



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011

Dear valued Customer/Partner,

As the year is drawing to a close and Christmas lurking around the corner, we would like to take this time to thank you for your support and contribution to another exciting and successful year, and provide a glimpse into 2012.

In 2011, vps has again been able to successfully undertake and complete many interesting projects, was participating in exhibitions and congresses, and could attract new customers and partners.

Also in 2012, we want to give you the best possible support and advice, and answer any questions you may have regarding identity and access management.

In this newsletter we look at the convergence of physical and logical access control. We also report on the introduction of employee cards at VNG Group, and on the "Mittelstandsprogramm 2011/2012". By participating as a sponsor in the "Mittelstandsprogramm", vps wants to offer small businesses with limited financial resources the opportunity to best manage their identities.

With best wishes,
the vps team

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Convergence of Physical and Logical Access Control

Every company faces the question of how, and to what extent, it can provide its employees with easy, yet secure, access not only to buildings but also to PCs and networks.

Today, physical access control (ie, access to buildings, parts of buildings, rooms, security areas, etc.) and logical access control (ie, access to IT systems such as PCs, networks, email and data encryption, etc.) in a company are usually two separate areas. That is, physical and logical access control are managed in two separate systems, which have no connection whatsoever with each other. This means that the company incurs additional costs for managing these systems, and there is little convenience for employees who have to use more than one credential and need to remember several PINs or passwords to access IT systems.

Lately we are getting more and more inquiries from companies seeking to manage both the physical and logical access control in a single system. For this reason, we will explain below how this is possible, what conditions must be met, and what benefits it brings to the company.

It is now technically possible, and easy, to combine physical and logical access control. The credential used in most cases

is a smart card with contact or contactless encoding. In conjunction with an ID management system, ID cards or other credentials like USB tokens can then be managed, and access permissions to both the physical and logical areas can be granted. Having a single smart card for all applications is a great convenience for employees. A single smart card can then be used, for example, for access to buildings, time recording, cashless payment in the canteen, access to the parking garage, making copies, and, on the other hand, also for Single Sign-On (a single login to use all applications), remote access, electronic signatures, and for email and data encryption. But also for the company, the convergence of physical and logical access control offers a number of advantages. There will be reduced administrative burden and costs associated with having to manage only one system. Also the costs for managing passwords will decrease, as requests for forgotten passwords will be a thing of the past thanks to single sign-on. Security is also increased as only one system needs to be managed, which means you can react faster, eg when an ID card has been lost, it can be quickly blocked for all applications.

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In most companies, there is a security officer who is responsible for the area of physical access control (Facilities and Security) and manages ID cards and tokens, and there is an IT administrator who is responsible for IT security and manages access to IT systems. Now, if there is only a single system to be used for both the physical and logical access control, then the two departments need to work together. Ideally, a member of the senior management team will act as a mediator between the two areas. The mediator creates an integrated system around the ID management software and works closely with those responsible for the areas of building security and IT security. In order to bring the two areas together, an evaluation of the existing system is needed to decide which systems or components can still be used and which ones must be renewed.

Overall, the convergence of physical and logical access control is an interesting and rewarding opportunity for all businesses. By bringing the two areas together, costs can be reduced while improving convenience and increasing security. An ID management system like *IDExpert® SmartACT* or *ProACT* is ideally suited for the management of the two areas within a single system.

VNG – Employee Cards for Physical and Logical Security

Customer:

VNG Group, headquartered in Leipzig, is one of Germany's largest gas importers and employs about 1,400 people. The regionally-based international company was founded more than 50 years ago, and in 2010 achieved a turnover of 6.3 billion euros.

VNG supports its customers with products and services associated with natural gas. VNG's core business comprises gas imports, gas wholesale, gas transport, as well as the operation and marketing of storage capacity.

Challenge:

VNG Group used a card printing system, including hardware, for the production of their employee ID cards - cards with magnetic stripes and bar codes. The card handling was mainly a manual process, and the card management was organized in various IT systems. The master data was managed in a centralized identity management system that, however, was not connected to the card printing system. Therefore, no central identity management was possible.

The aim was to introduce a modern card management system (CMS) for creating and managing multi-functional employee ID cards, taking into account both the physical security (securing the buildings against unauthorized access) and IT security (protecting IT systems and data from abuse).

The new card management system was to meet the following requirements:

- Ability to create different card layouts
- Support of a new card technology (contactless RFID technology and cryptochip)
- Production of cards, including two-sided printing and encoding which is to be done in one step
- Possibility of supporting different card types and assigning multiple cards to one person
- Possibility of capturing images directly
- One central point of administration for ID cards
- An end-to-end process for the management of user accounts and cards
- The new multifunctional employee cards should be used for a variety of applications, eg physical and logical access, time recording, etc.
- Simplification of visitor management:
 - Selection of contacts and flexible representation of data
 - Speedy visitor data capture of visitor groups

Solution:

Our partner Peak Solution implemented an *IDExpert® ProACT* system and created a standard protocol for communicating between *IDExpert® ProACT* and Novell IdM on a SOAP basis. *IDExpert® ProACT* has been specifically tailored to the requirements of VNG. The access control systems and the canteen payment system were connected to the card printing system. Thus, the objective of introducing a staff ID card for physical security and IT security in the form of a single smart card with central identity management was successfully achieved. The benefits of this solution are significantly reduced effort in the management of employee ID cards and greater security in the areas of physical access and access to IT systems.



The VNG Group's new multifunctional employee ID card

Benefits:

- Introduction of multifunctional employee cards
- Creation of an integrated solution for card and identity management
- Standardization of data and simplification of administration
- Increase in security
- Ensure the physical security and IT security
- Centralized ID card management
- Integration of Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)

vps is a Sponsor to "Mittelstandsprogramm 2012"

vps participates as a sponsor at this year's "Mittelstandsprogramm". The prize awarded by vps is an *IDExpert*[®] SmartACT system including 1 day of consulting and 1 day of installation and training.

From now until March 22, 2012, interested companies who wish to apply for the prize can submit their application at www.mittelstandsprogramm.com. vps will then select the winner. The award ceremony will take place on April 26, 2012.

You are welcome to apply for our prize - or for many other interesting awards - on behalf of your company. For all information on the application, visit the Mittelstandsprogramm's website at www.mittelstandsprogramm.com