



THE SECURITY BEACON

SEPTEMBER 2020

BOSTON CHAPTER OF ASIS INTERNATIONAL

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ARE THERMAL CAMERAS AN ANSWER DURING THE PANDEMIC?

By Paul J. Baratta



When IP video was introduced in 1996, the technology embarked on a journey that has brought video management systems, analytics and IP solutions in access control and audio to where we are today. Through this journey, security directors and other decision makers have continually balanced the conflicting forces of acceler-

ated development potentially leading to cutting edge technologies, and the need to ensure the offerings are tested, trusted, stable, and compliant with applicable industry standards and regulations.

Never have these conflicting forces been more apparent than they are during today's unprecedented global pandemic. As a combination of government officials, healthcare professionals and the industrial sector all look for new and innovative ways to combat COVID-19, I am encouraged to see so many bright minds thinking creatively as they explore options to leverage technology in this fight.

One of the emerging concepts is to use temperature-detecting thermal cameras to "screen" people as they enter a retail site, airport, hospital, workplace, or other location. Currently, Axis Communications, a pioneer in the invention of IP camera technology and global leader in its use, does not recommend employing any of its products to detect human body temperature or fever. First, no Axis product carries the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 510(k) listing for use as a healthcare device. While the FDA has temporarily offered a waiver for the use of technology without the 510(k) listing, they have reserved the right to enforce the standard even on installed solutions once time allows for testing and certification. The possible de-commissioning of a solution at a later date goes against the Axis Communications strategy of providing products and solutions that yield a long-term value to our customers.

The term "long-term value" could be interpreted many ways beyond the usable lifecycle of a technology solution. If it was felt that the inclusion of thermal devices into a solution such as this could save and extend just one life, then that is a "long-term value" upon which one cannot place a quantitative value. However, potentially negative outcomes from using thermal devices in this manner may be a more likely outcome.

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CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

BOSTON CHAPTER KEEPS ASIS MEMBERS CONNECTED DURING COVID-19



Dear Boston Chapter Members,

Twenty-twenty has certainly not been the year we all envisioned and planned for. Our organizations are plagued with ever-evolving responses and new protocols in light of COVID-19 and the federal and local government orders have continued to develop and change as we journey through this pandemic. The impact on our families, friends and loved ones has been an eye-opening experience that in some ways has slowed us down and forced us to focus on things that may have been taken for granted and downplayed in pre-COVID days.

As we progress though this time *together*, know that the Boston Chapter of ASIS continues to be available to you as a resource to your professional efforts. More importantly, the ASIS Boston community is here to support and be present to all personally as well. This community is one of support with integrity and it is grounded in the common vision of safety and security. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Chapter for various needs that may arise during this challenging time. The ASIS Boston Board continues to explore various ways to keep us connected from a distance until we can be together again. We are here and we are not going anywhere.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to those in the Chapter who work in hospitals, medical institutions and other places and who are battling this pandemic from the front lines! Your efforts are not going unnoticed and we thank you for your services and sacrifices during this time!

New England Security EXPO 2021



ASIS BOSTON CHAPTER'S ANNUAL EXPO

NEW DATE: Thursday, May 6, 2021 • The Lantana, Randolph, MA

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

May 6

The 2021 New England Security EXPO and Public Safety Appreciation Luncheon have been re-scheduled to the first Thursday in May.

[Click here for details and registration information.](#)

I look forward to the day when we can meet again in person, but until then I hope to see you all on some upcoming virtual events so that we can stay connected as a Chapter and get through this *together!*

Please stay safe and continue to keep those around you safe as well!



Stephen Bertoni
Boston Chapter Chairperson

ASIS WEBINARS HELP CLOSE THE GAP ON LEARNING

Staying socially distanced doesn't mean staying disconnected. Keep up to date on your security knowledge and skills with an [ASIS webinar subscription](#). Take advantage of the following FREE ASIS Webinars by [clicking here](#).

SEPTEMBER

10

3-4 pm

FREE ASIS Webinar: How radar technology can help better secure your perimeter

FREE ASIS Webinar: Adapting your emergency communication plan post-COVID-19 using mass notification

30

12-1 pm

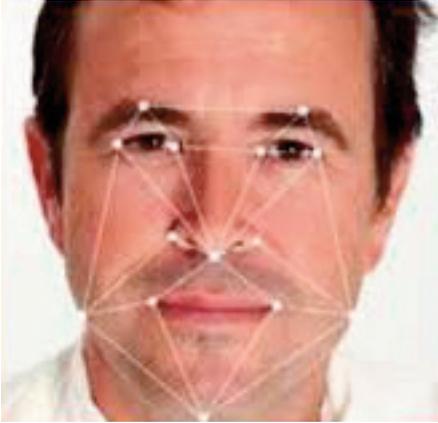
Virtual Lunch 'n Munch
We miss seeing you and hope you will spend your lunch time with us!

