ACCESS CONTROL

E-GUIDE

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ACCESS CONTROL BASICS.

There are multiple reasons for implementing proper access control measures for any business. Be it theft prevention to limiting entry to certain facilities, effective access control systems ensure your assets, employees, and customers are protected.

WHAT IS ACCESS CONTROL?

In short, access control helps to secure all entrances and exits to a given building as well as tracking visitors and changes in employee statuses.

As defined by FICAM Architecture, access control systems are meant to "grant access to employees and contractors who work at or visit a site by electronically authenticating their [...] credentials," both during and after business hours.

Access control systems can range from stand-alone systems to hosted or managed systems. These systems are often customizable to better address your building's particular security concerns.

Wherever a high level of employee and asset security is needed, access control systems can be found. This important security service has greatly evolved over the past few years from in-person controls to almost entirely mobile capabilities. With this in mind, it is important to understand the crucial security space of access control and which options will fit your business needs best in order to keep your location safe.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF ACCESS CONTROL?

Access control systems are capable of protecting anywhere from potential security breach zones to an entire building.

These systems allow you to not only control the main entry of a building, but also limit access to particular restricted areas such as safe rooms, delivery zones, etc.

Access control is applicable across a wide range of industries, including the financial sector, government buildings, schools and campuses, pharmacies, hospitals, and so much more.

By providing a business with the most up-to-date access control equipment and systems, important assets and areas within your facility are properly protected from unauthorized intruders. As you consider which access control security measurements are the best fit for your company, remember that it is also important to consider overall security design and planning to maximize the success and effectiveness of these systems. To do this right the first time, it is typically recommended that multiple layers of access control implementation, like those listed above, are integrated together to establish the absolute best protection against system failure.

IMPLEMENTING ACCESS CONTROL.

Proper access control is not achieved in a "one size fits all" style of implementation. Instead it is established through a case-by-case basis for each business's specific needs.

Necessary access control security solutions may include:

Keyless entry and badge management

Modern authentication and reader types, including proximity cards and smart cards, can be implemented at important entry points or facilities to ensure only authorized personnel are permitted entry. Depending on your security needs, the systems can be easily customized and even updated remotely.

Biometric security option

Biometrics refers to a large range of modern technologies which measure unique body characteristics to certify a person's identity. Be it fingerprints, retinas and irises, facial scanning, and even voice patterns, these specific data points can be captured and stored into a secure database to be used as an authenticator for a person's identity.

Cloud-based solutions

Engage nimble, remote solutions allowing for the use of mobile devices to gain access across zones, buildings, and geographies. These options can also be updated more seamlessly, so that changes in employee status or visitor access can be implemented more efficiently.

Visitor management with automatic background check

It is important to both identify and log each person that enters your building. To protect you from potential security threats, visitor management solutions will run a quick background check against federal and state crime databases prior to printing a temporary photo ID badge for a given visitor.

Advanced reporting

Both before and after implementation, it is important to choose systems and security partners which will provide a proper assessment of your facilities and a detailed report of any potential security risks that need to be addressed.

In-depth security design

As guard zones to your facilities, access control systems must be properly designed, installed, and maintained in conjunction with your building's current electronic and physical security infrastructure.

THE 3 MAIN TYPES OF ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEMS TO CONSIDER.

According to the BeStructured Technology Group, there are 3 main types of access control systems to consider for maintaining building security; Discretionary Access Control (DAC), Managed/Mandatory Access Control (MAC), and Role-based Access Control (RBAC). Here's a breakdown of each type...

1. **Discretionary Access Control (DAC)**

DAC is a commonly used access control method for security, allowing one main administrator to provide access to selected employees and contractors within their company. Whether it be for certain zones of a building, meeting rooms in an office building, rehearsal or practice spaces in a larger complex, etc., this is a very flexible, personalized means of providing access. However, this can create additional responsibilities for the assigned administrator as employees come, go, and change roles.

2. **Managed/Mandatory Access Control (MAC)**

MAC in practice is typically only used in highest-security formats such as government buildings. In this case, administrators do not even have the access to change access levels of fellow team members or subordinates. While MAC is the least flexible approach, this system provides the utmost protection.

3. **Role-based Access Control (RBAC)**

"In RBAC systems, the owner or system administrator assigns access based on the key holder's role in the organizations. Everyone has roles and privileges that they are assigned based on their position. Their position also dictates the limitations that will be imposed on them. Access privileges are therefore based on job titles and employment status." - BeStructured Technology Group

Considering these different options, here are some industry-leading access control product options:

DMP Control Panels

- The XR550 is DMP's flagship model. This product provides a range of powerful access control capabilities.

