



The Critical Role of Access Control  
in Remote Workforces Globally



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**In the current global scenario, security has become a paramount concern. With increasing threats and evolving challenges, organizations and individuals are seeking reliable and effective security solutions. This is where acre security comes in. As a leading provider of security solutions, acre security plays a vital role in safeguarding people, assets, and information.**

Access control systems form a crucial component of modern security infrastructure. These systems enable organizations to regulate and monitor access to physical and virtual spaces, ensuring only authorized individuals can enter or interact with sensitive areas or data. With robust access control systems in place, businesses can enhance their security measures, mitigate risks, and protect valuable assets.

At acre security, we understand the importance of tailored security solutions that meet the unique needs of each client. Our team of experts combines extensive industry knowledge with cutting-edge technologies to deliver comprehensive and reliable security systems from access control systems to visitor management, to intruder alarms to Secure Communications Networking and Server Solutions. Our software integrates with best in breed partners to establish comprehensive solutions. Whether you're a partner or customer, our RESTful API makes it easy for software integrations. For example, video surveillance is a critical component of access control systems. We offer a wide range of

solutions that empower our clients to protect their premises, assets, and personnel.

With a commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction, acre security has earned a reputation for delivering top-quality security services. We prioritize understanding our client's specific requirements and work closely with them to develop customized security solutions that address their unique challenges. Our goal is to provide peace of mind, enabling organizations to focus on their core operations while knowing that their security needs are in capable hands.

In this whitepaper, we will delve deeper into the current global security scenario, exploring the challenges faced by organizations and individuals alike. We will also provide a more detailed overview of access control systems, discussing their features, benefits, and the key considerations when implementing such systems. By the end of this whitepaper, you will have a comprehensive understanding of the importance of security solutions and the role acre security plays in this domain.



# Understanding Access Control in the Context of Remote Workforces in Commercial Real Estate

Access control systems are mechanisms that regulate and manage the entry and exit of individuals or devices into commercial properties or specific areas within them. These systems ensure that only authorized personnel or approved devices can gain access to sensitive information, resources, or physical locations within the commercial real estate space. By implementing access control systems, organizations operating in the commercial real estate sector can safeguard their assets, preserve confidentiality, deter unauthorized access, and mitigate security risks.

In the context of commercial real estate, access control systems become even more critical. With

tenants, employees, and visitors accessing different areas of a property, it is essential to have robust access control measures in place. These systems help property owners and managers to manage user identities, authenticate users, and control their access privileges, ensuring that only authorized individuals enter specific areas or use certain resources within the commercial property.

Modern authentication mechanisms for physical access control solutions in modern environments involve a combination of traditional and advanced technologies. These are designed to enhance security while also improving user convenience. Here are some of the key methods currently in use:

- **Multiple User Authentication Methods:**

This involves using more than one method to authenticate a user's identity. It can include something users know (such as a password or PIN), something users have (like a smart card or key fob), or something users are (biometric data: fingerprint, vein, or facial authentication).

- **Cloud-Based Management:**

Modern access control systems often use cloud-based management, which allows for remote access and control, real-time updates, reallocation of resources, data encryption, and integration with other systems.

- **Mobile Access Control:**

With the widespread use of smartphones, mobile access control has become increasingly popular. Users can use their phones as their access credentials, making it a convenient option. Not to mention, people hardly ever forget their phones.

- **Artificial Intelligence:**

AI is being used in access control systems to analyze patterns and detect anomalies, which can help to prevent unauthorized access.

- **Biometric Authentication:**

This involves using unique physical characteristics such as fingerprints, facial recognition, or iris scans to authenticate a user's identity. Some systems use on-device authentication where the biometric data is encrypted and matched within the device for added security.

- **Single Sign-On (SSO) and Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA):**

SSO allows users to use one set of credentials to access multiple applications, while MFA requires users to provide two or more verification factors to gain access.



