

Why Smart Cards and Multi-technology Readers Are a Smart Choice

Jennifer Toscano, Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies, Portfolio Marketing Manager, Credentials, Readers, Software, and Controls

Today, many organizations are using proximity technology but may soon find themselves needing smart card technology. While 125 kHz proximity technology is the common technology in today's access systems, 13.56 MHz smart card technology is the technology of tomorrow since it provides more security and storage for access control systems. However, the demarcation between today and tomorrow is blurred. Here's why.

With the price of smart credentials being comparable to proximity today, there is no reason not to start deploying smart cards immediately, even if the only application will be physical access control. The warnings regarding proximity's limited security for access control should not be taken lightly.

A smart credential, for approximately the same price, provides a higher level of security, more convenience, and far greater functionality than a proximity card. Smart credentials have the ability to manage access, make payments and do many other functions. Those not willing to make that upgrade today should prepare themselves for the future by incorporating multi-technology readers so that, when the switch to smart cards comes about, they will not have to tear out and re-install all of their facilities' readers.

Since multi-technology readers can read both 125 kHz proximity technology and 13.56 MHz smart card technology, a facility's users can still use their current proximity credentials while migrating to smart credentials. The company does not have to replace all of its readers once management chooses to migrate to smart card technology. Multi-technology readers let them migrate according to their budget and timeline.

Multi-technology readers are available in a variety of form factors to suit every organization's needs. Open architecture readers will let companies use both their present software and panels with their new credentials. If, down the road, they change their software, they can still use the readers.

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PHOTO: Schlage Multi-technology reader

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