



Reference Story

BASF (Antwerp)

Smooth migration from IF-6020 to IF-6040

After 23 years of working with a proven access control system, BASF was looking for a more modern system. Key requirements were increased performance, stricter security, and enhanced reporting capabilities.

BASF in the Port of Antwerp is the largest chemical production center in Belgium and the company's second-largest site worldwide. With an area of 600 hectares, equivalent to 1,200 football fields, it houses over 50 production plants, as well as warehouses, laboratories, and offices. Approximately 3,500 BASF employees and over 1,000 strategic partners work on-site, along with various partner companies.

2.5 million gate movements

Fast and secure access control is crucial for BASF. In total, there are almost 2.5 million gate movements per year, involving 11,000 visitors, 30,000 contractors, 65,000 trucks, and 3,500 employees. Access control with ID cards is also implemented in some offices and warehouses. BASF prints and encodes all these cards internally. The identification of individuals entering and exiting buildings also serves as the basis for the evacuation list. In the event of an alarm or evacuation, the BASF fire brigade and crisis management team know the exact location of each employee or visitor. The ID cards are also used for numerous other applications, from food payment to PC access.

IF-6020: Client-server model

Since the late 1990s, BASF has been using the IF-6020 security solution from Interflex, which operates on a client-server model. Although this system has been successful for 23 years, it has reached its limits and occasional waiting times at the gate occurred. BASF now wants to introduce stricter data privacy and security measures.

Industry:
Chemical industry

Company size:
3,500 employees
(location Antwerp)

Solution:

- Access control
- Software IF-6040

This is what the customer says:
“Their agile approach ensured that we received regular updates on progress. This kept us highly engaged and allowed us to make timely adjustments if needed, resulting in the delivered solution now fully meeting our requirements.”

Alex Pomierski, Site Security Coordinator

Additionally, BASF had further requirements regarding reporting capabilities. The company needs to generate many reports, including those for its partners, such as the number of gate movements and the number of visitors.

Selection of the new system

Alex Pomierski, Site Security Coordinator at BASF Antwerp, explains the considerations made by the chemical company: “The new system should completely replace the old one but be faster and more powerful. We were also looking for a replacement for our visitor application. Visitors also need to register at the gate and in the buildings. Another important requirement was that it could be linked to various other systems, such as HR systems for time registration in SAP, taking into account shift schedules, truck access permits, pre-registration of contractors, the Oribi interface for ID scanning, systems of on-site strategic partners, etc. We also wanted to be able to integrate the eVayo app from Interflex for visitor access into the new access control system.”

Project approach

Once the new hardware was ready, Interflex began setting up the IF-6040 in the BASF environment. “Their agile approach ensured that we received regular updates on progress. This kept us highly engaged and allowed us to make timely adjustments if needed, resulting in the delivered solution now fully meeting our requirements,” continues Alex Pomierski. “The challenge was to reconfigure the many interfaces while BASF Antwerp operates 24/7, 365 days a year. The transition to new servers, software, and data had to be done without any security breaches or risks. And we succeeded! For IF-6040, we created various profiles, so that security and technical service employees have access to the system and data on a need-to-know basis. With the new system, we can also establish encrypted interfaces with HR systems. Our IT specialists implemented this together with the Interflex experts.”

On time and within budget

“Interflex assigned a highly competent project manager to this project, with whom we had an excellent collaboration. It was crucial that he had excellent technical qualifications and a good understanding of Interflex. He was able to quickly involve the necessary expertise. This was an exceptional achievement, especially since this project took place entirely during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the one-and-a-half-year project duration, we were only able to meet in person a few times. However, the cooperation went extremely smoothly. The project was completed on time and within budget,” adds Alex Pomierski.

Result

The new system completely meets BASF’s expectations. “With the powerful server and the IF-6040 software from Interflex, waiting times at the gate are a thing of the past. Even the passage of large groups of people and trucks is smooth. Reporting capabilities have been significantly expanded. Another advantage of IF-6040 is that it is web-based. No installation package is required anymore, administration is easy, and the user interface is user-friendly. Technical and security employees have access to IF-6040 based on their profiles. Interfaces with HR systems are encrypted,” expresses Alex Pomierski with satisfaction.



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Future

BASF plans to further expand the application for visitor management. "Then only one screen needs to be open on the PC. This allows BASF employees at the reception to work even faster. For this adaptation, we will definitely rely on the expertise of Interflex."

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