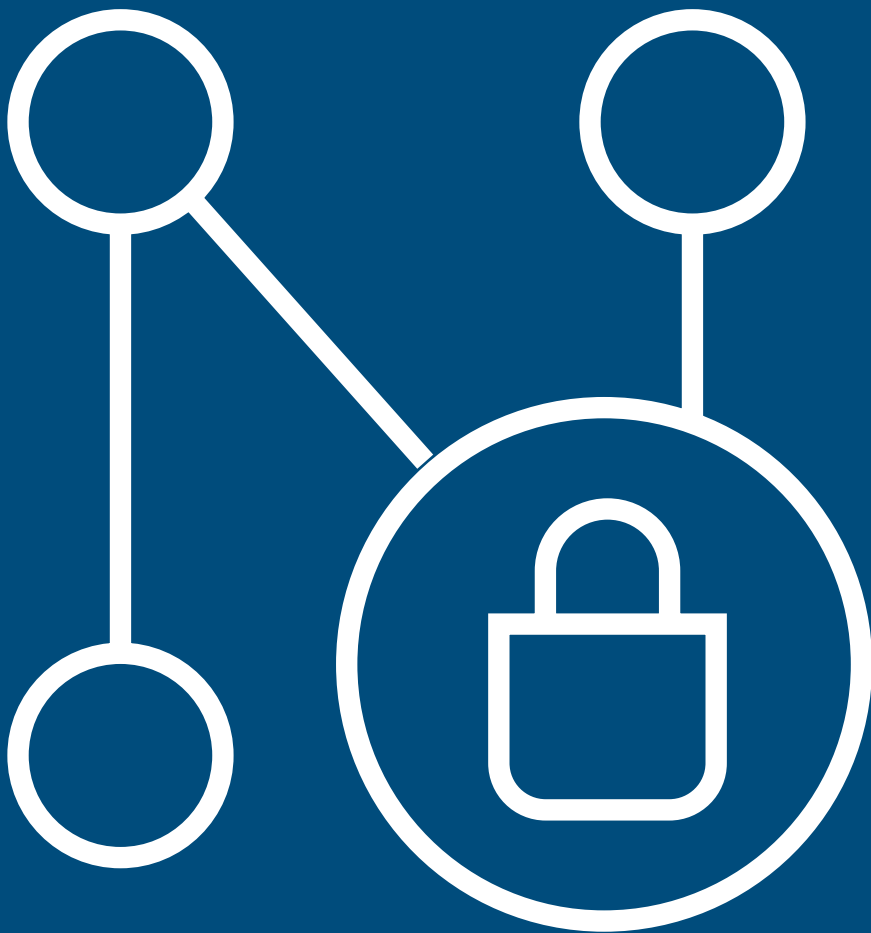


The Role of Connectivity in the Future of Safe Storage

A Guide for the Banking, Cash-In-Transit,
Pharmaceutical and High-End Retail Sectors



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Synopsis

In a digital world, connectivity is at the heart of innovation across industries – including safe storage. As businesses and governments seek to balance security, convenience and compliance, the ability to connect and manage safes, vaults and secure storage solutions remotely is becoming essential.

This shift is not just about operational efficiency; it also plays a crucial role as an enabler in security, offering real-time monitoring, remote access management and data-driven insights that enhance protection.

Beyond individual organisations, connectivity has broader implications for economic resilience and technological independence. Discussions around scalable digital infrastructure increasingly highlight its role in strengthening sovereignty, ensuring greater control over critical security solutions and reducing reliance on external providers.

For the safe storage industry, this means navigating a landscape where security and connectivity must go hand in hand, ensuring digital integration does not introduce new vulnerabilities.

At the same time, the increasing reliance on connected solutions brings challenges. Cybersecurity, data protection and system resilience are critical considerations, particularly as cyber threats evolve.

Enabling seamless digital integration and security by creating a connected ecosystem is essential for both businesses and regulators seeking to maintain trust in safe storage solutions. Understanding all must be achieved in compliance with latest standards.