These modern mechanisms provide robust security, convenience, and efficiency, making them ideal for physical access control within commercial real estate properties in today's environments. With multi-factor authentication, commercial real estate organizations can further enhance the security of access control, preventing unauthorized entry and protecting valuable assets.

Furthermore, access control systems provide property owners and managers with granular control over user access privileges. This means that tenants, employees, and contractors can be granted access only to the areas or amenities they require to conduct their business operations, at the appropriate time, within the commercial property. With the use of the principle of least privilege, commercial real estate organizations can minimize the risk of unauthorized access, maintain the privacy of sensitive areas, and protect against potential data breaches.

In addition to enhancing security, access control systems also contribute to the efficiency and productivity of commercial real estate operations. With streamlined access to resources and amenities, employees can easily and securely access the tools and information they need to conduct their business activities within the building. This eliminates the need for manual access requests, reduces administrative overhead, and enables a seamless experience for all stakeholders involved in commercial real estate transactions.

## The Benefits of Access Control Systems

Access control systems offer various advantages for businesses of all sizes. Here are some key benefits to consider:

### Centralized Management of Access Permissions

Centralized Management of Access Permissions works by consolidating all access control decisions into a single system. Rather than managing permissions across multiple platforms or devices, all decisions are made and enforced from one place. This means that when you grant, modify, or revoke access permissions, the changes are implemented universally, saving you time, and reducing the risk of oversight or error.

In practical terms, imagine you're an administrator at a large corporation with numerous departments, each requiring different access levels. With a traditional, decentralized system, managing these access permissions could become a complex and time-consuming task. Each change needs to be implemented individually, leading to potential inconsistencies.

With acre security's market-leading cloud and on-premises solutions, this process becomes seamless.

The corporation's security team can manage all access permissions from one place, ensuring consistency and efficiency. If a new employee joins, because of process automation capabilities, their access permissions can be set up in minutes, with the assurance that they will have the correct access across all relevant areas. Similarly, if an employee leaves or changes roles within the company, their access permissions can be updated or revoked immediately, maintaining the integrity of the corporation's security.

Another compelling case study can be found in the education sector. Universities and colleges often have vast campuses with a myriad of access points. Managing access permissions in these institutions is a substantial task. Acre security's centralized system simplifies this process, allowing for efficient management of student, staff, and visitor access, ensuring the right people have access to the right places at the right times.

**Find out how acre security's access control specialists designed an intuitive solution for one of the Midwest's top universities.**

## Reducing the Risk of Unauthorized Entry

Access control systems play a pivotal role in eliminating risks and are specifically designed to reduce the risk of unauthorized entry.

Unauthorized entry into commercial real estate can have severe consequences, including security breaches, data loss, property damage, and risks to personal safety. To ensure protection, you need to apply access control systems designed with multiple layers of security measures.

Firstly, authentication is a critical step in preventing unauthorized entry. Every individual seeking access must provide unique credentials, which could be a key card, a PIN code, biometric data like a fingerprint, iris, or facial scans, or a combination of these. This ensures that access is granted solely to those who are authorized, reducing the chance of unauthorized individuals gaining entry.

Secondly, these systems incorporate physical barriers such as electronic locks on doors, turnstiles, or gates, which serve as an active deterrent, physically preventing access until proper authentication and authorization have been confirmed. In addition, each access point is monitored in real-time through integrated surveillance cameras, providing an extra layer of security.

Acce security access control systems also feature alarm systems that trigger alerts in case of unauthorized entry attempts. These alarms, which can be either audible or silent, notify security personnel immediately, enabling a swift response to potential security threats.

Time-based restrictions add another dimension to access control systems. Access can be granted only during specific hours or days, further reducing the risk of unauthorized entry during off-hours.

A robust access control system will offer cloud, or remote access management capabilities, which allows administrators to monitor and control access from anywhere, granting, or revoking access privileges in real-time to respond promptly to any security incidents.

