

MDI Security's iTRUST

In our inaugural 2005 Security Technology Award, we examined and tested MDI Security's iTRUST integrated security control system. Designed for use by small and mid-sized organizations that are looking for a dependable security solution that is able to scale to fit their growth needs, the iTRUST solution gives smaller sized operations the same advantages and features that are afforded to some of the world's largest enterprises – without the complications of an enterprise installation and at a fraction of the cost.

Our evaluation team considered iTRUST to be a slimmed-down, but well featured, version of MDI's SAFEnet enterprise integrated security system. SAFEnet has been one of the most popular and well-regarded access control systems in the world for over 20 years. MDI claims that there are

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many SAFEnet systems that have been operating on the same technology since they began, and notes that their long time government clients include some of the most security sensitive and highly classified locations in existence.

According to MDI, many of the dealers who serve these small- to mid-sized accounts are looking for a single vendor solution to provide them with access, full line video and accessories. The company adds that the introduction of iTRUST will help MDI's growing legion of security dealers.

MDI's iTRUST allows security integrators to centralize their existing physical security infrastructure to create cost-effective solutions that will lower the price-tag when compared to traditional disparate security functions.

Secure Convergence Journal has selected iTRUST as the winner of its Security Technology Award for 2005.

As a solution, the iTRUST system has much to offer its clients. To begin, the *SCJ* team evaluated the software platform. Running on MSDE (also performs in SQL) with administrative rights on the local machine, iTRUST proved easy to load, taking less than five mouse clicks to complete the installation.

Our next step involved creating the cardholder database. Once we added our staff as cardholders to the system, they were assigned by default to access all of the test readers. This capability served as a key feature in allowing an operator to easily enable a badge. iTRUST allowed us to categorize cardholders by shifts and classes.

Using the integrated badging module on the same iTRUST workstation, we were able to take each staff photo and print a badge. Our team liked this feature because it saved time and resources. With previously tested

systems from competing vendors, we were constantly jumping from PC to PC to accomplish this same task.

With iTRUST, one machine controls all necessary functions including alarm monitoring, badging and video surveillance. iTRUST provided added features not found in comparable systems like unlimited user defined fields, multiple badges per cardholder, multiple card formats and interactive maps.

Our test group especially admired the iTRUST hardware. The single board system known as the DDCII controller was truly unique in that it supported all connections associated with the door hardware in addition to auxiliary input and relay points. The DDCII communicated through a network interface from its onboard Ethernet connection to a switch that was connected to the iTRUST server/workstation configuration.

We chose to configure the parameters


of the DDCII through HyperTerminal. We established the board's static IP address and entered the host IP address in under two minutes. A reader was then easily connected to the enclosure protecting the DDCII board. This enclosure was unique based on the fact that all wiring points were clearly labeled on a diagram on the outside of the black case, making it easy to bring online.

Once the DDCII's were powered up and communicating, the iTRUST software auto-detected the field panels and made them available to the existing cardholder database – without any operator intervention. This was a major feature due to the fact that other systems that we tested did not accomplish this. They required operators to add any new field devices into the software individually. To our knowledge, even larger enterprise systems do not contain this feature to date – a huge plus for iTRUST.

The test group also discovered that if

communication was lost between the DDCII and the head-end, access transactions were decided based upon the cardholder database stored on the DDCII's processor. With this feature, security is not compromised in a degraded mode. No other system tested was able to accomplish this.

The system remained bandwidth-friendly throughout the entire test. The DDCII diagnostic port allows for field service and other technical personnel to view activity, perform diagnostic analysis and make configuration changes easily. The fact that clients will not need to purchase any additional network controllers or associated cables will prove to be a great selling point for this system in the field. Additionally, iTRUST is able to control two doors at a dealer price tag of \$1,000 (software and DDCII hardware).

For more information call 1-866-435-7634 or visit www.mdsecure.com. 

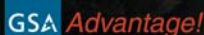
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