- Utilizing cellular and/or wi-fi network connections, the panel ensures uninterrupted connection to its monitoring center.

- This system provides many custom actions that can be tailored to your hours and security needs such as managing access to specific zones and rooms, flexible scheduling, lockdown mode and more.

Commercial Building Access

- Honeywell ProWatch® offers a variety of modern access control products ranging from control panels to managed access control solutions, allowing for locking/unlocking of buildings across different geographies.

- Identiv has uTrust TS locks and Hirsch access control systems that are some of the most secure in the industry.

- Remote video monitoring features also allow for the real-time recording of both permitted and denied accesses, preventing any unauthorized access.

DMP Virtual Keypad

- This modern remote security solution is an innovative replacement to traditional keypads.

- The cloud-based application of this product allows for mobile access across a large range of zones, buildings, and geographies.

- Another major benefit is user management, ensuring access is only available to those who should be able to enter and allowing for immediate removal of departed employees.

- These features are also auditable, allowing you to collect real-time status updates of permitted and denied entries.
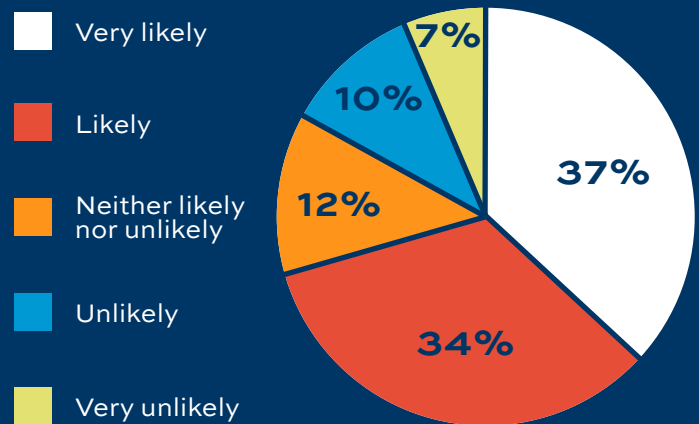
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THE RISKS OF IMPROPER ACCESS CONTROL.

One common access control security concern across all industries is tailgating. In a recent survey by Security Magazine, enterprise security executives were interviewed about their main concerns when it comes to controlling access to their buildings to maintain the safest possible environment for their business. A large majority of respondents expressed concerns over tailgating causing security breaches at their company. Tailgating occurs when an unauthorized person enters a secured building which they do not have access to by immediately coming in behind someone with the proper keys/identification to enter before the door or gate has closed behind them.

However, despite growing concern over these potential breaches, 64.15% of respondents admit they have no established method of tracking these instances.

To avoid these types of threats, proper protective measures must be implemented to keep all employees, clients, and assets safe. For this reason, access control security systems are crucial service lines for any successful business to implement.

WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD A BREACH DUE TO TAILGATING COULD OCCUR AT YOUR FACILITIES?

- **Very likely** — 37%
- **Likely** — 34%
- **Neither likely nor unlikely** — 12%
- **Unlikely** — 10%
- **Very unlikely** — 7%

(Tailgating: A Common Courtesy and a Common Risk | 2019-09-13 | Security Magazine)

DOES YOUR FACILITY TRACK TAILGATING OCCURRENCES ON A REGULAR BASIS?

- **YES** — 25.47%
- **NO** — 64.15%
- **I DON'T KNOW** — 10.38%
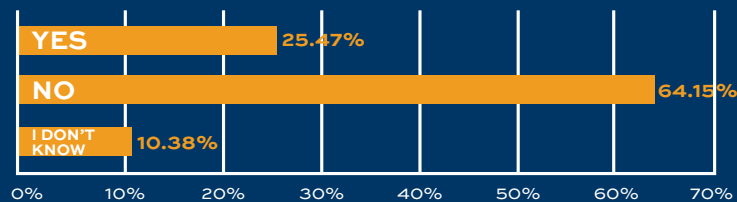
(Tailgating: A Common Courtesy and a Common Risk | 2019-09-13 | Security Magazine)

CURRENT INDUSTRY EXAMPLES OF ACCESS CONTROL NEEDS CAN INCLUDE...

Fired/disgruntled employee access termination
Following the departure of a previous employee, it is important to ensure that their original access to your facility is terminated in an efficient and timely manner.

Securing schools and other educational institutions
In schools and university campuses, it is important to not only maintain proper security at all entry points of the building, but also limit access to rooms such as chemistry labs, nurses office records and/or medication storage areas, AV or computer lab equipment, teachers lounges, etc.

Medical building asset security
Whether in a hospital or individual practice, medical offices must maintain proper security of their patients medical records, prescriptions, and equipment.