**Discover how acre security created a robust, low-maintenance access control system to safeguard operations at Coca-Cola Hellenic.**



## Audit Trail of Entry and Exit Events

Audit trails play a crucial role in commercial real estate, providing a comprehensive record of all access-related activities, and having an access control system that can generate your desired report is critical. Agents can review the date and time of each event, the individuals involved, the accessed locations, and any actions taken. This real-time logging ensures accountability and transparency, empowering agents to analyze and review the information for enhanced security and risk management. Process automation allows you to receive these reports on a predetermined schedule to make system analysis easy. If your video management system is integrated with your access control system, the analysis is even easier.

Let's highlight the significance of audit trails in commercial real estate with some real-life examples:

### 1 Tenant Accountability:

In a large commercial building, an incident of unauthorized access to sensitive tenant information occurred. The audit trail from the access control system revealed the exact time of the incident and identified the individual responsible. This information was vital in holding the tenant accountable and implementing appropriate measures.

### 3 Security Investigation:

When a security breach took place at a commercial complex, the audit trail from the access control system helped identify the vulnerability in the security measures. It uncovered unauthorized access events at specific entry points, leading to enhanced security protocols to prevent future incidents.

### 2 Compliance with Industry Standards:

In a commercial property, adhering to industry regulations and standards is crucial. The access control system's audit trails provide detailed records of who accessed specific areas and when ensuring compliance with these standards.

### 4 Legal and Liability Protection:

In a case involving commercial real estate, an alleged breach of contract occurred between a landlord and a tenant. The audit trail from the access control system provided a timeline of events, proving the tenant's access to restricted areas after the termination of the lease agreement. This evidence played a crucial role in the legal proceedings, ensuring fair resolution and liability determination.

Audit trails and reporting play a vital role in commercial real estate, ensuring accountability, compliance, security, and legal protection. With the advancements in access control technology, these systems now offer detailed and accurate records, effectively safeguarding commercial properties.

**Discover how ICA Sweden leverages acre's access control solution to extend opening hours at local stores, enhancing shopper experiences and driving profitability.**





## Integration with Other Security Solutions

One of the key benefits of integrating access control with other security solutions, like video management solutions, is the creation of a layered approach to security. This means that multiple security measures work together to provide enhanced protection. Access control serves as the foundation for controlling and managing entry points and restricting unauthorized access.

While a standalone access control system, whether on-premises or cloud-based, is crucial for commercial real estate, organizations should adopt a comprehensive approach to site security. This includes implementing a visitor management system to differentiate visitors, strengthen security policies and improve operational efficiencies. This integration becomes necessary when visitors & contractors are allowed free access to a facility and are not always escorted by a host. A solution is to integrate an organization's visitor management system with its access control system, allowing the two systems to work together to grant entry to authorized personnel.

The days of directing on-site guests to the security office for access credentials are long gone. Thanks to a fully streamlined process, visitors and contractors can now be granted access directly from the visitor management system. When integrated with other solutions, such as visitor management systems, it streamlines the check-in process, automates visitor procedures, and provides better control and visibility over visitor activity within the premises.

Furthermore, integrating access control with intrusion detection systems strengthens security by instantly identifying potential security breaches. With access control serving as the gatekeeper, any suspicious activity or unauthorized attempts can be quickly detected, triggering immediate alerts, and allowing security teams to respond promptly and effectively.

In addition, integrating access control with secure communications networking and server solutions helps safeguard data and transmission channels from cyber threats. By controlling access to sensitive information, organizations can minimize the risk of unauthorized access and ensure secure communication channels, preventing data breaches and unauthorized tampering.

Overall, integrating access control with other security solutions creates a more robust and comprehensive security system. It enhances the ability to prevent unauthorized access, detect and respond to security threats promptly, and protect sensitive information. This layered approach to security increases the overall effectiveness of security measures, providing organizations with confidence in their security infrastructure and ensuring a safe and secure environment.

