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Entrances: How to Make Convenience and Security Meet at the Same Time?

International Campus Zhejiang University is a brand-new campus which has just been fully put into use for less than one month. Although the campus is well equipped, there remains some problems that need to be fixed wisely. The issue concerns me the most is that most entrances around the teaching buildings are tightly closed for security which results in great inconvenience for both teachers and students. In the article, I am going to analyze the issue and give practical solutions on how to make convenience and security meet at the same time.

Our teaching building have eight entrances, but only the front door is open and the intelligent access control beside each entrance does not permit students and teachers to open the door with identity cards. At first glance, closing the entrances and doors for security seems reasonable and reliable. However, when digging deeply into the entrance issue, the problem roots in the contradiction between convenience and security. The Security Department closes the entrances for the sake of safety, but shutting all the entrances, which compromises the convenience is excessive and inexpedient and is to some extent a manifestation of being incompetence.

Furthermore, the discommodity caused by closed entrances can have strong negative effects on people’s mood. If a person is at the back of the building and wants to get in for urgency, he has no choice but to walk around the building, finding that every entrance is shut down except for the front door. Condition like not being able to get into the building on time causes people’s impatience and dissatisfactory. If considering even further, closing the entrances is against the original intention of the designer to provide people easy accesses into the teaching building from all directions which is a disrespect to the designer.

From my point of view, it is possible to have all the entrances put into use while also having good security condition. Everybody in the campus has an identity card to indicate that he is a student or teacher of the campus. In addition, the entrances have already equipped with intelligent access control which can be employed directly without extra equipment constructions. Therefore, if the Security Department can cooperate with the Library and Information Center which is in charge of the IT service to give teachers and students the permissions to open the doors by identity cards, the intelligent access control can play a role as righteous and reliable guard to only allows students and teachers in while keeping strangers out.

The Security Department may oppose that if teachers and students lose their cards and strangers pick them, then the strangers can get into the teaching buildings as well which is not safe. However, the identity card is necessary in doing most of the things in the campus like eating in the canteen and getting into the dormitory. As a result, if teachers and students want to continue their daily life in the campus, they will reapply their identity card as soon as possible. And the old card cannot be used anymore so long as the new card is activated. Strangers cannot do harm to the campus in such a short time. Therefore, if the intelligent access control comes into service, the security of the teaching buildings is guaranteed as well as the benefit for students and teachers to live a more convenient life.

Compromising the convenience for security not only has negative impact on people’s mood, but also shows the disrespect for the designer. Being safer should not be the reason for Security Department to sacrifice convenience because there is an obvious solution to make convenience and security meet. I think convenience and security on entrance issue can be satisfied at the same time only if Security Department and the Library and Information Center can collaborate with each other to put the intelligent access control into service.