



CREATING A USER-FRIENDLY ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM

Almost every type of organisation identifies lowering risk - either physical or virtual - as a key priority when it comes to business planning.

With cyber attacks growing in threat on a weekly basis, it's no surprise that network security is often prioritised and therefore many network security systems are extremely user friendly and built with IT best practices in mind.



Unfortunately, the same level of concern does not always apply to physical access control systems. As a result, many systems are built without the evolving needs of their users in mind. These systems can be difficult to manage, support and maintain - draining resources from a business and not delivering the security required.

The good news is that access control systems are evolving too. Integrated solutions are now available that have been designed to satisfy the complex security needs of the most demanding organisations, but place control in the hands of the user. These systems are easy to use and understand, with clear screens and a logical format.

These new solutions empower users to organise, define and manage all aspects of access control across either single or multiple sites. Designating complex staff access rights that match their flexible working patterns, or simply providing temporary access to visitors requiring the use of the car park, can all be achieved with minimum effort.





Here are some examples of how the latest technology could improve your access control systems:

BOOST SECURITY

Integrating gate, turnstile and barrier hardware with access control systems facilitates a level of security to meet even the most demanding client requirements.

Access control systems can also be programmed to operate in a number of different modes, and higher levels of security can be selected with additional biometric identification when required.



MAXIMISE RELIABILITY

You need to be able to place your trust in an access control system and be confident it can fulfil a number of tasks, from basic duties like making sure barriers open in real time, to more advanced functions like controlling and tracking visitors.

The software used by the latest solutions is based on the industry standard client / server architecture and utilises .NET communication technologies. The software has extensive logging facilities and utilises standard Windows architecture for failsafe communication across mixed networks.

All System Events can be monitored and/or reports generated, making it easier to detect and react to any processing warnings and or potential errors either in real-time or historically.

SCALABILITY

When selecting a new access control system, businesses must consider if the solution will be able to easily grow with the company. This could mean adding control schemes to several doors at one site, right up to rolling out the solution across multiple sites and hundreds of entrances - but still being able to manage them from a central location.

The latest solutions offer interface tools that enable a link between the access control system and third party software, enabling the automatic transfer of data from a separate system into the access control software. This can save time and money and prevents mistakes. For example, it eliminates re-keying of data between access control and personnel systems, thereby reducing errors caused by manual entry.



A link can also be provided to other vital systems such as fire alarm panels which could automatically open designated doors, print a muster roll call and even send e-mails.



CONSIDER YOUR USERS

Reception staff, security personnel and facilities managers should all be able to use an access control system to check or adjust user credentials without feeling the need to call on a dedicated IT team.

Credentials should be easy to update and basic issues should be easily identifiable to these users so that they can quickly and efficiently deal with the majority of problems.

Meanwhile, IT professionals will want to be able to work in their own way and therefore integration is key. With the capability to seamlessly integrate with various readers, including biometric readers, the latest technology can offer a complete solution to any access control requirements.

SUMMARY

Access control systems are no longer simply in the domain of IT departments. Systems need to recognise that users of all levels may require access to a range of functions. The latest technology can meet this challenge by providing easy to use interfaces for changing, adding or deleting users from the system.

By investing in the latest Access Control systems, businesses can lower risk, increase accuracy and ensure that valuable time is not wasted as users try to decipher complex user interfaces.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ACCESS CONTROL TECHNOLOGY AND HOW TO IMPROVE USABILITY, VISIT THE TOUCHSTAR WEBSITE NOW.

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