

Project Report Cantonal Hospital St.Gallen, Switzerland

Three Hospital Sites - One Solution: Efficient Custom-Made Locker Management

The Cantonal Hospital St.Gallen

The Cantonal Hospital St. Gallen is one of the largest hospitals in Switzerland. With three different sites, more than 35 clinics and institutes, and roughly 5,500 staff members, the St. Gallen Hospital is the largest employer in Eastern Switzerland. Always with a focus on providing top-quality patient care, the hospital ensures that the patient remains at the very heart of business.

To that end, the Cantonal Hospital St. Gallen continuously strives to improve its efficiency. When plans were made to build new constructions and extensions, hospital staff sought an improved employee locker system. Available space was limited and managing existing lockers represented a significant administrative expense and burden, a challenge many hospitals face.



Starting Position

An internal evaluation showed that the Cantonal Hospital St. Gallen needed approximately 500 additional wardrobe lockers for its medical staff. Furthermore, there was virtually no control over who used how many lockers and for how long. Management of the mechanical keys had proved highly cumbersome. Available space was fully used, requiring the hospital to find an innovative, custom solution to meet its business needs.

Requirements

In the course of a comprehensive program of new constructions and extensions, the Cantonal Hospital St. Gallen decided to address the locker management issue with the assistance of two specialists – GANTNER and Lista Office LO.

One of the key criteria for this project was the ability to easily grant staff access to lockers on a limited or permanent time basis from a network PC. In addition, the system needed to be integrated across all 3 hospital sites. The tedious administration of mechanical keys should once and for all be a thing of the past. On top of that, security was of central importance. Lockers should be alarm-protected and no longer burglarised. As the staff of the Cantonal Hospital St. Gallen is international, the new locker system needed to be intuitively operated, irrespective of language.

GANTNER and Lista Office – Innovative Keyless Locking for a Custom Solution

Together with the renowned office furniture manufacturer, Lista Office, GANTNER organised the locker management in a completely new way. The joint solution consists of a combination of both compact, space-saving and large lockers from Lista Office fitted with a networked locking system from GANTNER.

In order to optimally use available space, the GANTNER locking system is configured so that large lockers are available only for the duration of a work shift, up to a maximum of 20 hours. Once an employee leaves, the locker becomes immediately available thus guaranteeing optimum utilization. In contrast to large lockers, compact, space-saving lockers can be permanently assigned and serve as personal, staff lockers. If no activity is detected over a long period of time, this is indicated in the GANTNER locker management software, allowing hospital staff to take proper action.

Hospital security is of great importance and the GANTNER locking system guarantees the safety of hospital staff belongings thanks to a customizable, networked alarm delivered either via a signal form the PC, e-mail, or text message. Additional features include an automatic opening function for cleaning or security purposes, real-time occupancy monitoring, the ability to reserve lockers for visiting physicians, and more.

Thanks to acoustic feedback and colour LED lights, which display green for available lockers and red for lockers in-use, the locker system is easy and intuitive to use. A traffic light system outside the locker rooms tells staff what the occupancy status is of every area. And should a member of staff have forgotten the locker number, they may retrieve their locker number, by simply presenting their staff badge to a GANTNER Infoterminal.

Lastly, all lockers operate with existing NFC employee hospital badges, making physical key management a thing of the past.





Product Overview



Cable Lock for lockers mounted at the side wall



Information terminal



Management Software



Interviews

Susanne Wick

Project Manager Department "Space and Construction", Cantonal Hospital St.Gallen

"We were looking for a modern, flexible and expandable wardrobe management solution for Cantonal Hospital St.Gallen. We put a particular emphasis on an easy central administration, strong safety functionalities and a language-independent, intuitive operation, not to forget an appealing design.

"The experience and unique solution offered by GANTNER and Lista Office LO, along with their professional competence during the planning and implementation phase, convinced us throughout the realization of this project that it was the right decision to trust these two specialists." We are very happy with our new wardrobe management system", says Susanne Wick, Project Manager of the Space and Construction Service of the Cantonal Hospital St. Gallen.



Urs Kirchmeier

Sales and Support Lista Office Vertriebs AG



"Thanks to the unique locker locking solution GANTNER presented, combined with our very long experience in cabinetry, we were able to offer the Cantonal Hospital St.Gallen an individual, custom-made solution for the requirements of wardrobe management.

We are very happy that we were able to smoothly realise this flagship project with our partner GANTNER to the utmost satisfaction of all parties involved ", tells Urs Kirchmeier, Sales and Support Manager, Lista Office LO.



The Implementation Phase

At the end of 2014, about 500 GAT NET.Lock locks were installed in a first pilot project. The GAT Relaxx software by GANTNER with its interface to existing access control systems enables an easy administration at the PC. After a test phase over several weeks, it quickly became clear that the solution GANTNER and Lista Office had proposed was ideal for the needs of a hospital operation.

The second installation phase with about 700 lockers secured by GANTNER was implemented at the beginning of 2015, the third phase in late summer 2015. In total, about 4,500 GAT NET.Locks equip the new wardrobe lockers of the medical staff of the Cantonal Hospital St. Gallen. The satisfaction with the new wardrobe management system is very high, both for the operator and the staff members, confirms Susanne Wick, Project Manager of the Space and Construction Service of the Cantonal Hospital St. Gallen.

FACT BOX

- Cantonal Hospital St. Gallen 3 sites staff of approx. 5,500.
- Need for approximately 500 additional lockers.
- New installation of about 4,500 new lockers equipped with GAT NET.Lock 7000.
- Central control and management of the locker system from the network PC.
- Integration in the existing access control system thanks to the open interface of the GANTNER locker management software (GAT Relaxx).
- Burglary attempt alarm at the PC and the locker.
- · No more hassle with key administration.
- · Real-time occupancy overview and analysis reports by a simple mouse click.
- Occupied lockers that remain unopened over a longer period of time will be displayed in the system.
- Language-independent, intuitive operation based on LEDs and acoustic signals.
- The GAT NET.Locks locks are completely built into the lockers for protection against vandalism and high-end design.
- A traffic light system outside the wardrobe rooms clearly signals the occupancy situation.
 (red: all lockers are occupied, orange: the occupancy rate is high, green: enough free lockers available).

Project Data		
Project:	Cantonal Hospital St.Gallen Rorschacher Str. 95 9007 St.Gallen, Switzerland	
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GANTNER Products:	4,500 Electronic Locking Systems GAT NET.Lock 7000 GAT Infoterminal 6800	
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