



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More Reliable Networks in Schools allows the Newest Release of CAASS to be Web Based

CAASS Receives a Makeover

December 23, 2008 – YORK, PENNSYLVANIA – Access411 announced today that the newest release of the CAASS System is predominantly browser-based. CAASS NG, release 9.1, has over gone a facelift and a methodology change taking the largest module of the system, CAASS Admin, and changing it from a desktop client to a browser based web client. CAASS 9.1 builds upon functionality that was added in CAASS 8.4, but with 9.1 exclusively having the CAASS Admin web interface.

CAASS has been deployed in schools since 1996 and has gone through major changes in the past, but one constant was that the Admin module of the CAASS Suite remained a desktop client. Other CAASS modules such as the classroom attendance module, also known as “EDCR”, and District Reporting are web based modules, but until release NG (9.1), the CAASS Admin module remained a desktop client.

Erick Johnson, Vice President of Business Development and the leader of Access411’s software development team said, “In the past school district’s Wide Area Networks have been unreliable and short on bandwidth, so the idea of a centralized hosted model was out of the question. But, over the last year or so we have begun to see a change in the networks in school districts and a new dedication within districts to have centrally hosted products.” Mr. Johnson commented on why the change in CAASS methodology, “As a result of the infrastructure changes in school districts, we thought the time was right to move our products from thick to thin clients. We can offer the same great products, but now we won’t have to install applications on user’s computers.” Mr. Johnson continued on about the technology used in the development of CAASS NG, “We are excited about CAASS NG, because we were able to utilize some of the latest and greatest technologies out there like Microsoft Silverlight and Microsoft SQL Server 2008. These new technologies will give the users a much more enhanced experience and puts no limits or restrictions on what we can offer.” Mr. Johnson closed by commenting on the future of CAASS and what users can expect, “The future is limitless. We can’t wait to release the new rewrite of ScanStation in 2009. The technology is fascinating in the upcoming ScanStation release. Let’s just say users should become accustomed to touching their screens.”

This first release of CAASS NG, version 9.1, not only contains a browser based Admin module, but contains additions in EDCR and ScanStation as well. This will be the last release of EDCR in its current look and feel, but has had a lot of functionality added for this release. EDCR in this release as well as 8.4 now offers the ability to create hallway passes in the classroom and track the amount of passes for signs or trends of abuse. In addition, starting in 8.4 teachers can assign class-based infractions to students. In CAASS 9.2, EDCR will receive a facelift and additional functionality.

CAASS 8.4 and 9.1 offer a lot of the same ScanStation functionality, including Exit Scanning and Event Scanning. Exit Scanning provides the functionality to have students scan to leave the building to verify against student's schedules or early releases that they are permitted to leave. Student's that attempt to scan out of the building, without their schedule permitting or a preexisting early release scheduled, will receive an infraction in the system, and the ScanStation monitors will be alerted that the students are attempting and unauthorized exit. All Exit scan records whether they are permitted or not, are recorded and can be reported on. Event Scanning allows schools to create events and select what students are authorized to attend and what students are not permitted to attend. Events can be scheduled as onetime events or reoccurring. Events can span multiple days and students can exit and reenter. Students will then scan their ID cards into the event, and if an unauthorized student scans their ID card it will alert the ScanStation monitor. All event scan records are recorded and can be reported on. Unauthorized entry attempts can automatically create infractions and penalties for the students. All event scans can be reported on.

CAASS has had an AutoDialer and a Letter module for many years. These were the only methods of communicating with parents. Beginning in CAASS 8.4 and refined in CAASS NG, email communication is now available. Schools can email alerts to parents and even include reports as attachments. Coming shortly will be SMS text message capabilities.

In addition to the software changes CAASS has gone through, hardware changes have been made over the last few months as well. The ScanStation now consists of a smaller mobile cart with a locking cabinet, made possible by switching from a desktop computer for ScanStation to a notebook computer. CAASS is also using a new thermal printer to produce the temporary ID's and late passes. The new thermal printer pre-cuts the paper so the users no longer have to tear the paper. The new printer is more robust and allows users to simply drop the rolls of paper in the printer, foregoing the frustrating task of having to feed paper through a little feed slit while disengaging the roller.

Mr. Johnson was asked to explain the advantages of CAASS Admin now being browser-based, he replied, "With the release of CAASS NG there will no longer be a need to install software on the user's computers. Users will only need to have access through the school's network to the centralized CAASS database server, which could reside at the District or could reside at a hosting company. As a browser-based module, CAASS Admin will require far less bandwidth to access the centralized server then it did as a desktop client. It also lends itself the possibility to be used from home without having to install CAASS on user's home computers.

CAASS NG (9.1) is now being alpha tested by a few schools. The full release of CAASS NG is scheduled for the beginning of February.

About Access411

Access411 provides software solutions and services, focusing exclusively on the needs of K-12 schools. Access411 offers a turnkey solution named Comprehensive, Attendance, Administration, and Security System (CAASS), that includes software, hardware, installation, training, and ongoing customer support. CAASS provides solutions to many of the challenges facing educators today, such as attendance, building and cafeteria access control, weapons detection, student progress and grade reporting, textbook management, BusScan, and student information management and analysis. More than 700,000 students use the CAASS solution daily.

Access411's breadth of experience spans from large school districts like New York City Public Schools to small school districts like Camden, NJ. Founded in 1996 as School Technology Management, the company was purchased in June 2006 by Morrison Consulting, Inc and began doing business as Access411. For more information, visit the company's website at www.access411.com.

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