

# ACCESS CONTROL & SECURITY SYSTEMS

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DEVELOPED FOR GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY NEEDS, ROBOTIC TECHNOLOGY IS AVAILABLE TODAY FOR CORPORATE AND INSTITUTIONAL APPLICATIONS

## ROBOTS

# On the Job

By **RANDY SOUTHERLAND**

**I**t will be a long time before the human security guard is replaced by the mechanical kind. Just as the public long ago gave up on the idea of "Rosie" the robotic maid (from "The Jetsons") doing their housework, none of us is likely to see the worrying C-3PO of "Star Wars" appointed director of security.

Yet mobile, mechanized and increasingly intelligent platforms are making inroads into security arenas. Thanks to technology that enables them to make decisions based on individual situations — along with sensors and software that allow these metal and plastic cops to handle a much wider range of situations — robots are finally beginning to make

headway into corporate and industrial settings.

Of course, as robots have become better and cheaper, companies are increasingly able to justify replacing humans with mechanics for some tasks.

### From military to civilian

Robots tend to fall into two categories — remote controlled and autonomous. One becomes an extension of a human controller while the other functions on its own, following a programmed set of tasks. The rapidly expanding military market favors the remote-controlled robot, where it becomes an extension of a soldier — who can direct the robot to disarm a roadside bomb in Iraq, for example.

"In essence they are just like the remote control car that your kid uses," says

*Robot PackBot 100 is a bomb-disposal robot used by U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan to disarm roadside bombs and other improvised explosive devices (IEDs).*

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# Analyzing reams of data

**RiverGlass Inc., Champaign, Ill.**

Analysis of data from hundreds of sources can prove to be a wildly difficult task for a human. Streaming data analytic technology can automate the process, and reveal trends in an organization that would catch the attention of any CEO or security director.

The RiverGlass software uses analytics to mine data from hundreds – even thousands – of sources automatically. It gathers, organizes, merges and then analyzes the data – leading to some kind of action from the human user.

“It takes 80 percent of your time to collect and analyze data, leaving only 20 percent of



**The RiverGlass software uses complicated analytics to sort through thousands of pieces of data, then creates actionable information for organizations to use.**

your time to take action on it,” says Rick McNeese, vice president of business development for RiverGlass. “The idea of this software is to reverse that ratio.”

In a security environment, the software can analyze the data from hundreds of access control readers and CCTV cameras spread across multiple facilities. It uses this data to create a report on anything it sees as a potential security threat. “If there is a potential threat at any one facility alone, it would be hard to see it, but when something is happening across multiple facilities, it becomes visible,” McNeese explains. “The question is, how can all this data be used to identify undiscovered threats, and what can be done to mitigate them?”

The software can be programmed to “understand” the relevance of certain data to a particular user, McNeese adds.