School District Integration

Ecobee thermostats seamlessly enter Metasys® environment

Partner: Johnson Controls, Inc. Bend, Oregon branch office
Technology: Johnson Controls Metasys®, S4 BACnet ecobee Integration
Customer: A small school district in Redmond, Oregon
Project Size: Nine ecobee thermostats

About the Customer

Redmond Proficiency Academy opened its doors in 2009 to 150 academically minded students excited to take the risk of a new paradigm in education. Founded on proficiency-based learning in a personalized environment, the new school quickly grew to 250 students in year two, 480 students in year three, and 700 students in grades 6-12 in year four. Today, close to 900 students make up the population of RPA.

Customer Requirements

The overall requirement of this project was to bring multiple buildings under one unified control system, Johnson Controls Metasys.

One of the district's buildings, the middle school, had existing ecobee thermostats already installed.

- The ecobee thermostats were accepted by the end users for their aesthetics and functionality.
- The ecobee thermostats provided acceptable control of the mechanical equipment they were connected to.
- The customer wanted a single pane of glass for the entire district through the Metasys® system.
- Integrating the middle school with its existing ecobee thermostats could reduce the project cost and avoid replacing working thermostats to accomplish the single pane of glass goal.

Solution – To (eco)Bee or Not to (eco)Bee?

The initial approach to the middle school was to replace existing, functional ecobee thermostats with new BACnet thermostats. After finding online that there was an ecobee to BACnet Gateway available from S4IS, system team leader Mike Pooler reached out to review this option and found it to be a better solution for the customer. The S4IS integration would achieve the main goal of a single pane of glass, while avoiding

School District Integration

disruption of existing classroom operational procedures. There was no sacrifice in functionality, and integrating the existing thermostats saved the school district money.

The Integration Process

The integration process was very intuitive. S4IS delivered the S4 BACnet ecobee Integration product hosted on an industrial PC. Installation and setup were orchestrated by the S4IS Setup Wizard. The wizard requested the ecobee SmartBuildings credentials for Redmond Proficiency Academy, presented the default properties for the system, TCP/IP, ecobee, and BACnet/IP with the ability to customize those properties to meet the project requirements. When the wizard completed, each building and thermostat in the RPA ecobee SmartBuildings service was published as a BACnet/IP device. Bringing these devices into Metasys® was straight forward using standard Metasys® capabilities.

Success

The customer now can operate the middle school under the same graphics package that is used in their other buildings. In doing so, the school district will save training and administrative time in the operation of all buildings.

The overall value received from the S4IS solution was a reduction in cost to integrate this building. There was also a reduction in disturbance to the space as there was no need to replace the equipment that was on site.

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About Johnson Controls, Inc.

Johnson Controls is a world leader in smart buildings, creating safe, healthy, and sustainable spaces. They've been in the industry for nearly 140 years, consistently innovating technology improving buildings. JCI branch operations provide BAS installation, service, and support for their own Metasys® brand products and integration solutions for products from other companies.

For more information about this project or other opportunities in the Bend, Oregon area, contact Mike Pooler, System Team Leader, Johnson Controls Inc, Michael.a.pooler@jci.com

About S4 Integration Solutions

S4 Integration Solutions provides the enabling gateway technology to upgrade and/or transition legacy or proprietary building automation systems in commercial buildings (including multi-family housing) to BACnet-based smart building technologies, including the introduction of 3rd party value added applications like demand-response, analytics, energy management, and fault detection and diagnostics (FDD) to meet customer requirements.

To discuss your own integration project with S4 Integration Solutions, contact Steve at sejones@s4integrationsolutions.com or call (801)621-1970.

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