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- + DELAYED EGRESS LOCKS



From Concrete Vision to Connected Community

A partnership designs a unified security system to manage complex access needs across three high-rise buildings.

BY NIKKI WILLIAMS AND MICHAEL CUNI

In the heart of Vaughan, Ontario, a new vision for urban living was taking shape. Abeja District, a massive residential development by Cortel Group, wasn't just about building towers; it was about creating a vertical village.

With three high-rise buildings, a shared podium, and over 800 suites destined to house 2,000 residents, the project was ambitious. The goal was to create a vibrant, intelligent community where living spaces, workspaces, and retail spaces blended seamlessly. But for this vision to become a reality, its security and access control had to be just as forward-thinking.

That's where Toronto-based integrator The Automated Group (TAG) stepped in. It faced a monumental challenge: design a unified security system to manage complex access needs across countless entry points, amenities, and elevators.

The system needed to be powerful enough for a dense, multitower environment yet simple enough for hundreds of residents and staff to use effortlessly every day. It had to provide a frictionless experience that made residents feel both welcome and secure. To deliver on this promise, TAG turned to a trusted partner the company knew could help it succeed: ICT.



Above: Abeja District includes three high-rise buildings with 800 suites for 2,000 residents.

Right: Residents move effortlessly through Abeja District while unified access control helps keep every space secure and connected.

For Cortel Group's vision of a connected community to succeed, the security and access control had to be as forward-thinking as the development itself. Abeja District is a massive undertaking, with three towers of approximately 30 stories each, a shared podium level, more than 800 suites, and more than 2,000 residents. Managing secure and convenient access for everyone was a challenge.

TAG needed to deliver a system that matched the project's smart-building goals. This meant centralizing control, integrating with other building operations, and giving the concierge team a clear, real-time view of activity across the entire property. Most importantly, it had to provide a frictionless experience for the hundreds of residents and staff moving through the buildings daily.

To bring Abeja District's vision to life, TAG worked with ITC to design a scalable, unified security platform.

A UNIFIED PLATFORM FOR A VERTICAL VILLAGE

For a development as ambitious as Abeja District, a collection of disconnected systems was never an option. The vision was a single, cohesive community, and the technology needed to reflect that. TAG's challenge was to find a solution that could bring every aspect of security and access under one umbrella without overwhelming the building staff.

TAG designed a scalable security infrastructure built around Protégé GX, creating a central nervous system for the entire

property. This unified platform gives Abeja's management team a single, intuitive interface to see everything in real time.

From one screen, the concierge can monitor doors, review access events, and respond to alarms across all three towers. This centralization eliminates the complexity of juggling multiple systems, making daily operations simpler and more efficient. It empowers the staff to provide a higher level of service to residents, secure in the knowledge that they have complete control and visibility.

SEAMLESS MOVEMENT, SECURE LIVING

In a multitower residence, managing the flow of people is crucial. It's about more than just security; it's about creating a seamless living experience. At Abeja District, this meant implementing sophisticated elevator and common-area controls that felt effortless for residents but provided robust security for management.

TAG utilized a combination of ICT's proven hardware to achieve this. "The output modules are used for the elevator control, and the input modules monitor common-area doors," says David Marchione, Chief Implementation Officer at TAG.

This integration means that when residents present their credentials, the system doesn't just unlock a door — it also can call an elevator and grant access only to their specific floor. This tailored access enhances security by preventing unauthorized access to residential floors while providing a layer of convenience.



Above: When everything is visible in one place, operations become simpler. David Marchione, Chief Implementation Officer, The Automated Group/Guardtek, shares the “one pane of glass” view of operations

Right: Every floor is secured with integrated elevator control that helps ensure residents reach only authorized destinations while keeping operations effortless.



“Everything reports back to the Protégé GX software, so the concierge can see exactly what doors are opening and closing.”

— DAVID MARCHIONE

For the concierge team, this integration is a game-changer. “Everything reports back to the Protégé GX software, so the concierge can see exactly what doors are opening and closing,” Marchione adds. This real-time feedback loop enables staff to proactively manage the property, turning a complex web of entry points into a manageable, responsive environment.

A PARTNERSHIP FORGED IN PROBLEM-SOLVING

Every large-scale project presents unexpected hurdles, and Abeja District was no exception. What set this project apart was the confidence TAG had in facing those challenges, thanks to its long-standing partnership with ICT. The company knew that when a unique problem arose, it had a partner that could help find a solution.

“In our history of dealing with ICT, we’ve always had successful outcomes when it comes to trying to solve unique scenarios,” says Michael D’Angelo, Chief Revenue Officer at

TAG. This “can-do” spirit is at the heart of the partnership. Instead of seeing roadblocks, the teams saw opportunities to innovate.

THE OUTCOME

The result at Abeja District is a unified, reliable, and user-friendly system that has streamlined access management for residents and building staff. The partnership between TAG and ICT delivered a smart, efficient, and future-ready security infrastructure that supports Cortel Group’s goal of creating a safe and connected environment.

The feedback from the end user — the building management — has been overwhelmingly positive, particularly regarding the system’s ease of use. “It’s all on one platform,” Marchione says. “The integration is smooth, and the software is very easy to use. We get a lot of positive feedback from the customers.” +

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