

## ***Does Your Access Control Need Updating?***

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Do you still have security guards standing post in front of a set of double doors, hoping that their presence prevents any unauthorized access?

Are your employees arriving to work through numerous entrance points throughout your facility?

Are you still using keys that are hung on a pegboard inside of a “locked” box?

If you said yes to any of these three questions, your business’ access control needs to be updated.

### **Access Control by Definition**

An easy way to describe access control would be any way to manage, track, or verify who is entering or exiting specific areas of your business at a given moment in time.

An employee might be able to access various points of your business with something as simple as a lock and key or something as sophisticated as a biometric fingerprint scanner. It all depends on the business and the type of facility.

When a business is developed and starts to take shape, business owners must decide on what style or type of access control system they need.

Back in the day, all business owners had in order to secure their facilities were a set of keys and their matching locks. If they happened to break a key, they would have to get a new one made.

Today, however, the technology has improved, and more options are open to owners who need to keep their businesses more secure.

### **A Few Types of Access Control Throughout History**

Throughout modern history, many different access control systems have been present within a standard business environment.

As mentioned, an access control system, at one time, was only made up of a standard lock and key, but as the years went by, officers or guards were added to the standard lock and key, along with the use of dogs for security purposes.

With the advent of the personal computer, most businesses, including casinos, banks, and hospitals, eventually started utilizing access cards and card readers to track their employees.

Along with the access cards and card readers, many businesses, depending on their level of security, would add an access control keypad to this combination.

In order to access a restricted area, the employee would have to enter in the correct numerical digits on the access control keypad, and then be required to swipe their access card across the card reader.

By having this extra layer of security, if an employee happened to lose their swipe card, their card could not be used by anyone else without having full knowledge of the employee's number.

With computerized access control software working hand-in-hand with the keypad, access card, and card reader, businesses would now have the ability to tailor the system to their needs.

For example, if the business is a bank and the bank's hours are 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday, the bank administrator could set every employee's access underneath the executive level to these specific hours.

And not only could you tailor the employee's cards to specific times, but you could also tailor the departments to specific areas of the business. There could be reasons why one department's employees have access to a given area, and another department's employees restricted from that area.

### **Running Database Reports**

What's really cool about this whole setup is the fact that every time someone enters an area by using their access card, the results (the who, when, where) get entered into a database that can later be accessed if need be.

For instance, if you needed to know who entered a door at 3:00 pm on 4/23/2015, all you would have to do is run a quick report.

This report would give you all of the information you need. The report could tell you where your employee was or more importantly, tell you where your employee was not.

### **In Conclusion...**

A tailor-made, up-to-date access control system would be a much-needed security measure for one's business.

Not only would a new access control system perform better for the security of your own business, the return-on-investment would prove itself many times over due to the prevention of the onsite criminal element.