Smarter Buildings and Changing Workforces

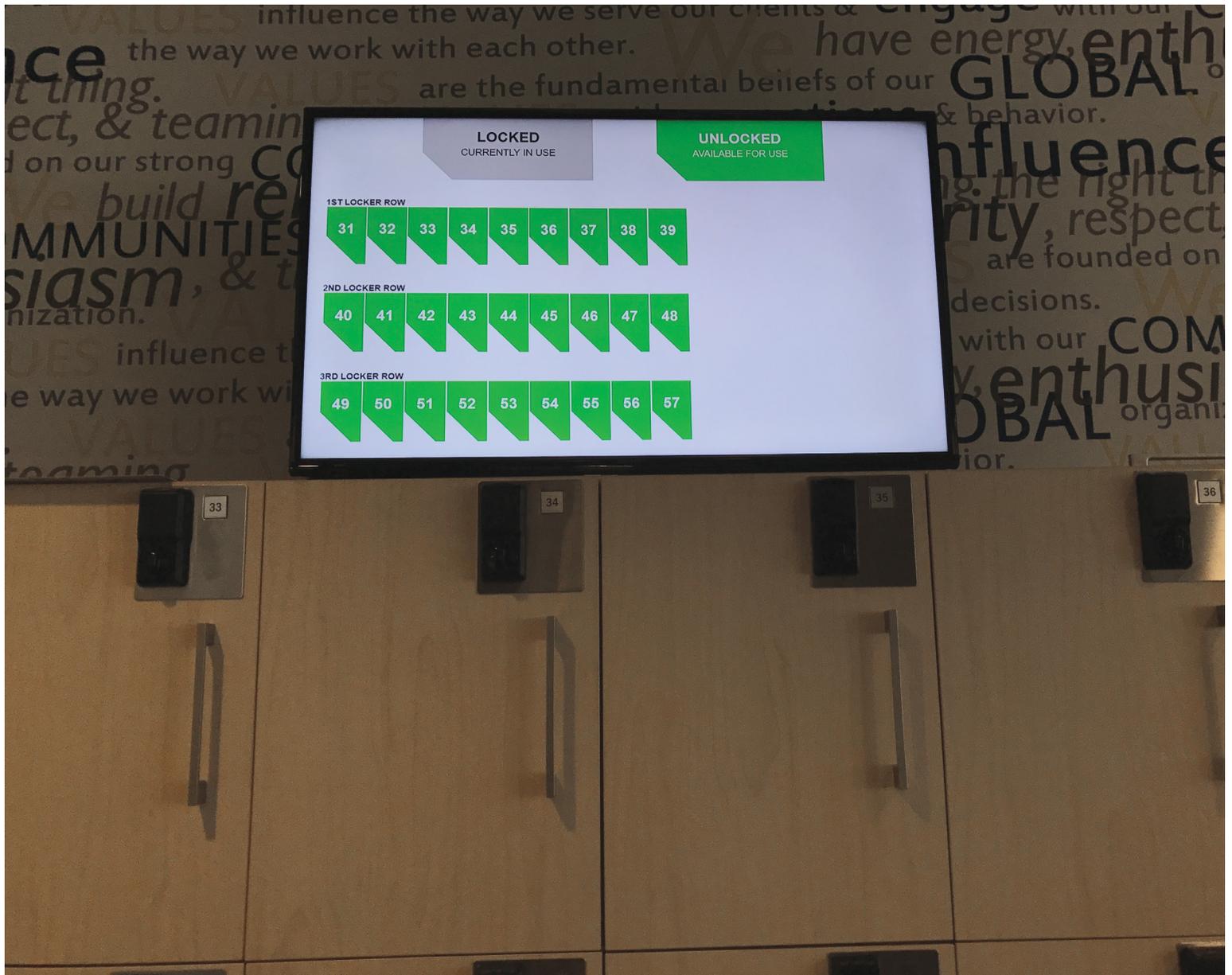*Shifting Expectations for Facility Security Solutions*

