

The Saratogian (<http://www.saratogian.com>)

School security software showcased at Spa City conference

By Travis Clark, tclark@digitalfirstmedia.com, [@TravClark2](https://twitter.com/TravClark2) on Twitter

Monday, October 10, 2016



SARATOGA SPRINGS >> As security in schools continues to be a talking point for many, Lee Mandel, CEO of IntraLogic Solutions, aims to ease the public's mind.

The New York State School Facility Managers Professional Development Conference and Expo began on Sunday at the Saratoga Hilton and continues until Wednesday. Here, Mandel showcased security software that IntraLogic hopes can make schools safer. It's already been implemented in schools, such as on Long Island, where the IntraLogic main office resides, and in other states as well. They have offices in Florida, Connecticut, California and New Jersey too.

"After Sandy Hook, a lot of these different vendors came out and started selling products that were supposed to help in an active shooter situation," Mandel said. "We took a different approach. We actually went to the state and lobbied to provide services for all the schools, free services, to analyze what they have when it comes to security and safety solutions and how we can enhance those safety and security solutions."

Mandel said that his company conducts a Tactical Threat Vulnerability Assessment (TTVA), a free service offered state-wide where IntraLogic will assess a school's security features, from cameras to

visitor policies.

"We're an integrator and developer," he said. "We write our own software as well. So a lot of the product that we recommend are products that we develop in-house. And because we're an independent manufacturer, we're privy to a lot of grants and funding sources. There hasn't been a New York state school yet that we haven't been able to get funding for a lot of that technology."

Mandel said that before Sandy Hook, schools were lackadaisical about safety, but are now much more proactive.

"Technology on its own can't prevent the active shooter situation, there's a lot of policies and procedures," Mandel said. "But the whole key with safety and security is all the proactive components and the speed of reacting to an active shooter situation. We've developed a lot of interesting software that ties everything together."

This software includes a one-button system that automates the process of locking down a school facility. The technology includes wall-mounted buttons, mobile buttons and software that can turn any phone or keyboard in a school district into a lockdown button so that the means to trigger the lockdown are not in any one person's hands.

Mandel said that his team went to school's throughout the country to study the process of locking a school down and that it's usually a 10 to 15 minute process. The IntraLogic software boils it down to a 10 to 15 second process with the push of a button. Police are alerted, mass texts are sent out to parents, computers are taken over to display a lockdown message, strobe lights flash outside the building, card swipe systems are disabled, and so on.

"You get goose bumps when you see it all happening," Mandel said.

Mandel said that they have been in contact with local schools regarding the technology. He couldn't disclose which ones, but none have finalized anything yet. However, they have been in discussions with the State Department of Education to implement the software on a state-wide level.

While the software has not been used in an actual active shooter situation yet, it has been used in drills, similar to that of a fire drill. Mandel also said that the software has been used in lockouts, in which the perimeter is secured and no one is let in, which he said are more common than a lockdown.

"We've had to use it in some non-life threatening situations," he said. "A lockout is more frequent than a lockdown. A lockdown is when you hear the gun shots being fired and God-forbid there's a shooter in the building. We have seen some false alarms in which people accidentally hit the button but those seem to be the most effective tools because people learn so much from that."

Mandel said that IntraLogic has many bank and national retail chain clients, so the technology is not just used in schools. He hopes, though, that schools will see the importance in technology like this.

URL: <http://www.saratogian.com/social-affairs/20161010/school-security-software-showcased-at-spa-city-conference>

© 2016 The Saratogian (<http://www.saratogian.com>)