SENTRYINTERACTIVE

Q&A: PKOC Leading the Way on Open Standards for Secure Credentials
A conversation with Doordeck's Head of Product, Marwan Kathayer

Q: Marwan, tell us about your background and how you entered the security industry.

A: I had a background in secure banking solutions, which I was able to leverage into **Doordeck,** which I co-founded. We determined there had to be a better solution for a more open, developer-friendly way to build secure access. From the outset we focused on **open APIs and SDKs** so integrators and app teams could plug access control into their own experiences without being locked into one stack. In **2021**, Doordeck was acquired by **Sentry Interactive**, which expanded our market reach and gave us deeper visibility into enterprise needs across access control.

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Q: For those new to Doordeck, how did the company get started, and what's the relationship with Sentry Interactive?

A: Doordeck began with a dilemma…I had a friend who had a health challenge and needed to give care providers access to his home. Another developer friend and I decided to find a way to remotely access his garage door opener to enable it to be opened by people that needed access. Because of our banking experience, we recognized this needed to be secure and limited to specific people. This brought us into the access control industry. One of our early philosophies was that access control should be **open and API-first**. Joining Sentry Interactive let us scale that vision.

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Q: What brought you to PKOC?

A:We were drawn to **PKOC** because it aligns perfectly with our mission: an **open, public-key credential** that lets different wallets, cards, readers, and systems interoperate, giving developers and customers **more choice with less lock-in**.

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Q: From your customers' perspective, what are the biggest advantages of PKOC?

A: Interoperability and freedom of choice. PKOC's open specification and public-key trust model make it easier to combine **multiple credential apps**, **reader brands**, and **physical cards,** without proprietary gateways. That means simpler rollouts, healthier vendor competition, and the ability to standardize on a credential that works across sites and systems.

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Q: Have you been involved in any real-world PKOC deployments yet?

A: We're **implementing our network to support PKOC**, and we're advocates for the ecosystem. We are participating with **Deloitte Canada** in their implementation of PKOC.

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Q: What role does Doordeck play in enabling the transition to mobile, open credentials?

A: We're working with **Johnson Controls** and **C-CURE** to enable **Deloitte Canada** to provision secure mobile **phone NFC credentials** via our SDK—so users can **enroll once** and unlock doors **without physical hand-offs**. Our plan is to support **mass enrollment** across companies, giving **Deloitte** the option to use their **app or ours**, with **tiles or readers** used interchangeably at the door.

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Q: There's a lot of talk about being "quantum-ready." How does that factor into your roadmap?

A: We believe the industry **can't wait**; **quantum preparedness** needs to be part of the plan now. As open standards like PKOC evolve, we expect them to incorporate modern cryptographic guidance so systems can migrate smoothly as the threat landscape changes.

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Q: Where is credentialing headed over the next few years?

A: The trend is clear: **mobile credentials will overtake physical**—we anticipate that shift happening within **five to ten years**, with steady acceleration over the next **three to five** as enrollment gets easier and security improves.

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Q: Final thoughts?

A: We're optimistic. If larger access-control players **embrace open standards** like PKOC, the whole market benefits—customers, integrators, and developers alike—and innovation moves faster.

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