VAX Vicon Access Control 2.9.60 (Build 61)

General Description

Vicon is releasing a new version of the VAX (Vicon Access Control) version 2.9.60 (Build 61). This version provides updates and fixes for items reported by customers as well as multiple feature updates.

Installing this version on currently installed VAX will not require any new licensing and will not change the system settings.

Software Versions

VAX software package is built out of several different software including Microsoft SQL Express 2012 database packaged in a unified installer.

VAX Software	Description	Former version	Current version
VAX version	This is the full package version which will be referred to in all documentation	2.9.35	2.9.61
Microsoft.NET Framework 4.5	Microsoft software framework that supports building and running next generation of applications and XML Web services	4.5	4.5
Microsoft SQL Express 2012 (x64)	SQL Express 2012 database used to store all VAX data		
Microsoft SQL CLR Types (x64)	Microsoft SQL CLR type for SQL Server 2012 64-bit version	11.0.2100.60	11.0.2100.60
Microsoft SQL Management Objects (x64)	Microsoft SQL Server 2012 Management Objects 64-bit version	11.0.2100.60	11.0.2100.60

When installing, VAX will detect and indicate which necessary software has been installed and which needs to be installed. As updates to the VAX software are being released, an updated VAX installation package will be made available.

Written by Huy Lai

Vicon Production

The new version will be used by Vicon production going forward. Any new product shipping from Vicon will be pre-installed with this version.

This version of the software is published on the Vicon web site and may be downloaded and installed on COTS hardware according to the Vicon specifications.

Field Installation

New Systems

Installing a new VAX Vicon Access Control system either with Vicon hardware or on compatible COTS hardware should be done according to the published specifications and installation guide.

Feature Updates

Supports new Master Multi-Door Controller and Master IO Controller

With this version, VAX supports the new Master Multi-Door Controller and Master IO Controller.

- VAX-MDK-Master is the new panel model in VAX that connects with 1 to 4 VAX-EXP-2D (2-door expander boards) to control from 2 to 8 doors.

- VAX-MDK-Master panels will be able to receive firmware updates automatically while operating and can now support multiple firmware updates simultaneously.

- VAX-MDK-Master door Inputs of any function can now support a schedule (including holidays), allowing devices such as REX or motion sensors to be active based on a schedule. Inputs can also be assigned an Action as well as a second Action called an On Action similar to Aux Input actions on other panel types. Action can occur regardless of input function.

- VAX-MDK-Master door Aux Outputs can now support a schedule (including holiday), allowing an output to be active based on a schedule.

- Customizable panel actions can be executed at the panel level without connection to the VAX server. These can be executed from inputs, triple swipes or user credential presentations at readers.

- VAX-IO-STR-2 is the new I/O panel model in VAX that connects with 1 to 8 VAX-IO-EXP8PCB (8 I/O Expander boards) to control from 8 to 64 I/Os. It supports the new Unmanaged Doors (see Unmanaged Doors 2.0 section below).

Written by Huy Lai

New Monitoring Menu Notification Layout Options

Newly added live monitoring screen layouts include options to display notifications (e.g., reader notifications) in multiple formats, including standard, horizontal tiles, large horizontal tiles, vertical tiles, and large vertical tiles.

Unmanaged Doors 2.0

Using the new VAX-IO-STR-2 Master I/O Controller, the Unmanaged door functionality now includes scheduled and manual control of door strikes in addition to monitoring door contacts.

Up to 16 Unmanaged doors are supported by the new VAX-IO-STR-2 Master I/O Controller. The previous implementation of Unmanaged doors which uses the current VAX-IO-STR I/O Controller has now been renamed to "Monitored Doors." The following table shows what is supported by Managed/Unmanaged/Monitored doors.

Door Type	Readers	Door Strike	Door Contact	Cameras	APB	Auto Opener
Managed	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Unmanaged	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO
Monitored	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO

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Updates to VAX Action Control Engine (ACE)

The Action Control Engine (ACE) which implements global linking in an easy-to-use customized GUI now includes the following new functionalities:

- Add/Remove User from Access Group using a new dedicated action instead of using API commands.

