Physical Security Interoperability Alliance

From the Executive Director

Exciting Times for the PSIA

Dear PSIA Members and Friends:

Earlier this summer, we held officer elections, and the PSIA board selected Mohammad Soleimani, executive vice president and CTO of Kastle Systems, as the new PSIA chairman; and Joshua Jackson, director, global product integration for STANLEY Security, as vice chairman.

Mohammad heads all development and IT efforts at Kastle. He has worked closely with the PSIA Board for more than five years, helping to identify industry needs for new and enhanced PSIA specifications. Mohammad has led some key development efforts to address those needs, from the Access Control and Intrusion Detection profiles to the Physical-Logical Access Interoperability (PLAI) profile, currently in development. He was also instrumental in helping the PSIA architect and develop a set of compliance/conformance tools for the Area Control Work Group.

Josh is responsible for driving product integration strategies and partnership efforts at STANLEY Security. That role makes him well equipped to educate the security industry further about the compelling business case for standards-based interoperability. He is charged with expanding our member base and helping members define migration strategies for adopting PSIA specifications.

Together with the other PSIA board members, Mohammad and Josh

make a formidable team, building on the foundation strengthened by our former chairman, Larry Lien, and vice chairman, Marine Drive. Both Larry and Marine have moved on to exciting ventures outside the security industry; Larry will lead product marketing for a software company specializing in incident resolution. Marine has taken on a new role within Honeywell, directing engineering efforts for an emerging line of mobility products.

With our new leadership team in place, and exciting developments on the horizon, the PSIA is positioned for an exciting autumn. If you haven't already, now is the time to join the PSIA and be part of the security industry's leading standards development group.

Best regards,

David Bunzel
Executive Director, the PSIA

Ready for PLAI

The PSIA's Physical-Logical Access Interoperability (PLAI) specification has achieved several important milestones less than a year after our new chairman, Mohammad Soleimani, executive vice president and CTO of Kastle Systems, proposed its framework and led the formation of the PLAI Working Group.

PLAI enables employee identities and roles defined or revoked in an authoritative logical identity system to automatically propagate to one or more PLAI-compliant physical access control systems (PACS). PLAI synchronizes physical and logical identities and streamlines and standardizes functions that typically have required custom programming to achieve, including

- Compatibility with PACS from multiple vendors.
- Enabling initial registration of an employee from an authoritative source (IT or HR logical directory) through to multiple vendors' PACS.
- Drawing on role-based privileges at the authoritative source and propagating this logical privilege data throughout multiple PACS.
- Propagating the credential (card) information of an employee from one PACS to others, thus supporting enhanced access control at multiple facilities.
- Easily invoking and revoking physical access privileges in multiple PACS.

PLAI asserts roles defined by an authoritative source (HR or IT) so these roles do not need to be redefined in the PACS. The use of a single authoritative source by multiple PLAI-enabled PACS ensures the validity and synchronization of an employee's physical and logical identity data.

PSIA Executive Director David Bunzel, PSIA Chairman Mohammad Soleimani, and

PSIA Vice Chairman Josh Jackson will have limited availability for appointments to discuss PLAI capabilities at the annual ASIS conference and exhibits in Atlanta, September 29-October 2. If you are a systems manufacturer or have a client that would be interested in learning more about implementing PLAI, please contact Debbie Maguire, PSIA Executive Administrator at dmaguire@psialliance.org, to schedule an appointment.

Note from the Chairman

Of Specifications, Security, and Ecosystems

It is with great excitement that I step into the role of chairman of the PSIA. Kastle Systems and I have long supported the PSIA because doing so will help to grow our business. The more PSIA specifications are adopted in key security systems-from area control to video to sensors to identity-the more serious the role these systems can play in enterprise IT ecosystems.

Business leaders today are heavily influencing IT's technology buying decisions. Those decision makers' choices are shaped by the technology they use in their personal lives: data-driven websites that customize product and service offerings with powerful analytics; social sites that speed the flow of information, product reviews and personal opinion; mobile devices, such as smart phones and tablets from which they can conduct business, make purchases and communicate, not just with colleagues and family but with their cars, cable boxes and home appliances.

What's that to do with security systems? Everything: Our industry is not immune to this uber-connectivity and "consumerism" that is blurring boundaries among types of systems and applications-and who in the enterprise controls them. If our industry's systems, tools and data cannot easily interoperate with complementary enterprise systems, we can expect new competitors to emerge with offerings that will. (For example, take note of Google's acquisition of NEST.)

Physical security vendors have been actively discussing physical/logical convergence for a number of years. The PSIA has taken a leading role in developing a standards-based approach to address this need. A year ago, I proposed standards to support credential management, resulting in our PLAI initiative. This specification, which allows the convergence of logical and physical systems, could be a game-changer in organizations, resulting in enhanced security and lower costs.

The PSIA will offer additional compelling implementations of how our specifications will make physical security products more competitive. Kastle supports the PSIA because our clients want security solutions that can interoperate with other enterprise systems, from environmental controls to

analytics. Only the PSIA has the specifications to accomplish meaningful data and intelligence sharing among such disparate systems.

The PSIA board and I look forward to demonstrating these capabilities with our proposed Physical-Logical Access Interoperability specification. We also continue our work in Area Control and HVAC. It is a wonderful time to help guide the PSIA's technology directions, and I look forward to this opportunity.

Mohammad Soleimani
Chairman, the PSIA
Executive Vice President & CTO, Kastle Systems

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.

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Visit our website at www.psialliance.org
Physical Security Interoperability Alliance (PSIA)

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