

## PSIM vs. VMS: What Do You Need?

QUESTION	VMS	PSIM	NOTES:
Do you need to record video?	Y	N	PSIM simply does not do video recording. It presents video from one or more underlying Video Management Systems and/or Digital Video Recorders. To record video, get a VMS.
Do you need to export protected video?	Y	N	Each VMS has proprietary methods to digitally sign exported video clips to protect them against modification. Although technically possible, it's rare for PSIM to expose this functionality so you would resort to the VMS to export such clips. PSIM systems are used to export unprotected clips in standard formats, e.g. AVI.
Do you need your VMS integrated to a PACS?	Y	Y	Direct peer to peer integration from VMS to PACS is simple and often free. PSIM is an indirect way to integrate them, so you can have multiple VMS's and PACS, and even multiple versions of each. A PSIM solution might offer integration to dozens of VMS's and PACS brands and it is the PSIM system's role to keep these interfaces up to date.
Do you need to manage alarms?	Y	Y	A VMS can present alarms from the VMS, but also from other systems like PACS through SDKs. The alarm arrives, gets acknowledged and that's essentially the end of it. This is a very basic form of situational awareness that senses very few systems for important information. A PSIM solution considers the alarm as the trigger to either start an incident, or to provide real-time situational awareness as the incident evolves over time. Because it integrates many systems, these triggers come from a wide variety of sources and are correlated in time, space and severity. This is very rich situational awareness.
Do you need to manage incidents?	N	Y	A VMS handles alarms, not incidents. Also, by definition it is video-centric which means that it is built on the premise that everything you care about revolves around video.
Do you need to implement standard operating procedures?	N	Y	PSIM's core value is enabling customers to use technology to guide operators through well established policies and procedures, ensuring that people do the right thing at the right time. PSIM also meticulously documents these activities for both internal review (for process improvement) and for external inspection by auditors (e.g. to establish compliance).
Do you need to demonstrate regulatory compliance?	N	Y	Video can be used as evidence of compliance but it only tells part of the story. PSIM integrates everything, so it can report on everything. Who did what, when and why? When did the incident start, when did it escalate and when did it end? With PSIM, reports can be automatically generated after an incident closes, or after a specified period of time, so you can review what happened at a more macro level.
Do you need to significantly accelerate incident response?	N	Y	Poor incident response times can affect security, life safety and operations. A VMS might help you resolve an incident faster simply by being able to view a camera, or by quickly pulling archived video as evidence. But PSIM does this and a lot more because it integrates standardized workflows, automated procedures and multiple systems.
Are the consequences of a mis-handled incident high?	N	Y	When the consequences of a mis-handled incident are higher, there tends to be lower tolerance for risk. PSIM provides a higher level of situational awareness and management to mitigate risk.
Do you have multiple Command and Control Centers you want to consolidate?	N	Y	There may be times when it would be economical to consolidate multiple Command and Control Centers, especially during periods of relatively low activity, such as holidays or weekends. Another justification for multiple centers might be the sheer workload. However, by shortening incident resolution times the same workload can now be handled by fewer people. By proactively increasing operational efficiency, one can also negate the need to build more centers to keep up with the pace of increasing workload.

Terminology: VMS – video management system; PSIM – physical security information management; PACS – physical access control system

Use this chart as a guideline to determine specific parameters and whether a VMS or PSIM is a better fit for your customer and their organization. Chart courtesy Bob Banerjee, NICE Systems