

Seven reasons to recommend electronic access control beyond the perimeter

Robert Gaulden, project based business leader for Allegion

Note: This is a condensed version of an article appearing in *Door Security & Safety*, July edition. Check out the publication for more on this topic.

Wireless solutions have transformed electronic access control—by reducing the deployment cost and thus increasing reach, enhancing security, convenience and efficiency. Yet not everyone has expelled the idea that electronic hardware is reserved for high security, high traffic openings. Therefore, it's important to understand and to communicate why end users benefit from bringing wireless access control to interior openings.

Control. When discussing door hardware with customers, it's best to consider the needs of each opening. Would any opening benefit from greater control? If so, electronic locks might be a good choice. Users can configure locks, manage access rights and assign schedules from virtually anywhere. Facilities that need more advanced capabilities can integrate with a leading software provider. More control allows facilities to respond quickly in emergency situations.

Visibility. Electronic access control provides insights into what's going on inside the building—beyond the main door and high security areas. Users have access to audit trails and alerts. Real-time data and technology help them manage their facility as well as the staff or occupants within it.

In addition to awareness of what's going on at each opening, the data generated by each device can then show broader trends. How frequently is the space being used? Are the resources in that space being used efficiently? When integrated with various systems like HVAC and lighting sensors, the data can be used to expand the understanding of the space, which can lead to increased productivity and automation.

Convenience. In today's market, security is expected—it's a given. End users are looking for products that go beyond security to offer convenience. Help your customers deliver a better experience. Using an electronic credential at the main door then switching to keys to access common areas or personal offices isn't ideal. When electronic access control is implemented throughout a facility, a single credential can provide a frictionless experience while users move from one space to the next with ease.

Key management. Planning facilities with more electronic access control means end users can say goodbye to key management headaches. Electronic credentials provide an additional level of control by mitigating the risks associated with lost or stolen keys. With mechanical locks, once a key is lost, there's no control over who can gain access. To overcome security threats, rekeying must take place. But with electronic credentials, rights can be deactivated immediately and new credentials issued in seconds.

Easy adoption. Wireless locks simplify installation by combining the lock, credential reader, door position sensor, request-to-exit switch and power all in one unit. Wireless locks take only an average of one to two hours to install and significantly reduce labor costs.

Beyond installation, wireless locks are simple to integrate as they complement existing security solutions to extend the benefits of electronic access control deeper in the building. And these locks can be tailored to fit varying security needs. Different architectures are available depending on the application, which allows for greater adoption of locks on interior doors as they can be mixed and matched to meet the needs of each opening.

Future growth. Another part of the balance is the expectation to adopt new technology in the future. Flexibility is an important feature to consider when discussing electronic devices. Access control will always be needed, but how it's monitored and the solutions available evolve year after year. Therefore, encourage customers to opt for open systems. An open architecture allows end users' security solutions to evolve along with advancing technology and the changing needs of their facilities.

Further connectivity. It doesn't matter if a customer is striving for a complete smart-building system or experimenting with how to add value for its users, connectivity presents new potential. Sensors and smart devices share information with each other to create routines, or series of actions, that deliver more personalized experiences—for the facility managers, their businesses and the occupants. This can start with electronic access control. Help customers understand the possibilities beyond locking and unlocking a door.

Conclusion

The demand for electronic access control in the interior is there. But it's up to the industry to educate those in command on the advantages and help them choose the best solution for their end users. Become the trusted resource when it comes to electronic access control. Make sure to read the complete version of this article in the July edition of Door Security & Safety magazine.

About Allegion

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