As the demand for connected security solutions grows, this white paper asks: How can the safe storage industry harness connectivity to improve security and efficiency while safeguarding against digital vulnerabilities?

Gunnebo Safe Storage aims to stimulate discussion and encourage contributions from diverse perspectives on these pressing issues. We invite you and your colleagues to engage with us in this dialogue and are available to share additional insights. Please contact your Gunnebo Safe Storage representative to start the conversation.

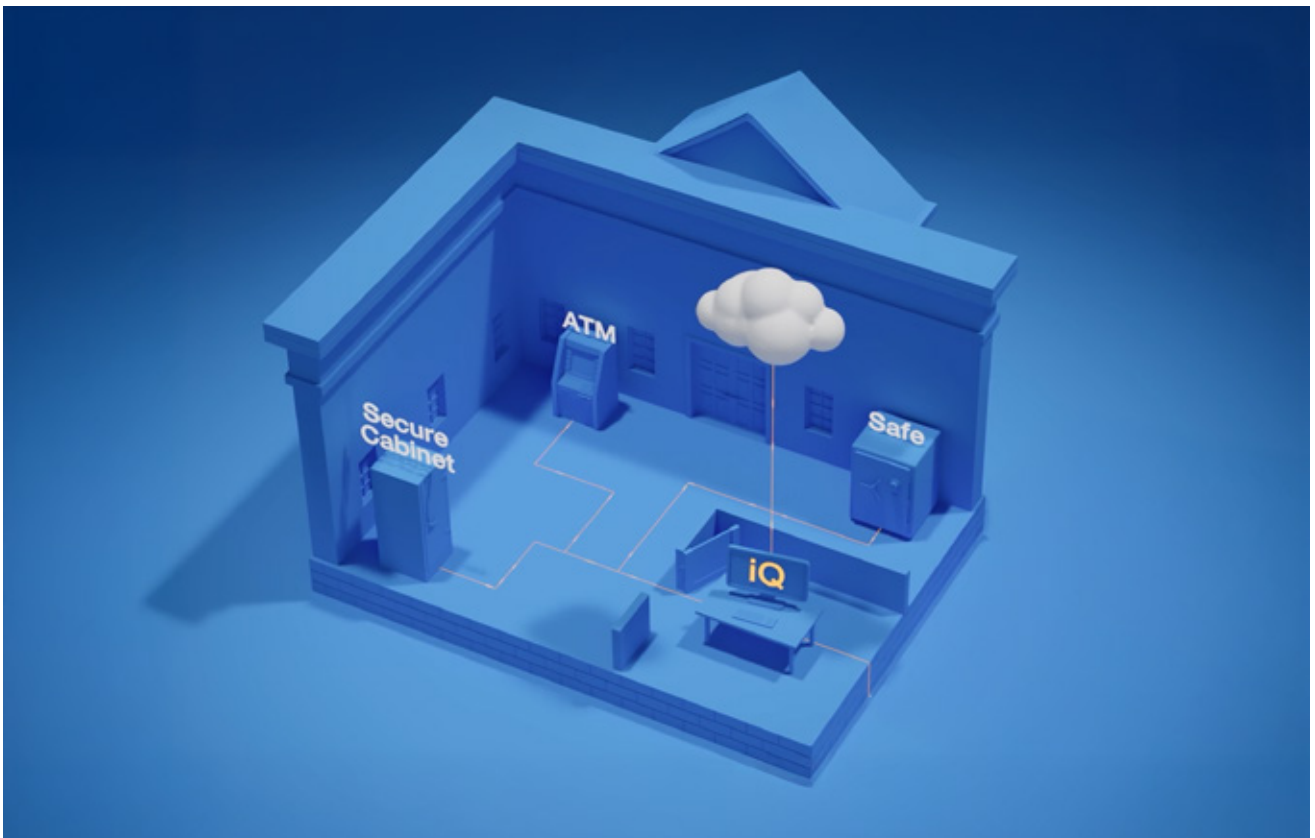
The Digital Shift in Safe Storage



As digital transformation accelerates across sectors, it is reshaping the very foundation of safe storage. What was once the domain of mechanical locks and manually monitored vaults has evolved into a dynamic, digitally connected ecosystem.

