

2008

CCTV/Door Entry System Information



In partnership with



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ABOUT THE COMPANY

DOOR ENTRY SYSTEMS

Multi Door Systems

Multiple door access control systems use many of the same components as single door solutions. However, the need for more people, more doors and interconnectivity between the doors requires complex components. The controllers on the system have to be able to record and transmit data from multiple doors and communicate with one another and more often communicate with the right management software on a dedicated access control PC.

A range of cabling choices is available, in some cases it is possible to use existing data or telephone structured cabling infrastructure.

Modern multiple doors systems give a huge amount of flexibility to the end user. As well as allowing access to certain rooms or places it is possible to grant access to those places at certain times. This extra level of control allows for a more flexible approach to room allocation and gives the opportunity to utilise rooms and spaces in a more dynamic way.

As well as providing a high level of access security these systems also allow for monitoring of people to location, this can also be referenced against time. This extra dimension to the system allows for further integration of human resource management.

The complete multi door access control system gives a high level of rights management coupled with the ability to integrate into existing systems, often replacing or supplementing existing management systems.

Intercoms

Audio and video door intercom systems are ideal in situations where visitors are regular and their identity cannot be verified locally. One of the places where New Age Services have installed many of these types of handsets is in hospitals, where access to wards late at night can often pose a threat to staff.

The two main types of door entry systems are video and audio. Both of these systems grant access to a remote door.

As with single door access control solutions door entry systems can use the same types of locking mechanisms. Door entry systems can also be used in multiple locations, this is particularly useful in multiple occupancy environments such as a block of flats. Modern systems allow for communication between entrance stations and landline or mobile phones. This can be particularly useful in situations where access may need to be granted remotely.

Access Control Technology

Keypads

Keypads are the most basic of access control entry equipment, whilst their simplicity can limit their functionality, they are easy to use and require very little maintenance.

Locks

Locks are the mechanical interface between interface software and hardware in access control systems. There are many types of locks, to suit situation and requirement. "Mag locks" for example, offer very high levels of security whilst being cost effective. Traditional strike locks can be integrated into electronic latches.

All locks need to have an electronic element to ensure that they can be released via any one of the various interfaces.

Swipe Cards

Swipe cards can be divided into three main sub-categories - Magnetic, infra red and Weigand. To the user they all operate in a similar manner, the card is swiped through a reader, but each category

requires its own reader technology. The use of a card allows for extra information to be carried on it. For example a picture, text, bar coder, and depending on the card another data stripe, for example a magstripe can be added to an infrared card.

Proximity & Hands free

Proximity readers offer a totally non contact solution. Unlike other types of readers proximity readers can be hidden behind walls or doors. These readers are very useful in places where vandalism is high or likely to occur. Proximity readers work in a similar way to the hands free systems although allow for greater distances between the reader and the proximity device. It is possible to use proximity readers in conjunction with car park barriers.

Biometrics

Biometrics are automated methods of recognising a person based on a physiological or behavioral characteristic. Among the features measured are; face, fingerprints, hand geometry, handwriting, iris, retinal, vein, and voice. Biometric technologies are becoming the foundation of an extensive array of highly secure identification and personal verification solutions. Biometrics systems are at the very forefront of access control innovation. As computer and image capture technology has increased so biometric systems are being becoming more prevalent. At present biometric systems are not mass market items, there use is limited to high security situations. With lowering cost and performance increases these systems are becoming accessible alternatives to conventional access control readers.

Maintenance

Maintenance of a CCTV, access control or intruder system is not only recommended but in the case of intruder or access control might be a requirement depending on your insurance details.

New Age Services offer two types of core maintenance cover:

Fully Comprehensive:

Provides cover for the cost of all call-outs, parts and labor associated with the failure of a system.

Included within the contract are two 6 monthly preventative maintenance visits, where all elements of the system are checked, adjusted if necessary and cleaned.

An engineer will attend site the next working day following notification of a fault.

Labor only:

Provides cover for the cost of all call-outs and labor associated with the failure of a system. The cost of replacement parts is not covered.

As with the fully comprehensive contract, two 6 monthly preventative maintenance visits are included where all elements of the system are checked, adjusted if necessary and cleaned.

An engineer will attend site the next working day following notification of a fault.