OCTOBER

22

9 am

Virtual ASIS Coffee Break
Connect over your morning coffee or tea



FINDING FACES FAST: AUTOMATING FACE RECOGNITION TO BOOST PHYSICAL SECURITY MEASURES

By Doug Maccaferri

Crime, theft, destruction, fraud, even terrorist attacks – organizations worldwide are dealing with events that scare and dispel their visitors, disrupt their operations, cost money and hurt their businesses. But as a private space and business, organizations do have the right to establish security measures that protect their facilities, patrons and employees, and their property.

At large facilities like hospitals, casinos, stadiums, concert halls, office buildings, and malls, thousands of people stroll through the door every day and security teams face a daunting task trying to protect their safety while finding known offenders among them. Organizations often maintain traditional photo albums with a watch list and hope that once in a while their security staff recognizes one of these faces. But who can memorize hundreds, or even thousands, of faces?

Face recognition technologies can automate this task, and effectively support daily security measures and long-term safety strategies. As people enter or walk about the facility, video cameras record their appearances. The software detects faces and performs high-speed comparisons to various databases that store photos of persons of interest, previously convicted or banned persons. Alert messages and facial images can instantly appear on the monitoring screen or be sent to smartphones.

Enterprise organizations can maintain a central database and share the facial images and associated data so people banned from one location will be flagged as they are seen in other locations. Databases can also contain images of very important customers that should receive special treatment.

How face recognition is used

Casinos worldwide are using face recognition to recognize problem gamblers who have asked to be enrolled in the system and stopped from entering. The software can also alert to individuals that have overspent their gambling time at a single station or in the casino as a whole and support the casino's efforts to conform to safe-gambling regulations.

Anonymous analysis of all faces seen in a specific area at once or within a set time frame can trigger a crowd alarm. The software also measures travel times from one location to another and can detect if people enter or linger in an unauthorized area.

But the software alone won't produce optimal results. Organizations are looking for a cohesive, integrated system that combines hardware, software and services

and that integrates seamlessly into their existing systems and operations.

Types of cameras, their positioning and tuning; high performance server choice; setting up an optimal network infrastructure; configuration of the solution; funding and deploying the system—all these components play an important part.

Making them work together and supporting their continuous operation and maintenance needs a specialized face recognition company with a proven track record in the security and surveillance industry.

While face recognition technologies have reached unprecedented performance levels, assuring high-speed matching at low false detection rates, real-world installations depend on a technically experienced vendor who truly collaborates with the organization on best practices within a customized project design.

Security may be the top concern for an organization when selecting a face recognition system, but a safe environment for all customers and employees, a profitable business and support from the community will provide true rewards for investing in this leading-edge technology.

Douglas Maccaferri is an Account Manager, Enterprise Solutions, for Cognitec Systems, a worldwide provider of face recognition technologies and applications for customers and government agencies.



KEEPING YOUR GUARD UP IN THE “NEW NORMAL”

by John Joines

While the world has been pre-occupied with the COVID-19 pandemic, economies in crisis as a result, and other prominent issues, it’s easy to forget that we still have significant criminal and terrorist threats to also worry about. Let’s face it, it

seems like forever since we last heard about an active shooter or a vehicle ramming incident. But that doesn’t mean the threat has disappeared and we can relax.

On a recent trip to Boston’s North End for a quick treat from Mike’s, I narrowly navigated my minivan through even narrower streets and alleyways thanks to newly added al fresco dining areas. No doubt these new dining experiences definitely made the Italian-rich area feel even more authentic and it’s the only option for these struggling businesses to thrive during these uncertain times. However, as I squeezed my way through Salem Street heading back toward Hanover, I couldn’t turn off my security brain and wonder when we’ll be reading about an extremist incident in this crowded area.

Despite the pandemic, the streets were still fairly crowded for a Friday evening approaching the dinner hour. Don’t get me wrong, it was nowhere near as busy as a pre-pandemic Friday evening, however, it was still busy enough to make a significant headline should an incident occur. In the ISIS-era of terrorism we live in, large, spectacular 9/11-style attacks are no longer the norm, as radicalized homegrown extremists focus on small attacks that require far less resources and planning, like vehicle ramming and shootings in densely packed areas.

