



Case Study

UK's National Security Inspectorate (NSI) implements solution from Kodak Alaris featuring Kodak Capture Pro Software and Kodak i2600 Scanner

OCR technology captures data from compliance certificates quickly and accurately

Situation

The NSI was struggling to get by with a legacy scanning solution that couldn't provide the speed, image quality and accuracy it needed, and required high maintenance costs.

Objective

Implement a fast, accurate, cost-effective scanning solution.

Solution

A solution using a **Kodak i2600 Scanner** and **Kodak Capture Pro Software** that utilizes Optical Character Recognition (OCR) capability to quickly and accurately capture data.

Results

The NSI is able to process compliance certificates more rapidly and with greater image clarity. The organization is also saving approximately \$4,600 annually on maintenance fees required for the previous system.

Ensuring high standards in security and fire safety for four decades

Founded over 40 years ago and based in Maidenhead, the NSI helps protect businesses and homeowners by providing high quality independent audits of security and fire safety service providers to ensure they adhere to stringent UK and European standards.

The more than 1,800 NSI-approved contractors meet the appropriate guidelines and use approved equipment as required by police and fire departments, as well as the insurance industry. NSI-audited firms include companies such as ADT, Chubb, Banham, and a host of smaller independent suppliers and contractors.

An accessible compliance certificate repository

Describing the organization's certificate processing procedure, Moira Page, NSI's Head of Information Systems, says, "For example, when a burglar alarm is installed by an NSI-approved contractor, a compliance certificate is issued which comes in three parts – a copy for the customer, one for the installer, and the third is sent to us for reference. It is proof that a bona fide alarm has been fitted and that the company installing it meets all of the relevant standards for the security systems sector."

The certificate lists information such as the customer's name and address, date and type of alarm installed, signal used, supplier, and other details.

The NSI stores certificates in its database for accounting purposes – it can then check and cross-reference that it has received payments from contractors who often buy certificates in bulk. Copies of certificates are also retained for reference purposes for businesses and consumers – in case paperwork is lost and for insurance companies that often want to see copies when claims are made.

Putting a plodder out to pasture

With more than 4,000 compliance certificates received each month, speed and accuracy were very important to the NSI. Carol Whitfield, IT and Certificates Coordinator, explains, “Our old scanner solution was a bit of a plodder. It did the job, but the new equipment from Kodak Alaris is very fast and the quality of images is really good. It’s simple to use and makes the task of certificate processing much easier.”

With the new solution from Kodak Alaris including a **Kodak i2600 Scanner** and **Kodak Capture Pro Software**, administrative staff can now manage the documentation faster and more accurately, with the included OCR technology reading customer and alarm installation data from the forms automatically. This is then used to update NSI’s certificate management database. The scanner and software were supplied and installed by AAC Systems, a Kodak Alaris Reseller that also completed some integration work to ensure that the right data from the certificates could be extracted using OCR.

Andrew Chescoe, Managing Director, AAC Systems, says, “The requirement was all about cost-effective efficiency. From our first review of the business operation, it was apparent that an easy-



Kodak i2620 Scanner

to-use, fast and accurate system was needed, without costing a fortune. **Kodak Capture Pro Software** met all of these criteria and could be fully implemented in just a few days. Combined with a modern scanner, such as the **Kodak i2600**, the quality of the scanned images is vastly better compared to the previous equipment, improving the quality of service NSI offers its customers.”

Tremendous return on investment and maintenance cost savings

At just over \$5,000, the total project cost was nearly offset in the first year by savings over the old system. NSI’s Page explains, “Our old annual maintenance fees were practically the same as what we’ve paid for the brand new solution from Kodak Alaris. We’ve saved financially plus we’ve got a much better, more modern, feature-rich system which works much, much quicker.”

NSI had been using that legacy system from another vendor for seven years.

Lighting the way to enhanced image clarity

The **Kodak i2600 Scanner** has a recommended daily volume of up to

4,000 pages (50 pages per minute at 300 dpi) and comes with dual indirect LED document illumination which uses less energy, ensures excellent reliability, and radically enhances image clarity, consistency, and color stability. LED does this by ensuring even light distribution when images are scanned, with optical resolution up to 1200 dpi. Kodak is the first manufacturer to use dual indirect LED document illumination in this category of product.

Neil Murphy, Kodak Alaris’ UK Sales Manager says, “Documents have valuable data in them that organizations like the NSI want to capture and turn into information. **Kodak Capture Pro Software** delivers this without any click charges. It has been designed for fast and accurate image digitization and, combined with our scanner hardware, means a cost competitive solution to improve productivity.”

The **Kodak i2600 Scanners** support all **Microsoft Windows XP, Windows Vista, and Windows 7** operating systems along with **Windows Server 2008** and **Linux Ubuntu**, backed by a three-year warranty.

Want to learn more?

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