This transition is not merely a trend but a response to a world increasingly reliant on real-time data, decentralised operations and heightened regulatory expectations.

For the safe storage industry, connectivity has emerged as a strategic imperative. Businesses, governments and institutions are seeking solutions that combine physical robustness with intelligent, digital oversight.



Connectivity as a Strategic Enabler



The integration of connectivity into safe storage is fundamentally about more than just remote access.

Real-time intelligence and monitoring

At its core, it is an enabler of broader operational, security and compliance objectives. Safe storage solutions that communicate in real time offer benefits ranging from predictive maintenance to incident alerts, from access logs to environmental monitoring. These are not minor enhancements – they are transformative capabilities redefining how safes and vaults function in modern security ecosystems.

Compliance and auditability

In high-risk environments, the ability to instantly lock down a vault from a control centre or receive tamper notifications in real time is essential. For compliance-heavy industries such as pharmaceuticals, finance, and logistics, connectivity

ensures an unbroken chain of evidence and transparent reporting. The storage solution becomes a source of actionable intelligence, rather than a passive fixture.

Predictive maintenance and efficiency gains

In high-end retail, the availability of live diagnostics data can reduce downtime and enable proactive interventions. Service teams can be alerted before a component fails, improving system uptime and customer satisfaction. This remote diagnostics capacity also supports environmental goals, reducing the carbon footprint associated with unnecessary callouts and travel.

From Physical Security to Digital Sovereignty

As connectivity deepens, its implications extend beyond individual organisations. At a macro level, connected safe storage intersects with national infrastructure, economic resilience, and digital sovereignty.

Self-sufficient digital infrastructure allows for greater control, reduced dependency, and a higher degree of adaptability. The safe storage sector has a responsibility and duty of care to enable digital supply chains.

In doing so, the industry supports not only the security of assets but also the autonomy of those who depend on them.

At the enterprise level, digital sovereignty means understanding data ownership and governance. Organisations or even individuals know where their data resides, who has access to it, and how it is protected. This necessitates partnerships with trusted providers and clear protocols that guarantee transparency and accountability.



Challenges at the Crossroads of Cybersecurity and Connectivity



Cybersecurity is no longer a parallel concern; it is integral to physical security.

A unified threat landscape

With opportunity comes responsibility. The more sophisticated and connected safe storage becomes, the greater the exposure to digital threats. Cybersecurity is no longer a parallel concern; it is integral to physical security.

This necessitates a new mindset: one that treats cyber and physical risks as part of a unified threat landscape. It also calls for investment in penetration testing, firmware updates, encrypted communication protocols, and secure user authentication. Here, resilience is not a static feature but an ongoing process of testing, learning, and adapting.

Anticipating sophisticated attacks

Connected safes and vaults must be built not just to resist intrusion, but to anticipate it. This is particularly critical as threat actors grow more sophisticated, leveraging artificial intelligence, deepfakes, and social engineering tactics that exploit digital interfaces.

Future-proofing safe storage means integrating threat intelligence and adaptive defence mechanisms into the very fabric of the product.

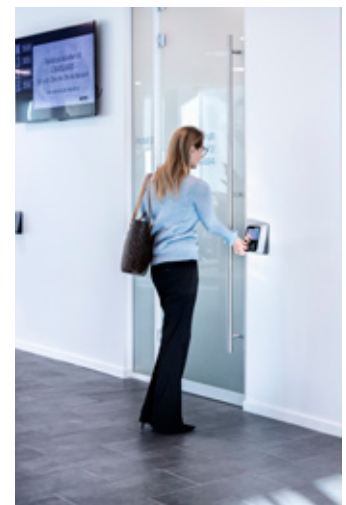
Collaboration, training and organisational awareness are vital. Many successful cyberattacks are facilitated by human error rather than technological failure, underscoring the importance of a holistic approach to security.

