



University of Oxford upgrades to state of the art Industrial IoT solution for new data centre

The University of Oxford is the best in the world according to the Times Higher Education rankings for 2018 and also the oldest University in the English speaking world. With over 23,000 students supporting over 17,000 jobs it is the biggest employer in the region.



Challenge

The structure of the University with over 38 independent colleges has led to a multitude of small data centres and communications rooms. These are often located in historic buildings not designed for 21st century technology and are expensive to maintain and manage.

As part of a 5 year strategic plan a new Shared Data Centre was built to provide a facility for all the colleges to migrate their servers and IT equipment into. Due to its success an expansion was built in 2017.

Lessons learnt from the initial data centre project and then the new expansion buildings, indicated that a new monitoring solution was required to provide greater visibility of power and environmental conditions to help maintain uptime, facilitate capacity management and enable energy efficiency analysis.

Solution

4NG's SMARTset Industrial Internet of Things software was identified by the University's contractor J Brand and chosen by the client after an evaluation process.

The solution was chosen because of its powerful and flexible dashboarding feature and the speed at which new and legacy sensors/meters/actuators from different manufacturers can be connected using a variety of communication protocols such as Modbus, BACnet and SNMP.

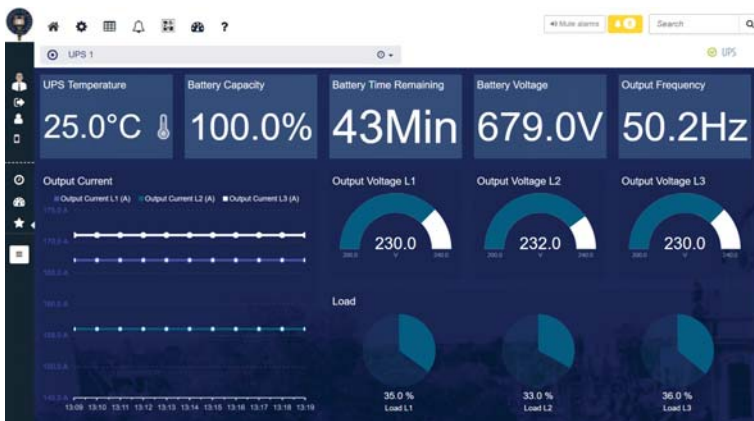
The solution included integration with other monitoring software systems and the remote control of the rack door locking mechanism as well as the installation of additional sensors and power meters.

Alerts and alarms are federated to ensure only critical messages requiring immediate action are created and distributed. Dashboards, trend and analysis reports provide real time information.

Result

SMARTset provides a key business tool to manage the University's data centre. It saves money by identifying problems such as "hot spots" and predicting failures to reduce downtime.

It generates revenue and allocates cost by allowing accurate energy billing of the owners of servers and IT equipment in the racks.



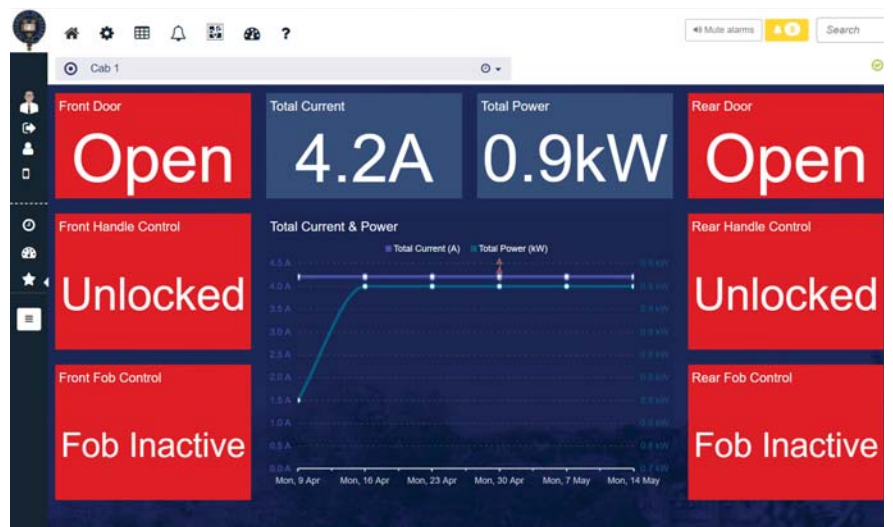
As a UK owned and developed solution it provides an open integration path and road map to make it future proof.

David Birds, Data Centre Manager, University of Oxford, said: "SMARTset provides us with visibility and control of power, temperature, humidity and rack access in our data centre. It's so easy to use and a massive improvement on other monitoring software we have seen."

Steve O'Hara, Founder and Managing Director of 4NG, added "SMARTset excels at monitoring and controlling equipment manufactured by a huge range of vendors.

From servers to CRAC units and from door locks to water leak detection, it's the single pane of glass to monitor and control your technical estate.

With optional integration with the leading Patch Manager asset and cable management software, it really is the complete data centre solution".



www.4ng.co.uk

Unit 2, The Village, Guards Avenue,
Caterham-on-the-Hill, Surrey, CR3 5XL, United Kingdom

Contact Us +44 (0)844 884 5296

sales@4ng.co.uk