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# Reliable *Report*

*An informative publication for our friends.*

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## Access Control Solutions

An access control solution can be as simple as the use of electronic cards instead of keys to unlock your front door. This limited functionality still retains a considerable level of value. In most cases, you can limit which cards are able to access the door during specific times, thus allowing all of your employees to have "keys to the shop" without risking unwanted access to the premise.

At the other end of the spectrum is a fully integrated system, controlling multiple buildings, and which incorporates the functionality of the CCTV, Fire Alarm, HVAC, Lighting, HRIS, Asset Management, Intrusion Detection, Elevator Control and other systems as may be possible. This level of sophistication can accomplish some amazing things and provide value in myriad different ways.

Most likely, your organization would fall somewhere in the vast middle of the spectrum. And that means that a cost/benefit analysis is appropriate. The costs are generally proportionate to the number of points controlled and the complexity of the system. The benefits derive from a somewhat more individualistic approach. Some of the factors to be considered range from the obvious to the esoteric:

- Is there someone designated as "In Charge of Security?"
- How many keys to your facility have been lost since it was last re-keyed?
- How many people have keys and what do those keys open?
- How many different areas of your facility are restricted?
- In what way are those restrictions enforced?
- Are there frequent visitors or contractors on site?
- Does every employee recognize every other employee?
- Does HR provide data about new employees (and terminations) to Security?
- Is there an existing camera system viewing some or all of the doors?
- Are there expensive articles of equipment or hardware that could be taken out of the facility?
- Is there sensitive or valuable data on your computer system?
- Do you know who is in your facility at any given time?

The list of questions could obviously go on and on. The real issue is whether your organization could derive value from improving the security of your facility and the safety of your staff. If you believe that an access control system could address concerns you have at your facility, please contact us for a consultation at 708-597-4600.