

# Providing the Next Step in Security and Mobility to Those Most in Need

How advanced access technologies are working to equip senior citizens, their communities and facilities with enhanced freedom, safety and peace-of-mind



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# It is a widely held belief that the elderly have an aversion to anything technology-based.

This is a stereotype that is increasingly becoming outdated, as technological innovations designed specifically to cater to their desire for greater mobility, convenience and wellbeing continue to be introduced and adopted. The tides are turning within, and because of, the aging baby boomer generation as they begin to enter senior living and healthcare facilities, becoming more accustomed to the presence of convenience-enhancing technologies than previous age groups.<sup>1</sup> With the baby boomer population standing at approximately 78 million, those providing services to seniors are consequently adapting to this influential segment's entrenched distaste for anything resembling institutionalization.<sup>2</sup> In an effort to distance themselves from the sterile, controlling environments of the past, senior-oriented locations are adopting approaches more aligned with offering greater mobility and vibrant living standards. At the same time, facility operators realize that they must walk a fine line between offering greater personal freedom and convenience, while also ensuring their ability to provide a safe and secure environment, a factor that still ranks high for both seniors and their families when weighing their options.<sup>3</sup>

While these goals once seemed incompatible, senior living and healthcare facilities are discovering that with the implementation of advanced RFID-based security access technology, today's elderly residents can finally regain control over their surroundings while simultaneously benefitting from a platform that is unparalleled in offering total protection against external threats and risks that often come with advanced age.

