

Meet the installer

Security life with Paul Garry of Fire Action in Sidcup, Kent

What would be a typical project for you?

A reasonably sizeable installation where we design, supply, install, commission and handover a fire alarm system, CCTV, intruder alarm and access control systems. For example, we have very recently completed this kind of work at a brand new academy building in Purfleet, Essex.

What is the best thing about working in security?

The diversity of our clients, their sites and their fire and security needs. I've been to some incredibly interesting places in my time in this industry.

Is third party accreditation beneficial to you?

Absolutely, and it is gaining recognition and perceived value.

Do you think there is a skills shortage in the industry? Any trouble recruiting?

This is currently an absolute nightmare! Ill trained, ill prepared and ill qualified individuals being touted and offered by recruitment agencies for vast sums of money, and yet they have no tangible skills coupled with lousy attitudes and dreadful work rates. We now "grow our own" engineers.

Are there any common requests from customers that give you problems?

To be fair, the devil is in the detail, and I'm pretty sure that more often than not we have been really proactive in pre-empting any demands and therefore issues!

What is the security industry's biggest myth?

That you can handover any type of system and



Name: Paul Garry

Job title: Managing Director

Time in security/fire: 30+ years

Company: Fire Action

Location: Sidcup, Kent

Areas of expertise: Fire alarms, CCTV, access control, intruder alarms, disabled refuge, video entry, extinguishers and a wealth of complimentary fire safety and security services.

Accreditations: BAFE SP203, BAFE SP101, NSI Silver, BSI Kitemarked for Fire Alarm Installations, ISO 9001: 2015 and Safecontractor Approved.

NEVER hear from anyone again on how to operate it!

What will be the impact of smart/home automation on the security sector?

Everyone is really pressed for time these days, and I can only see that anything that saves us time and effort will increase. Who would have thought ten years ago that we would have drive-thru's, self check-ins at airports and self service at a supermarket etc etc? Home automation will rise dramatically in my opinion, and also the extent of how it dovetails into our lives in many, many ways.

Are you concerned about Brexit?

No, not at all. I think it will be good for us as a country to stand on our own two feet. We manufacture brilliant stuff and desirable stuff too. We will always have what others want, and conversely, we will always want Italian pizzas, German domestic appliances and in my case, really smelly French cheese! ➔

"I've been to some incredibly interesting places in my time in this industry"



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“We operate in a sector where attention to detail and accuracy are cornerstones of what we do”

What would make your job easier?

We operate in a sector where attention to detail and accuracy are cornerstones of what we do. It would be great if everyone gave me everything I needed, all of the time, as far as quality of information goes! But maybe one day.....!

What is your ultimate/fantasy electronic security/fire product?

Probably right now, with the Australian Bush fires raging, satellite technology that spots thermal and smoke events and via Geo-Mapping can

quickly identify “bush fires” and then scramble aircraft and ground resources to extinguish them before they get out of control.

What advice would you give to a younger version of yourself?

It would have to be to not be a complete nightmare at school. I was a dreadful student (the class comedian), and although I was one hilarious individual at school, I wasn’t laughing the day I got my results.....

Will England ever win the football World Cup again?

Without a shadow of a doubt, and soon, 2022 in Qatar I reckon.....

If you won £25,000 what would you do with the money?

I’d give half of it to a charity we support as a company and the other half would be shared between myself, my wife and my two daughters. We all love a nice pair of shoes!