

Case Study

Milton Hershey School increases energy efficiency with Vykon – keeps facilities professionals in touch.



It isn't easy keeping track of more than 1,180 elementary, middle, and high school students, spread out across a 10,000-acre campus with 109 student homes, three classroom buildings, a performing arts center, and a host of other administrative buildings and facilities – but that is exactly what the Milton Hershey School in Hershey, Pennsylvania does everyday.

Founded as a school for orphans in 1909 by chocolate and confectionaries magnet Milton Hershey and his wife Catherine, the school has grown into a state-of-the-art campus that helps underprivileged children of all ages, races, and religions from across the country to achieve their dreams.

But as the campus has expanded, it has become more difficult to manage the school's automation systems in a cost effective manner largely because the school uses control devices from multiple manufacturers. School administrators needed one easy way to monitor and control all its automation systems and harness the plethora of untapped data available on those systems' "smart" devices, in order to manage their energy consumption efficiently.

Milton Hershey School

Hershey, Pennsylvania

Area: 10,000 acres

Population: More than 1,180 students

Campus facilities include: three classroom buildings, 109 student homes, a performing arts center, administrative offices, and other campus buildings.

Milton Hershey School Needs

Develop a more efficient way to operate the school's automated building systems.

Have one system to access and control multi-vendor devices, because of a lack of personnel to adequately monitor, control, and maintain numerous building controls.

Maintain comfortable temperatures and adequate lighting in the student homes and other campus buildings to minimize distractions for the students.

Vykon Provided

24-hour continuous monitoring of building controls in 39 student homes, with a commitment to provide the same services in other student homes, as well as in other campus buildings.

Technical training and support to maximize the system's utilization as a way of reducing energy use.

Benefits

The school currently spends approximately \$3 million a year on utility costs. As the Tridium Vykon system is implemented in more campus facilities, that number is expected to decline significantly.

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The Solution

When Gary Painter, facilities manager at the Hershey School, was looking for a cost-effective way to control the school's building automation systems, he turned to Tridium™ with its revolutionary Niagara Framework™ powered Vykon™ system.

After studying and analyzing the school's campus operating systems, NRG Controls, a Tridium Certified System Integrator, implemented its Vykon system as the solution to unify the control devices and applications from different manufacturers – such as Honeywell – under one simple, integrated platform. Vykon's object-oriented architecture supports data archiving, real-time control, a web server, open APIs for integration of multi-vendor applications, alarming and unified messaging, and applets for dynamic data visualization using standard web browsers.

With the Vykon system, the Hershey School was able to unlock the potential of smart devices and the Internet in ways that were previously unimaginable, while providing significantly lower automation and information infrastructure costs.

“The Hershey School made the decision to be on the cutting edge of new and innovative technologies. With Tridium's web-enabled Vykon system, I can go anywhere in the country and ‘talk’ to my systems back at the school. That is a great feature,” Painter said.

“When I was out of town on business, there was a problem back at the school. One of the student homes gave me an alarm, and I was able to handle the situation from my web-enabled telephone.”

The Benefits

For the Hershey School, the benefit is simple: more effective management of their energy systems. Painter said that the school currently spends approximately \$3 million a year on utility costs.

While the school has been using the Vykon system for only a year to operate the electrical, gas, and water meters in about a third of the student homes, energy savings have already been realized, and Painter sees great opportunity for expansion of the system.

“With the Tridium Vykon system, we hope to really keep costs down,” Painter said. “When we take bids for new operating systems and control devices, we don't have to worry about them being incompatible with what we already have. With Vykon, they all can work together. And, I can be in touch from wherever my travels take me.”



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