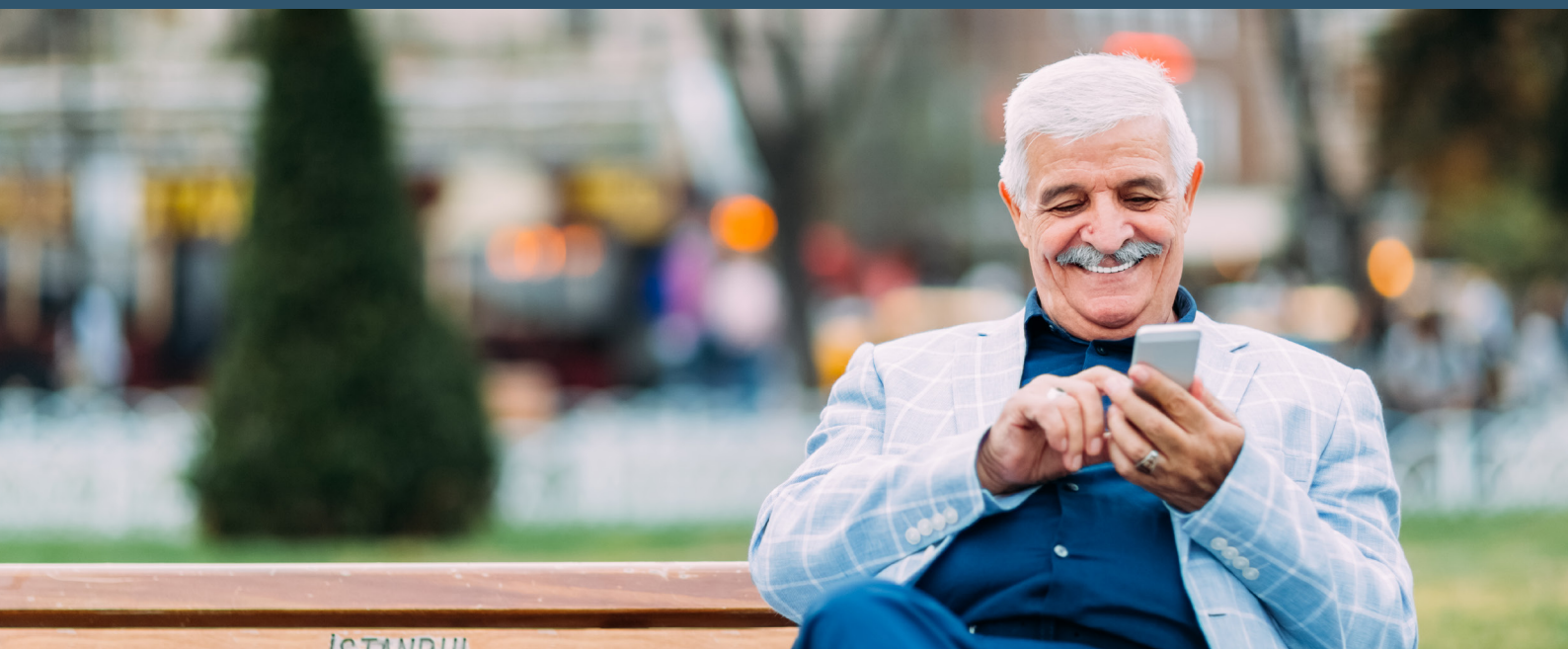


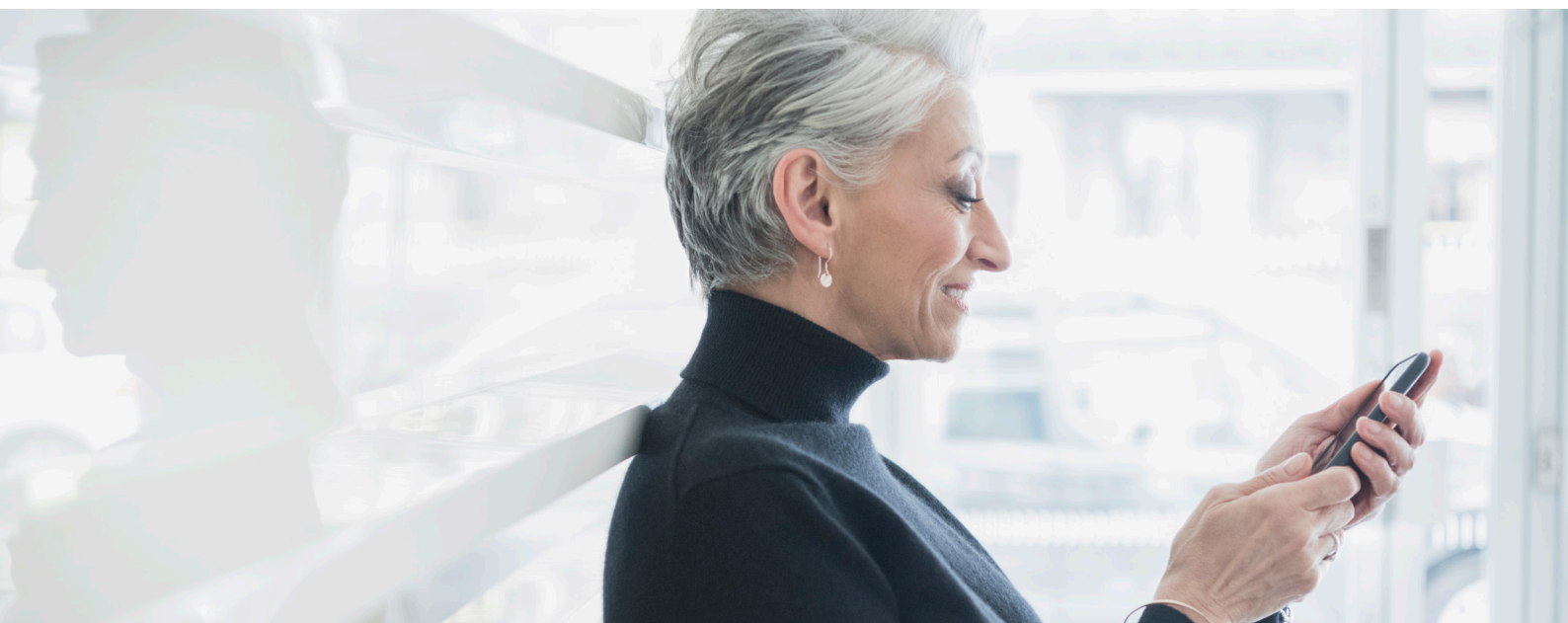
**78 mil**  
approximate  
**Baby Boomers**

