Article
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3 Reasons to Upgrade Access Control

How STid technology can ease customers onto the path to high security migration

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STid's mobile technologies enable the migration from physical access cards to smartphone-based access control.

Optimizing an access control system to reinforce security levels can be difficult due to lack of information, budget limitations, complicated workflows or a corporate focus on productivity – all of which can prevent or slow down the migration to more secure technologies.

Anticipating and understanding needs, requirements, uses cases, pitfalls and risks is a challenging task, but they will increase the security level of an organization. For integrators selling customers on making the access control upgrade, consider these three key reasons to highlight:

Reason 1:
Obsolete technologies are expensive and insecure

Many organizations still use technologies that were trusted for a long time but that are considered obsolete and not secure nowadays, such as 125kHz, MIFARE Classic®, and HID® iCLASS. In time, the continued use of these technologies will lead to increased costs for maintenance as well as difficulties in replenishment. Even worse: these access control badges can easily be copied with equipment that is accessible on the Web.

We strongly recommend the use of modern MIFARE® DESFire® EV2 and EV3 technologies, which are truly secure and safe by using: Advanced and certified cryptographic mechanisms; secure messaging EV2 to protect against interleaving and replay attacks; and proximity check to combat relay attacks.

Another way to improve the security of an access control systems is by deploying an end-to-end security topology. This is where communication protocols such as SSCP® – an open standard certified by ANSSI and that ensures freedom, interoperability and improved threat responsiveness – are so important.

In short, if the risks of using obsolete technologies potentially threaten business continuity, investing in modern technologies that support high security are a must.

Reason 2:
Badge management can be easily optimized

The management of access cards – physically handing access badges to users, potential loss of physical badges, timely revocation of access rights – can be a daily headache for end-users. The digitization of access cards to create virtual badges can ease this burden.

By transferring an access badge to a smartphone, visitors, subcontractors and employees will enjoy the benefits of simplified, effective and flexible card management. The creation, distribution and revocation of virtual access badges can be executed immediately and at any time at any location. People can start using a badge right away, and revoking access rights is a piece of cake. With the STid Mobile ID® platform, a virtual badge can be personalized with corporate branding easily and at no extra cost.

The cost of a virtual badge is two to five times less than that of a physical badge. Without consumables, costs for printing and personalization, recycling, and replacement costs are eliminated – creating economies of scale and greater operational efficiency in an "eco-friendly" fashion.

Reason 3:
Migration to a high security solution is easy

Organizations sometimes fear the complexity of migrating to a high-security system. Forget about this fear! STid's flagship Architect® range has already proven to be compatible with all access control systems. Its multi-technology support (125 kHz, 13.56 MHz, NFC and Bluetooth®), means STid readers allow the continued (temporary) use of obsolete card technologies while an organization gradually switches to high-security technologies.

The modular design of the Architect® readers means the system can be adapted to future needs, as end-users can evolve towards the use of QR-codes to facilitate visitor access; smartphone-based access keys; and an additional layer of security by integrating smartphone biometrics. STid Architect® readers can support upgrade and migration scenarios even in enterprise organizations with many kinds of card technologies.

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Learn more about STid's innovative access control solutions at https://stid.com/en.