Plugin-based integration vs. true unification

Integrated security systems represent a more traditional and vastly different approach from unified security.

Whereas integration refers to establishing some form of connectivity between two standalone security systems (i.e. access control and video), a unified system is unique in that it refers to one platform that fully embeds all video surveillance and access control (ACS) capabilities. The two are fundamentally different and each represent different user benefits.

Plugin-based integration

Several disparate systems

Several UI apps for configuring each

Several UI apps for monitoring each with some exchange of information

You may not be able to acknowledge the other's alarms

Some ACS reporting may include video

Separate architectures, little to no consolidation

Personnel must be trained on several systems

Several service agreements to pay for

Must coordinate between vendors for support

Plugin may not be compatible with recent upgrades

Encryption may be broken with plugin-based integration

Unification

1 platform for video and ACS

1 UI for configuring both video and ACS

1 UI for monitoring both video and ACS

All alarm management is consolidated

All ACS reports include video

Federation of ACS and video systems

Personnel trained on one unified platform and interface

1 service agreement to pay for

1 place for all system support

Assured compatibility with seamless upgrades

End-to-end encryption is always assured

There are fundamental shortfalls associated to integrated systems, which limit how far they go in addressing an organization's needs in becoming more effective at managing multiple security applications.

	Plugin-based integration	Unification
Centralized Servers – Deploy and maintain fewer servers through consolidation	✕	✔
Seamless Upgrades – Plugin integrations complicate upgrades as they are not always compatible when one system is upgraded.	✕	✔
Unified Threat level management – Some 3rd party systems don't support the concept of threat levels; they therefore cannot dynamically change state in response to Security Center™ threat level activation.	✕	✔
Efficient and Consolidated Reporting – Multiple reports must be generated and then manually consolidated to correlate or automatically link events and alarms from different standalone systems.	✕	✔

Plugin-based integration architecture

A plugin integration attempts to bring two different security applications together in the same UI. While this is a small step towards an integrated user experience, the link between systems can be limited, complex, and subject to failure following an upgrade. The ACS plugin pulls 3rd party access control entities, events, and alarms to display them in the Security Center UI.

The video translator plugin pushes Security Center video and events to the 3rd party ACS solution. In both cases, shared information and capabilities can quickly become limited, requiring users to continue to work multiple vendor apps for monitoring, reporting, and configuration.
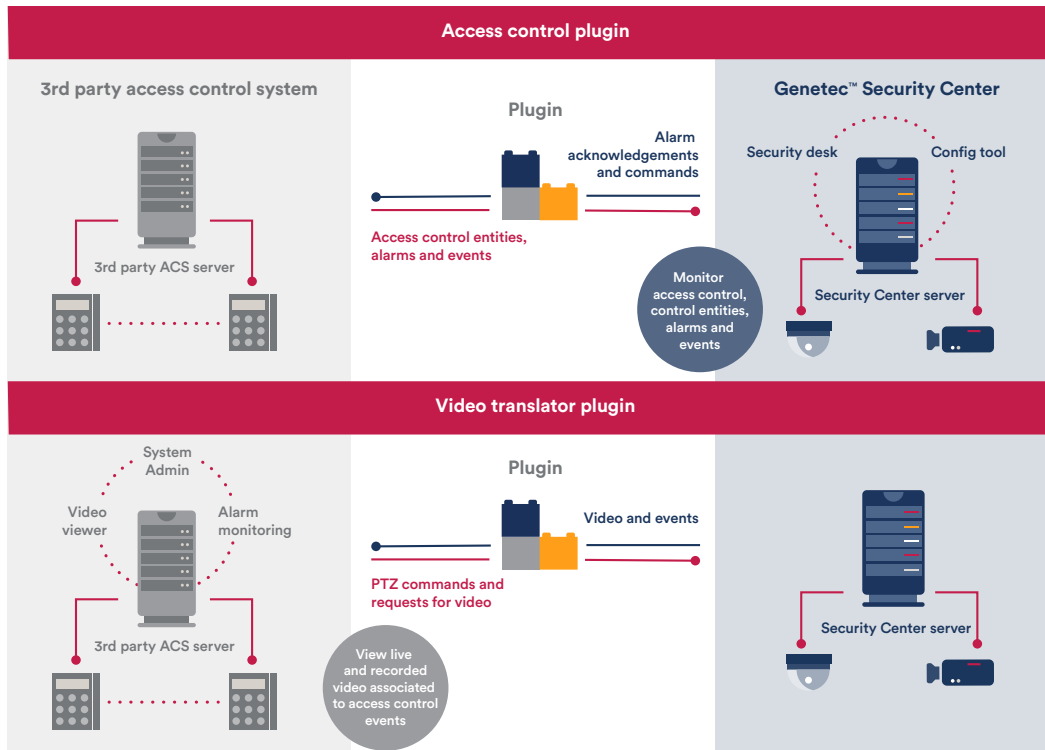
The Genetec™ unified security experience

Access control and video entities are natively supported in the Security Center platform (one environment)

When a unified system update is released, users upgrade the platform hassle-free for both ACS and video and without coordinating between multiple vendors

Choose from a wide range of controllers and electronic locks from different hardware vendors supported by the same unified system

A unified platform is easier and quicker to deploy as all entities are aggregated in one system ensuring no duplicate work (i.e. camera directly assigned to doors, areas, and zones)

Genetec Security Center unified solution

Plugin integrations vary, therefore, the accuracy of this document may vary according to your particular plugin integration. Please exercise decision making with caution and speak to your RSM for information on your unique case.

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