

LOCATION

Cheshire, UK

OVERVIEW

Students were misplacing or forgetting their library cards causing school libraries to spend time and money replacing them. Micro Librarian Systems (MLS), a developer of high-specification library automation systems, designed an easy-to-use solution based on DigitalPersona's Gold SDK that replaces cards with fingerprint authentication.

NEEDS

Easy and accessible method of authorizing children onto the library system.

DIGITALPERSONA PRODUCTS

DigitalPersona® Gold SDK

Security Challenge

Primary and secondary school students are required to use a library card when checking out books or accessing other services within a library. Unfortunately, these cards are often misplaced or forgotten preventing students from using the library's services.

The expense of replacing lost cards and the noticeable reduction of students checking out books, prompted libraries to contact Micro Librarian Systems (MLS) in search of an alternative solution. They wanted an easy-to-use system that would draw students back to books. The system had to take into consideration the security and protection of student identities.

DigitalPersona Solution

Micro Librarian Systems considered many solutions but quickly identified biometrics, fingerprint in particular, as being the easiest to use and least intrusive.

After evaluating several fingerprint solutions on the market, MLS contacted Kerry Secure Limited, DigitalPersona's UK Distributor, and purchased a DigitalPersona Gold Software Development Kit (SDK) as it provided the best package in terms of speed and accuracy while handling data securely and efficiently. With DigitalPersona's solution, fingerprint images are never stored, protecting the identity of the student. In addition, DigitalPersona's readers use optical technology which is more reliable when reading the fingerprints of small children.

"Due to the nature of our clients, it was vital that we had a system with the necessary security requirements but was easy-to-use for students," said Andrew O'Brien, managing director, Micro Librarian Systems. "DigitalPersona's solution offered both."

Benefits

- **Cost Savings** - libraries no longer have to replace lost library cards.
- **Increased Usage** - More students access library facilities since they no longer have to carry a card.

- **Ease-of-Use** - Students find that using fingerprint technology has made going to the library "fun."
- **Self-Service** - Smaller libraries have implemented self-service checkout kiosks.

The Results

Using the MLS solution with DigitalPersona's fingerprint authentication capability has increased the number of students using libraries. In addition, fingerprint biometrics has given students a sense of accountability as the responsibility for the care and return of books falls completely upon the owner of the fingerprint.

More than 4,000 libraries have replaced cards with fingerprint authentication resulting in thousands of students checking out books on a daily basis. Based on the success of the libraries, schools are now looking at implementing fingerprint authentication in other areas such as the cafeteria. "Schools want to provide the best possible environment for their students," said O'Brien. "Deploying fingerprint authentication places them at the forefront of technology."

About DigitalPersona

DigitalPersona is the leading provider of biometric authentication solutions for enterprise networks, developers and consumer OEMs. Founded in 1996, the company designs, manufactures and sells flexible solutions that improve security and regulatory compliance while resolving password management problems. DigitalPersona's fingerprint readers utilize superior optical fingerprint scanning technology to more accurately authenticate users regardless of finger placement. The company's interoperable biometric software solutions uniquely support the industry's widest array of notebooks with fingerprint readers. DigitalPersona's award-winning technology is used worldwide by over 25 million people in the most diverse and challenging environments.



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