At acre security, we understand the importance of integrating access control with other security solutions. With our expertise and experience, we offer innovative solutions that seamlessly integrate access control with various security components, empowering organizations to enhance their security posture and mitigate risks effectively.

# Future Trends in Access Control Systems for Commercial Real Estate

As we look ahead to the future of access control systems in commercial real estate, several key trends are expected to shape the industry. Here are some access security predictions for 2024:

- 1 Integration with Smart Building Technology:**

Access control systems will increasingly integrate with smart building technology to provide a seamless and interconnected security experience. This includes integration with building automation systems, IoT devices, and sensor networks, allowing for enhanced security monitoring and control.
- 2 Biometric Authentication Advancements:**

Biometric authentication methods, such as facial recognition and iris scanning, will continue to evolve and become more prevalent in access control systems. These advanced biometric technologies offer robust security measures and user convenience, ensuring only authorized individuals can gain access.
- 3 Mobile Credentials and Contactless Solutions:**

The use of mobile credentials and contactless solutions will become more widespread. Utilizing smartphones or wearable devices as digital credentials will offer enhanced flexibility, convenience, and improved user experience.
- 4 Cloud-Based Access Control:**

Cloud-based access control solutions will increase its popularity due to their scalability, flexibility, and cost-effectiveness. Cloud-based systems allow for centralized management, reallocation of resources, remote access, and real-time updates, making them ideal for businesses with multiple locations or changing security needs.
- 5 Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Integration:**

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning algorithms will enhance access control systems' capabilities. These technologies can analyze patterns and detect anomalies in user behavior, enabling proactive threat detection, adaptive security measures, and predictive analytics.
- 6 Enhanced Visitor Management:**

Visitor management systems will see advancements in functionality and integration capabilities. Expect improved check-in processes, automated visitor registration, real-time tracking, and seamless integration with access control systems to ensure a secure and efficient visitor experience.
- 7 Data Security and Privacy Measures:**

With the increasing importance of data security and privacy, access control systems will prioritize encryption methods, secure storage, and protection of personal information. Compliance with data privacy regulations, such as GDPR, NIS2, CMMC, and CCPA, will be a key focus for access control providers.
- 8 Analytics and Reporting:**

Access control systems will provide more comprehensive analytics and reporting capabilities. Businesses will have access to real-time data on user activity, entry points, and security incidents, enabling informed decision-making, risk assessment, and audit compliance.
- 9 Enhanced User Experience and Customization:**

Access control systems will focus on improving the user experience through intuitive interfaces, mobile apps, and personalized settings. Businesses will have more customization options to tailor their security settings according to their specific needs and preferences.

As access security continues to innovate and provide market-leading access control solutions, we are committed to staying ahead of these future trends and ensuring the highest level of security for commercial real estate. Secure your premises with our extensive range of [access control solutions](#).

## Conclusion

**As the world rapidly shifts towards remote workforces, the importance of access control systems in commercial real estate cannot be overlooked. With the increasing reliance on technology and the need for secure and efficient operations, businesses must prioritize the implementation of robust access control solutions.**

Access control systems provide a comprehensive security framework that safeguards commercial real estate properties. By restricting unauthorized entry and monitoring access activities, these systems ensure the safety of employees, assets, and sensitive information. In an era where data breaches and physical threats are significant concerns, investing in access control systems becomes a necessity for commercial real estate owners and property managers.

Acre security, with its expertise in access control solutions, understands the unique challenges faced by commercial real estate entities. Our team has witnessed the transformation of the industry and recognizes the importance of adapting to the

evolving security landscape. We believe that access control systems not only enhance safety but also contribute to operational efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

Commercial real estate owners and property managers must recognize the pivotal role of access control systems in ensuring the security and success of their properties. Acre security encourages you to take proactive measures to protect your assets and the well-being of your workforce.

**Contact us** today for personalized recommendations and tailored access control solutions that align with your specific needs. Together, let's build a secure future for your commercial real estate ventures.





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