Case Study:

The University Smart Card and the Yorcash Electronic Purse

The York Electronics Centre has established a scheme where each University of York student is issued with a personalised smart card. The card has the following features:

- Yorcash Electronic Purse
- Bar coded library number
- Magnetic stripe
- Card-holder photograph and name
- ID number & exam number
- Email address

An initial study determined the most appropriate smart card type for the University’s needs. Suitable card printing and programming tools were then identified and purchased. An automated means of collating the required card data was also established.

These elements were integrated so that in-house card production could be undertaken. This included the provision of smart card programming for a personalised ‘Yorcash’ electronic purse. Yorcash is a token payment system for use within the University of York.

GIS Ltd of Cambridge developed the smart card purse architecture and vending infrastructure. Working in close partnership, GIS and the York Electronics Centre cooperated closely to meet the tight five-month timescale available. The system was installed and running for the critical start of term delivery date in October 2001.

The Yorcash electronic purse on the card may be loaded with value at cash machines located around the campus. Thereafter it can be used to make on-campus purchases. The adoption of cash-less vending reduces the opportunity for theft, as no money resides in unattended machines.
The Yorcash electronic purse system is both flexible and secure. Cryptographic processing and transaction recording prevent fraud. Asset usage and cash flow information is readily available. Usage of the electronic purse may be expanded to cover all vending related activities across the University.

In addition to the electronic purse application, the University card is an important means of student identification. It also provides access to library lending services.

The University of York smart card scheme is now proven. With a minimum of modification, the scheme could be adapted to the needs of other diverse institutions.

For more information, please contact YEC by telephone/fax/Email.

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Fax Back Form

I am very interested in this scheme now operating successfully at the University of York and would like to consider its use at:-

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Please could you contact me to discuss the scheme further:  □

Please could you send me more information:  □

Questions:-

Name:  ....................................................................................................................

Position:  ................................................................................................................

Address:  ................................................................................................................
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