



# University of Ulster Copy Payment Solution With Smart Contact Chip Cards



## Location:

The University of Ulster,  
Coleraine.

## Solutions Package:

**Hardware:** HS600 Smartcard Readers, HS600 Self-Service Card Value Loaders, and Card Dispensers.

**Software:** Copydata Reporting Software



## Objectives:

The University of Ulster wanted to update their pre-existing photocopier control system which used non-secure, outdated, disposable cards. Students were unable to monitor their usage as the cards held no memory regarding value balance. Staff were unable to block cards which had been lost or stolen and if cards were damaged, copy credits could not be reimbursed.

The University wanted the ability to provide students with a durable, rechargeable plastic smartcard. This would make access more secure and revaluing their accounts easier.

Gathering management reports was a massively time consuming activity as the pre-existing solution spanned across 4 separate campuses. The University wanted to implement a comprehensive management system that would efficiently audit all copy usage and generate thorough consumer reports.

## Requirement:

ICS recommended installing a smartcard photocopier control solution to improve the management of the system. Utilising this technology would make the solution far more flexible, reliable and easier to manage. The solution would also be future proof and could be expanded upon should the University wish.

By supplying students and staff with a smartcard rather than disposable card meant students could monitor their use. This reviewing tool would create an environment of awareness among smartcard users, leading to decline of total paper waste.

The additional benefits to implementing smartcard technology were that the University would be able to purchase self-service re-valuing stations. Students would be able to credit their photocopying accounts without staff assistance. Staff would also be capable of blocking stolen or lost cards from the system. ICS proposed installing Copydata Reporting software to satisfy the University's request for comprehensive management accounts.

## Solution:

The new HS600 smartcard readers replaced the old systems attached the University's photocopiers. These terminals are accessed by both students and staff for complete accountability. Accompanying the HS600 card readers were 6 HS600 self-service card value loaders, and 6 card dispensers which were placed in key areas around all 4 campuses. Students and staff no longer required staff support to obtain new cards and credit their accounts.

The new plastic smartcards are simple to use, environmentally friendly and secure. Unlike the previous cards, the smartcards are able to store information about the





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**Mark Millar**  
Reprographics Manager



### **Solution Continued:**

remaining balance and if lost, cards can simply be blocked from the system. Replacement cards can be obtained from the card dispensing units. The smartcards are multi-functional and can also incorporate printing facilities and other additional applications should the University require.

Copydata Reporting software was implemented to audit and control all photocopy activity. The management solution has allowed Ulster University to effectively manage all output and the University has more control regarding how the system operates.

With an improved understanding of the University's budgetary requirements, departments are able to implement flexible price controls for photocopiers.



### **Future:**

The next course of action for the University of Ulster is to integrate printing and photocopying facilities on to one single card.

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