE teaching and allied staff members, based at UNITEC Waitakere. From entry to post-graduate levels they are aiming to accommodate approximately 3500 EFTS by 2012.

People who study and work at the library will be able to use the one access card for both organisations since UNITEC buildings are also secured by the Gallagher system.

He is impressed by the unobtrusive, seamless site security Gallagher provides.

Warren believes they are still only using 20% of the capability of Gallagher. He is thrilled with the potential of the system. In Warren's words, "It is important to remember that working within the council environment, you are spending public money, so accountability is high and I really believe we have invested in the technology that will see us through in the future."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ABOUT GALLAGHER

Gallagher security systems (formerly Cardax FT) are the choice of market leaders in a diversity of sectors: Education, Communications, Mining and Resources, Government, Industry, Banking and Finance, Commerce, Transport and Health.

CONTACT US

To find out more about the security system that companies put their faith in every day, contact your nearest Gallagher office, or visit us at www.gallagher.co

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