

WHITE PAPER

Device lifecycle management with AXIS Device Manager Extend

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1 Introduction

AXIS Device Manager Extend is a software application which provides system administrators with an interface for discovering, monitoring, and operating Axis devices on their organization's networks.

This white paper presents an overview of AXIS Device Manager Extend and its components. We briefly discuss the application's benefits and display some typical system setups.

2 Background - AXIS Device Manager and AXIS Device Manager Extend

AXIS Device Manager Extend is a software application separate from the appreciated device management tool AXIS Device Manager.

AXIS Device Manager Extend is ideally suited for customers who want an intuitive graphical dashboard of their extended system's status, with automated system monitoring and the possibility to monitor geographically remote sites.

AXIS Device Manager, by comparison, offers a broader range of functions. It is more suited for initial system configuration or manual maintenance tasks during the system lifetime.

The softwares can be used either individually or concurrently, as each realizes slightly different use cases. There is some overlap in the functionality and the long-term intention is to migrate both softwares into a single united application, providing support for the combined feature set. Together, AXIS Device Manager and AXIS Device Manager Extend offer security system installers and security system administrators easy, cost-effective, and secure ways to manage all major installation, security, and maintenance tasks for their system.

3 Device management with clients and site controllers

AXIS Device Manager Extend consists of a client (or several clients) and a site controller (or several site controllers). The client provides a user interface while the site controller enables device discovery and management of the devices.

The client can be used as an on-demand or always available user interface for managing the AXIS Device Manager Extend system. It can be run on a dedicated machine together with a locally installed site controller or separately from the site controller(s) on a remotely connected laptop. The client presents the user with an intuitive graphical interface where the overall status of the system is readily available.

The site controller is an always available, on-premise management service that is responsible for maintaining the connections with local devices, such as cameras. The site controller also acts as a link to the Axis service platform, where the same API functionality is abstracted remotely to support remote monitoring of sites.

An AXIS Device Manager Extend client can connect directly to manage a single site controller on the same local network. The client can also connect remotely to multiple sites across an organization's network, or even a combination of both a local site and some remote sites.

Both the client and the site controller are light weight in terms of the processing resources required. This supports the possibilities to run the client and the site controller together on one PC. But it also enables the option to run them separately. The site controller can, for example, be run on a virtualized server or

even a dedicated hardware server originally purposed for other tasks (such as, running a VMS), but with some processing resource still available. The client is envisioned to be run from a laptop or a dedicated server. The client and the site controller architecture support a multitude of configurations of client(s) and site controller(s) in one system.

4 The benefits of AXIS Device Manager Extend

AXIS Device Manager Extend provides an intuitive graphical dashboard of your system's current status. Whether you are managing a few devices on a local LAN or thousands of geographically distributed devices on a multitude of LANs, the software provides consistent and secure monitoring and lifecycle management.

AXIS Device Manager Extend will address network performance issues, for example, identifying connectivity failures to devices or identifying unstable devices. It will support maintenance planning by showing warranty time, discontinuation date, and end-of-support date for the individual devices in the system.

In addition, important events will be automatically stored in the system log. This includes items such as user activity, device status, and network status. The system log provides an audit trail, which is a key security feature (as specified by, for example, ISO 27001) as well as a powerful system management component.

5 Typical system setups

5.1 Single site

In a single-site setup, the client and site controller will likely have a direct connection to each other and connect to the Axis service platform for updated firmware and other support information.

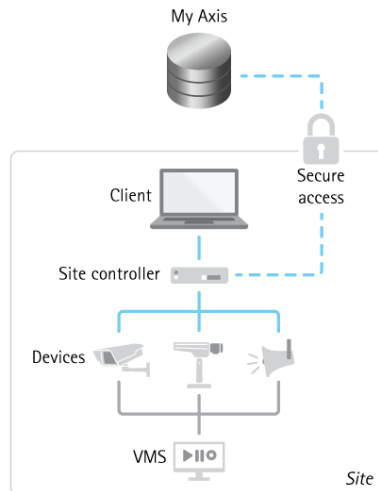


Figure 1. Typical setup for single-site (local) operations.

5.2 Multiple sites

For efficient remote, multiple-site management the client will communicate with each remote site controller to manage the organization's separate sites.