1- <https://www.theseniorlist.com/2016/01/9-assisted-living-trends-to-watch-for-in-2016/>

2- <https://www.washingtonian.com/2014/03/13/how-baby-boomers-are-changing-retirement-living/>

3- <http://info.tmrdirect.com/retirement-community-marketing-blog/top-4-things-seniors-look-for-in-a-retirement-community>





# True Comfort Begins with Safe and Secure Surroundings

The idea that total peace-of-mind is achievable when accompanied by a sense of personal safety can certainly be considered a universal trait, regardless of a person's age. Yet as people grow older and less self-reliant, the issue of feeling safe and comfortable with their surroundings becomes increasingly important, with studies indicating it as a priority for a majority of seniors.<sup>4</sup> The same research also revealed that nearly all respondents felt an increased sense of personal security and safety after relocating from their private homes, which is particularly relevant to senior living and related services.

For facilities to be able to guarantee such a sense of well-being, the need to maintain updated security access solutions is critical in safeguarding residents against various security flaws known to exist with older technology. For instance, while still widely used, magstripe and pin code security access platforms are increasingly being replaced with newer RFID-based solutions, due to the former's vulnerability to keycard cloning (among other challenges). In contrast, RFID alternatives such as ASSA ABLOY Global Solutions's VingCard Signature RFID and VingCard Essence door locks possess state-of-the-art anti-cloning safeguards

that, by utilizing advanced encryption methods, are virtually immune to any attempt at unauthorized keycard duplication.

For senior-oriented facilities wishing to maximize security and reduce liability, RFID-based door locks also come with the added benefit of being able to connect to a remotely operated security access network. Industry-leading solutions such as Visionline consequently provide facility staff with an unparalleled ability to not only monitor but control who has access to what, and when. Without having to leave their desks, facility staff using the Visionline system have the ability to disable lost or stolen keycards before a breach can take place.

For senior-focused institutions, this may also prevent those suffering from memory loss or other age-related disabilities from getting into harm's way. With the ability to remotely and instantly access audit trails for each individual door lock on the premises, staff members can quickly locate and determine whether a resident is in distress, fostering an increased sense of trust between a facility, its residents and their families.

