



Physical Security Interoperability Alliance

Newsletter

October 2013



The PSIA: Reaching Critical Mass

From its inception, the PSIA's vision was to create specifications that would enable plug-and-play interoperability across the entire security ecosystem and beyond. We could clearly see how businesses were demanding more systems flexibility, easier maintenance and lower total cost of ownership. The optimal way to achieve that is to offer a variety of specifications enabling systems, not just devices, to easily exchange data and intelligence.

Taking that systems-level approach to interoperability required the PSIA to create a variety of working groups- and it's taken time to develop robust specs that address broad industry issues and then have those specs tested and vetted by a range of our members.

Now our specs- and members- are poised to be a powerful force across the security industry. First, several large vendors are preparing to release PSIA-compliant versions of their products later this year and early next.

Further, we are making it easier for vendors to comply with some of our mature specifications and also launching new specification development efforts in areas that complement security. To wit:

- We are preparing to release Version 2.0 of our Area Control spec, and test tools for our Access Control Profile and our Intrusion Profile.
- Our new Physical/Logical Access Interoperability Working Group launched at ASIS and has seen strong participation in its initial meetings.
- We've formed an Off-Line Lock Profile Ad Hoc Group.
- We are creating profiles for the Recording and Content Management

(RaCM) and the Analytics specifications, a significant step in increasing vendor adoption of these.

- Our System specs have all been updated to version 2.0. These include our Service Model, Common Metadata and Events Model, and Common Security Model.

These specifications perform as advertised. At our ASIS event, Cisco's internal Safety and Security Team demonstrated a solution built on PSIA specifications featuring two cameras, an access control system, and a wireless intrusion system. The products were from Lenel, Arecont, Hikvision, Inovonics and Mercury. Cisco's internal security professionals emphasized the ease of the integration of these tools.

It is clear the security industry looks to the PSIA to solve interoperability issues. Our influence is growing. Now is the time for companies to join the PSIA to shape how our industry achieves interoperability. It's also time for our members to fully implement PSIA specifications.

If you need to know more about how easy our specifications are to implement, please send a note to Debbie Maguire at dmaguire@psialliance.org, and I'll arrange a call with you. We are on the cusp of achieving critical mass and making ours the pre-eminent specifications throughout the security ecosystem. Your organization should be one of the catalysts.

Best regards,

David Bunzel
Executive Director, the PSIA

Area Control Version 2.0, New Test Tools, Available Soon

The PSIA's Area Control Working Group is readying Version 2.0 of that specification for release. This upgrade will incorporate Access Control and Intrusion Detection Profiles into the specification.

PSIA member companies have had an early opportunity to implement the original Area Control Specification. In fact, Inovonics did so in its EN6080 wireless access control gateway, which won awards at ISC West and ASIS.

Area Control Version 2.0 likely will be available to all companies interested in it, though the PSIA will only certify compliance with the specification for its members.

Area Control Specification Version 2.0 will segment the PSIA's rich and deep specification into profiles for different disciplines, such as Access Control, Intrusion Detection and Offline Locks. Vendors will be able to use the PSIA Conformance Tool and appropriate test scripts to conduct conformance testing for each separate profile.

These profiles and test tools will enable a wide range of vendors focusing

on specific industry disciplines within Area Control to become PSIA-compliant more easily.

The Inovonics gateway incorporates the Intrusion Profile. We expect to see our first full implementation of the Access Control Profile in a commercially available system in December 2013.

Physical and Logical Access Interoperability (PLAI) Working Group Launches

The PSIA's new Physical and Logical Access Interoperability (PLAI) Working Group launched at ASIS, with Mohammad Soleimani, CTO, Kastle Systems, leading the first meeting of the group. The PLAI's objective is to enable seamless management of credentials and identity between IT and security systems.

The group has prepared a paper describing the security and administration issues surrounding physical and logical access interoperability and the business case for solving those issues with a specification. The paper is available [here](#).

In addition to Kastle Systems, other PLAI members include Brivo, HID Global, Honeywell, Microsoft Global Security, Stanley Security and UTC/Lenel. The group had its initial meeting during ASIS, and this month, Kastle hosted another meeting at its headquarters near Washington, D.C. The group will have a regular weekly conference call at 11:00 Eastern beginning Wednesday, November 6. For more information about joining, please contact Debbie Maguire at dmaguire@psialliance.org.

Embracing Digital Transformation via Standards

Talk about critical mass: Social, mobile, analytics and cloud technologies form the technological quartet that is transforming- or disrupting, depending on your perspective- how business is conducted.

Gartner, Forrester, IBM, Accenture and others say businesses must use these ubiquitous technologies to reshape fundamental business processes- to save costs, be more productive, fend off upstart competitors and deliver better customer experiences- or go the ways of Blockbuster, Kodak, Borders, etc. The security industry is not immune to the effects of this imperative.

Security system vendors must think beyond the security realm to how the data and intelligence their systems create could be used by other enterprise systems, from supply chain management to enterprise resource planning to customer relationship management. Further, when our systems communicate in a common language, we can better control how information from them is shared with other systems. That means we can be open, yet still secure.



This is not theory. The PSIA's rich, robust set of proven specifications enable interoperability among every major security function as well as building automation and enterprise IT systems. At the PSIA's Enterprise User Interoperability Showcase at ASIS, Cisco Systems' internal security professionals demonstrated how they can control PSIA-compliant video and access control systems remotely using a tablet app they built based on PSIA specifications.

The bottom line? Enhancing commercial products with PSIA specifications puts the security industry on a firm foundation for embracing new technologies. Energy now given to custom interfaces and API development can focus on incorporating data analytics, social network style collaboration, and mobile support. PSIA-compliant tools and services become more efficient and less expensive even as they gain rich features and flexibility.

That's a strong, future-oriented competitive position from which to take on new industry entrants or to partner with companies offering technology that complements security systems.

Ensure your organization has the flexibility to embrace digital transformation and avoid digital disruption: make PSIA compliance part of your competitive position today.

Best,

Larry Lien
Chairman, the PSA
Vice President, Product Management, Proximex

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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