

Migration Guide

Migration Pathways and Priorities for Mercury Controllers and IO Modules







The pace of change in physical security continuously accelerates. Mercury has been a trusted name in security for over 30 years, helping customers navigate these shifts with our commitment to open architecture and cutting-edge solutions.

As we introduce the new Mercury MP Intelligent Controllers, we recognize that our customers are at various stages in their technology lifecycle. Some may still rely on legacy, outdated equipment, while others have adopted more recent offerings. Much has changed since the release of our Mercury EP Controllers in 2007 and SCP Controllers in 1995. Customers operating these legacy controllers in combination with Series 2 (S2) and Series 1 (S1) IO modules expose themselves to potential security risk and supportability issues the longer they wait to upgrade.

On the other hand, those using the more recently released Mercury LP Controllers and Series 3 (S3/ S3B) can modernize security capabilities and get updates to features and security through firmware updates. This guide highlights the relative urgency and critical considerations for these and other typical scenarios.

Mercury Controller Families

SCP 1st Generation 1995 - 2007	EP 2nd Generation 2007 - 2019	LP 3rd Generation 2018 - 2028	MP 4th Generation 2024 -
UPGRADE HARDWARE Legacy technology no longer supportable with firmware updates.	UPGRADE HARDWARE Legacy technology no longer supportable with firmware updates.	UPGRADE FIRMWARE Modern security and functional capabilities. Update to the latest applicable version of MercOS.	FUTURE-PROOF Future-ready app environment with early-lifecycle components and the latest features.

MP with S3/S3B IO Modules

MP 4th Generation 2024 -

LP 3rd Generation

2018 - 2028

MP controllers with S3/S3B IO modules represent the most robust and future-proof configuration. To make the installation as secure as possible, ensure TLS 1.3 is used for connectivity between the host software and the controller. No need to worry about protecting data at rest because it is enabled by default, but be sure the system is configured for encryption on both the IO module bus and OSDP reader bus.



LP with S3/S3B IO Modules

LP controllers with S3/S3B IO modules enable a secure and well-supported configuration. To make the installation as secure as possible, ensure the LPs are updated to the latest version of Mercury firmware, MercOS, and enable data partition encryption to secure data at rest. Be sure the system is configured for encryption on both the IO module bus and OSDP reader bus and that host/controller encryption is set up for TLS 1.3.

If you are running a combination of LP and S2/S1 IO modules, **upgrade IO modules to S3/S3B to ensure the latest in security and functionality**.







Controllers	Mercury SCP	Mercury EP	Mercury LP	Mercury MP
Upgrade Recommendation	Most Urgent	Urgent	Supported through 2028	Future-ready
	 No longer serviceable Outdated network security Limited memory Insecure reader and I/O communications No smart card/ biometric support 	 Lacks updated IP security standards (e.g., TLS 1.3) No FIPS compliance No modern reader update capabilities Lacks crypto chip 	 Upgrade to the latest applicable* MercOS Local or cloud-based host connectivity FIPS 140-3 (pending) Remote firmware update Latest network security (mTLS, TLS 1.3) 	 Build with new components early in their lifecycle Modern, hardware-based security (ARM TrustZone, Secure Boot) App-ready Remote power cycling FIPS 140-3 (pending)

* Always consult your OEM software provider for firmware updates. Feature compatibility of MercOS and OEM software vary based on use cases and OEM software provider feature consumption.

IO Modules	Mercury S1 (MR)	Mercury S2 (MR)	Mercury S3 & S3B (MR)
Upgrade Recommendation	Most Urgent	Urgent	Future-ready
	 No longer serviceable No RS485 bus encryption Insecure reader communication No smart card/ biometric support 	 No OSDP Secure Channel No RS485 bus encryption Lacks crypto chip No support for FICAM profiles Not HSPD-12/FIPS 201 Compliant 	 Secure crypto engine (S3B) Embedded crypto chip OSDP Secure Channel AES 256 Data Encryption Support for biometrics, F/2F and clock and data

Secure Your Future Today

Mercury is dedicated to helping customers adapt and protect against the latest security threats and industry changes. For organizations with older hardware, now is the perfect time to upgrade. EP and SCP boards, which are now severely outdated, cannot comply with modern standards due to their age. Customers using LP controllers should always ensure controllers are running the latest applicable version of Mercury firmware, MercOS, and plan for future MP controller purchases and transitions to ensure extensibility and supportability beyond 2028. By opting for MP controllers and S3/S3B IO modules, your infrastructure is positioned as futureproof, agile and secure. MP controllers will be available later in 2024. Please get in touch with your Mercury representative or OEM partner for details on availability and questions regarding compatibility and upgrade pathways.

Controllers	Mercury SCP	Mercury EP	Mercury LP	Nercury MP
Hardware Availability	No longer manufactured		Ending in 2024	Starting in 2024
Key Security Elements	Limited	Limited	Secure Crypto Chip	Secure Crypto Chip ARM TrustZone Secure Boot Processor
Apps and Integrations	No	Minimal and unsupported	Limited (locks, elevators, strong authentication, power supplies)	Future-ready scalable embedded app environment
Network Security			TLS 1.3, mTLS Requires MercOS 2.x	TLS 1.3, mTLS Requires MercOS 2.x
Firmware Support	No	No	Through 2028	Yes
New Feature Support	No	No	Through 2028	Yes
FIPS Certified	No	No	140-3 (pending) Requires MercOS 2.x	140-3 (pending)
Remote Reader Reboot	No	No	No	Yes
Designed for Cloud API	No	No	Yes Update to MercOS 2.x*	Yes Update to MercOS 2.x*
OSDP Secure Channel	No	No	Yes	Yes
Biometric Reader Support	No	No	Yes	Yes
Compatible with HID Linq™	No	No	Yes Update to MercOS 2.x*	Coming Soon

* For any features, consult your OEM software provider. Many new features of MP and/or MercOS require consumption by the software system.





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