

# Command and control

Lynsey Jenkins of Boston Networks argues that deploying an integrated security solution is both benefit rich and budget friendly

▶ 2013 saw a decrease in the cost of IP technology and the integration between previously proprietary systems – namely CCTV and access control – is becoming more and more common.

## SMART THINKING

Perhaps then it is no surprise then that Frost and Sullivan recently published a report detailing the increase in awareness and considerable growth of the biometrics market. This is also on the back of news that key industry manufacturers are set to diversify their portfolios to provide smarter surveillance and access control technologies.

Multiple system integration will continue to be a key market driver and the benefits are undeniable whether at point of construction or as part of an IP migration strategy. An access control system can act as a centralised security management system, delivering a powerful command and control platform to manage multiple system alarms, including:

- Access control
- CCTV
- Perimeter detection
- Intruder
- Fire

## COST EFFECTIVE

Furthermore, integration can streamline installation and make full use of legacy systems to deliver robust, scalable and cost effective solutions. So what else is driving the shift towards integration and the increasing adoption of IP security?

### • Falling cost of IP technology

IP security technology has seen dramatic reductions in price over the past few years due to the increasing levels of competition between manufacturers and the seemingly boundless progression of technologies.

### • Remote services

The capacity to enable and disable user's access to specific areas of buildings or entire campuses remotely has granted organisations significantly higher levels



An integrated security system delivers real time business information



of security. Remote services can allow controllers to simply isolate an intruder or restrict access to an entire building.

### • Mobile access

The unprecedented, global growth of mobile devices and applications has been fully utilised by the security market to offer users mobile access to analytics and critical footage, thus enabling preventative and reactive measures to be actionable in real time.

## FEATURE PACKED

With rapidly evolving access control products combining IP readers and controllers, intercom functionality and remote applications, the market seems set for a rapid evolution.

The latest access control products are offering an entirely multifaceted access control experience from both a user and operators perspective. With the utilisation of new technologies and the increasing

capabilities for multiple system integrations, common access control complexities can be reduced whilst streamlining business processes, providing real time critical data and, most importantly, increasing levels of security.

Wireless and IP ID card functionality can enhance security and provide a highly controlled environment. Not only can areas be highly secure and, if desired, entirely inaccessible, an IP solution can provide seamless access to core facilities in a highly controlled and managed way.

Entire and multiple buildings can be

'As technology evolves, intelligent building and integrated security solutions are proving to ease the facilities burden and pave the way for IT and estates to bridge the gap between departments.'

controlled from a central location, providing unrivalled levels of access control flexibility and greatly simplified security management processes. An IP solution can be remotely managed offering the functionality to access and change profiles rapidly, adding real value.

Intelligent ID card systems can provide detailed audit trails of users, granting complete control and granular levels of visibility, enabling them to track the movement of students, staff and visitors throughout buildings and campuses and can delete users remotely and securely if required.

## FUTURE PROOF

Industry leading IP access control systems have virtually unlimited system expansion capabilities which in return equals an abundance of cost saving and centralisation benefits for organisations with multiple campus and or locations/offices. Some in demand features and benefits include:

- **Power over Ethernet (PoE)**

PoE and PoE+ solutions provide power to the door via the same network cable as used for the buildings traditional communications. Not only does this provide a power supply for every controlled door but also offers

significant savings on infrastructure costs.

- **Area monitoring**

Being able to monitor key areas of your buildings grants the operator with a real time view of all cardholder movements in any selected areas. This can present health and safety benefits and streamline reporting in regards to employees and guests on site as well as track a specific cardholder.

- **Central alarm monitoring**

Central monitoring will automate a response to any alarm situations, in real time.

A central alarm monitoring platform provides a real time and documented representation of the



status of your access control system and, if required, additional integrated security systems.

IP based security solutions reduce deployment costs



## INTELLIGENT BUILDINGS

As technology evolves, intelligent building and integrated security solutions are proving to ease the facilities burden and pave the way for IT and estates to bridge the gap between departments.

For organisation occupying an intelligent or smart building, the utilisation of IP access control or the integration of multiple security systems, most commonly access control and CCTV, with its IT network, delivers a wealth of user, operator and environmental benefits. And the utilisation of IP and wireless technologies drive scalability and cost effectiveness whilst delivering increased levels of resiliency and prove simpler to manage and maintain.

A truly streamlined security solution will deliver estates and security managers all the critical information they require to monitor, maintain and protect their assets, employees and data. Furthermore, such business intelligence is becoming more and more intrinsically weaved in to the role of the IT department, which is being increasingly recognised and embraced.

## CONCLUSION

Whether point of construction or as part of a migration strategy, the case for deploying an integrated security solution is both benefit rich and budget friendly. The growth in consumer demand is being observed, industry wide, with increasing manufacturer synergies and market leaders

diversifying from their core technology offerings.

IP based security solutions reduce deployment costs whilst eliminating previous restrictions in performance and, in regards to access control, offer a multitude of functionality that eclipses its standalone door control predecessors.

Another string in the integration bow is that an integrated security system delivers real time information, proving its value across multiple divisions within the business. □



## LYNSEY JENKINS

Lynsey Jenkins is marketing manager for Boston Networks. With almost a decade's experience in the IT industry, Jenkins has worked in marketing and communication roles, on both sides on the IT channel.