



Physical Security Interoperability Alliance

Newsletter

November 2015

PSIA Announces Test Tool for PLAI Specification ***First Commercial Implementations in Market***

The Physical Security Interoperability Alliance (PSIA) has released the test tool for its Physical Logical Access Interoperability (PLAI) specification.

PLAI has provided an open and effective solution for dynamic identity management, allowing employee identities and roles defined or revoked in an authoritative logical identity system; these can automatically propagate to one or more PLAI-compliant physical access control systems (PACS). PLAI synchronizes physical and logical identity management and access control and standardizes functions that typically have required custom programming to achieve. The availability of test tools for PLAI will assure companies a reliable implementation and an integration of their identity management system.

Already there are commercial implementations of PLAI, with Corporate Executive Board (CEB) an example of a successful implementation of a PLAI compliant PACS. "CEB is already benefiting from PLAI, with easy on- and off-boarding of employees. Logical identities and roles are simply imported and mapped into the physical access ecosystem making it more secure and simpler to manage," said Kastle's CTO Mohammad Soleimani. There are also a number of additional large customers who are in final stages of PLAI integration.

Microsoft Global Security, the company's physical security operations group, manages more than 200,000 employees and contractors badges worldwide. It will deploy PLAI to integrate some of the inherited and disparate physical access control systems which came with recent acquisitions. "Microsoft Active Directory is the logical authoritative identity source at Microsoft. By using PLAI we can connect disparate systems and extend parts of our robust security model. This will significantly reduce or avoid the duplicate traditional support costs associated with different systems," says Mike Faddis, Director at Microsoft Global Security.

Additional Vendor/Customer Support

The PSIA also announced the release of its **PLAI Implementation Guide**, a step-by-step guide that will support vendors implementing the PLAI specification. "We've taken the experiences from other vendors who have implemented PLAI, along with our own experience with PACS and logical identities, and documented not only the technical aspects of how to implement a PLAI adapter, but also a range of other considerations that need to be incorporated into delivering PLAI as simply as possible," said Darren Bain, CTO of RightCrowd and chairman of the PLAI work group.

In addition, the PSIA has expanded its FAQ's on the organization's web site. "We have compiled the questions most frequently asked about PLAI and provided them in a format that should satisfy any potential customer with interest in implementing the spec in their organization," said David Bunzel, the Executive Director of the PSIA. For more information on PLAI, please connect to the [All About PLAI](#) link.

Did you miss the Webinar?

Dynamic Identity Management in the Enterprise: PLAI



WATCH NOW!

The PSIA has been involved in developing one of the most important innovations in open source identity management, its Physical Logical Access Interoperability (PLAI) spec. The PSIA webinar features case studies reviewing an implementation by Corporate Executive Board and one in progress by Microsoft Security.

PLAI offers real time event streaming of data with location, which is secure and internet-enabled. This provides connectivity to data about who did what, where, and when...thus enabling the physical access control system to seamlessly integrate and enhance decision making with other systems in an enterprise. In addition, for end-users with multiple physical access control systems, the PLAI profile provides a means of harmonizing identity and role-based access control across the enterprise. This permits a single administrator to simultaneously issue and manage a unique identity across multiple, disparate access control systems in different physical locations.

You are invited to watch this special event which will provide the opportunity to learn more about how end-users are utilizing the PLAI spec to improve the efficiency and security of their environments.

Executive Director Letter

November 2015

Communication is one of the more critical parts of a thriving civilization. Throughout history, the ability to standardize on languages or to be able to communicate and translate foreign tongues distinguished important civilizations. The Roman Empire relied on Latin and in the last century English has become the de-facto standard for commerce and travel. The advent of the internet introduced a data civilization where some enlightened minds recognized the need for a standard means of data and communication. Collaboration and open standards were viewed as essential for proliferation of the internet and TCP/IP became the lingua franca for internet communication.



The physical security industry was slow to recognize the need for standards, but as internet protocol (IP) enabled devices started proliferating in the market, this became more important. In 2008, the PSIA was formed, recognizing the need for a common language for security products, based on open standards, which could also support a wide range of services. Initially we addressed the need for devices to be recognized and communicate with systems and we introduced the first open standards-based API for security cameras. We followed with open standards to support storage devices and subsequently area control (access control and intrusion) products and systems.

Our efforts in area control suggested a need for a standard to support identity management. The PSIA's Physical Logical Access Interoperability (PLAI) standard was developed, which also established a platform for other enterprise services that will enhance a company's operations even beyond security. Managing occupancy, heating, cooling, lighting, and even copier usage are already services where PSIA members are working on extensions to PLAI, leveraging off our initial efforts.

In 2015, we have seen commercial implementations of PLAI and in 2016 we will build on this success by demonstrating additional services that are available with PLAI. Join us in this effort!

Best wishes to you in the holiday season!

David Bunzel

Be Social with Us!



Help us spread the word about the PSIA by re-tweeting our tweets, following our blog and forwarding this copy of our newsletter to peers you think would be interested in learning more about how the PSIA specifications are building true plug-and-play interoperability throughout the physical security industry and beyond.

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 2100 industry professionals have downloaded PSIA's specifications.

[Visit our website at www.psialliance.org](http://www.psialliance.org)

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