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Open Supervised Device Protocol (OSDP): What you need to know

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Question & Answer

- Q. Why is Belden the only approved cable, can't you also approve the Windy City product?**
- A. It is best to check with each individual manufacturer on which products support the OSDP specification. As more manufacturers start to adopt OSDP, the new OSDP verified program offered by the Security Industry Association (SIA) is a good resource to leverage to understand which products support OSDP and which products do not.
- Q. Is the Allegion OSDP encryption the same as the HID OSDP encryption?**
- A. When following the OSDP specification, the encryption used for OSDP Secure is AES-128 and it is the same for every manufacturer.
- Q. With the Schlage multi-technology readers, can those read both 125 kHz and 13.56 MHz at the same time?**
- A. The Schlage multi-technology readers can read both 125 kHz and 13.56 MHz, and both technologies can be turned on at the same time. This means that you could have a mix of proximity (125 kHz) and smart (13.56 MHz) credentials and they could both be read on the Schlage multi-technology reader. It is important to note that OSDP and the OSDP specification does not factor into this capability.
- Q. Do all Mercury Boards support OSDP?**
- A. It is best to check with each individual manufacturer on which products support the OSDP specification. As more manufacturers start to adopt OSDP, the new OSDP verified program offered by SIA is a good resource to leverage to understand which products support OSDP and which products do not.
- Q. Are all relevant Schlage products (Readers, AD Series, etc.) listed in the SIA OSDP Verified program?**
- A. It is best to check with each individual manufacturer on which products support the OSDP specification. Today, Schlage products are not SIA OSDP verified, but Allegion is in the process of getting various Schlage products SIA OSDP verified this year and in 2021.
- Q. If you install a reader using OSDP open, is there a reader performance improvement over a Weigand installation?**
- A. There is not a reader performance improvement, but there could be a reader management improvement. Following the OSDP open specification allows for physical access control

systems and software to follow one spec and push/receive updates from the hardware. This could allow for centralized management of the door hardware and eliminate the need to visit every door for a configuration or firmware update.

Q. Can OSDP open be changed to OSDP secure in the future?

- A. Potentially yes, OSDP open can be upgraded to OSDP secure if the manufacturers can establish and deploy a key for OSDP secure. Each product in the market is unique and the management and deployment of keys varies from manufacturer to manufacturer.

Q. Can you discuss OSDPv1 versus OSDPv2 and how does that affect readers?

- A. It is best to leverage the OSDP specification for details, but version 2 of the OSDP spec simply builds upon the first version of the OSDP specification. Any additions to the specification, moving from version 1 to version 2 was to add clarity, additional context or additional functionality.

Q. Can you share the web address for checking SIA OSDP Verified products?

- A. <https://www.securityindustry.org/industry-standards/open-supervised-device-protocol/sia-osdp-verified/sia-osdp-verified-products/>

Q. Can existing installations using Weigand technology utilize the same cabling to upgrade to OSDP

- A. Although it is possible to use existing Weigand wire as the physical wire for RS-485 and the OSDP protocol, it is not recommended. RS-485 specific cabling is recommended by Allegion for OSDP applications. Please consult product installation guide for further cable recommendations.

Q. What pieces or parts should be OSDP listed?

- A. Both the edge device (ex. Wall mount reader) and the head end controller (ex. door controller or access control panel) should be OSDP listed.

Q. OSDP can only run on RS-485? Not ethernet in some form or fashion?

- A. This is correct. SIA is looking to expand OSDP to ethernet based systems in the future.

Q. Can Gateways and OSDP readers operate on the same 485 loop?

- A. No, not at this time.

Q. Can these systems be integrated with the Active Directory of Windows Servers?

- A. OSDP compliant systems can be integrated into the active directory of windows servers, but the OSDP portion of the system typically would not be the way various system components would talk to windows servers. IP or cloud-to-cloud based integrations would be better suited for this application. Please consult the system manufacturer for best practice system design.

Q. Besides the benefit with secure communications, are there other advantages to having a 2-way communication to the reader? Can you update reader functions and firmware through the 2-way communication?

- A. This is correct. There are other benefits to bi-directional communication such as the ability to update reader firmware as well as change reader device settings remotely (such as turn the buzzer on and off).

Q. Do you think your poll question results would have reflected the market more closely if the OSDP adoption was listed at 5 percent or even 10 percent? Twenty-five percent was a fairly high “low” target.

- A. OSDP is still early in market adoption and gaining traction in our industry. OSDP market adoption rate is expected to rise over the next few years.

Q. Where in my spec should OSDP be specified?

- A. OSDP should be specified wherever wall mount readers and credentials are also specified. This is typically Division 28 of a building specification.

Q. Is there a device to convert OSDP to Weigand that you could secure with the main panel?

- A. This is not possible as OSDP requires bi-directional serial communication, and the Weigand interface is only sending data in one direction.

Q. Can existing Weigand cable be used if I want to change readers?

- A. Although it is possible to use existing Weigand wire as the physical wire for RS-485 and the OSDP protocol, it is not recommended. RS-485 specific cabling is recommended by Allegion for OSDP applications. Please consult product installation guide for further cable recommendations.