Unfortunately, these makeshift dining areas popping up at restaurants around the country present as target-rich environments for someone looking to do harm to others. Most of the dining areas I have observed both in Boston and the suburbs have been hastily constructed with minimal safety measures being considered. The majority are using non-crash rated water barriers (some not even filled), construction cones, or stanchions and chains. Nothing that would stop even a small vehicle at slow speeds. While barriers do nothing to stop an active shooter, these outdoor areas present an easier opportunity for shooters from elevated platforms (Route 91-style shooter) and simply an old school drive-by shooting that may not be terrorist related at all. The fact that a shooter would not even need to leave their vehicle makes this especially enticing and dangerous for a bad actor.

So, what can we do? It’s simple, really. As the title states, we cannot let our guard down just because nothing has happened lately. Human beings are notorious for becoming complacent when nothing happens for a while. The distractions of everyday life

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KELSEY CARNELL CHOSEN GSX AWARD WINNER!

Congratulations Kelsey Carnell, on being named a 2020 ASIS International Young Professionals Council GSX Experience Award Winner!

The ASIS Boston Chapter is pleased and honored to announce that our very own **Kelsey Carnell** (2020 Secretary, ASIS International Boston Chapter) is one of two young professionals selected for the GSX+ 2020 Young Professionals (YP) Award.

This award recognizes ASIS YP volunteer members who have exhibited strong leadership in the security industry. Applicants need to be below the age of 40. The criteria for this award include age, financial need, merit, council volunteer leadership participation, and prior attendance at GSX (formerly the Annual ASIS Seminar).

Regional Sales Manager at Axis Communications, Kelsey currently serves on the ASIS Boston Executive Board and formerly chaired the chapter’s Social Media Committee.

REMEMBRANCES:
JAMES J. HEALEY



We are sorry to inform our membership that long-time ASIS International Boston Chapter member **James J. Healey** has passed away.

Jim was a long-term member of the Chapter who was actively committed to seeing the Boston Chapter grow and flourish. Jim held all leadership positions, including Vice-Chair in 1993 and Chair in 1994. When the chapter asked Jim for his service once again, he stepped up and took on the role of Secretary and Treasurer again in the late 90s and remained the chapter's Treasurer for many years throughout the 2000s and 2010s as the Chapter continued to grow. Jim was an honored recipient of the Joseph E. Ewers Distinguished Service Award and was considered a mentor by many throughout the years. He will be missed.

Please visit [Mc Laughlin - Dello Russo Funeral Service](#) for more information. Services were held on Wednesday July 29, 2020. In lieu of flowers, it has been requested that contributions in Jim's memory be made to [Heaps of Hope, Inc.](#), c/o Holly J. Walton, Matrix Financial LLC, 60 Walnut St., Wellesley, MA 02481.

REMEMBRANCES:
HAROLD F. MURPHY, JR.



The Boston Chapter of ASIS wishes to extend our deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of **Harold F. Murphy, Jr.**, who passed away suddenly on March 31, 2020.

Harold was a lifelong Cambridge resident and a 1956 graduate of Rindge Technical High School in Cambridge. He would go on to serve his country as a US Marine and later served his community as a member of the Cambridge Police Department (CPD). Harold spent 37 years with the CPD, retiring in 2002 at the rank of superintendent. He was the former police chief in Hudson, MA, and was a proud member of ASIS International, the FBI National Academy and the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association. Following retirement, Harold continued his career of service with his time in the Boston Chapter of ASIS.

Harold was always an integral part of the Boston Chapter's success, whether it was providing guidance or support to Chapter leadership year after year or serving as a mentor to new members. He served in the role of law enforcement liaison for over a decade and was the Ewers Award recipient in 2011. At the time of his passing, Harold had been an active member of ASIS for 40 plus years and had made amazing contributions to the Chapter with his time and talents! He will be remembered for the respect and admiration he received from his peers and colleagues.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, services for Harold will be held at a later date. The Boston Chapter plans to form a

committee to aid the creation of ways for the Chapter to honor the legacy he leaves behind. Harold was a true gentleman and he will be greatly missed by all.

GUARD UP, CONT'D PG 4

compete with space in our minds that make forgetting about preparedness and safety difficult even in the easiest of times. As security professionals, it is our obligation to continue to educate and share our experience with those who don't think like we do. Situational awareness, planning and training is more important than ever as we navigate this "new normal" we have all been thrust into and here is how we can help:

- **Reach out to your network** and inquire about their safety protocols and training. If procedures don't exist, offer to help develop them;
- **Keep your guard up.** When out and about, maintain your own situational awareness knowing that the threat still exists and will return someday;
- **Engage family and friends** and ensure they have a plan and are situationally aware;
- **Develop and continually train** safety and security protocols at your place of business;
- **Keep yourself up to date and fresh.** Even if you have been furloughed or are working from home, stay in the know about current events, trends and incidents so you can adapt and adjust accordingly.