The ever-changing work environment has drastically altered employee hiring, staff scheduling and workforce expectations over the past decade. And with it, technology and design for buildings has changed as well – from providing more open workspaces to integrating new technology into the built environment. But security concepts over that same time have mostly taken a direct approach to evolution: provide more robust security and safety to protect the people and places we value most. Prior to the renovation, the University relied on three different software platforms to monitor the exterior electrified access doors for the residence halls. Students were also using rocks and other objects to prop open the other non-access doors when exiting the buildings, raising serious security concerns and increasing maintenance needs at the openings.

So, what happens when expectations for security change based on new concepts in workforce deployment? We evolve.

Star Asset Security, an industry expert in full-service security systems, approached ASSA ABLOY Door Security Solutions about a unique challenge they were seeing in new building construction, interior space design and space planning: owners wanted the ability to allow for ever changing access control on shared assets such as employee lockers and desks. Employers are migrating toward a "free address workspace" which promotes the co-working concepts of shared spaces. That means every day a different employee might access a different locker or a different desk – yet the system still needs to regulate that access while providing an audit trail for who accessed what.

What happens when expectations for security change based on new concepts in workforce deployment?

We evolve.

Dynamic environments

are exactly where the corporate real estate market is heading.

Quite simply, that is not how security access control works in today's paradigm. The standard for such an environment is to assign an employee to one locker and one desk, then monitor the access from a static point of view. The dynamic component of user choice removes the control from security managers, facility executives and employers.

But dynamic environments are exactly where the corporate real estate market is heading. Buildings are becoming smarter through the adaptive technologies of IoT (Internet of Things). Lighting, electrical, HVAC, water, and security systems are all becoming smarter and more connected to one another. This is a very conscious and purposeful move from automation, where we set the rules and let the technology respond as we determine, to autonomous, where a building responds appropriately to all the variables that could potentially be thrown at it.

> *It is* **trust** *that is at the core of* **security.**

In terms of co-working, every employee is a variable. Security managers and facility managers are no longer telling the system what the rules are. Rather, they are letting the system know what can potentially happen and what needs to be done to keep the facility secure. The end result should remain the same: a secured locker or an assigned desk, but with the data being defined as the choice is made.

To adapt to this new way of thinking, we collaborated with one of ASSA ABLOY's partners: Monitor Dynamics Incorporated, a manufacturer of unified security management systems that blend access control, video surveillance, intrusion detection and identity products into an open-architecture, command and control IP platform. Together, we developed a new access control concept for applications such as lockers and desks, and being offered to building owners by Star Asset Security.

ASSA ABLOY is the global
leader in door opening solutions,
dedicated to satisfying
end-user needs for security,
safety and convenience

ASSA ABLOY

A commitment to
protecting
the people and places we
value *most.*

As of June, Star Asset Security has implemented the new FlexLocker solution in two major corporate real estate projects, to be followed up with deployments of the complementing FlexDesk solution.

These types of partnerships are critical to consider when looking at the creation of new solutions in security as every partner has a core competency that must be relied upon, and be trusted to implement perfectly. It is trust that is at the core of security, and our goal at ASSA ABLOY is to continue to develop our list of partner companies that we consider experts and can trust to do the same level of work we do in the security space.

The reality of this exciting change in the built environment is that there will be new challenges to tackle as our workforces continue to evolve. And those problems require a lot more than just one product to fix. They require a move from automation to autonomy, they require committed partnerships, and above all else they require a commitment to the core competency a company provides. For security, that remains a commitment to protecting the people and places we value most.

ASSA ABLOY Door Security Solutions
110 Sargent Drive
New Haven, CT 06511
www.assaabloydss.com
1.800.DSS.EZ4U (377.3948)

ASSA ABLOY Door Security Solutions Canada
160 Four Valley Drive
Vaughan, ON L4K 4T9
www.assaabloy.ca