

10 FACTORS

TO CONSIDER WHEN IT COMES TO ACCESS CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION

Ignorance is NOT the best policy when it comes to Access Control Implementation. Having a grasp on what to look out for in an access control system and its installation process can save your company a lot of money, reduce the lead-time, and complete the objectives you set out to achieve initially. Going into access control installation head first without having proper knowledge and doing enough research on the subject is indeed risky and costly.

This document is intended to give you some pointers on what factors to consider when you are deploying an access control system in your premise.





1 WHY DO YOU NEED ACCESS CONTROL?

First and foremost, specify the reason(s) why you wish to install a door access control system? Is it because you want to protect yourself and everyone else from potentially dangerous situations by boosting your security system or perhaps you are image-conscious and feel compelled to jump on the bandwagon so that you won't miss out? If it is indeed for security reasons, what kind of security are you aiming for?

For some, it is suffice that the system blocks unauthorized people to enter a certain space but for some others, they need to find out in detail who was allowed in and who headed out at different hours of the day. Lay out your access control installation plan and set your objectives. At the end of the day, you'll have the right system in place at a reasonable cost and time.

2 WHAT SYSTEMS ARE ALREADY IN PLACE?

Have you perform access control implementation before? If yes, specify the system that you're currently having and how many percent do you plan for expansion. If the expansion is more than 30%, would you consider a new system altogether or you want to stick with the old ones? It's tricky when deciding whether to stay and expand the existing system as it could cost more money than installing a totally brand new access system because of the proprietary system it has. If a system can only connect to its own set of devices and software, it's pointless to actually make a price comparison. The best choice that one could take is to have a flexible system that can be linked to many kinds of devices and software but this is rather hard to find. Hence, before deciding on a certain brand or system, it's advisable to study the overall pros and cons.

3 WHAT KIND OF READERS DO YOU WANT?

Your answer to question no 5 will determine your answer for this question. For example, you may consider the level of security for certain designated areas in your premises. For places that hold highly confidential and sensitive information such as the hardware server room, you may consider utilizing biometrics readers ensuring that the room is only entered by permitted personnel. As for card readers, it may be installed in places that is also of restricted access to outsiders such as the meeting room, stock room, office premises and more. Card readers can be renewed and duplicated in case someone misplaces their card making it a flexible and cost-effective option to consider.

4 ANYTHING YOU WISH TO INTEGRATE?

You can't possibly change every system that you currently have just to suit the new system that you are buying. Hence, the big question is to integrate or not to integrate. If an access system cannot integrate with the vital system that's running in your company, no matter how good the system is, you need to decide on which one to let go. Make sure that the integration process is smooth for your long-term operation.

5 WHAT KIND OF COMMUNICATION TYPE?

Although the most widely used communication type for readers would be IP (Internet Protocol) connection, there are still instances in which certain individuals would choose to stay with serial connection. IP readers do not need control panels and can operate independently. The function of a simple IP reader is to transmit card numbers to a panel. Assuming that the control panel fails, the basic reader will stop working. An IP reader has inputs for monitoring a door contact, exit button and a relay for controlling an electric lock. It also has a section for internal memory which is used to store the database of users, configuration parameters and recording events.

6 DO YOU NEED MONITORING?

What kind of system are you planning to have? Are you looking for a system that is in place but doesn't require any monitoring in which it's task is to make sure unauthorized people cannot enter the premise or do you need a system that has constant monitoring, audit trails, that is able to produce detailed records and reports for your usage? What you decide will determine the kind of devices you'll need and what kind of software that goes along with it.

7 HOW MANY OF DOORS, BOLTS AND LOCKS?

The quantity and quality of doors must be researched beforehand to determine the type of locks, bolts and accessories that will be required to complete the installation. Single leaf and double leaf will require different kinds of locks and the cost will differ as well. The door frames and material may be customized to your liking too. The materials that are used include glass, wood, aluminum and fiberglass.

8 WIRED OR WIRELESS CONNECTION?

There are pros and cons in both options. For instance, wired connections may take a longer time to set up as the wires used will need to be tucked and hidden from plain sight but the connection is technically stable and reliable as the connection source is direct. As for wireless, while it is neater and faster to set up, there are instances whereby the wireless connection may not be available at certain areas. These blind spots can be detrimental but boosting the signal of your Wi-Fi is now made easier with the usage of a Wi-Fi repeater or extender.

9 HOW ABOUT MAINTENANCE?

Last but not least, decide the type of maintenance that you would need for the system to run smoothly. Find out the warranty terms and conditions, the type of spare parts you need to replace and the incurable costs. For example, biometric readers may sometimes be sold at a lower price. You may buy the readers at a bargain but discontinued stock may cost more in the long run as it's scarce and hard to obtain. Therefore, you must always arm yourself with some knowledge on the models and readers that you plan to purchase. Don't be afraid to ask manufacturers what kind of support are they providing as they may be more than glad to share with you what are the after-sale services they offer to customers who have purchased their products.

10 DO YOU REQUIRE CREDENTIALS?

What's your decision on credentials? Do you want everybody to carry a card with a photo ID for easy inspection? Or you want to be as casual as possible and require your staff to only utilize their fingerprints allowing them to enter the premises with only one touch? Stay conventional or go futuristic? This decision will determine a few things in your entire plan, cost included.

While it may seem that there are many factors affecting the decision-making process, the best way to ensure that you get the best deal out of any access control device is to always ask, shop around and research on the brand's reputation in the market.

Still unsure on which access control model you should invest in? Allow FingerTec resellers to solve your security concerns. Through their years of experience by serving consumers from different trades and background, they are equipped with the knowledge and expertise to recommend you the best security solution at an unbeatable rate. Contact them and let them do the thinking for you.

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