Corporate Security Requires an Integrated Approach

BY MICHAEL RONEY

In today’s world, a multidimensional corporate security strategy has never been more essential for protecting physical assets, intellectual property and human life. The globalization of business means that companies often have offices in far-flung locations where local laws, public safety and political unrest create risk. Even on home soil, the threats of workplace violence, active shooters and terrorism call for more-sophisticated and coordinated vigilance, while the growing threat of cybercrime adds another layer of vulnerability to critical organizational assets.

The key to effectively managing corporate security in this new era lies in fully integrating safety procedures and processes with a broad technology platform designed to detect risks and intervene at an early stage to ensure a corporation’s resilience. A large part of that approach is credentialing, access control and enhanced situational awareness.

“Deployment of standardized and integrated security systems is now possible on a global scale,” says Renae Leary, Vice-President, Global Accounts, Tyco. “This has been enabled with IP-based technology and global integrators. Embarking on a global security program delivers higher levels of security in a more cost-effective way. As a result, we are seeing more global companies centralizing their security programs.”

Managing Credentialing and Access

As more industries look to outsource key services as a way to save money, they face the new challenge of how to manage the third parties that come into their facilities. The challenge facing corporate security is how to adequately vet these visitors and ensure they meet the security requirements to enter certain areas of the facility. IntelliCentrics is uniquely suited for that challenge, due to its in-depth knowledge of best practices from the security industry. As the name suggests, its approach is based on the concept of intelligent concentric circles of security—one of the oldest principles of security. Whether you’re focused on vendors, visitors or employees, its system allows you to customize the requirements based on the individual’s role.

“In the past, security has been defined by who must be kept out. Today, our intelligent approach helps organizations determine who is allowed to proceed, for what purpose and to which destination,” explains Mike Sheehan, CEO of IntelliCentrics, Inc., a leader in operational security and compliance management services. The Dallas-based company built its reputation in healthcare, one of the most complex and highly regulated industries, and has an installed base of 6,000 facilities and nearly 500,000 users.

Hospitals have countless streams of people walking in and out of their facilities every day. To improve security and protect their patients, hospitals need to know who these visitors are and why they are there. Additionally, hospitals carry large inventories of valuable medications and equipment, raising the risk of theft. Controlling access to hospital supplies through criminal background checks and drug tests is critical to reducing these costs.

“IntelliCentrics helps organizations in industries such as healthcare, transportation, and oil and gas ensure that visitors meet the security requirements,” explains Sheehan. “These requirements may include proof of liability insurance, competency, training and background checks, among others. We help organizations convey policies, obtain and manage credentials, and extend privileges to these individuals.”

Realizing it is not always convenient for people to go to a central location to check...
Gotta love talking to people on Monday who are already on Tuesday

Thailand office goes live Thursday

How many countries is that now? Seventeen or eighteen?

On how many systems?

Wish all our security systems spoke the same language

Really hope IT got all the software integrated

Tough to get things done in real-time across time zones

Gotta love talking to people on Monday who are already on Tuesday

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into a facility, IntelliCentrics offers a mobile app that allows smaller clinics and doctors’ offices to quickly and cost-effectively utilize the IntelliCentrics’ vendor credentialing system without requiring a kiosk or badge printer.

### Improving Situational Awareness With Integration

Situational awareness—the ability to see, understand and respond in a coordinated manner to intrusions at any facility—depends on the seamless integration of multiple security systems. For example, the Proximex unit of Tyco Security Products, a group of world-leading access control, video, location-based security and intrusion brands, offers Surveillint™, which can be integrated with the Control Room Management Suite (CMS) from Barco, a leader in enterprise visualization and collaboration.

In this scenario, security personnel can easily select particular camera sources to display in predefined areas on Barco CMS-powered video walls and displays, enhancing the decision-making process and shortening reaction times. Tyco’s Elpas Triple Technology Active Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system integrates fully with Impinj Speedway RFID readers and can alert users when assets leave their designated areas or when supply inventory levels deviate from user-defined levels. Similarly, Tyco’s Kantech Intevo Compact security platforms unify access control, IP video and intrusion detection for small- to medium-size enterprises.

Products such as these not only provide a single, centralized environment to help mitigate risk, ensure compliance and offer a quick ROI, but also can be tailored to individual users and industries—including those that require the most comprehensive of command and control platforms for total system management. “Our customers range from aviation and government, to healthcare, education, manufacturing, retail and residential—from the smallest of businesses and residences to large corporate or industrial customers requiring the highest levels of protection,” says Mike Ryan, President of Tyco Security Products. “With our expanded portfolio of purpose-built solutions, we can offer customers a diverse array of options to meet their very specific security objectives, instead of the typical one-size-fits-all approach.”

### Enhancing Security Metrics

Metrics that integrated security systems generate and track are also part of the security equation for hospitals and other industries. “Organizations need analytics in order to track the ROI these solutions provide,” Sheehan notes. “As security and risk management converge, these same resources provide a way to quantify the lower risk levels, which traditionally has been a time-consuming manual process.”

Technology-generated metrics will continue to evolve. The emergence of cloud-based technology, along with sensors such as cameras, facial recognition and biometric scanners, increasingly will allow operators to remotely and intelligently monitor the data required to make proactive determinations for security metrics.

### The Human Element

Balancing physical security, including access control, video surveillance and intrusion systems, with credentialing and best practices provides complete visibility of all people that come and go in a facility, whether it is a hospital, an office building or an industrial facility. Yet there is one more element required: an educated and committed organizational culture.

“Many leaders don’t realize that security is an issue that requires commitment from everyone,” says Sheehan. “Ultimately, it requires a culture of inclusion and vigilance that permeates the organization, as well as the tools to operationalize a watchful attitude. Everyone in the organization is responsible for helping keep the workplace safe and secure, and that is the way to create a lasting safety net of security around your operations.”

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