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Physical Security Interoperability Alliance Newsletter

PSIA Launches New Site
Increased focus on identity management

The Physical Security Interoperability Alliance (PSIA), one of the pioneers of open standards for the security industry, announces its new web site. "Over the ten years of our involvement in the industry, we have seen significant changes," noted David Bunzel, Executive Director of the PSIA. "We started the open standards efforts with the first video API, but have evolved to support one of the more critical elements of security–identity management. Refreshing our site to reflect this was an important initiative for this year."

The new site features responsive design, allowing access on a wide variety of mobile devices, a more important factor for many of the companies interested in the activities of the PSIA. The structure and user interface have been optimized to allow easier and more intuitive navigation.

The PSIA's Physical Logical Access Interoperability (PLAI) specification is featured, with a wide range of resources to educate and support enterprise customers, vendors, and integrators. There are explainer videos to demonstrate the use cases; FAQ's addressing common questions; and a developer's implementation pack to ease adoption of the spec. In addition, there is an area devoted to vendors' who have implemented PSIA specifications. This will provide consultants and integrators with an easy reference to products compliant with the spec.

"We are finding growing interest from enterprise companies in identity management and rationalizing their systems. PLAI represents a cost-effective and efficient way to normalize data across disparate PACS systems," said Bunzel. "Supporting this with easy-to-find resources on the new site is a perfect complement to our technical efforts." You can see the new site at www.psialliance.org.

For more information on joining the PSIA, click the link.
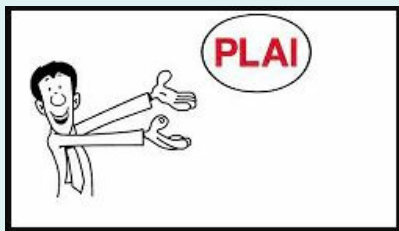
PLAI Animation Video 2
Managing Conflict Resolution

The Physical Security Interoperability Alliance (PSIA) has introduced its second explainer video relating to its Physical Logical Access Interoperability (PLAI) spec. The initial video demonstrated PLAI and one of its most important use cases– normalizing data and synchronizing identities between disparate Physical Access Control systems (PACS). This second video addresses one of the more important characteristics of PLAI– eliminating identity conflict.

"Conflict resolution is one of the more critical issues with enterprise security system management today," said David Bunzel, Executive Director of the PSIA. "PLAI is able to address this by having all PACS in a security environment having only one common trusted source, which is able to create, modify, and terminate employee records in an organization."

The video has a brief discussion on the difference between identities and credentials and then provides a clear, illustrated description of how PLAI addresses conflict resolution. "We are using these videos to educate and support not only the enterprise customers, but also consultants and integrators who will find significant benefits supporting PLAI.

You can see the new video at PLAI Animation 2.

Enhanced PSIA Test Tools Available

Tools can now be downloaded on our new website: All About PLAI

The PSIA announces an enhanced set of test tools for the PLAI specification. The driver behind updating the tool is to make it as easy and intuitive as possible for vendors to adopt the standards. "Effective test tools are critical for a specification to achieve true interoperability," said David Bunzel, Executive Director of the PSIA. "We recognized that as the PLAI specification has evolved we needed to advance our tools to complement it."

The PSIA collaborated with **Cruatech**, a Dublin, Ireland based firm, which has been active in the security industry, working with a wide range of customers on software services and integrations. **Cruatech** not only upgraded the tools to support the current version of the PLAI specification, but also added an enhanced user interface, which provides more information and in a graphical format, which will be easier to use by developers.

Cruatech will provide support for the tools to assure they effectively comply with the PLAI specification. "By creating a standard process and backing it up with code samples and documentation we hope that manufacturers will achieve compliance and begin seeing the commercial benefits sooner," said David King, Managing Director of **Cruatech**.