Portland Marina

Dean & Reddyhoff is one of the UK's leading marine operators and has successful operations at Weymouth, Hasler and East Cowes. They have recently opened their new marina at Portland Harbour. Situated on the Jurassic coast, the marina is accessible at all states of tide and provides premium facilities for its customers. Portland Marina is one of the approved training venues for the Olympic and Paralympic sailing teams. It will form part of the venue for hosting the sailing events for the 2012 games.

Designing in security is important for this type of development. Access control is part of the security package that customers require when berthing their yachts in a marina. Dean & Reddyhoff's other marinas already use access control, but the systems are not controlled from a PC, so management is time consuming. Keen to start with a clean slate, Steve Godden (one of the company's directors) was interested in looking at some different options.

Custom Security Services of Verwood, Dorset, were recommended to Mr Godden and he asked them to specify a system. Neil Fitzwalter, sales director of Custom Security Services, visited the site and suggested a Net2 system. Net2 is a networked access control system manufactured by Paxton. Neil says: "We mainly use Net2 for access control. It is a good system and does what our customers need. It is great for our clients as it is so easy to learn and use the software."

The Marine reader, manufactured by Paxton, was chosen by Neil to show to the customer. He says: "Mr Godden really liked the appearance. It looks really classy and the blue back light is attractive. The reader is also tough enough for this harsh environment as it is manufactured from marine grade stainless steel." The aesthetic benefits of the Marine reader, combined with the ease of management of the software, meant Net2 was chosen and Custom Security Services was awarded the installation contract.

> "It is a good system and does what our customers need. It is great for our clients as it is so easy to learn and use the software."

Net2 now controls access on eight doors, a car park barrier, the steel access gates to the pontoons and the yachts moored there.

Russ Levett, manager of the marina says: "Security is very important to us. We need to protect against both theft and vandalism. It is important that the access to the berths is restricted to our staff and the berth holders. There is no compromise on this."

Permanent and visiting berth holders have the use of the various facilities; showers, washrooms and the laundry. All of these are of a very high standard. Russ says: "We need to ensure the facilities that are there for the use of the berth holders, are not used or abused by anyone else. The doors are protected using the Paxton Marine readers; berth holders' tokens allow them access to these."

The marina office is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The main reception door is unlocked during usual office hours. Staff entrances at the rear of the building are secured using the Net2 system. Access through these doors is restricted in the software to staff only. Russ says: "It gives the staff a sense of security knowing that we can secure the office at night. It is also very useful for them only having to carry a token, not a big bunch of keys when moving around the site."

Other areas secured are the berth holders' car park and one of the retail units. Russ explains: "Obviously customers can enter the retail unit in the day but out of hours, only staff have access to the building and the lift lobbies."

He continues: "The system is incredibly easy to manage. I have managed one of our other marinas where the access system has to be programmed at each door. The instant updates from the software, to all of the access control readers, are a real time saver. It also gives us great security as a token can be barred from allowing access to any door, at the click of a button."

Mike Jones - Pike Pictures

The berth holders have a choice of keyfobs or cards as their access token. They can choose whichever suits them best.

Departments are set up in the software for the different groups of people; permanent berth holders, staff, tenants, police and a couple of smaller groups. Each department is set up with the access rights needed by them. Russ says: "The flexibility of the Net2 system makes life very easy for me. I can just add a card to the software for a new user in a department and their access permissions are just set to the parameters I have set for that department."

The office areas are restricted to staff only, contractors can be given access in normal working hours and the customers have access to their berths and washrooms, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Russ says: "I use the log of events on Net2. If something unusual occurs at any of our controlled doors, I can see this on the software and we can immediately investigate.

As phase two of the marina development rolls out, some of the access permissions set in the software may need to change. Russ says that he is more than comfortable with this as he finds the Net2 software so intuitive and easy to use.

Portland Marina is a project set to grow. Phase two will see the number of berths double from the current 300. It is likely that more doors and gates will be added on to the Net2 system.

"We are very happy with the package and would freely recommend Net2 to anyone considering access control."

Russ says: "The fact that there are no additional software costs with this system, means that if I want it running on more than one PC or we need to increase the number of users or doors, we can. This reinforces our commitment to the Paxton system. Custom Security Services have given us good advice with regard to the access system and our security generally. They have also given us a consistently good service. We are very happy with the package and would freely recommend Net2 to anyone considering access control."

Due to the positive experience at Portland Marina, Dean & Reddyhoff are planning to install the Net2 system in other marinas as budgets become available.

Neil is happy that his client is satisfied. He says: "The Net2 software is far easier for the clients than other systems we have looked at. Support is also excellent and the five year guarantee gives us something valuable to pass on to our customers."

System user	Portland Marina
Installer	Custom Security Services Ltd - Dorset
Type of site	Marina
Type of system	Net2 PC based system
System description	8 doors, car park and gates

css-037