ROOMZ

CASE STUDY
ETH ZURICH



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Intelligent room usage at ETH Zurich

Space is precious – especially at Switzerland›s most famous university: ETH Zurich. Particularly our students have too little space for learning and working. The rectorate came up with the idea of placing the 600 meeting rooms, lecture halls and seminar rooms at their students› disposal. This required electronic door signs that show the reservation status of the rooms at a glance. These should be client-capable and scalable, and function without a cable – an important requirement in protected historic buildings. And yet there was no such solution available on the market. That is where ROOMZ came into play: the innovative start-up from Fribourg developed a battery-operated room reservation display on an e-paper basis for the ETH which provided everything the university required. The result: the rooms are better utilized, students are more satisfied, and room planning has become far more efficient. A major problem for the ETH was thus solved. ROOMZ is not only at work at the ETH, but also at other universities, companies and public organizations, as a shining example of modern room planning.

STARTING POSITION

600 meeting rooms, seminar rooms and lecture halls in the historic main building as well as at the five other ETH locations in Switzerland should be used by students when they are otherwise empty. ROOMZ SA developed digital door signs for the ETH as a pilot customer, which dynamically display room reservations. The ROOMZ server connects with the more than 10 different reservation tools used at ETH, which proves its high level of flexibility and openness.

ETH Zürich

LOCATIONS

Zürich City, Zürich Hönggerberg, Basel, Bern, Lugano

SECTOR

University

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

10,000 employees, 500 professors and 4,000 doctoral students from more than 120 countries

NUMBER OF STUDENTS

19,800

NUMBER OF ROOMZ DISPLAYS

Currently 300, by the end of 2019: 600

The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, better known by its German abbreviation, ETHZ, is among the world's ten best universities.
It was founded in 1855 as a federal polytechnic school. 21 Nobel Prize winners have studied at the famous university in the fields of technology, mathematics and the natural sciences, among them leading figures such as Albert Einstein and Wolfgang Pauli.

www.ethz.ch

DYNAMIC E-PAPER INSTEAD OF STATIC DOOR SIGNS

The historic and protected historic ETH buildings in the heart of Zurich do not permit drilling, cables or installations. Paper schedules also proved to be inadequate. Electronic displays should show students and visitors the availability of the rooms at a glance. Only one solution was worth considering, one that connected the existing reservation tools with the WiFi network and which fit in the ETH's standardized door sign frames.

"With its simple operation, scalability and design, ROOMZ precisely matches what we were looking for."
Armin Brunner, Head of Multimedia Services

Customary displays were either dependent on a radio infrastructure or cabling, did not meet the aesthetic requirement or were not scalable enough.

ROOMZ SA and the ETH made a virtue out of necessity. ROOMZ CEO, Roger Meier and CTO Patrick Terreaux, came up with the idea for a simple, functional and optically pleasing e-paper solution. Armin Brunner, Head of Multimedia Services at the ETH took on the role of pilot customer. They defined the product together: e-paper displays that connect with existing room planning tools and which display the availability of lecture halls and meeting rooms.

ABSOLUTELY STRAIGHTFORWARD

The first 12 ROOMZ door signs were placed in operation in the listed main building in 2016. After a year of positive experience, the second large order of 210 dynamic door signs was placed in 2017 for the modern ETH Hönggerberg campus. "Our goal is to equip all bookable rooms at the ETH with a dynamic door sign. That makes 600 rooms that we can use better and more efficiently with ROOMZ," explained Armin Brunner.

INDISPENSIBLE ONCE INSTALLED

Students and visitors know at a glance whether they are in the right place, whether a room is occupied or free, and thus bookable – and for how long. "The users are very satisfied with the ROOMZ displays. They have become naturally an essential part of the infrastructure and have become indispensible for our department," said Michele Marcionelli, IT Support Manager at D-MATH.

"With ROOMZ we not only use our rooms more efficiently, but we can also optimize what we offer our students and the comfort of our guests."
Rectorate, ETH Zürich



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Format

Dim.:	196 x 165 x 7 mm (7.71 x 6.49 x 0.27 in)
Weight:	400 g (14.11 oz)

Screen

Grösse:	8"
Auflösung:	1024 x 768 Pixel

Communication

Wi-Fi:	2,4 GHz – Open, WEP, WPA2-Personal (PSK), WPA2-Enterprise (802.1X)
Security:	HTTPS, TLS 1.2, Encryption, NFC
Connectivity:	NFC, Bluetooth

Battery

Capacity:	7500 mAh
Autonomy:	2 – 4 years (depending on the usage)

Compatibility

Exchange · Office 365 · IBM Lotus. · Google Calendar

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