

## What is simple electronic access control?

Access management solutions for small business and retail

By April Dalton-Noblitt, Allegion October, 2012

Today's small businesses and retail facilities need access management systems that go beyond simply locking and unlocking doors. Whether you are managing multiple units across the city or you are a tenant moving into new office space, you need a security solution that gives you the control and information necessary to run more efficiently while creating a safe, comfortable and productive environment for your people, facilities and assets.

Some electronic access control systems are ideally suited for businesses with a small number of access points and that require a system that's easy to learn and use. Choose a system that allows the right people access to your facilities at the right time. In addition access, you may use a system to:

- Incorporate security and convenience, while providing freedom of movement for authorized personnel
- Integrate electronic access control systems with any existing security system you may have to provide complete management information systems
- Replace the need for mechanical keys
- Facilitate the enforcement of health and safety regulations
- Enable the control of who enters an area, as well as when a person can enter the area
- Provide a record of movement by person and time

By design, a security system should be one that is easy to use and maintain, increases security and productivity, and stays within your budget.

"Offline" or "standalone" access control systems – those that are not connected to a network – include mechanical key programs, as well as electronic locks that are programmed using the lock's keypad or a hand-held device to download data from a computer. Offline systems do not communicate with one another, and usually are not connected to a remote security command network.

As your business grows and your security needs expand, you can integrate your access control systems to include video capabilities, including cameras and digital video recording, alarm monitoring and badging. Programmable devices are easy to update and provide increased control over who can access certain openings.

Another type of simple electronic access control is a web-based networked system that gives you the ability to access, manage and oversee your facility's points of entry from anywhere. You do not need special software or technical staff to manage these simple, highly efficient systems. Simply use your existing network to manage and monitor all of your networked security devices from any computer with Internet access. Whether you need to add a cardholder or set up access control on new doors, these systems make updating fast and easy. You can even assign personnel access to different doors based on work schedules, security levels and job requirements.

With a simple electronic access control system, you also gain peace of mind, knowing your system complies with fire and life safety codes. The systems are designed to maintain a secure building while providing safe emergency egress. Code-compliant, integrated solutions include electronic and mechanical security and are all designed to ensure your building is safe and secure.

## Learn more about simple electronic access control

For more information about simple electronic access control solutions for your office or retail space, please contact a professional security consultant in your area by calling **888.758.9823** or fill out the **Contact Us** form on our website at <u>allegion.com</u>.

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