Regulatory Alignment and the Role of Standards

Regulation as a driver of innovation

As governments update policies to address emerging digital risks, regulation is becoming an increasingly influential driver of connected security development. Safe storage solutions must evolve not only with technology but also with the frameworks that govern its responsible use.

This includes GDPR in Europe, NIST guidelines in the United States, and a growing number of region-specific standards that address data sovereignty, access control, and digital identity. Ensuring alignment with these frameworks is more than a legal requirement; it is a foundation for trust.



Co-creating future-proof standards

Manufacturers and solution providers must work hand in hand with regulators to shape coherent, future-oriented standards that reflect both innovation and security. Proactive compliance also provides a market advantage, positioning providers as trustworthy partners in a highly scrutinised space.

Beyond compliance, ethical innovation is gaining importance. Regulations can be viewed as the baseline, but businesses aiming to lead the sector must look beyond minimal standards and create ethical frameworks that place end-user privacy and system fairness at their centre.

Standards in Safe Storage: EN 1300 and EN 17646 in a Connected Era

As safe storage solutions evolve to incorporate connectivity, it becomes essential to ensure new technologies are underpinned by trusted, rigorous standards. In Europe, two cornerstone standards – EN 1300 and EN 17646 – play a fundamental role in shaping the electronic performance requirements for high-security locks for cabinets and safes.

From Stand-Alone to Network-Enabled Locks

EN 1300 focuses on stand-alone locks, offering guidance on their resistance to digital hacking and physical altercation of the lock for the protection of stopping an unauthorised person to gain access to the secure area.

EN 17646 enlarges the scope to network enabled locks where a central software – often handling many locks in several different locations – holds information about users and access rights to the locks. This standard builds on top of EN 1300 and sets the benchmark for what is needed to mitigate the additional risks that comes with network communication and centralised software.

Reinterpreting standards for a digital era

With the advent of connected safe storage, these standards must be viewed through a new lens. While they continue to represent the gold standard for physical and digital resilience, future iterations must increasingly accommodate and address the risks associated with integrated wireless connectivity features.

At Gunnebo Safe Storage, our team embodies members of industry committees to advocate for further harmonising digital assurance frameworks with these existing standards. Doing so ensures customers are not left to choose between physical integrity and digital functionality.



Transparent certification pathways will be critical to user trust.

Certification and third-party validation

Certification bodies and manufacturers alike collaborate to define what best practice looks like for hybrid solutions – safes and vaults that are both physically certified and cyber-secure.

Transparent certification pathways will be critical to user trust. As buyers and regulators demand greater accountability from vendors, published certifications, third-party validations, and regular compliance reviews will serve as vital indicators of quality and credibility.



The Path to Scalable and Secure Digital Infrastructure

From isolated devices to integrated ecosystems

True digital transformation in safe storage will not be realised through isolated solutions. It requires scalable infrastructure to support an ecosystem of devices, data, and decision-makers. Interoperability, resilience, and user-centric design are essential.

This is where open architecture and cloud-ready platforms come into play. By designing for integration rather than isolation, safe storage can be embedded into wider facility management, surveillance, and emergency response networks.

Open architecture and cloud-ready platforms

The result is a connected environment where safes are not standalone units but integral nodes in an intelligent security web, which can be remotely accessed by authorised personnel at any time, from anywhere.

The growth of edge computing provides new opportunities for reducing latency and increasing system reliability. By processing data locally at the storage site, edge devices can continue to operate even if cloud connections are temporarily interrupted.



Sustainability and Connectivity: A Converging Future

Sustainability has become a strategic priority across every sector and the safe storage industry is no exception. As organisations strive to meet ambitious environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals, the question arises: how can connectivity support more sustainable approaches to safe storage?



