

Title:

Access Control: An Introduction To Access Control

Word Count:

696

Summary:

The Problem

Your building is secure at night, but during the day there are several doors that have to be o

The Solution

You need an Access Control System.

What is an Access Control System?

Access Control is an electronic security system which permits or restricts access to specific

Keywords:

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Article Body:

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In simple terms, an Access Control System provides control of entry (or exit) through nominate

An Access Control System can be as simple or as complicated as you wish but in each case, the

Door Entry or Access Control?

Door entry is commonly associated with a single door or gate, whereas access control is more s

Access Control can also incorporate a host of other features which enhance other areas of the

Access Control / Door Entry Technology

There are a number of ways that a permitted user can open a door that is fitted with a system.

PIN Code Entry

The most common unit is the keypad system. This comprises a control unit with a series of numb

Magstripe (also called Swipe Card) Readers

Each entry point has a card reader and the user ^swipes~ an encoded card similar to a credit c

This technology is widely used and there are many choices of manufacturers.

Proximity Readers

Rather than swiping the card or tag, it is simply presented to a reader which typically will s

Long Range Readers

Long range proximity readers (of approximately a meter or so) automatically unlock or open a d

This is particularly suitable for compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) as

Smartcard Readers

For systems that use cards or tags, these cards can also carry additional information which ca

Biometric Readers

A Biometric Reader system uses unique human characteristics ~ such as finger prints or a retin

As there are no cards or tags which can be stolen or lost, or open to misuse, this type of sys

What about Visitors?

You will want to welcome most of those who visit your premises, so it must be easy for them to

The three most common means of attracting attention are:

- A simple door bell system which alerts your staff to the fact that there is someone waiting
- An audio intercom panel which allows the visitor to have a direct conversation with a member
- An audio intercom panel with a camera facility which allows your staff to see who wants to e

Once access has been permitted, the visitor can either be escorted around or issued with a car

Things to Consider

When planning an access control system, you should consider the following:

- How many entry/exit points
- Where are these located>
- Level of security desired
- The movement of staff around the building
- Method of operation
- Future growth of building
- Turnover of employees
- Disability access
- Interface with other systems ~ for example, the fire alarm

As with any type of security system, it is sensible to employ a company that you can trust. Ma

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