



THOMAS MORE

Comparing real occupancy with the timetable at Thomas More. Lecture halls booked to capacity on paper, but often under a quarter full in practice: that was the gap Thomas More set out to close. Thomas More now has real-time and historical WiFi-based utilisation data across 26 buildings in 7 cities. Actual usage is compared against the timetable automatically, every night, giving the planning team automated reporting they can rely on. That data also supports trend analysis, with short-, medium- and long-term usage patterns tracked across 60 different programmes.

THE CHALLENGE

Thomas More faced a problem familiar to many education institutions: not every enrolled student actually shows up to class. At the same time, there's growing awareness that money spent on buildings that are only partially used could be better spent on education itself. The planning department knew attendance ran lower than enrolment figures suggested, but always had to plan with a wide margin to be safe. The result: lecture halls that looked fully booked on paper, but were often still under a quarter full in practice.



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THE SOLUTION

Four years ago, Kenny Vercauteren, Head of Planning at Thomas More, wanted to compare the timetable against the real, realised utilisation of classrooms and lecture halls. To start, a one-year pilot ran at Campus Geel, to establish whether WiFi-based occupancy data was accurate enough to be reliably compared against the schedule. Once that WiFi occupancy measurement proved sufficiently accurate, GoBright built a standard application to fully automate that timetable comparison.



THE RESULT

Thanks to GoBright's 12CU WiFi-based occupancy measurement, Thomas More now has both historical and real-time insight into how its 26 buildings across 7 cities are used. This occupancy data is automatically compared against the timetable every night. That gives the planning department visibility into short-, medium- and long-term usage trends across the 60 different programmes Thomas More offers. After three years of WiFi occupancy measurement, it has also become clear how strongly student numbers per programme have developed, both upward and downward.