Protective measures in prisons
One of the most highly restricted buildings in the area of access control are prisons, in which every entry and exit point throughout the entire establishment requires some form of identification to pass through. Secure, efficient, and effective access control measures are important in order to detain inmates while protecting guards, employees, and visitors.

ACCESS CONTROL CASE STUDIES.

There is no limit or "break even" size with access control. Be it an entire manufacturing facility and all its entry/exit points, or just a single door to a private office, filing room, etc., access control systems are applicable. In either of these instances or any example somewhere in between, advanced reporting is also achievable via 3rd party systems, allowing you to better track and maintain who and how many people have access to your facility, when they've entered, how long they stayed, and when they left.

Consider the following case studies which represent the broad range of access control applications available:

1. Manufacturing Plants: Distilleries, Pharmaceutical Plants, Chemical Plants, Etc.

In facilities which handle hazardous chemicals and machinery such as distilleries, pharmaceutical, chemical plants, etc., access control has provided piece of mind to facility managers by not only maintaining proper access to hazardous areas, but also, through advanced reporting capabilities, track who has left and who is still within the building in the case of an emergency, alerting authorities to anyone who might still be in danger and in need of help getting out of the building.

2. Online/AirBnB-Style and Multi-Tenant Rental Properties

Rental property owners can use access control systems to easily grant entry to tenants into the home/apartment via keypads and key-fobs. With the use of advanced reporting, the host can remotely track when guests have checked out, allow entry for cleaning services, and permit access to new guests efficiently. These systems also allow you to change/update passcodes quickly, so that a person who has already checked out no longer has access to the property.

3. Storage and Logistics Facilities

For many storage facilities, owners tend to simply install a keypad at the front gate, leaving customers to use their own locks and chains to secure their personal units. However, this can leave opportunities for criminals to enter by, for instance, tailgating into the facility behind a current customer, or simply receiving the facility code from someone who is no longer a subscriber. Once they are in the gate, it is easy for them to then break into multiple units simply with a pair of bolt cutters. To avoid this security breach, storage facilities are now beginning to implement more access control systems such as video surveillance with facial recognition software and key-fobs which easily track and disable access to the facility and each individual unit.

4. Business Incubation Centers & Shared Office Spaces

Many business incubation centers and shared office spaces, especially those in urban areas, have grown exponentially post-pandemic. With so many subscribers to these services across multiple locations, access control systems are crucial to maintaining proper security and limiting access to conference rooms, private offices, and phone booths/"hot desks" so that only subscribers who have reserved these spaces in advance can access them.

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NAVIGATING YOUR ACCESS CONTROL OPTIONS.

These are the questions to ask when choosing the access control system(s) to best fit your facility's security needs:

Q1

WHO needs access and when?

Consider hours of operation, whether after-hour deliveries are permitted, and if/when temporary access for select visitors is required

Q2

WHERE is access necessary?

- Identify key areas of entry/exit
- Consider aligning security needs across multiple locations if applicable
- Assess high-risk areas such as stockrooms or offices

Q3

WHAT is needed in an access control solution?

Determine the business's major security pain points. This can include...

- Mobile integration
- Ease of use
- Adaptability
- Serviceability

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WHO WE ARE.

For a half century, Wittenbach has delivered physical and electronic security to regional communities and nationally known financial institutions and commercial entities. Today, Wittenbach is on a mission to put the customer at the center of security, by providing peace of mind to the businesses, their employees, and its customers. With decades providing proven products and integrity driven solutions, support, and maintenance, Wittenbach has the experience, knowledge, and expertise to protect a commercial ecosystem.

Based in Maryland, the company partners with leading manufacturers to focus on security as a core function of any business, government institution, healthcare facility, or school campus. The end result is making sure people and products are protected at all times.

SECURE. PROTECT. MONITOR.

WITTENBACH SETS THE STANDARD.

POWERFUL PRODUCTS.

The latest in keyless entry, biometric access control, and remote visitor management products integrated with state-of-the-art alarms and surveillance systems allow for the highest level of protection for your business.

PROMINENT PARTNERS.

Our partners include Honeywell, DMP, and Identiv, amongst other industry providers.

ENHANCED SECURITY.

We provide unmatched security services with the most up-to-date, top-of-the-line equipment. Wittenbach aims to provide a seamless delivery of integrated security services.

CONTACT US

The Wittenbach Corporate Office is located in Sparks, MD. Our Sales and Service footprint spans the Midwest and East Coast. We also certify and manage sub-contractors to expand our coverage when needed. Our Regional Distribution Centers in Hunt Valley MD, Coatesville PA, Charlotte NC, and Orlando, FL provide over 70,000 square feet of climate controlled warehouse space and allow for prompt emergency replacement of mission critical equipment.

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