ROOMZ
INTELLIGENT OFFICES

CASE STUDY
WHU



ROOMZ Displays make their mark at WHU

The private business school, WHU - Otto Beisheim School of Management, uses ROOMZ Displays to provide transparency when it comes to the occupancy of their seminar and study rooms. This benefits the staff, students and faculty.

WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management is a highly reputable, internationally oriented and privately financed business school. WHU has two locations: the Bachelor, Master, and Executive MBA programs are mainly held in Vallendar (near Koblenz), the Full-time MBA, Part-time MBA, and the Corporate programs are held in Düsseldorf. State-of-the-art infrastructure is found at both campuses. There are currently more than 1669 students enrolled at WHU. The various rooms are often used at 100% capacity during the semester. Digital door signs at WHU indicate which room is occupied and which can be used. Because the door signs previously used were no longer satisfactory in some respects, those in charge sought a new solution in 2018.

LOCATIONS

Campus Vallendar, Campus Düsseldorf

SECTOR

Education and University

NUMBER OF FACULTY

54 members

NUMBER OF STUDENTS

Around 1600

NUMBER OF ROOMZ DISPLAYS

100 displays

The internationally renowned WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management was founded in 1984 and is one of the top German business schools. The private university, with campuses in Vallendar and Düsseldorf, is state-recognized and offers various accredited academic programs and continuing education formats.

www.whu.edu



«ROOMZ displays are a future-proof, scalable, easy-to-use and visually very appealing solution for space management.»
Jan Vollmer, IT System Management at WHU

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PROPRIETARY NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE AND MONUMENT PROTECTION

The project was led by IT specialist Jan Vollmer, who has been in charge of system administration and support in Düsseldorf since 2018. Thorsten Leich, IT project and application manager at WHU since 2001, also played an important role when it came to integrating the displays into the existing systems. Jan Vollmer remembers the start of the project: «The starting point was that we wanted to introduce the digital door signs that were being used in Düsseldorf to the Vallendar campus. However, these door signs required a proprietary network infrastructure. In addition to the normal WLAN access points, we needed special access points that broadcast signals for these door signs. A further consideration was that the existing door signs were no longer supported by the manufacturer. Another challenge was that some buildings on the Vallendar campus are historical monuments and may not be structurally altered.» Thorsten Leich went on to say: «Added to this was the fact that, for historical reasons, we work with a different room booking system in Düsseldorf than in Vallendar. A long battery life was also very important to us.» While searching for a solution, the WHU managers came across ROOMZ.

TEST PASSED

What made the ROOMZ solution particularly convincing was the fact that no construction was required and no additional access points had to be purchased. WHU ordered the first of a total of 30 displays for the test phase in Düsseldorf at the end of 2018. According to Jan Vollmer: «Our plan from the beginning was to move from the cloud environment to an on-premise environment. So that is how we started in Düsseldorf, where we use Outlook Calendar as our room booking system.» The test was successful. The displays were very well received by all users. The next step was to implement the system in Vallendar as well. Implementation there was somewhat more complex, because Vallendar uses a different centrally managed campus management system for room booking. Thorsten Leich added: «We worked with ROOMZ and found a way to load the data we needed into the ROOMZ display management software for processing, taking IT security into consideration in the process.»

TOP MARKS FOR ROOMZ

Displays for all rooms were ordered at the beginning of May 2019 – 70 for Vallendar and 30 for Düsseldorf. The displays have been in operation at both sites since July 2019. The added benefits are many according to Jan Vollmer: «The primary benefit is the transparency of how rooms are booked and used – both in the weekly and daily overview. We also need fewer devices, because we were able to eliminate the old access points. We can also use the sideboard to display which event is taking place in which room. Our contacts at ROOMZ were always available to us and responded very quickly to inquiries. We are very pleased with both the visually appealing displays and ROOMZ, and can highly recommend both.»



«The ROOMZ displays are a worthwhile decision for anyone looking for transparency in room occupancy. The ROOMZ solution is one that is flexible and efficient.»

Thorsten Leich, IT Project Management at WHU

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