

Case Study:

# The Security Industry Shift to Integrated Solutions

The options for buying and installing integrated security solutions have never been more exciting. A broad range of access control, intruder alarm and CCTV systems can be incorporated to provide highly proficient, reliable and yet cost-effective security coverage for any type or size of facility. Industry standardization and compatibility have transformed the security market and whilst offering users much greater choice, these developments have also meant that a new raft of IT/Physical Security professionals have emerged to meet the technology-hungry demands of end users. Security solutions manufacturer [TDSi](#) is at the forefront of this industry shift, offering the security market exactly what it wants.

## Software is driving security evolution

TDSi has been one of the manufacturers at the forefront of the security integration revolution since its beginnings a few years ago. Much of the evolutionary process has concentrated on software development as much as more traditional hardware advances. As well as powering a new generation of integrated door locks and controllers, the latest generations of integrated software also provide options to incorporate and use many 'legacy' systems such as intruder alarms and even analogue CCTV cameras. TDSi's [EXgarde PRO 4.2](#) offers these advantages through integration not only with its own [VUgarde2](#) IP CCTV VMS software but also through [Milestone's](#) video management software solutions. It also operates directly with [Texecom's](#) Premier and Premier Elite range of intruder alarms, and [ASSA ABLOY's](#) Aperio™ wireless locking technology - to offer a selection of highly usable and beneficial integration possibilities which are all centralised through one software portal. By using an IP connection to co-ordinate all these elements and with the added compatibility to Microsoft's Active Directory, TDSi offers a solution that can run at the heart of an even previously disparate set of security and building control systems (even over a number of sites), to offer a fully integrated and managed solution that is straightforward to install and use.

## **Biometrics add strict protocols with convenience**

Traditionally biometrics security usually meant using a fingerprint reader. This venerable solution is still in common use today and TDSi offers a range of readers that incorporate this technology and also combine it with alternative methods, such as swipe cards and PIN access, in its DIGIgarde PLUS reader. But there are now a growing number of potential uses for biometrics systems and alternative solutions that offer options for most uses.

Many alternative biometrics systems are in development, with palm vein detection and even heartbeat recognition readers still considered niche at the moment, but will potentially be in far more widespread use in the near future.

## **Cloud Storage offers greater flexibility**

Cloud-based security raised a few eyebrows when it was first muted - but like other cloud-based applications it is growing in popularity and now offers a highly secure way of integrating different security and building's security systems. Networking the different components via an Internet connection takes the onus off localised hardware (or on-site servers, with their potential implications for physical security and hosting requirements) to store information and ensures that installation is rapid and straightforward. It also means that a high degree of the maintenance and problem-solving can be performed remotely, with protocol updates being rolled out automatically.

## **Near Field Communications promise to transform user security participation**

Mobile devices and smartphones have already transformed the way people work and live and the rapid adoption of Near Field Communications (NFC) in these devices looks set to bring them to the fore with security applications as well. Stand-Alone locks are particularly well-suited to the use of NFC-enabled mobile devices and there are a number of advantages from their use, both for users and the organisations using them for security. For users an NFC 'key' can be shared rapidly by the security team and most users will be carrying their mobile device anyway, so it saves carrying a set of keys/tokens or having to remember a PIN or password. For the security team it also means rapid deployment of NFC 'keys' without the inconvenience and cost of having to provide a physical one. It also means the NFC authorisation can be rescinded rapidly and easily if required, preventing entry if the security circumstances change (for example, an employment may be dismissed or the mobile device may have been stolen or lost).

At the moment NFC is more common in the consumer environment but history has shown (with smart devices themselves for example) that consumer adoption often translates to business use. It's an ideal time for installers and security providers to consider future use and to encourage security buyers to think about it as a potentially sound security investment too.

## Security doesn't just have to be about prevention

Many security systems are, rightly so, geared towards preventing intruders from attempting to gain entry. However there are also options to catch intruders if they have managed to breach the initial defences, such as TDSi's [Tailgate Detectors](#) and [People Counters](#). Each solution is a highly useful part of any integrated security system - but used in combination they can alert the security team to intruders looking to make clandestine unauthorised access. Equally, the People Counter can be used to check Time and Attendance records or to compile data on the usual of certain facilities when looking at power, heating and ventilation needs for example.

## TDSi offers all your integrated security solutions in one place

The security sector is a rapidly changing and expanding one and TDSi's aim is to constantly look forward and offer its customers products and services that address not on current requirements, but also those that will be relevant in the future as well - offering maximum return on investment and value for money. As well as centralised software management systems and access controller systems, TDSi also offers a full range of readers, cards and fobs, IP CCTV systems and a full catalogue of security accessories that provide a complete solution for any security project, large or small. TDSi operates worldwide, already supplying robust, reliable and best-value quality products to thousands of customers of all sizes. The company works with partners throughout Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia, jointly providing customers with expert installation, maintenance and advice on all security needs.

**For more information on how we can help you, contact TDSi today**