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THERMAL CAMERAS, CONT'D PG 1

For example, if a temperature-detecting thermal camera fails to detect a person carrying COVID-19 either because of a calibration issue or because the infected person is asymptomatic and not exhibiting any detectable symptoms, this type of solution could potentially foster a false sense of safety among its users.

Moreover, data related to a person's health is protected personally identifiable information so questions such as: a) does anyone other than a healthcare provider have the right to screen and capture anyone's health information, and b) if an elevated body temperature or fever is inaccurately detected, could that create undue fear and stress to the individual and others that they have come in contact with a contagious person?

If you feel using temperature detection thermal cameras are the right option for you and your organization, I recommend you consider the following topics as you discuss the concept with potential vendors.

- **How sensitive is the sensor used in the thermal imaging device?**
Axis's temperature detection cameras were designed with industrial monitoring applications in mind and have a +/-5 degree Fahrenheit tolerance, not nearly sensitive enough for assessing if someone's skin surface temperature is an indication of the presence of an infectious disease. Are the thermal imaging devices in the solution offered by your vendor sensitive to a tolerance level that you are comfortable with?
- **How does the solution compensate for variances in skin surface temperature, such as a person that has been in a climate-controlled space versus a person that parked far away from the facility and became exerted by walking or running on a hot day to get to the screening point?**

Remember, it is only the internal temperature of a person that is regulated by their body; one's external skin surface temperature fluctuates as a result of many factors including environment and physical exertion.

- **How is thermal emissivity of items within the camera's field of view calibrated?**
If it is calibrated by an installer or technician, what tools does he/she have to ensure that the camera is associating a temperature level consistent with a person's emissivity?
- **When did the solution vendor begin development of their current offering and begin testing and validation of the accuracy of the solution?**
If I were shopping for a solution like this during a time of crisis, I would feel better knowing that the vendor saw this use as a potential need and was developing and testing it prior to the current outbreak, and I would be skeptical of vendors that rushed a solution to market while panic purchasing and frenzy over the global pandemic was at its peak.
- **Has the vendor submitted the solution to the FDA for testing with the goal of obtaining the 510(k) listing for use as a medical device?**
- **How can you and your prospective vendor work together to develop a complete solution that encompasses technology, process and people and brings value to your organization and satisfies your desired comfort level?**

Remember that people, process and technology are paramount to the deployment of any solution. No matter what technology is chosen, you need to ensure there is training in its use, the device is working correctly, clear policies and guidelines are in place, and calibration and response protocols are implemented.

ASIS Boston Chapter Vice Chair Paul J. Baratta is the Healthcare Segment Development Manager at Axis Communications.



GUARD UP, CONT'D PG 5

These are trying times for all of us, but it's important that we never lose sight of what we have been called to do. The threat is still there and will be back with a vengeance once a semblance of normalcy returns to society. Terrorists are constantly planning whether we are paying attention or not and violent extremists on our own soil are being pressured by the same stresses we all are facing. It's only a matter of time before one of them snaps and creates the next big headline in the US. Let's stay on top of things and lead the way for others who may have become complacent. Stay safe and take care of yourself and others.

John Joines is director of Security, TD Garden, and executive producer and host of The Uprooted and 14 Minute Leadership Podcast.

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Share your knowledge of the security industry by writing for *The Security Beacon*. Email articles and photos to:
rich@secureourcity.com



Stephen Bertoni, director of Security Operations at Allied Universal and current ASIS Boston Chairperson.

2020 MANNING FUND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

The ASIS John P. Manning Committee met recently to review the 2020 scholarship applications. Security professional Stephen Bertoni, director of Security Operations at Allied Universal and current ASIS Chairperson, was chosen to receive the 2020 Manning Award. Bertoni completed MBA studies in Management at Fitchburg State University in August of this year. The 2020 Nominating Committee included Ashley Ditta; Paul Baratta; Nick Biagioni; Joseph Crowley; Jenn Goba; and Beth McFarland.

The John P. Manning Fund was established in 1992 to honor the memory of Boston Chapter member John P. Manning. A longtime friend and supporter of ASIS Boston, Manning touched the lives and careers of many security professionals; an ASIS Foundation endowment fund was established to memorialize the values for which he stood, with emphasis on assisting in the career development of security practitioners.

Distributed in accordance with the mission and goals of the ASIS Foundation, Manning Fund Scholarships are intended to inspire leadership, professional growth and excellence within the security profession.

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Learn whether certification is the right choice for you by visiting asisonline.org.

In recognition of COVID-19 restrictions and ensure a safe testing experience for all, ASIS International is now offering remote, proctored testing on your home or office computer. Explore the **technical requirements** of remote testing by visiting the ASIS International website.

