Hosted vs Server Based Access Control

Access control systems come in two basic varieties, hosted and server based. Both systems control the access into buildings adequately, but you may find some benefits of one system over the other depending on your situation.

Hosted systems have the lowest up front cost since the server needed to control the system is not owned or maintained by the customer. There is still a server, but it is located off site. Communication to the server is through the Internet. There is a monthly fee associated with hosted systems for the services provided. Typically this cost is on a per door basis. These systems are very appealing to small businesses with a low number of doors due to the low up front cost and simplicity of on going maintenance. The hosting company keeps all software up to date and is fully responsible for hardware failures and power expenses of the equipment. Hosted systems are also very scalable. It is quite easy to add a door when needed.

Server based systems are best when there are a large number of doors and the cost of owning and maintaining a server is spread across the number of doors. Even thought the up front cost is higher, there is no monthly payment as in hosted systems, which could be quite high with a large number of doors. It is important to choose a system that will have minimum maintenance over time. Linux based systems are preferred since Windows based systems require a lot of attention under the surface. Its also important to make sure to think ahead when purchasing these systems in regards to leaving capacity for future growth. Server based systems also appeal to companies with their own IT departments who like to have full control of their systems.

The last type of system we will discuss is a newer system on the market. It is server based, but decentralized. This basically means that there is no central server that does all the processing. In turn processing is distributed among all the door controllers in the system. A PC on the network has software installed to make updates to the system. The cost of the door controllers is a bit higher than the typical server based systems, but it is still less expensive overall.

Call Hilton's Lock & Security today to customize a system for your specific needs. Our helpful staff will guide you through the process of selecting the perfect system for your business.

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