

## Demystifying wireless

When you consider how much people use wireless connections in their daily life, it's not really surprising why more and more clients want to make wireless solutions part of their buildings. For integrators, it's not only an opportunity to expand your solution set, but also your client base.

Wired and wireless electronic options can provide greater security (i.e., audit trails and immediate deactivation of lost credentials), operational efficiency (i.e., no rekeying of locks, one credential) and be updated in phases as budget allows or space expands.

With the growing use of access control systems in facilities, wireless choices should be welcomed by security integrators and their customers, says Scott Dennison, Allegion business leader, Electronic Locks. However, there's still some hesitation.

Dennison believes that hesitation is lessening, though, as more integrators and customers see success with going wireless. But, he says, that starts with an understanding of when wireless makes sense—and when it doesn't—as well as which wireless frequency option to choose.

### When wireless is a smart choice

- More security than mechanical locks is required, but wired locks are financially impractical
- Low or intermediate traffic doors
- Openings where device/cabling installation costs are high
- Lower security openings not requiring real time updates or control
- Buildings with fewer devices
- Openings where architectural structure cannot be disrupted

### When wired may be the better option

- Openings that need real-time control (anti-passback, immediate credential updates, real time security monitoring, etc.)
- High-traffic openings where battery usage is higher



**Mechanical:** Suitable for all openings  
**Wired:** Ideal for high-traffic access control  
**Wireless:** Ideal for low-traffic access control



### Choosing the right wireless option

“The proliferation of different types of wireless systems that fit a variety of needs is helping to accelerate the adoption of wireless as a security solution,” Dennison says.

From the integrator’s perspective, the fact that there are significant technological differences among wireless access control products is advantageous. “There are differences in technologies and not every wireless system delivers the same functionality or capabilities,” Keating says.

	BLE Bluetooth Low Energy	Wi-Fi	900 MHz
Power usage	Lowest	Highest	Medium
Signal range	Shortest	Medium	Longest Operates on lower frequency range that allows it to penetrate through buildings more easily
Real time communications	Practical over short distances	Possible, but impractical battery life	Practical over short distances
IT implications	Low cost, integral to many existing devices Medium security risk	Low cost, easily centrally managed Highest security risk	Medium cost, Interference possible from other devices Lowest security risk

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### Deciding on the right security solution

Additionally, it’s important to remember that a building is rarely secured by all wireless solutions. Most buildings are a hybrid solution of mechanical, wired and wireless. Deciding which type to use is an opening-by-opening choice. It starts by identifying the needs of each opening and then driving the solution that best satisfies those opening needs.

For example:

- Main entrance openings are typically wired because they are higher security and need to be online at all times.
- Medium to lower volume doors are generally ideal for wireless.
- Mechanical solutions are often chosen for low security, interior doors.

### Partnering with a strong manufacturing company

As integrators begin to leverage wireless security solutions more frequently, it’s important for them to partner with companies who are known for their reputable products and customer support.

“Integrators ready to start extending wireless solutions to customers will be better served if they partner with a door hardware manufacturer like Allegion where product development, product reliability and customer support are paramount,” says Dennison.

### Using wireless to build your business

Offering wireless access control often is the deciding factor in a purchasing decision—one that security dealers and systems integrators can profit from as well.

“From a business standpoint, if integrators are able to address more applications because of the simplified approach that wireless provides,” Dennison says, “then they can become more efficient, strategic and, ultimately, successful.”

## About Allegion

Allegion (NYSE: ALLE) is a global pioneer in safety and security, with leading brands like CISA®, Interflex®, LCN®, Schlage®, SimonsVoss® and Von Duprin®. Focusing on security around the door and adjacent areas, Allegion produces a range of solutions for homes, businesses, schools and other institutions. Allegion is a \$2 billion company, with products sold in almost 130 countries. For more, visit [www.allegion.com](http://www.allegion.com).