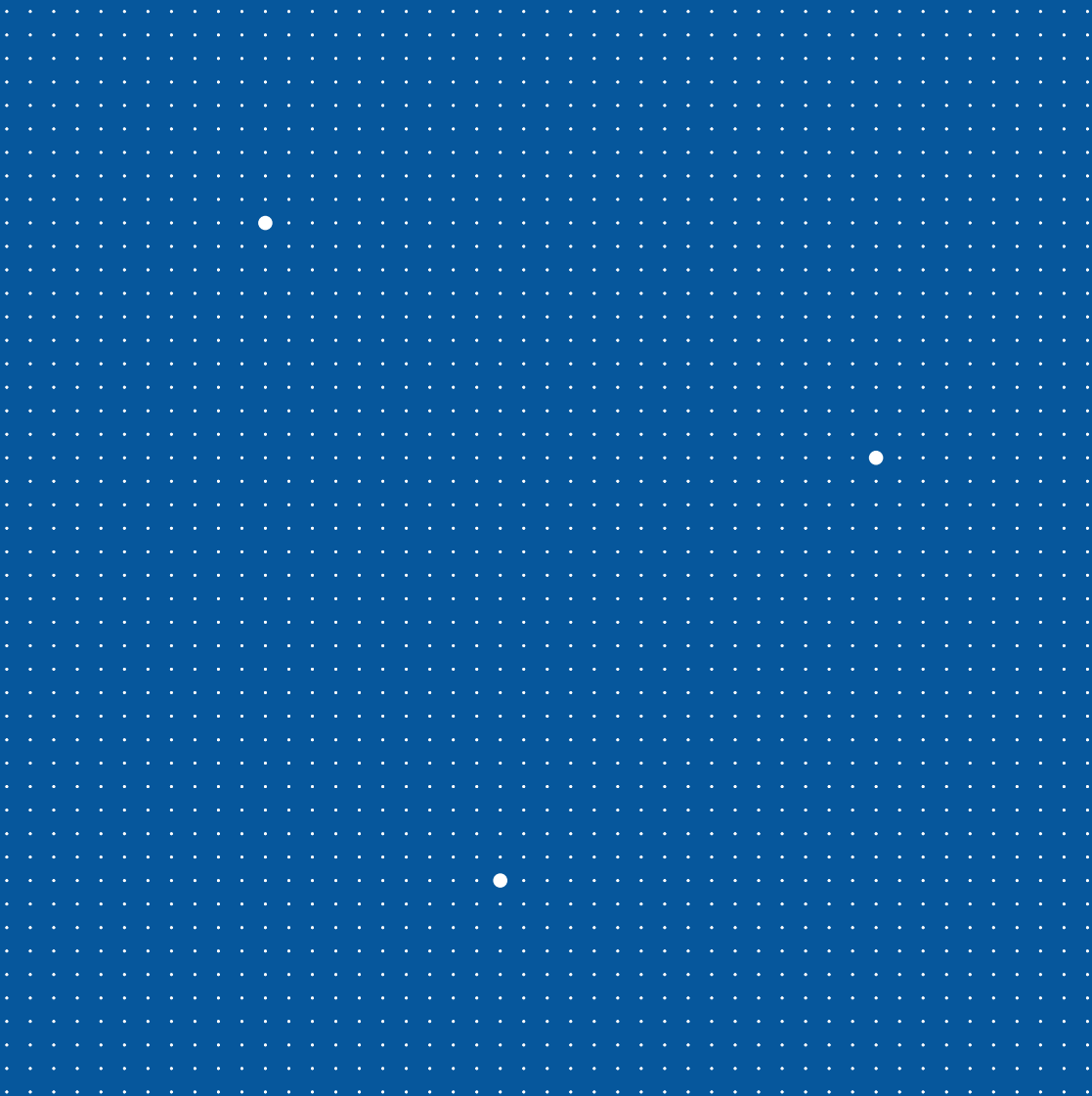# Connecting the dots

The Genetec public safety strategy

Our public safety strategy

The most important requirement that we, as a society, have for public spaces is that they are safe. When our spaces are safe, our businesses, governments, and citizens can focus on the social and economic rhythms that underscore every successful and welcoming city environment.

As many global cities grow, they become siloed with departments not collaborating effectively and divisions developing between public and private. When it comes to public safety, this can lead to an inability to respond appropriately and effectively to events, including crime and natural disaster. If this inability persists, people can lose confidence in their own safety, and, when that happens, our cities and their businesses pay the price.

At Genetec Inc. (Genetec), we believe that, in order to create and maintain thriving public spaces, groups, including urban planners, city managers, security experts, enterprise executives, and community leaders, must work together to achieve true public safety. And a cornerstone of this open and collaborative approach is the development and implementation of multipurpose technology.

Forward-thinking technology can provide a platform that facilitates communication and collaboration to improve public safety and support the advancement of the city and its interests. Our tools and solutions extend beyond physical security to contribute to the betterment of the daily lives of citizens.

'Through this single application, both publically and privately operated agencies can share vital information.'