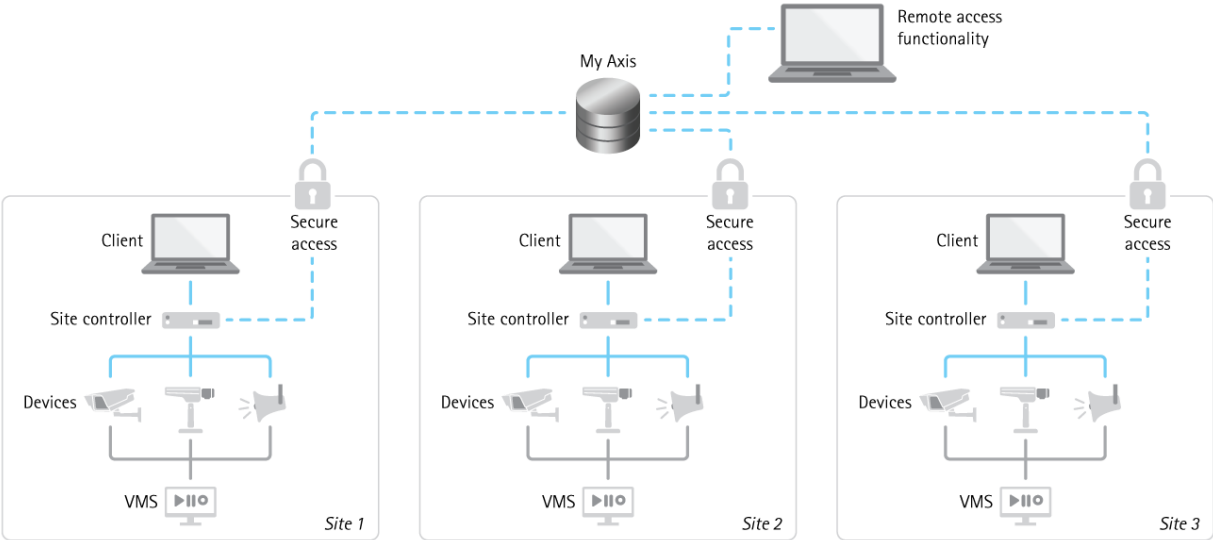


Figure 2. Typical setup for managing multiple sites.

5.3 With or without proxy

An additional feature available in the site controller is the support for specifying a proxy. This enables all site controllers in a system to be configured to set up their outgoing data connections via a single connection point or proxy.

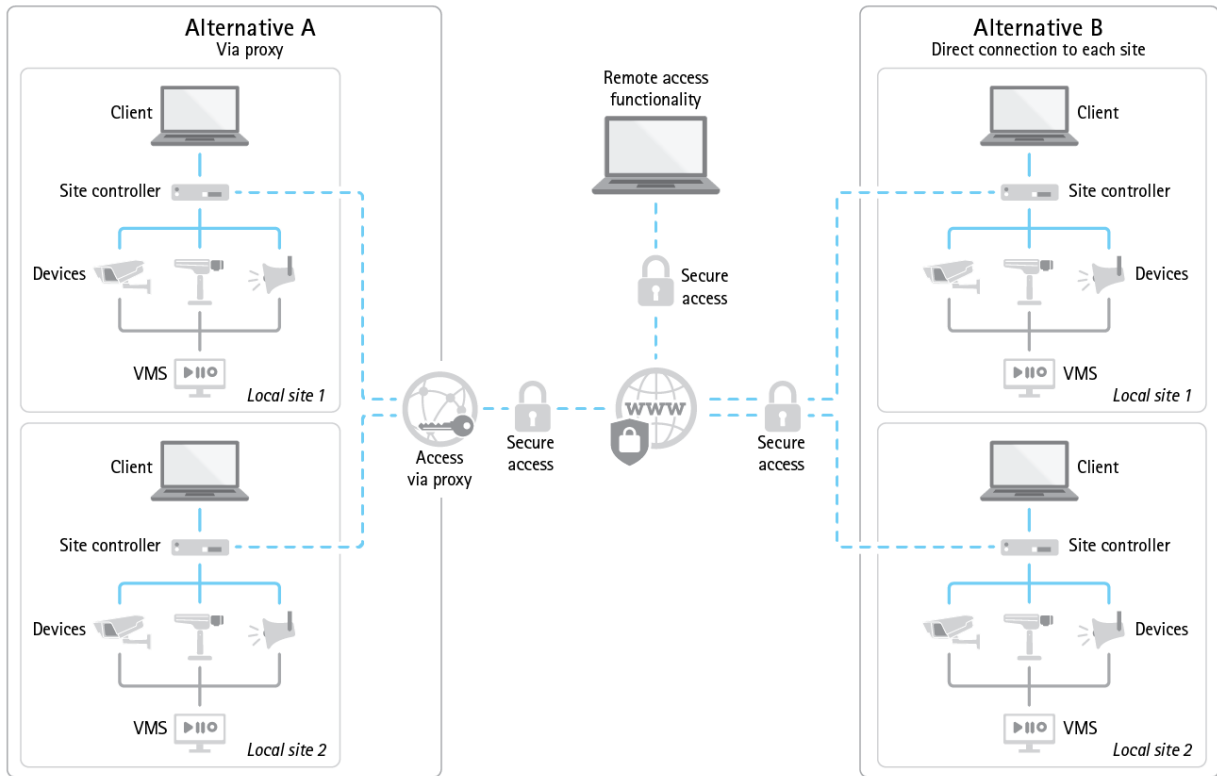


Figure 3. Typical system architecture with or without proxy.

About Axis Communications

Axis enables a smarter and safer world by creating network solutions that provide insights for improving security and new ways of doing business. As the industry leader in network video, Axis offers products and services for video surveillance and analytics, access control, intercom and audio systems. Axis has more than 3,800 dedicated employees in over 50 countries and collaborates with partners worldwide to deliver customer solutions. Axis was founded in 1984 and has its headquarters in Lund, Sweden.

For more information about Axis, please visit our website axis.com.