5 TIPS FOR
SECURING
DATA CENTERS.

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Data centers are the backbone of the modern digital landscape, housing invaluable information that powers businesses worldwide. Here, physical security is just as essential as cybersecurity in the effort to prevent risks such as unauthorized access, theft, and tampering. In this highly competitive market, ensuring the physical integrity of data centers is a key differentiator and fundamental requirement for maintaining the trust of all stakeholders.

What's more, data centers can offer more competitive pricing through the strategic deployment of secured entry solutions. Secured entry solutions not only prevent unauthorized entry, but simultaneously ensure compliance with industry standards while reducing energy and labor costs. These combined benefits effectively fortify data centers from the inside out, allowing organizations to operate without disruption for long-term success in the digital era.

Here are five tips to help secure data centers and data storage facilities:

1. LAYER SECURED ENTRY SOLUTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH FACILITY LAYERS FOR COMPREHENSIVE, STRATEGIC PROTECTION

As you move from the perimeter fence line all the way to the server racks at the core of a data center, the security entrances utilized get more sophisticated and are more effective at barring intruders from gaining access. A layered application of secured entry solutions is therefore the best way to mitigate unauthorized entry and the associated liabilities at all entry points. Traditional data center "layers" and their associated secured entry solution are outlined below:

- **Layer 1 - The Perimeter** - Full height turnstiles are ideal for this first layer, acting as a visual deterrent against infiltration and a tailgating preventative.
- **Layer 2 - The Building Entrance** - Installing a security revolving door at the building entrance can easily accommodate both staff and visitors, allowing swift staff entry and receptionist triggers or digital credentials for visitor entry.
- **Layer 3 - The Building Interior** - A third layer can be installed between the entrance lobby and the rest of the building interior, again utilizing a security revolving door to prevent any visitors from slipping by the reception desk.
- **Layer 4 - The Server Room** - Interlocking mantrap portals enforce a single entry into the data center's core, simultaneously verifying an individual's identity and confirming that they are alone.

2. PROVIDE THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF PREVENTATIVE SECURITY AT THE SERVER ROOM

For the protection of the most sensitive area in a data center, the server room itself, it is critical that a physical security entrance not only deter and detect unauthorized entry but also take active steps to prevent it. Interlocking mantrap portals do this by means of an overhead sensor system called StereoVision. Once a user presents their credentials and the door revolves or opens, StereoVision scans the compartment, verifying the user is alone. Inside the interlocking mantrap portal, an internal biometric device can be used to verify identity, confirming that not only one person gets inside, but the right person.

3. LOOK FOR SECURITY SOLUTIONS THAT DELIVER ROI

The implementation of high-security technologies is an area where cost savings can be achieved while simultaneously fortifying cyber-physical security. This provides data center management with a great opportunity to reimagine physical security, specifically with secured entrances that improve workflow and process resiliency to deliver tangible ROI. Here's how:

- **Risk Mitigation** - Allow customers easy access for change control, while at the same time keep unauthorized people out of the facility by quickly identifying and stopping those who do not have the necessary permissions.
- **Intrusion Prevention** - For the protection of The Server Room, it is critical that a physical security entrance prevent intrusion and enforce single entry, while at the same time allowing for the free flow of an authorized customer to perform change control.
- **Alarm Management** - Full height turnstiles, security revolving doors and security interlocking portals can virtually eliminate 100% of Door Forced Open (DFO) and Door Held Open (DHO) alarms.
- **Regulatory Compliance** - Beyond security, secured entry solutions empower staff with the infrastructure and tools they need to meet certifications and industry mandates such as: Gramm-Leach-Bliley-Act (GLBA), 2022 Safeguards Rule Compliance, FISMA, ISO 27001, HITRUST, PCI DSS, SOC 1, SOC 2, SOC 3, ITAR, and more.

4. ADD ANALYTICS TO ENTRANCES

The best security entrances can do more than simply read credentials to allow or deny entry to each individual. Using biometric technology, it is possible to verify if the person trying to enter is in fact the same identity as the credentials.

Additionally, analytics can capture information about user behaviors. For example, analytics can detect if a specific identity repeatedly presents credentials and does not enter or attempt entries with a second person in the compartment, a behavior known as piggybacking. This information can be used to help develop threat and risk assessment policies and processes to further improve security.

Analytics data can further be used to provide information about the operational condition of the door, evaluate risk levels at the entry, and improve up-time.

5. CONSULT WITH THE EXPERTS

With so many secured entry solutions available, making the best selection for each specific area can be challenging. It can be beneficial to discuss your needs with a well-versed entry solutions specialist who can evaluate your physical environment and assess your situation to help you make the right choice.

This will help ensure that you realize the following benefits:
- Strategic, layered application of secured entry solutions
- Proper disabled access (ADA compliance)
- Create a pleasant user and visitor experience
- Create first impressions that fit with your brand
- Enable rapid technical troubleshooting for reduced downtime
- Build a partnership with an entry expert from project conception to installation and beyond including service and maintenance
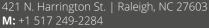
The process of establishing new ingress and egress policies and processes can be daunting. Boon Edam has successfully deployed tens of thousands of secured entry solutions in a variety of applications, including data centers. Our team of secured entry professionals can help you through every phase of the process, from documenting ROI to obtaining funding from your organization.

Deploying Boon Edam secured entry solutions and security workflow strategies helps data centers attract customers by ensuring staff and facilities have the tools they need to control security and reduce costs.

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