Introduction to the unified platform from Genetec

Genetec™ Security Center is our comprehensive public safety platform. It allows for the full unification of video surveillance, access control, automatic license plate recognition (ALPR), intercom management, intrusion panel integration, mobile cameras, and cloud storage. Through this modular approach, Security Center is a centralized platform for live operations, incident response, investigations, and preventative system management.

Supporting law enforcement agencies

Currently, law enforcement agencies worldwide are using the Security Center platform to monitor public spaces and to manage security and operations for internal systems, including interview rooms and holding cells. With its ability to allow for the easy creation of partitions in the software, Security Center lets agencies give specific rights and privileges to any user in the system while maintaining a single platform backend.

Working with Security Center means that officers can book a suspect, detectives can interview a witness, investigators can gather and share digital evidence, SWAT teams can conduct live exercises, and emergency responders can monitor critical situations all within the same platform. What's more, each group can customize and tailor its UI and interactions with the platform to meet its own specific abilities and needs.

Leveraging the Genetec Federation™ feature

Built into Security Center, the Federation feature is a core component of our Public Safety Strategy. This feature allows agencies to consolidate live monitoring, video searches, alarm management, and health reporting from a large number of independent sites. Through this single application, both publically and privately operated agencies can share vital information while maintaining strict rights and privileges that allow them to remain compliant with the connected systems.

Connecting with other agencies

Collaboration and communication are often seen as hurdles for emergency management in times of crisis. Our Federation feature can help overcome these hurdles by creating connections between agencies that allow cameras, doors, ALPR data, and situational alarms to be shared. These connections allow agencies to increase their visibility because they can access other existing infrastructure and can share with other local law enforcement officers, agencies, fusion centers, and surrounding cities and counties. These agencies can also decide whether their connections will function at all times or simply during specific events.

'Agencies can store evidence for as long as required while being connected.'

Leveraging existing private sector infrastructure

In addition to connecting together municipal and law enforcement agencies, the ability to federate also allows private sector entities to participate in a city's or county's Federation system. This means that agencies can create a force multiplier by leveraging other organizations' existing security systems, which themselves can contain hundreds of existing cameras, while respecting the privacy policies of those organizations. University campuses, stadiums, and malls can now participate in a Federation system and ensure that any specific feature or view that they do not want to share will not be accessed.

Once connected to a federated system, agencies and organizations can unlock specific cameras and functionalities for scheduled events or during times of emergency. This increased collaboration between the public and private sectors can significantly reduce response times, increase visibility on an ongoing investigation, and give the private sector better coverage when dealing with specific situations.

Making business improvement districts safer

Genetec is also helping cities promote safety and security for privately owned Business Improvement Districts (BID) by allowing them to connect to a Federation system. This can be an extremely cost-effective method of extending public security as BIDs either use existing infrastructure or deploy cloud-based solutions, thereby eliminating the need to purchase and manage expensive hardware. As with agencies and organizations in the private sector, BIDs also have the ability to allow visibility into their systems at all times, including during scheduled, high-risk windows and in the case of an emergency situation.

Using the Cloud for short-term deployments

Agencies can leverage our comprehensive cloud solutions portfolio to store large amounts of evidence bound by long-term retention policies at a much lower cost. Working with Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS)-compliant Microsoft Azure Government Cloud as a backend, Security Center enables agencies to have short-term, large-scale deployments.

Security Center makes it possible for an agency to create a temporary system without incurring the costs associated with servers and storage. By taking advantage of the cloud's flexible architecture, agencies can store evidence for as long as required while being connected to the agency's Federation system.

'IT departments must address the challenges associated with storing, organizing, annotating, sharing, and auditing data.'

Exploring emerging technologies

At Genetec, we have fostered a healthy ecosystem of technology partners by forming relationships with other industry leaders. These partnerships are mutually beneficial as they allow all of us to participate in technological advancement and deliver forward-thinking real-world solutions to our customers and end-users. As interest in emerging technologies continues to grow, we will continue to add partners to our long list of integrated systems.

Intelligent lighting

As cities upgrade their existing lighting infrastructure, Genetec partners like Sensity are offering intelligent lighting products that allow for the addition of technology sensors, including surveillance cameras and video analytics. Integrating these products with the Security Center platform helps agencies to significantly improve their surveillance footprint while minimizing costs.

With embedded analytics, Security Center can automatically analyze data, including vehicle and people counting and loitering time. This data can then be easily shared across the Federation system.

Digital evidence management

Law enforcement agencies are increasingly concerned about managing the ever-expanding amount of digital evidence being gathered as part of their investigations. With more video surveillance, body camera, and citizen-generated content being produced, agencies are facing new and emerging data-related challenges.

IT departments must address the challenges associated with storing, organizing, annotating, sharing, and auditing data. The Microsoft Azure hosted evidence management solution from Genetec is helping agencies meet these challenges.

Mobile and body worn cameras

In recent years, almost every agency in North America has been looking to adopt body worn cameras to allow for the recording of interactions between its officers and citizens. Genetec is working with partners and manufacturers to ensure the same full compatibility that currently exists with video surveillance cameras. This will allow agencies to fully synchronize recorded footage from both body worn and traditional cameras and will allow operators to create incident reports that include data from multiple sources.