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EndPoint Solutions for Multi-Use Facilities

Background

The operation and management of multi-use facilities presents complex challenges that are not readily addressed by traditional *stove pipe* system management suites.

Responding to unplanned events within a homogeneous enterprise requires information collection, communication, information management, decision support and response coordination. Many security management systems have emerged over the past several years that are intended to assist organizations in responding systematically to these events. Responding to unplanned events within a heterogeneous enterprise, however, is considerably more complex since, to be effective in realistic environments, it must also:

- Provide layered management in order to scale as the breadth and depth of the multi-use facility expands;
- Maximize the effectiveness and consistency of operational personnel with limited training and re-training requirements;
- Coordinate activities among elements that have very different levels of systemization and automation;
- Accommodate different processes, protocols and policies among elements;
- Provide context to enable sophisticated decision support;
- Validate response compatibility with the policies and procedures of both the overall facility and the involved elements.

EndPoint has been designed to provide a management framework to support integrated event response for complex heterogeneous facilities. Among the key features of EndPoint that enable it uniquely to address this challenge are:

- Loose integration with virtually any elemental system with standard TCP/IP communication protocols and an event-drive architecture that permits effective supervision of a large number of diverse, complex elemental systems;
- Integration of external, contextual information sources to aid decision support;

- Ability to support both local and centralized video processing to maximize both video coverage and network efficiency;
- Implementation on standard Microsoft Windows® platforms for cost effective deployment in operational environments; and
- Flexible presentation layers that permit adaption of the system to specific facility needs and operational procedures.

In addition to the heterogeneous nature of multi-use facilities, the design and implementation of security solutions for even moderately complex environments such as these is an extremely difficult undertaking since the enterprise being protected, the value distribution within the enterprise and the security threats are continuously evolving. Traditional security designs, therefore, can result in solutions that, over time, are protecting the wrong assets against the wrong threats.

Practical security solution design, therefore, need to accommodate that the nature of the problem that they initially need to solve is imperfectly known and that the problem will continue to evolve over the life of the system. It is also critical that these solution designs be capable of integrating new technology on a continual basis; not only for the usual reason that new technology typically enhances the cost-effectiveness of the system, but also because this new technology is available to the threat community and systems that cannot respond to technology change will rapidly be rendered ineffective.

Effective security solutions that provide long-term utility in this complex and evolving environment, therefore, require a highly structured and disciplined design approach. At the same time, it is not practical to approach every security challenge with a solution that is developed from first principles. As a practical matter, these designs must be approached within an implementation context that is, on the one hand, open and flexible while, on the other hand, is known to be cost-effective and poses low implementation risk.

EndPoint, from MAXxess Systems, has been developed as a solution framework that enables the development of sophisticated security solutions in a stable technical context that enables rapid implementation of cost-effective structures that can be adapted in situ to meet specific requirements and which can continue to evolve as requirements and technology change.

Conclusion

EndPoint is a critical element in the design process of multi-use facilities required to meet the security challenges of today – and tomorrow. It is also, however, the core backbone of the implemented solution itself. Because EndPoint bridges these two essential elements of the implementation of security solutions it is uniquely able to provide effective, durable solutions to the most significant security challenges facing multi-use facilities today.