- Set Custom Field using a new dedicated action instead of using API commands.

- Notify Administrator is a new dedicated action which allows you to display a popup to one or more VAX administrators. The popup can include custom text, images, and even display a camera video.

Support for Fixed Site Codes

VAX now supports using a fixed site code for installations where the site codes are not available or consistent. Enabling fixed site code will ignore the site code present on the credential and use a predetermined site code of 60,000. Where possible, we still recommend using the site code on the credential for improved security.

Improved Panel Update Speed

Significant improvements were made to the speed and reliability of VAX panel updates for both current generation VAX-1D/VAX-2D Over-the-Door and Elevator/IO Controllers and the new VAX-MDK-Master Multi-door Controller and VAX-IO-STR-2 Master I/O Controllers.

Interface Usability Improvements

- Significant improvements to real-time status performance
- More reliable SQL connection pooling on large sites
- Added support for the 75Bit CAC card format
- Added ability to force a panel update after a firmware update is completed
- User Start/Expiry dates now support a time parameter that is accurate within 10 minutes (previously was limited to day). Not supported on Aperio panels.
- Added ability to configure external buzzer output to hold state on held open instead of pulsing
- Renamed "Disabled Opened by Card" to "Disable Open by Card/PIN"
- Renamed blocking time after motion to "REX Timeout"

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Additional bugs and issues resolved

- Fixed issue of special characters in LDAP group name causing the group not to import into VAX
- Fixed issue of map viewer shows last activity in UTC Time
- Fixed issue of backups not working on Windows 10 after December 2017 Windows updates
- Fixed issue of System Manager not working in Microsoft Edge
- Fixed issue of timezone editor not working properly in Apple Safari
- Fixed issue of user profile images not appearing correctly in a multi-tenant environment
- Fixed issue of administrator home page icon not appearing on mobile devices
- Fixed issue of paired door man-trap not preventing request to exit from opening door
- Fixed issue of panels marked as not installed would still connect to the server
- Fixed issue of panels marked as not installed would still generate tables
- Fixed issue of non-system administrators not being able to access override output drop-down menu on mobile devices
- Fixed issue of unable to edit UserDb triggers
- Fixed an issue that might result in high CPU usage when using global anti-passback
- Fixed an issue that might cause panels to generate "Invalid Notification" notifications
- Fixed issue of locked card format notification appearing twice
- Fixed issue browser error upon closing camera viewer
- Fixed issue of disengaging emergency alarm privilege also needing update panels privilege

Known Issues for new VAX-MDK-Master/VAX-IO-STR-2 Controllers

- Updating panel will reset external alarm status
- Door programmed Action will not execute if door is configured as a card and PIN schedule
- Upon executing a triple swipe action, reader does not provide an audible feedback
- When Aux Input is set to initiate a crisis level, no notification is generated and door is not overridden to card mode
- Disable held open buzzer will not disable reader buzzer
- Alarm interface is not currently functional
- After triggering a "Disable Held Open Buzzer" panel action, upon duration elapsing, reader buzzer will not re-enable
- Performing a triple swipe on a reader attached to a door in Card and PIN mode will erroneously show two valid access granted messages followed by a third access denied message
- Card and PIN mode with keypad disabled causes an erroneous "Invalid PIN" message
- User action still executes if external alarm status indicates armed
- If a user is denied access due to a door schedule, triple swipe action may still execute

Who Should Install the New Package?

If you are using the new VAX-MDK-Master or VAX-IO-STR-2 Controllers, then you must update to this version. Vicon recommends that every system running an earlier version of VAX should be updated to this latest version, however this is not a mandatory update.

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Availability

This version is now available on Vicon's website and is offered in two packages:

1. Full installation package including all pre-requisite software.

2. Compact installation packages for upgrades or systems with internet access.

Licensing

The VAX server requires a valid VAX license in order to operate correctly. If VAX 2.9.60 is installed to upgrade an older version of VAX, the license on the system will remain valid. For a new installation, the system allows a grace period to license the system through Vicon Sales. Please make sure to license the system as soon as possible to avoid licensing related issues.

Written by Huy Lai