# Genetec Security Center — Evaluation Field Guide

An honest one-page profile of the unified, cyber-first VMS: the native modules, the architecture, the curated-openness boundary, the licensing math, and where it fits.

## The unified platform at a glance

| Module | What it runs | Role in the unified platform |
|---|---|---|
| **Omnicast** | Video management (VMS) | Records & replays all cameras |
| **Synergis** | Access control | Doors, badges, readers - native, not a wrapper |
| **AutoVu** | License plates (ALPR) | Fixed & patrol plate reading |
| **Mission Control** | Decision management | Turns alarm floods into guided operator responses |
| **KiwiVision** | Analytics + privacy | Video analytics & Privacy Protector anonymization |

One operator screen (Security Desk), one admin tool (Config Tool), one database. Omdia ranks Genetec the world's #1 video-surveillance-software vendor; privately held, founded Montreal 1997.

## What 'unified' really means - and the trade vs an open VMS

Security Center runs video, access control, and license plates as native modules of one product, sharing one database, one permission model, and one operator screen - instead of three separate systems wired together. The trade against an open VMS like Milestone XProtect: Genetec's openness is curated and cyber-first - ONVIF Profile S plus native drivers, a tiered certified-device program (Genetec / Partner certified), camera certificate and password management, and explicit NDAA guidance - rather than maximal interoperability across 16,500+ devices. You gain governance and a smaller attack surface; you give up the long tail of cheap cameras.

## Licensing and the cost shape (CapEx per connection)

On-prem Security Center is a one-time capital expense priced per connection - one licence per camera, per door/reader, per ALPR unit - plus Genetec Advantage, the recurring maintenance plan (upgrades, premium support, availability monitoring). Illustrative 200-camera + 50-door, 5-year software math: ($250 x 200) + ($300 x 50) + ($13,000 Advantage x 5) = $50,000 + $15,000 + $65,000 = $130,000, about $108 per camera-or-door per year for video AND access on one platform. Cloud (Stratocast, Security Center SaaS) flips to a per-camera subscription. Figures illustrative; certified partners discount real quotes.

## Where Security Center fits - and where it doesn't

| Choose Genetec when... | Look elsewhere when... |
|---|---|
| You want video, access, and plates in one cyber-hardened platform; city / enterprise scale; a regulated sector that values a privacy-certified, NDAA-aware posture. You bring servers and a certified integrator. | A 20-camera single site, no access control, no IT - Stratocast (cloud VSaaS) or another cloud platform is live faster and cheaper. Want the widest hardware choice or the lowest mid-market price? See the open-platform camp. |

## The four questions to ask before you commit

- Scope - do you need video + access + plates unified, or just video? If just video, is the full platform over-bought vs Stratocast?
- Openness - are the exact camera models AND features you need on Genetec's certified-device list, or only ONVIF-connected?
- Deployment - on-prem Security Center, hybrid via Streamvault / Cloudlink, or cloud (Stratocast / Security Center SaaS)? Have you sized the Archiver servers?
- Cost - did you put the per-connection licences AND the recurring Genetec Advantage on the same five-year footing as any cloud or open-VMS quote?

Engineering and procurement guidance, not legal advice. KiwiVision Privacy Protector helps meet GDPR Art. 25 (data protection by design), but face recognition and plate reading remain a legal gate - confirm GDPR / BIPA / local law with qualified counsel before switching them on.




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This field guide profiles Genetec Security Center: modules, curated openness, per-connection licensing and where it fits. Our seven-volume handbook covers the stack under any VMS; start with Volume 6 for video analytics, then Volume 7 for biometric rules and real-time AI, and Volume 1 for camera encoding.

### WHAT YOU WILL FIND INSIDE

- Video analytics and computer vision (Vol. 6)
- Camera encoding and bitrate (Vol. 1)
- Biometric rules and real-time AI (Vol. 7)

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## Comparing Genetec with other VMS platforms?

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