



Case Study

The University of Oxford have taken steps to ensure that across their city-wide site, life safety is prioritised. With clear visibility of the alarm status of all buildings, response times are faster and false alarms have been greatly reduced.



The Challenge

The alarm systems at Oxford are built up of a multitude of legacy and new equipment spanning a 30 year period. The buildings are also situated across the whole city. With the old fibre ring being disconnected it was important for Drax to provide a cost effective way to monitor all of the University’s alarms and report them to the central Security control room on a PC system, giving clear and concise messages about an event such as the alarm location, date, time and what action is required.

With so many separate buildings, often renovations or other construction works would be underway, and so the University

Summary

With over 250 buildings across the city Oxford University needed to monitor and manage their alarms from one location. With a range of systems built up over the years, all alarms needed to be connected to report back to the security centre.

The Challenge

A cost-effective solution to connect new and legacy alarm systems across the city and bring back data to one centralised location was required. Providing access to information listing location and time/date with required action was necessary.

The Solution

Using Drax hardware local to each alarm system, data could be sent via the University’s existing IT infrastructure. The benefit to this is that it will always be maintained and updated as the site inevitably grows.

The Results

The University now has a working and scalable way of managing the alarms across the entirety of their estate from one centralised location, and take data-driven actions to reduce false alarms and predict potential system failures before they occur.



The versatility of Drax 360’s software meant that the University is not tied to any particular manufacturer, promoting choice of supplier and best value.

Paul Slater

Project Manager, Pyrotec Services Ltd



needed a way to isolate individual devices from the network to ensure that an unnecessary and costly evacuation did not occur as a result of a false alarm.

The Solution

The solution was for the University to upgrade their existing Drax hardware to the newer SMaRT Watch unit. The SMaRT Watch unit connects locally to the different alarm systems and then sends all event data using the existing IT infrastructure. This meant all of the University's existing cabling could be used and will be constantly maintained and updated by our partner and incumbent fire alarm contractors Pyrotec Services Ltd, to meet ever growing demand.

To reduce false fire alarms that may often occur in construction areas where a hot works permit is required, the University was able to give users permission to can control the alarm systems remotely. The benefit of this is that the analogue values of the individual devices can be monitored for the likelihood that they will activate if they are affected by things such as dust or debris from power tools, after being disabled.

The Results

By using our software, the University were able to gain additional reporting information from their addressable fire alarm panels and can now pin point the exact location of an alarm within the building, saving valuable time and improving the safety of their staff and students.

The University now has a solution which can easily be scaled and which has given them greater visibility and control of their buildings alarm systems, as well as promoting choice of suppliers and value for money as their site grows.

250+
buildings monitored



We have a long and successful history of working with Drax and so felt confident in proposing their software as a solution to our client's complex needs, with the best opportunities as their site portfolio grows.

Paul Slater

Project Manager, Pyrotec Services Ltd



DRAX360

Book a meeting today

Our team are on hand to offer friendly and expert advice whether you're looking to upgrade or maintain your existing alarm system, or need to start from scratch. Our solutions help you stay compliant and in control.

[Book a meeting](#)

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