Reducing emissions through smart servicing

Connected safes and vaults have the potential to enable significant sustainability gains. The use of real-time diagnostics reduces unnecessary servicing visits, which lowers vehicle emissions and resource waste.

Predictive maintenance extends the lifecycle of components, minimising early replacements and contributing to circularity in production.



Energy efficiency through remote control

Remote monitoring supports energy efficiency. Systems can power down certain components during periods of inactivity or adjust temperature control systems in response to usage patterns – features that are simply not possible with static, unconnected systems.



ESG reporting and transparency

From a broader perspective, connectivity enables transparency. Organisations are better positioned to track and report on energy use, component sourcing, and operational waste.

These data-driven insights can be shared with stakeholders, investors, and compliance bodies to evidence sustainability efforts in line with global frameworks such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD).



Designing sustainability from the start

True sustainability must be embedded from the outset – both in product design and in the digital infrastructure and specification process. Gunnebo Safe Storage is committed to the development of connected solutions that are not only secure and efficient but built with sustainability at their core—from recyclable materials to low-energy operation and responsible data practices.

As connectivity becomes a catalyst for greener outcomes, the opportunity is clear: a safe storage future that protects not only assets but the environment in which they are stored.



True sustainability must be
embedded from the outset

Balancing Innovation with Trust



The greatest challenge lies not in the technology itself, but in the perception of its reliability. For end-users to embrace connected safe storage, they must trust it. This trust must be earned not only through certifications and audits but through transparent design, clear user education, and consistent performance.

Designing for trust means minimising unnecessary complexity, enabling user oversight, and ensuring fail-safes are in place should digital systems falter. It also involves listening to feedback from diverse sectors—from retail to healthcare to public services—and tailoring solutions to their real-world pressures.

Trust is the currency of connectivity. Without it, even the most advanced solutions risk rejection. With it, the industry can unlock the full potential of a digitally enabled future.

Feedback mechanisms and user-led innovation can enhance trust. When customers feel heard and see their input reflected in future updates or product lines, confidence in the brand grows. Transparency around incident handling and security updates also helps reinforce reliability.



Case Example: Hausler & Gunnebo Safe Storage



Hausler, Argentina's pioneering provider of fully automated, robotised safe deposit locker services, has redefined safe storage through innovation and customer-centric design. Responding to a national trend of bank branch closures and rising demand for secure, independent storage of valuables, Hausler has expanded, serving over 20,000 clients across multiple locations.

To enable this growth and uphold the highest standards of security and efficiency, Hausler partnered with Gunnebo Safe Storage. Together, they implemented the SafeStore Auto Midi system, a self-service automated deposit solution.

The system combines a certified Grade 7 EX strong room (EN 1143-1), biometric and crypto-card authentication, and robotic retrieval technology. This integration delivers not only present maximum protection and data-secure access but also ensures 24/7 convenience, privacy, and an intuitive user experience.

With 14 robotic systems now operating across six Hausler branches, and plans to open five more, this partnership exemplifies how connected, scalable safe storage solutions can transform a traditional industry. Gunnebo's advanced technology and global project support capabilities empower Hausler to lead the market with confidence, setting new benchmarks for safe storage services in Latin America.

Says Carlos Gesino, CEO of Hausler. “We provide our customers with the assurance of keeping their valuable belongings nearby, safeguarded by advanced security systems. Our clients select us for our exceptional service quality, convenient operating hours, extensive range of box sizes, flexible rental terms, private business rooms, and various other advantages that establish us as prominent leaders in this industry.”

Emmanuel Harir Forouch, Global Business Development Director of Gunnebo Safe Storage added: “By implementing our SafeStore Auto system, Hausler is setting a new standard for the industry in Argentina. Our fully automated solution combines smart security technology with convenience, allowing customers to access their valuables 24/7 with absolute peace of mind.

“The integration of biometric authentication, encrypted memory cards, and robotic retrieval provides a level of security and privacy that traditional systems cannot match. As Hausler continues to expand, we are excited to deliver tailored, scalable solutions that support their long-term growth and the evolving needs of their clients. It showcases our capability to deliver connected security solutions and support complex projects on a global scale.”



