



BOSCH GETS PERSONAL



Taking advantage of its strength in building powerful integrated solutions Bosch Security Systems has developed Access PE, a capable small scale access control system built around the company's brilliant new AMC controller and exploiting compatibility with BIS/ACE access engines to leverage massive expandability.

For the past 2 decades, access control system manufacturers have marketed their solutions as being able to handle from 1 to infinite doors but for most this time their expansion was restricted to a single site. The latest access solutions still start small but they're not bound by the old laws. With 21st century access solutions expansion truly has become vast.

In few solutions is this truth more apparent than with Bosch Security System's new access control offering, Access Personal Edition, a system that's designed to support small and medium access requirements in an enterprise environment while offering big-end flexibility through Bosch's Building Integration System.

Driving Access PE is something new - Bosch's Access Modular Controller (AMC). It's not possible to understate the importance of this smart little controller to Bosch's new access solution. It's this bit of gear - combining the features of a door controller and a smart access controller - that really brings Access PE together.

Each AMC offers access management for up to 8 readers, as well as 2 and 4 state input/output module expansion for monitoring of alarms or control of outputs. The AMC's input/outputs give plenty of control and monitoring options and allow the addition of full intrusion alarm reporting.

Depending on how much you need your Access PE

system to do you can deck an AMC out with up to 1GB of flash memory. How much memory you need really depends on the configuration of the system you're building. If you're going standalone, have many users or need the redundancy of distributed intelligence then the more memory a particular AMC is going to need.

It's important to point out that Bosch is serious about Access PE's small/medium system capability - and to ensure this capability the AMC is no dumb controller. In order to function standalone each AMC also has an LCD display, over current protection per input, UPS and backup battery, the ability to operate offline and the ability to communicate with the host locally using RS-485 LANs or locally/remotely using 10/100 Ethernet. Getting signals from reader to AMC is handled via Weigand or RS485.

If you're starting to wonder whether Access PE is just one AMC-supported door and its associated management software or 100 AMCs, then you're starting to get the point. Kicking off with a single AMC, Access PE is pretty much whatever sort of access control solution you want it to be.

In terms of installation, you start with a single AMC and then build the system up from there in a modular fashion. It's simple stuff. Using the AMC to handle door control as well as interfacing with the host removes a whole layer of hardware installation, cabling and programming.

Flowing on from this simplicity is the set-up procedure for an AMC - it features door templates. You select a template that suits your job and inputs and outputs are predefined. In terms of overall expansion, Access PE will support 2000 cardholders, or 200,000 when integrated with BIS, up to 64 readers, or 1200 when integrated with BIS, and can be managed across 16 client workstations.

SYSTEM FEATURES

In terms of system features, Access PE is well sorted and the feature set is designed to support installers as much as it is end users. For a start there's that big range of pre-defined door models designed to allow the fastest and easiest possible hardware setup. From



an installers' point of view you simply select standard door, turnstile, elevator, entrance/exit reader.

The broader capabilities of the system are plentiful. There's real time activation of reader and cardholder configs in access controllers, time schedules for time-based access permissions on the basis of weekdays – including holidays. There's pincode with alarm code feature, temporary activation and deactivation of cardholders by clock or manually, antipassback, card personalization, full archive and restore of system data, and time schedules for auto activation and deactivation of system settings.

You also get definable input fields for cardholder information, full card personalization, importation of cardholder images, creation of logical areas for assignation of access control points – these can include floors, rooms and areas, complete event log, and integrated filter and reporting features.

Operationally, Access PE is driven via a graphical user interface (GUI) in Windows format, which is well structured and easy to learn and operate. Things like access privileges, time models and door parameters can be defined from a host workstation.

Along with hard drive storage of events there's non volatile fail-safe functionality thanks to AMC intervention in the event of network failure, with all data saved locally if there's a system failure. Data is automatically re-balanced when the system comes

back on line and AMCs are updated by software download to save maintenance time.

Access PE's capabilities get a bit spooky when you start piling Bosch Security System's big BIS solution into the mix. Access control systems have always had a way of claiming capabilities that seemed never ending but when BIS pulls up a seat at the table such claims start to ring true. That's because BIS is a networkable PC-based system that employs 3-tier architecture and Object Linking and Embedding for Process Control interface, along with sweeping expansion.

BIS is an extraordinary integrated solution that's designed to integrate pretty much anything with anything – access control, CCTV, dynamic alarm and image mapping, fire control, HVAC, intrusion alarms, lighting, databases, POS, process control, public address and voice and data networks – whatever you need in your recipe.

Bosch's development of the AMC-driven Access PE can be identified as a reflection of the modularity of Bosch's overarching BIS solution, a modularity that will drive next-generation electronic security systems. Solutions like this Bosch Access PE will stand alone with aplomb but if you want them to grow, they'll extend their capabilities further than anything that has gone before them. ▀ ▄ ▄ ▀