

# 5 Reasons for IT to Own Access Control

*A Guide to Choosing an IT and User-Friendly Building Security System*

Network security and building security are equally important. If either system is compromised, the organization is immediately at risk. But while many network security systems are now built to support IT best practices and standards, such as, virtualization, physical access control systems (AC) have traditionally been designed without IT professionals in mind.

## **Reliability**

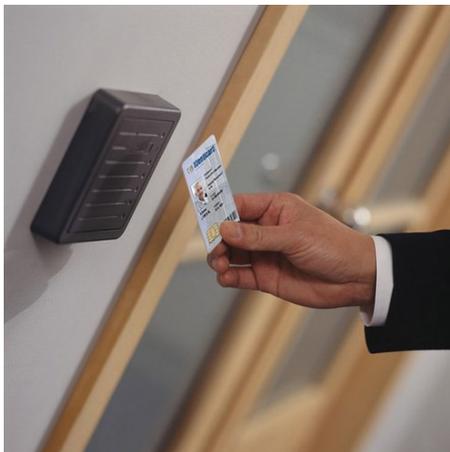
A next-generation access control can simplify system redundancy and provide cost-effective autofailover and hot-standby capabilities, particularly when delivered as an affordable, all-in-one, access control network appliance or solidstate, rack-mounted server.

## **Security**

Look for platforms that have some kind of assurance that the access control received an industry-recognized certification to verify their application was hardened against known software vulnerabilities to reduce or eliminate the risk of network attack.

## **Mobility**

Traditional, software-based AC only runs on specific desktop or laptop computers, forcing IT departments to install and/or upgrade individually-licensed software and servers one-at-a-time. Legacy systems also keep facilities managers and security directors tied to their desks, instead of being able to do their job from any building, at any time, from any location.



## **Usability**

Ease of use is another important factor to consider when evaluating the effectiveness of a physical access control platform. While IT is comfortable with a wide-range of software, hardware and user interfaces, physical security users may not have as much familiarity with using advanced computers or managing complex operating systems.

## **Flexibility**

Having a physical access control system that can grow and scale with the size of your organization is critical, whether you need to protect a handful of doors at a single site or hundreds or thousands of doors across multiple buildings and office locations.

## Summary

It needs an open-architecture system that offers better scalability, the option to install in a virtual environment and improved options for integration with other IT and physical security systems. Not only do these technologies need to be easy to display, for example, in a virtual server environment, they also require the system be hardened to cyber attack while remaining completely reliable.

Meanwhile, the facilities team wants a solution that makes their lives easier. They want it to be easy to change, add or delete users from the system, they need it to allow flexibility to grant access privileges with a smartphone or mobile device, wherever they are in the building, without being tied to their desk.

A system that meet everyone's needs not only improves tier workflow, it keeps expenses down, both now and in the future. Organizations that seek out systems that bring together access control with video surveillance, identify management and security information and Event Management (SIEM) can operate more efficiently and intelligently in all situations.

Perhaps most importantly, though, such a system brings down the barriers that have stalled the convergence of physical and logical access control systems for so long. IT no longer needs to worry about an insecure systems that adds more operational overhead. And facilities staff no longer need to spend hours figuring out frustrating and confusing user interfaces. The two parties can finally work together to become more efficient and eliminate security gaps in the process, once an IT and user-friendly building security system has been acquired.



## Real World Convergence

If the door to a server room is propped open, a well-integrated system will trip an alert to physical security stakeholders., who can immediately switch to video feed to monitor what's going on in a real time. The system can automatically suspend network access in nearby



**Parallel Technologies, Inc.**  
**800-899-1652**

Parallel Technologies designs, implements and integrates critical infrastructure and networks for Data Centers and Buildings. We help our clients improve communications and reliability while reducing business risk, energy and costs. We've been in business for 30 years and have 115 engineers, technologists, and professionals ready to help you. Serving enterprise, commercial and SMB clients, just a few of our clients are UHC, Digital River, The Mayo Clinic, Cummins, Target and the US Postal Service.

