



Physical Security Interoperability Alliance

Newsletter

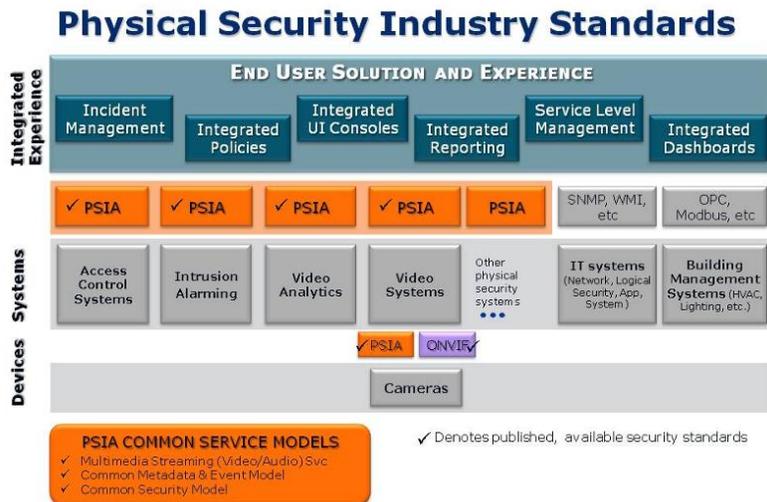
Dec 2011

The PSIA Defines Industry Standards

Reflect back to 2007...standards in the physical security were widely discussed, but the attempts to bring them to market were often discounted and not successful. In early 2008, a group of industry leaders met to find a way to address this issue. The result was the Physical Security Interoperability Alliance-the PSIA. Relying on an open and collaborative approach, technical teams initiated a rapid-fire sequence of events, which resulted in specifications to support camera interoperability, analytics, storage, access control, and intrusion, in just three years.

The PSIA approach to physical security has been endorsed by the leading system vendors in the market and is gaining mindshare among the specifier and customer communities. This was evident at the PSIA breakfast briefing at ASIS 2011. One of the important references was the graphic showing how the PSIA efforts and other industry efforts related to standards support the physical security industry.

The PSIA expects to expand on systems level specifications in the coming year, which may include additional security technologies and technologies that complement security systems.





Letter from the Executive Director

The PSIA has made impressive progress in the last year. Building on spec development that included IP video, analytics, systems, and Recording and Content Management (RaCM) from previous years, 2011 has added the Common Meta Data and Events Model (CMEM) spec, the Common Security Model (CSEC) spec, and the Area Control (Access/Intrusion) v1.0 spec.

The PSIA has been receiving affirmation in the market that our approach is what is needed. At ASIS, the PSIA held a breakfast briefing featuring specifiers and large end-users talking about what industry groups could do to support their physical security needs. James Connor, previously the security director at Symantec, now the CEO at N2N Secure, moderated a panel that included Mike Faddis, Program Manager for Microsoft's Security Group; Carlos Pinel, a Security Program Manager at Cisco; and Bill Minear, a Senior Consultant at TruSys.

Bringing together a group of consultants and large customers provided excellent perspective on what the market wants and needs. Mike Faddis commented, "We need to have standards and interoperability built in, so I don't have to change direction every 18 months or two years." Bill Minear said, "All systems need to work off one platform and network. With PSIA it's very exciting that they are working to make things interoperable...access control, video management, visitor management...I'll be able to satisfy my customers even more." Carlos Pinel noted, "Access Control systems needs to talk to network monitors, building management systems, digital signage, and other systems. Having PSIA help drive this will make our lives much easier."

We are confident that our newest specification, Area Control v1.0, which was released last month, will have significant ramifications in the market. Already Honeywell, Tyco, UTC (Lenel), Mercury Security, and Inovonics have announced plans to include this spec in products that will ship in 2012. A number of other companies, including Stanley (Sonitrol) and Assa Abloy, are committed to working with this specification in the next year.

The PSIA will be very active in 2012, educating customers about specifications that support system interoperability. Given the market reaction to our efforts this year, the coming year portends to be an exciting one for the PSIA. We encourage you to get involved and be part of the momentum that is building by our organization! Please look to our website www.psialliance.org for more information.

Best wishes for the holidays and the New Year!

David Bunzel
Executive Director
PSIA

PSIA Releases Area Control spec v.1.0

The Physical Security Interoperability Alliance (PSIA) has announced the release of its Area Control v1.0 specification. This specification will standardize the way access control and intrusion systems communicate with security systems so that any device supporting the PSIA specification can share common device drivers. The benefits to manufacturers, integrators, and customers is the elimination of custom coding, reducing costs. This is the fourth system-oriented specification from the PSIA, providing the most comprehensive set of integrated specifications for the industry.

The PSIA accomplished this with broad industry collaboration from leading companies in this domain, including ASSA ABLOY, Honeywell, Inovonics, Lenel, Mercury Security, NICE, Stanley Security (Sonitrol), UTC, and VidSys. "Considering that the leaders in this industry, representing more than two-thirds of the access control and intrusion systems market, were involved, we would expect this to be the industry standard," said David Bunzel, Executive Director of the PSIA.

Earlier this year, Honeywell, Tyco, and UTC announced products relying on the Area Control spec that would ship in 2012. Since then, both Inovonics and Lenel announced product plans to support the specification next year.

"This spec addresses some of the heavy lifting that needed to be supported by all manufacturers when integrating access and control products," said Mike Regelski, CTO of UTC Fire & Security-Global Security Products. "We have incorporated it into platforms for our Lenel and Interlogix product groups and expect it to be a strategic component of a number of other product lines."

The Area Control spec takes advantage of other PSIA specs, especially the Common Metadata and Events Model (CMEM). CMEM provides a comprehensive way to process the data received from various physical security devices. Harmonizing and sharing data between access control, intrusion, video, and analytics systems results in optimized and integrated security management.

"We support the Area Control spec because standardizing interaction between independent systems will benefit our entire industry." -commented Frank Gasztonyi, CEO of Mercury Security, the industry's leading supplier of open access control panels. "PSIA's work to develop open standards is consistent with our corporate philosophy and complements our future product plans."

"We see many great benefits to standardized interoperability for integrated security solutions," said Mark Jarman, president of Inovonics, a leader in wireless sensor network technology. "We support the industry's efforts to improve interoperability and will be implementing the new standard as we rollout new products during the coming year."

About PSIA

The Physical Security Interoperability Alliance is a global consortium of physical security manufacturers and integrators focused on promoting the interoperability of IP-enabled security devices across every segment of the industry. PSIA supports license-free standards and specifications, which are vetted in an open and collaborative manner to the industry as a whole. Specifications are developed through member and industry participation in five active working groups: IP Video, Video Analytics, Recording and Content Management, Area Control and Systems. To date, more than 1,700 industry professionals have downloaded PSIA's specifications.

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Physical Security Interoperability Alliance (PSIA)

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