

New York City Law Department

A Schlage Recognition Systems Access Control Case Study

New York City Law Department Improves Security with the Schlage Recognition Systems HandReader®

"The Schlage Recognition Systems HandReaders are wonderful. With this system, only the authorized person can enter the facility."

- Malachy Higgins, Director of Administration,
New York City Law Department

Summary

Schlage Recognition Systems HandReader improves reliability of access control and accuracy of time and attendance records for the New York City Law Department.

Business Need

The New York City Law Department employs more than 1,000 people, including hundreds of attorneys who are in and out of the office constantly – going to court, taking depositions, and often showing up at work late at night or on the weekends. Their old system of using swipe cards to gain entrance to offices and signing in manually was expensive and cumbersome. "That arrangement was a pain and expensive, because cards regularly got lost or damaged," said Malachy Higgins, Director of Administration for the New York City Law Department. "The hand reader provides a much more reliable system."

Challenges

The New York City Law Department needed a system that made it easy to track time and attendance accurately. They also wanted a reliable, secure system for access control.



STATISTICS

Industry: Government

Application: Access Control

Biometric: Schlage Recognition Systems HandReader

Hand Readers: 30

Users: More than 1,000

Geography: United States

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Solution

In the early 1990s, the Law Department installed the hand reader because of its ease of use and accuracy. “We saw a study by Sandia National Laboratories showing that the Schlage Recognition Systems HandReader was the least intrusive and fastest technology available and that decided it for us,” said Higgins.

Initially, they installed the machines to monitor time and attendance and then began to use them to control building access. “The Schlage Recognition Systems HandReaders are wonderful. They have made our facilities much more secure,” said Higgins. He points out that access cards can be passed from one person to another, but with the Schlage Recognition Systems HandReader, only an authorized person can enter a facility. The hand reader uses a field-proven biometric technology to verify employees’ identities in less than one second based on the unique size and shape of their hands. The Law Department’s centralized system links together some 30 Hand Readers at 10 locations.

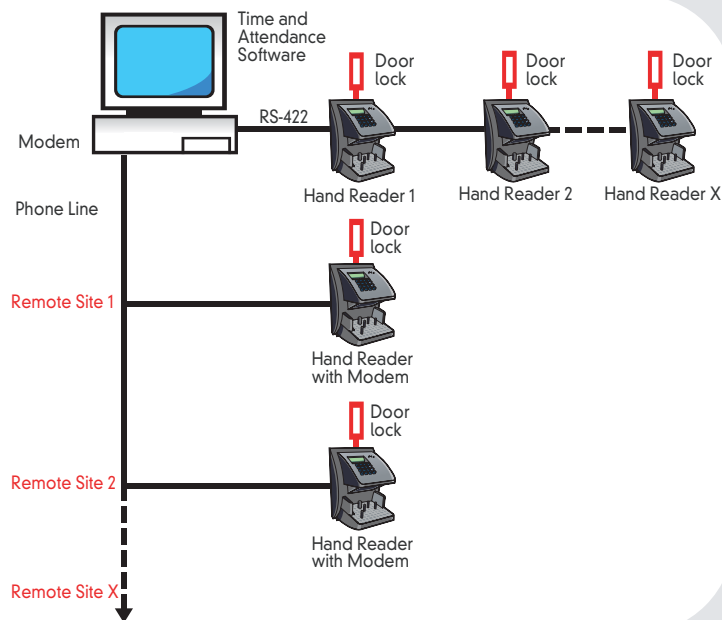
At the Law Department’s main office, 17 hand readers are connected to a single communications port. Hand Readers at nine remote sites use modems to send transactions to the central computer. The time and attendance software calculates hours worked for all hourly employees at all 10 locations.

Results

The New York City Law Department now gives secure access to authorized personnel and has improved, accurate time and attendance records.

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