Physical Security Interoperability Alliance

Newsletter November 2016

First PLAI White Paper Released

Use case focuses on synchronization of disparate PACS

The PSIA has released its first in a series of white papers relating to its Physical Logical Access Interoperability (PLAI) specification. The initial application of PLAI was to provide for the normalization of data between different PACS systems, allowing dynamic synchronization of user information and permissions. This offers significant benefits to companies making acquisitions, where the PACS systems may be different, and to commercial office buildings, with tenants having PACS systems which are incompatible with each other.

PLAI is an open standard, which relies on other common industry specification such as Lightweight Directory Access Protocol version 3 (LDAPv3), the widely adopted protocol, to unify logical and physical identities and uses Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) to provide access privileges to PACS at the enterprise level.

The benefits of PLAI include significant costs savings on API development, plug-and-play integration without needing custom code solutions, and the ability to minimize custom interface maintenance costs when application software is upgraded.

Harmonizing Identity Data for a Plug-and-Play Integration Solution

A white paper for corporate security system integrators

Microsoft Global Security Chooses PLAI

Microsoft Global Security (MGS), an active PSIA member, has been a participant in the organization's standards and interoperability activities for several years. When Microsoft acquired Nokia's phone business in 2013, they faced the challenge of scaling 25,000 additional identities, which included employees and contractors, across a global company footprint. With this acquisition, Microsoft needed to share identity information from an authoritative source (Active Directory) to the acquired PACS systems and guarantee appropriate physical access privileges for traveling employees across various sites.

MGS relied on RightCrowd, a PACS integration company, to implement PLAI and unify the two PACS systems with HR and IT management systems and manage the transition to Microsoft's new identity management system. RightCrowd utilized the PLAI standard interface to meet Microsoft's needs today and support future industry applications.

Industry Momentum

There are a growing number of enterprise companies which have implemented commercial versions of PLAI in their facilities. PACS Integration Companies (PICs) and security integrators such as Convergint and Tech Systems are actively promoting PLAI and are finding application in a variety of vertical markets including higher education, utilities, finance, health care, industrial, and energy industries.

There are additional applications of PLAI, supporting cyber-security, visitor management, and building management, with relevant use cases which offer significant opportunities to enhance security and reduce costs for enterprise customers.

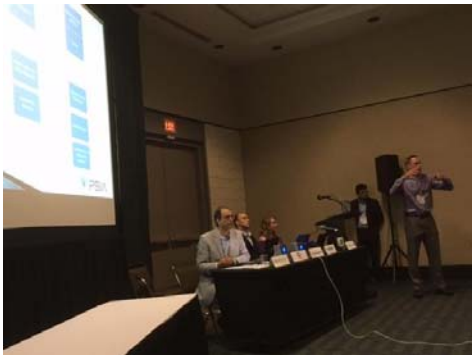
From the Executive Director

PSIA Demo at ASIS 2016

PLAI offers solutions for Cybersecurity and Building Management

The PSIA was able to showcase continued technical development of its Physical Logical Access Interoperability (PLAI) specification at ASIS 2016 in Orlando. Two important use cases were demonstrated relating to building automation and cyber-security.

PSIA member Tridium, was able to show how PLAI can integrate with BACnet, one of the more important open standards in the building automation industry. Tridium was able to demonstrate how access control data can be normalized in a building control system, allowing integration of temperature control and lighting systems. Integrating access control with building controls has the potential to provide a substantial value to enterprise customers, allowing facility managers to increase efficiency while providing occupant comfort and safety.



AlertEnterprise!, another PSIA member, demonstrated an exciting new application for the PLAI profile, providing critical infrastructure protection from cyber-attacks. External cyber-attacks are one of the issues currently challenging security professionals and it is getting significant attention in the industry. The PSIA demo featured a use case where people must be physically present and badged into an area of a facility before they can make any changes to process control systems.

These two uses cases complement the fundamental aspects of PLAI:- harmonization of identities and credentials across different PACS systems based upon an authoritative logical identity source. An active discussion of PLAI, its potential applications, and benefits to the security industry took place after the demo, showing strong interest and momentum for this specification.

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
Physical Security Interoperability Alliance (PSIA)

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