

What type of Access Control system is best for me ?

Why use access control?

Access control enables you to control who has access to your building.

Locks and keys also allow you to secure your building, but when keys are lost or stolen, the inconvenience and expense of changing locks and re-issuing keys can be considerable. Keys may also be copied, creating even more security risks.



All businesses, whether small, medium or large, have assets that need to be protected from theft. There is also the issue of protecting staff and their property. It is common in buildings that are secured by locks and keys for doors to be left unlocked all day. This opens up the possibility of opportunist theft and malicious damage.

Electronic access control provides the most efficient and convenient way of securing your building and assets. Installing an access control system means that you will never have to change a lock again. Tokens are issued to allow access through the controlled doors, and are easily barred from the system if they are lost, stolen or just not returned by someone who leaves your company. Barred tokens will not allow access through the controlled doors.

Once an access control system is installed, all doors controlled by the system will automatically lock when the door is closed. Anyone without a PIN or access token is unable to enter. If necessary, doors may be set to unlock during a designated time frame.

Access control can also offer flexible control over users' access rights. For example, all staff can gain access through the main door of a building, but access to internal areas may be restricted to those who have a specific need to be there. Access may also be restricted by time, only granting access to particular users at certain times of day or night.

What type of Access Control system is best for me ?

Access Control is arguably one of the most difficult types of security systems to specify as there are a myriad of different aspects that must be considered in designing an Access Control system.

Do you want a simple 'Stand-Alone' system:

Standalone systems are administered using programming cards rather than a PC. The doors controlled using standalone systems, operate independently. The simple method of administration, using card packs, allows users to be granted access to all doors using a single token. Standalone systems are simple to install as they do not require a network connection. These systems are ideal for sites with a relatively low rotation of card holders and are available in proximity token, keypad and magstripe card versions.

Do you want a more complex 'Computer' based system:

PC based refers to networked access control systems that are administered using one or more PCs. Being 'networked' means that all doors on the system can be administered from a central location. A user can be instantly denied access to all doors if required. PC administration gives greater flexibility over the control of the system. For example, users can be granted access into particular areas only at specific times. Reports can be generated showing a history of user movements around the building. PC based systems are generally much better at handling large numbers of users and doors. This makes them suitable for buildings of all sizes. PC based systems can be used with proximity token readers, keypads and magstripe card readers.

What other considerations are there:

- How many users will there be on the system
- How many doors will there be on the system
- What level of security do you require for the doors
- What type of doors are they (Wood, glass, metal etc)
- Do you want a stand-alone or 'managed' system
- What size budget do you have

Wilton Security Systems recommend and Install Access Control equipment manufactured by a UK company – Paxton Access.

TYPES OF SYSTEMS

Stand – Alone Systems

The most basic systems are known as 'Stand-alone' systems.

They are not interconnected and they are not linked electronically between each door.

The most basic is a simple numeric code operated unit, which on entry of a pass number enables the user access.



Where you want additional control over users, you can fit a simple system that requires an individual card to gain entry. All of the electronics are built into a card reader which sits on the outside of the protected door. Normally a 'Proximity' card is presented to the reader and an electronic door lock or door retainer releases the door.



Cards can be programmed to open all doors at your premises or selected doors. E.g. some users cards can open all doors, others can be limited to specific doors.

CARD ISSUE

There are two ways of managing the issue of cards on these basic systems.

One uses a 'Shadow card' system, whereby you issue a card and then present a 'Shadow' card to the readers of all the doors you want that user to be able to open. If the card is lost or the user leaves, you simply go back and swipe the doors with the 'Shadow' card to delete their card from the system.



A more robust and user friendly system than the manual issue of 'Shadow Cards' is a system where you use a special card programmer with a PC with a USB port. The program supplied with the reader includes a database for all your staff members and is used to issue cards to them.



All card issues and cancellations are then controlled from the PC.

Note: The PC on these systems is only used for card management and does not control the access control system.

On these systems; for each door you will need:

1. A Card Reader
2. An electronic door release
3. A 'Request To Exit' button
4. A Power Supply

A simpler version of this 'Stand-Alone' system uses a replacement door handle with a battery and all the electronics housed in the actual handle. Very simple to fit and operate without the additional expense of wiring, power supplies etc. They still enable you to program individual access to users and quick and easy card issue and deletion.



PC based systems

PC Based systems are very much more complex in installation terms and also very much more costly than the systems previously described.

But you get a lot more for your money and this is why it is important to decide on your exact requirements when deciding on what system is best for you.

Where a PC based system is required, we recommend the Net2 system. An advanced PC based access control solution that will give you control over who has access to your building. With Net2 you can control access on hundreds of doors for up to 10,000 users. The software allows you to manage this in a logical and intuitive way.



Net2 is one of the most advanced access control systems on the market. There are no hidden costs such as per seat licences; the software may be loaded on all the PC's in a building if required. The standard version of the software, which includes all the features most organisations will need, is free.

Perhaps even more importantly your investment is future proofed. Adding additional doors in your building as your needs change is straightforward and cost effective. In addition, all new innovations to the system are designed to be backward compatible. Software upgrades are normally free.

Net2 offers the key requirements of a PC based access control system.

- Central control
- Flexible access permissions
- Reporting

The software gives you full control over the system from your desk. Any instructions given to the software are immediately updated at all the doors. Adding users, barring users and changing users' access permissions are all done from the PC quickly and easily.

If your company has several buildings, access to all of them can still be controlled from one location. Net2 will control many buildings in different locations using TCP/IP across your existing network.

Access permissions may be set individually or by department. This makes setting up different permissions for different groups of people quick and straightforward. Some areas may be restricted to only a certain group of users. Shift patterns may be set for departments, and those permissions are allocated instantly when a new user card is issued.



An events screen allows viewing of 'real time' events as they are happening. Monitor who is where in a building, if doors have been left propped open or a door been forced. In addition to the 'live' information, reports can easily be created from the software.

Net2 software can be loaded onto one or more PC's in your organisation. Different administrative rights may be given to each user. Perhaps the Security Manager would be the only person who could alter users' access permissions, but it may be convenient for your receptionist to be able to issue cards for visitors. Up to five PC's on a network may administer the system simultaneously.

Net2 systems may be used with a choice of PROXIMITY, Hands free, CARDLOCK (magstripe) readers and TOUCHLOCK keypads. Net2 is also compatible with a range of 3 third-party readers, including biometric readers.

As you will now probably realise there is a lot to the design and specification of an Access Control System and the best way to proceed is for us to undertake a no obligation survey of your premises and discuss the options with you.

Please call us to arrange an appointment:

Wilton Security Systems

01306 632992

