



SYMMETRY WHITE PAPER

*Migrating to Symmetry from Legacy Casi-
Rusco Access Control Systems*

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Most Casi Rusco Picture Perfect Access Control Systems were installed in the 1990's and have reached legacy status opening the door to potential security risks. AMAG Technology's Symmetry™ is futureproof and the world's most widely installed Access Control System. Symmetry is recognized for its ease of use and comprehensive feature set. AMAG has developed a new Symmetry Door Controller solution which allows plug-and-play swap outs to Symmetry for users of Picture Perfect, Secure Perfect™ and Facility Commander Wnx (FCWnx). Some of the largest Picture Perfect users around the world are already moving to Symmetry. This White Paper explains the thinking behind the solution and provides further information.

In 2011, the current manufacturer of the access control / security management system platform, Picture Perfect, announced that this product will no longer be supported after 2014. This announcement created distinct problems, some potentially very costly, and left many customers concerned about the future of their Picture Perfect systems and Micro/5, M2000 and M3000 panels. Since then, the manufacturer has had to adapt to customer reaction and has revised this planned phase-out several times. Initial issues faced:

- Picture Perfect would need to be upgraded to Lenel OnGuard, with significant migration costs in training, software support, and unknown downtime.
- Micro/5 and M3000 panels, which are the heart of the system, would need to be upgraded, at the customer's expense to the latest generation CPU.
- Downstream communications (chaining panels) would not be supported and would require network IP wiring, ports, and IT support at all panel locations.
- Software integrations must be rewritten.
- The Micro/5 CPU may require multiple firmware upgrades during this migration process which is costly because of the labor required to roll these firmware updates out.

In addition to discontinuing the Picture Perfect product, other security challenges end users may be facing include:

- Using a system that is outdated and doesn't meet the needs of the organization any longer.
- Software architecture faces increasing security challenges, particularly the use of Java.
- Very limited third party integration capability. Older systems can't integrate with newer technologies and keeping up with each product's upgrade is almost impossible
- Expensive, risky, labor-intensive upgrade challenges.
- Constantly changing go-forward plans limit ability to confidently plan migration schedules.

The Solution

AMAG Technology wanted to help these customers move away from being locked into a legacy system and made the decision to manufacture replacement panels for the Micro/5, M3000, and M2000. The result is the Symmetry SR family of controllers.

The Symmetry SR family of controllers will allow a Picture Perfect (or FCWnx or Secure Perfect) customer to upgrade to a Symmetry Security Management System quickly, easily and affordably, and avoid a lengthy, complicated, expensive upgrade process. The product is based on proven, existing technology that is available now, and can be installed immediately.

The Symmetry SR Controller utilizes the existing Picture Perfect physical and wiring infrastructure,

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allowing users to reuse the same enclosures, backplane and wiring. They can reuse readers, cards, and maintain their existing badge population, saving substantial costs.

Benefits of the Symmetry Solution

Symmetry is a leading access control system which has been chosen by some of the world's largest Picture Perfect users as their solution to move forward from their outdated system. Unlike legacy systems, Symmetry is completely flexible, easy to use, and utilizes the latest software designs and architectures. It is a security system designed by security people. Symmetry is a complete solution for access control where the software and door controllers – the two key parts of an access control system – are designed as one solution by the same team. Many alternative systems use commodity door controllers and are dependent on the manufacturer of those controllers to deliver a viable solution that continues to be compatible over the long term and through upgrades. The software and door controllers need to work “as one” for speed, reliability and security. The SR Controller is a simple circuit board replacement. The end user can reuse the existing enclosures, fitting the same wall space with no additional real estate needed, and no new boxes. The legacy boards can be removed and the SR Controller boards installed in a matter of seconds. All wiring infrastructure remains intact, therefore eliminating the labor expense to remove it and install new wiring.

The SR system supports all existing communications topologies of Picture Perfect including the downstream controllers where multiple access control panels communicate with the host software through one Ethernet port. This is supported through a plug-and-play procedure where no wiring changes are required. Dial-up communications is also supported. The SR Controller retrofit system supports legacy reader communication protocols, including the proprietary F2F protocol (both supervised and unsupervised). By supporting legacy readers and wiring, the retrofit can leave existing readers in place, and therefore badges, greatly reducing the time, cost, and disruption involved in an access control system replacement. The easy SR Controller retrofit system provides a low risk solution that requires minimal system downtime and a very low labor component. It's easy to install and operate, as well as cost effective. AMAG's Professional Services/Lifecycle Management support team is available to identify and plan the entire migration to minimize downtime and duplication of effort. They are available to help with conversions of cardholder and other system data. Additional information such as access rights and areas may be converted to Symmetry, greatly reducing the manual effort involved. Don't just consider database conversion as a yes/no question, but make sure the specifics are understood and agreed by all parties to avoid gaps in functionality as the migration proceeds. ProServices can assist with discovery and planning, technical expertise on the migration strategy, third party integration development as needed, and operational/emergency response needs. Symmetry offers a deeply integrated security management system, integrating physical and logical access control, video, intrusion detection, alarms, badging, and visitor management. The cost effective solution comes standard with these features built-in.

Why AMAG?

- Product Development – AMAG controls product development and can make upgrades more quickly and easily than companies who OEM product and are at the mercy of third party companies.
- Backward Compatibility-Symmetry has a history of supporting older products long after they go out of production, and seamlessly integrating legacy hardware alongside the latest technology, thereby preserving your investment.
- Scalability-Symmetry offers flexible, scalable solutions that can grow with an organization.
- Ease of use – Symmetry's flexible, powerful and intuitive software is the same for all products.
- Upgrading is easier because security staff are familiar with the product because it looks just like Microsoft Office.

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