4- <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/14717794200300027>

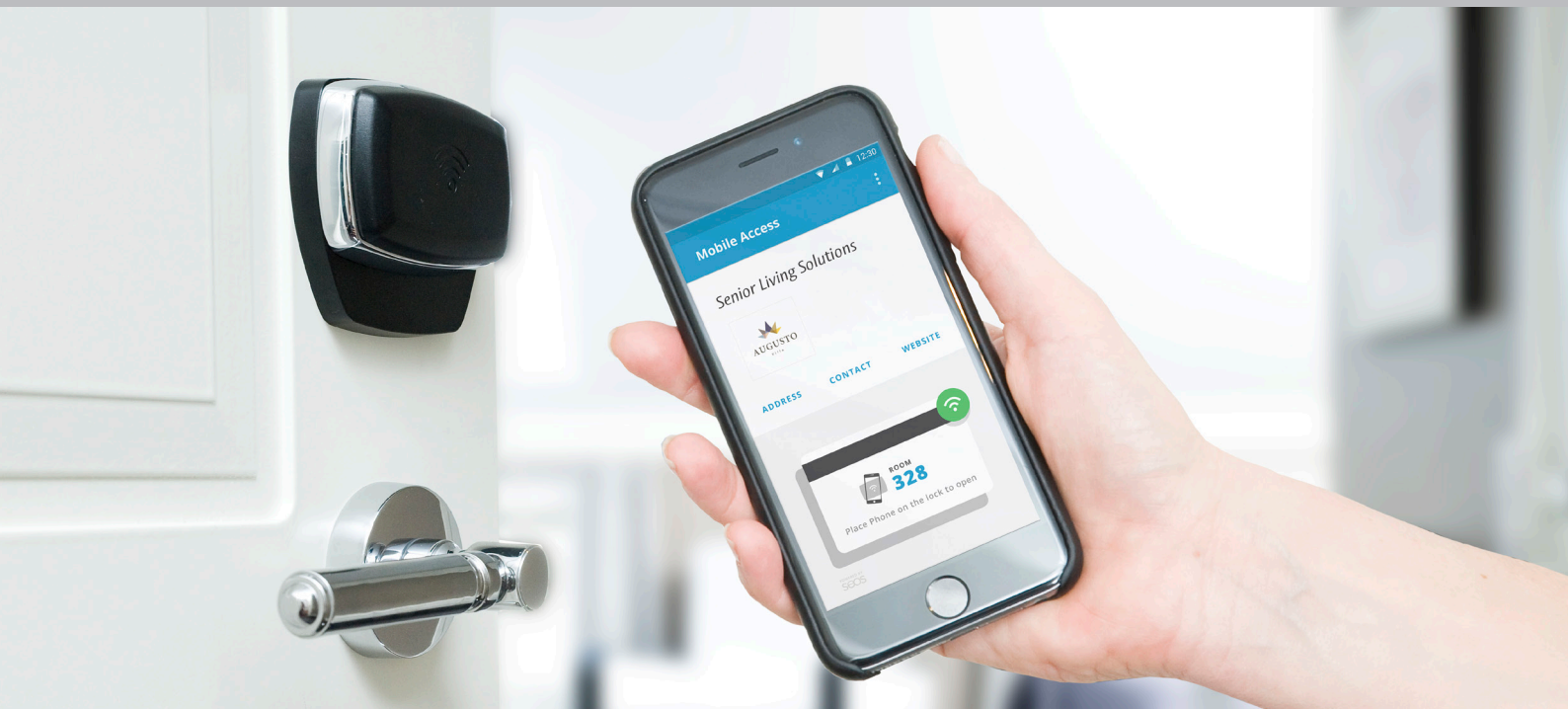
# The places you'll go with RFID

Perhaps one of the leading advantages that comes with implementing an RFID security access platform is the diverse level of functionality that it can provide to facilities and their residents. For seniors, the ability to maintain a measure of freedom and control over their lives has proven crucial in determining whether they are satisfied in staying at a particular location.<sup>5</sup>

For facilities wishing to provide their elderly residents with a means for greater mobility without jeopardizing their safety or that of others, RFID technology can serve as an ideal compromise. By introducing its award-winning Seos® technology, ASSA ABLOY Global Solutions has transformed RFID's security access ecosystem by providing facilities with a secure channel over which information can be transmitted for a variety of purposes. Leveraging a protocol derived from the best in-class cryptographic standards defined by the National Institute of Standards (NIST), Seos is widely recognized for its ability to securely provide residents with easy access to multiple areas and amenities.

As a result, elderly residents can use a single keycard to not only access personal living areas, but also safely access a facility's club house, pool area or gym without needing to request permission or assistance.

The same keycard may also be implemented as an alternate means of encrypted payment throughout a facility, allowing residents to keep sensitive items such as credit cards and wallets secured inside their rooms while visiting other areas of the facility. Another advantage of Seos-backed RFID technology is its ability to allow keys to be created in a virtually limitless array of shapes and sizes. Depending on facility and resident needs, staff could issue RFID wristbands or key fobs: items that may be more convenient for seniors to wear without having to keep track of them, so they are less likely to be misplaced.