Optional 4 Hour Call-Out:

For those who require a quicker than standard response (often those responsible for large access control systems) a 4 hour call-out option is available. This is an additional service that will guarantee an engineer is on site within 4 hours of receipt of a call. This service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

New Age Services has 10 years experience in maintaining all types of systems across the south of England. If you are dissatisfied with your current maintainer or don't have one

CCTV

Technology



As with all technical products, there has been considerable ongoing development in the field. Technological advances have spurred competition, making security equipment both cost-effective and reliable. CCTV and Access Control will continue to be the strongest and fastest-growing segment of this market, due partly to the technological advances and partly to the increased threat to personnel and property.

One of the key recent advances is the shift from conventional magnetic tapes to digital technology. In the past recording has been mainly done using the VHS tape format similar to that found in most homes, but this is now being superseded by technology that allows video to be recorded onto computer hard drives of sufficient capacity that the need for a separate back-up device is removed. These hard drive units have the advantage of being able to record a much higher quality of image for much longer, consequently reducing VCR or DAT tape equipment maintenance costs.

Transmission

Whilst camera and recorder technology has progressed at a phenomenal rate in recent years transmission, delivery of images has remained reasonably static. Coaxial cable has remained the preferred transmission medium for CCTV images. However in the past few years camera transmission technology has begun to utilise cat 5 structured cabling and as such video image transmission and control is now possible over IP.

One of the main advantages of using video over IP is that cabling installation costs are reduced dramatically. As there is very little cabling involved, cameras can be repositioned far more easily than traditional coaxial cabling methods.

There are of course some disadvantages in sending information over IP the data has to be coded and decoded. Coding takes place either in a dedicated cameras or by using a video server box which converts normal analogue camera information into IP packets.

However once an image is sent over IP it is possible to view those images anywhere on the LAN, WAN or web. Some of the latest technologies being employed allow for remote viewing of sites using video enabled mobile phones.

Data Protection Act

In July 2000 the Data Protection Commissioner (now called the Information Commissioner) issued the first CCTV Code of Practice.

It stated that from 1st March 2000, when the act came into force, the same legally enforceable information handling standards as have previously applied to those processing personal data on computer now cover CCTV.

The data protection act represents one of the most significant impacts to the use of CCTV systems since their widespread introduction.

The CCTV portions of the Act are essentially guidelines, rules and regulations designed to protect the public from unscrupulous usage of CCTV and also to ensure that footage gathered is used in the correct manner.

Many of the guidelines lay down by the act help ensure that any evidential footage gathered by CCTV systems is of suitable quality to be of effective use in court.

The changes in data protection legislation, which came into force on 1st March 2000, mean that for the first time legally enforceable standards apply to the collection and processing of images relating to individuals.

Most CCTV systems are now required to be logged with the Data Protection Commissioner (now called the Information Commissioner). New Age Services is fully versed with all aspects of the Data Protection Act and is happy to provide a free survey to ensure that all aspects of your system are compliant.

The small users checklist link below is a quick and easy way to identify any data protection act issues which maybe associated with your existing system.

New Age Services can of course arrange a site visit to offer guidance and advice in relation to the data protection act and your CCTV system.

Recorders

The advances in CCTV recorder technology are possibly one of the most significant advances within the CCTV industry. This technological shift has been one from analogue (Video Cassette Recorders) to digital hard disc recorders.

The vast majority of new CCTV installs are now based on a digital recording platform.

There are many benefits of digital recording to analogue, some of those are listed below:

1. Analogue recorders need a lot of maintenance owing to the fact that they have many moving parts.
2. The tapes used in the recorders need regular replacement.
3. The quality of images deteriorates over time.
4. Digital recorders have very few moving parts as such rarely require maintenance.
5. The quality of digitally recorded images is far superior to analogue recorders
6. Digital recorders offer a great deal of flexibility in the way in which they record images. For example they can be set to record at varying frame rates, image quality and time.
7. Digital recorders can be upgraded to allow for greater hard drive capacity.

Maintenance

The Data Protection Act 1998 requires that;
"Cameras should be properly maintained and serviced to ensure that clear images are recorded"
(Third & Fourth Data Protection Principles).

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Types of Cover

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