As Hausler continues to expand, we are excited to deliver tailored, scalable solutions that support their long-term growth and the evolving needs of their clients.

Conclusion: Harnessing Connectivity for a Resilient, Secure Future

As the demand for connected security solutions continues to grow, the safe storage industry stands at a pivotal crossroads. Connectivity is not merely a technological add-on – it is a transformational force that can enhance operational efficiency, elevate user experience, and strengthen both physical and digital resilience.



A holistic approach to connected security

To fully harness this potential, the industry must take a holistic approach. This means integrating real-time data capabilities for proactive maintenance and faster incident response. It ensures robust cybersecurity measures to defend against evolving digital threats, and aligning with global regulatory frameworks to maintain compliance, trust and transparency.

It requires a commitment to sustainability and openness – designing systems that reduce environmental impact throughout a supply chain while enabling seamless integration with broader security ecosystems.

The path forward must be paved with vigilance. As risks evolve, so must our defences. Cyber and physical security are now inseparable and the responsibility to protect assets, data, and users extends across the entire lifecycle of connected solutions.



Collaboration and leadership

Gunnebo Safe Storage is committed to leading this evolution – not in isolation, but through collaboration with industry partners, regulators, and end users. Together, we can build a future where connectivity is a vital asset: a foundation for trust, efficiency, and enduring security.

About Gunnebo Safe Storage

Gunnebo Safe Storage is a global expert in secure storage solutions, trusted by banks, financial institutions, retailers, logistics providers, and critical infrastructure operators to safeguard high-value assets and sensitive information. With a legacy spanning more than a century and installations in over 100 countries, we combine physical security expertise with forward-looking digital innovation.

Our portfolio is offered under the Gunnebo brand, alongside internationally renowned names including Chubb safes, Hamilton, Steelage, Tecnosicurezza, Primat and Wittkopp. Each brand brings unique strengths to our range, ensuring we can meet diverse operational, regulatory, and regional requirements with precision and flexibility.

Our specialist solutions include SafeStore Auto an advanced automated safe deposit locker system; Centurion strong rooms and vault doors; and SecureIT, a high-security server cabinet designed to protect critical IT infrastructure. Complementing these are our electronic locking systems and security solutions developed by Tecnosicurezza, built for high performance and connectivity.

In line with the evolving digital landscape, Gunnebo Safe Storage has introduced AmpliSec, a next generation connected locking ecosystem aligned with NIST standards. Purpose-built to meet the

needs of security-conscious organisations, AmpliSec enables secure connectivity across safe storage infrastructure by combining digital access control with real-time data encryption, remote management and high-level authentication protocols.

At the core of AmpliSec is Gunnebo iQ, a secure digital platform that orchestrates all command and decision-making processes, from user authentication to unlock authorisation. Communication between Gunnebo iQ and each IoT-enabled device is end-to-end encrypted, with every device protected by a unique 256-bit AES key. This creates a resilient, tamper-proof ecosystem where even offline access is tightly governed and traceable.

Gunnebo Safe Storage is active in shaping the future of industry standards. Our experts contribute to technical committees and regulatory dialogues to help define what safe, compliant, and connected storage should look like – now and in the years to come.

We work collaboratively with customers, partners, and regulators to deliver scalable, future-ready systems that balance security with usability. To explore how our solutions can support your organisation's storage and protection goals, visit www.GunneboSafeStorage.com or speak with your local representative.

We can help support your secure and connected operations

With decades of experience, Gunnebo Safe Storage supports banking, cash-in-transit, pharmaceutical, and high-end retail sectors with trusted strong rooms, vault doors, automated safe deposit locker system and high-security locks. We're here to support your next project with proven quality and reliability.

[Talk to an expert](#)

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Gunnebo Safe Storage

Protect your valuables and confidential data.
Get peace of mind at home, in transit and at work.

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