5- <http://www.assisted-living-directory.com/content/5-things.cfm>



# For Senior Facilities, Overcoming Resident Disabilities is Key

When deciding whether to implement RFID technology in a new or existing facility, a key benefit to consider is its ability to assist senior residents with reducing hardships as a result of age or health-related disabilities. As one of the most common chronic conditions among this age group <sup>6</sup>, arthritis can cause what should be a simple task of turning a key in a door lock into an experience wrought with pain and inconvenience. Instead of having to rely on unsteady hands or fumble for keys while balancing on a walker or cane, elderly residents need only hold an RFID-based card, fob or wrist band to within a few inches of the door reader to gain access.

Those with deteriorating vision also can sidestep issues with identifying which is the right key to use. As with any industry that aims to attract and keep residents, a prioritizing goal of senior housing and health facilities should always be to provide options that can be tailored to reduce the potential for a less-than-satisfactory experience.

6- <http://www.assisted-living-directory.com/content/5-things.cfm>

## Building Better Life Experiences on a Foundation of Enhanced Security and Accessibility

Senior living communities and health facilities are increasingly adapting to changing demographics, where more seniors today expect to find services and systems in place that allow them to feel safe without sacrificing their sense of freedom. For those facilities that have turned toward RFID- and mobile-based security access solutions, managers and staff are discovering cost-effective alternatives to older metal key-based platforms that allow them to be much more competitive within this industry. Although once synonymous with drab and sterile environments, senior facilities finally have the ability to shed this reputation and present themselves as lively places where residents can enhance their way of life. With the level of enhanced functionality and peace-of-mind that an RFID security access system can provide, more seniors than ever are able to look at such facilities as not just simply locations that offer assisted living services, but environments they are willing to call home.



# Offering a True Sense of Freedom with ASSA ABLOY Global Solutions Mobile Access

One of the most eye-catching methods of providing residents with entry, mobile access capability is steadily gaining in popularity due to its ability to allow residents to use their own smartphone devices as room keys. In 'future-proofing' its RFID solutions to be mobile access-compatible, facilities already equipped with VingCard door locks are able to implement this game-changing technology with the mere addition of a small Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) board.

Although typically viewed as a demographic largely out of sync with the rest of society in terms of new technology adoption, the senior citizen population is becoming dominated by those who have a greater familiarity with quality of life-enhancing devices and the internet.<sup>7</sup> In fact, 82 percent of smartphone owners consider it to be a liberating experience.<sup>8</sup> Building off of the notion that mobile devices offer greater personal freedom and mobility, ASSA ABLOY Global Solutions Mobile Access has lead the industry in providing a convenient way for residents to take control over how they interact with their surroundings. By simply downloading a mobile app, users can avoid long front desk lines when needing to have a key issued or re-issued due to loss.

Although using one's mobile devices to gain access to secure areas may initially seem like a potential security liability, ASSA ABLOY Global Solutions Mobile Access benefits from Seos to ensure that any sensitive data transmitted is protected at all times. With Seos, ASSA ABLOY Global Solutions Mobile Access works to generate a digital key that is encrypted and securely delivered to a resident's smartphone. The smartphone places the key in a secure key vault within a facility's mobile app. When presented to the appropriate lock, the app transmits the encrypted key through a secure-communication channel via Bluetooth, thus ensuring that only those authorized are able to receive digital key information and gain access.

To schedule an appointment to assess your property's own mobile-access goals and requirements, please contact [www.assaabloyhospitality.com/seniorliving-mobile-access](http://www.assaabloyhospitality.com/seniorliving-mobile-access).



**82%**  
of seniors consider  
owning a smartphone a  
**liberating  
experience**

7- <https://www.theseniorlist.com/2016/01/9-assisted-living-trends-to-watch-for-in-2016/>

8- <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/04/29/seniors-smartphones/>

[assaabloyglobalsolutions/seniorcare](http://assaabloyglobalsolutions/seniorcare)

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