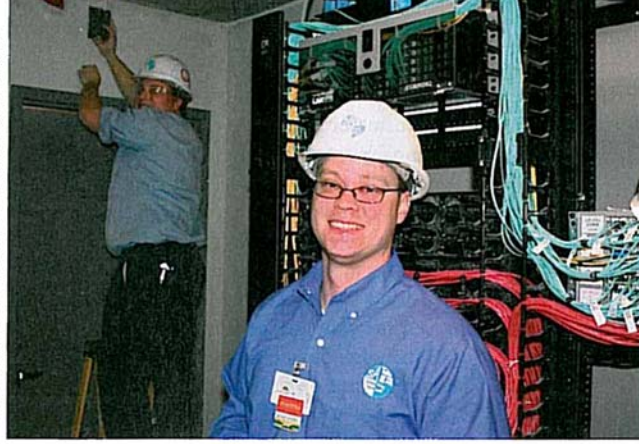


SOMETHING

FOR EVERYONE

PHOTO COURTESY OF SAFE CONSULTING SERVICES



ABOVE: Chris Gartz (on the ladder), a field technician from SAFE's Spokane office, installs an HID SDM Module on the interior of the IT room, while John Potter, vice president of installation, SAFE, prepares to patch the reader onto the network.

Access control at the edge is an up-and-coming trend. The ability to bring decision making down to the door and not have to rely on a multi-door controller allows very small installations to get the benefit of a sophisticated system without the cost.

Larger installations are able to piggy-back off their in-house networks and make installation simpler and more cost effective.

SDM spoke with four integrators about their recent edge device installations.

CASINO FIXES MISTAKE WITH EDGE TECHNOLOGY

An engineering gaff pushed the Northern Quest Casino and Hotel, Airway Heights, Wash., to look at edge device technologies for its access control needs. The casino was in the midst of a big expansion project, including a brand new 250-unit high-end hotel, parking garages and other associated buildings.

"Their architects in Georgia accidentally deleted all the low-voltage systems in the building and this wasn't discovered until they called us in to inquire about locking," says Adrian Steik, president, SAFE Installation Services Corp., Seattle. "We sat down in the meeting and discovered they

From small to large, access control edge devices are solving problems and opening up new security options for customers that might not have considered them before. With facilities from churches to casinos using the technology, it appears this technology really does offer something for everyone.

By Karyn Hodgson, Contributing Writer

had no raceway, they were encased in a fully concrete building and there was absolutely no provision for security. All that had been deleted during the engineering phase."

The only logical solution to the problem was an IP-based access control edge device.

"The traditional access control system is wired to a head-end controller and is usually eight-door," Steik says. "This infrastructure was not in place here, nor could it be done cost effectively. But there was a very robust IT backbone with CAT 5, CAT6 and Ethernet.

Steik utilized single door modules and HID Edge readers from PCSC, Torrance, Calif., along with PCSC's fault-tolerant controllers, which allowed SAFE to move from building to building seamlessly. "We were able to connect the edge readers without running additional cable in their finished building and it was affordable. They probably would have ended up with brass keys if not for the ability to install this on their IT infrastructure."

SDM

SAFE installation services Corp. featured in the January 2010 issue of SDM Magazine



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAFE CONSULTING SERVICES



An Edge pre-wiring with reader, REX, lock and network connections.

Another issue Steik's company ran into was locking. "A secondary problem to not having cable was there were no provisions whatsoever for locking 55 doors. Because of that the thought of cutting into a frame and installing door strikes was a huge manpower issue."

Fortunately for the installer, PCSC has a sister company, Security Innovations Inc. (SII) whose mortise lock could be powered via Power over Ethernet (PoE). "These required no coring of the door, no transfer hinges and could be powered from the dust box. Without those two products [edge devices and the SII lock] we would not have been able to accomplish this particular installation within the customer's budget," Steik said.

Steik credits the technically savvy casino IT director for being open to new and different solutions, and his company's IT training for the installations success.

"This installation required a lot more communications between us and IT. They had just as much to do to create paths and ensure switches and components were up and running and secure. That IT training we have been doing for the last couple of years really paid off on this install."

