The Door Checklist

2024

Pinnacle
SECURITY SOLUTIONS

The Problem

Although no one knows when the door[1] was invented, some of the earliest doors archeologists have found date back to Ancient Egypt. In the over 5,000 years since we have taken the door for granted. ***No matter where you are, a door is all that separates you from other people, secures your assets, and limits who can access specific areas.*** **However, doors are finicky and are codependent on many factors to operate properly. Below is a summary list of all fifteen components, systems and processes that work together to provide valid access through a secure door and a checklist of items to double check on your critical doors!**

1. **Frames** - must be level, square, plumb, and able to support the door weight.
2. **Door Slab** - must be installed level, square, plumb within the frame to prevent binding.
3. **Locking Hardware** - must be tested, installed properly, and maintained systematically.
4. **Door Closer** - must be tested, installed properly, and maintained systematically.
5. **Keys** - nothing renders a door useless faster than poor key control and key hierarchies.
6. **Environment** - road salt, pebbles, and even seasonal changes in air pressure from air conditioning and heating can prevent the door from closing and latching.
7. **Fire Code and Egress (Fail Safe and Non-Fail Safe, Delayed Egress, etc.)** - no matter the use case, some times a door simply cannot be secured for life safety reasons (i.e., we can't lock individuals on roofs).

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The Problem (continued)

8. **Card Reader** - like keys, using un-secure 125 khZ or compromised 13.56 mHZ cards, compromises the entire door.
9. **Security Panel** - using legacy weigand cabling or unencrypted communication from the reader to the panel leaves your organization vulnerable to man-in-the-middle and spoofing attacks.
10. **Access Control System Configuration** - even when everything is physically working at the door, misconfigured programming can lead to doors unlocking (or not unlocking) when expected.
11. **Access Rules** - poorly configured access rules (all access) and assigning more access than an individual requires, inhibits the ability of a door to keep a space secure. Visitors, vendors, and contractor access levels are usually the worst offenders!
12. **Access Schedules** - holidays and temporary unlock schedules are often overlooked.
13. **Misuse (Tailgating, Holding Open, Forced Open, Etc.)** - people are unique. Everyone uses a door slightly differently, and holding doors for strangers or sharing access badges can greatly increase risk.
14. **Site Security Policies and Procedures** - even the perfect door implementation is no match for poor organizational security practices where security is part of the culture.
15. **Monitoring of System and Alarm Metrics** - monitoring alarm data and trends can help you identify problematic doors and enforce policy to reduce risk.

"A door is a way to keep the world at bay." - John Updike

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The Checklist

PHYSICAL TEST

- [ ] Approach locked door (without badge) and pull. Is it actually secure?
- [ ] Unlock the door with a valid card swipe. Does the door unlock and relock after?
- [ ] Open the door 50% and allow it to close on its own power 5 times. Does it close and lock? Try again at 75% and 100% open.
- [ ] Can you free egress from the unsecure side of the door without a badge swipe or key?
- [ ] Inspect the door slab and frame. Is the door square, level and plumb? Does the gap between the frame and door remain consistent around the door on all sides?
- [ ] Is there any missing paint, scuffs, scratches or gouges on the door frame, latch, handle set or floor? This may indicate the door has alignment isues.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- [ ] Are your credentials secure? What type of credentials are in use? 125 khZ or 13.56 mHZ?
- [ ] Are readers and panels communicating via wiegand or OSDP Secure Channel?
- [ ] Are panels encrypted and utilizing TLS 1.2 to communicate?

APPLICATION

- [ ] Are doors configured properly? Only maglocks should unlock on REX.
- [ ] Are access privileges configured properly? Check that restricted areas are not part of general access groups.
- [ ] Are unlock and holiday schedules accurate and audited quarterly?

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

- [ ] Does your organization audit active badges and assigned access quarterly?
- [ ] Does your organization have strong key control and auditing policies?
- [ ] Does your organization have a culture of security (i.e., limiting tailgating, propping of doors, etc.)?

MONITORING

- [ ] Does your organization utilize metrics and key performance indicators to measure system operations and health?

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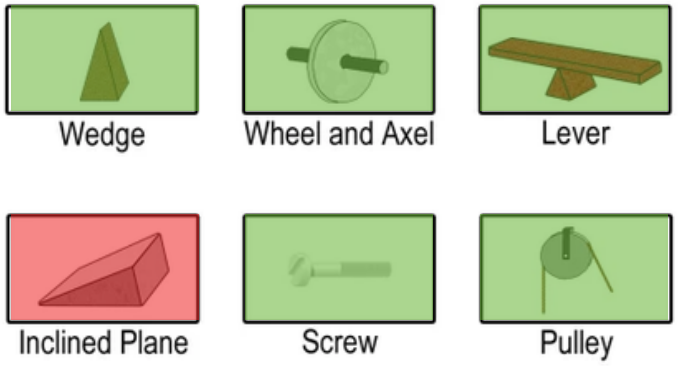
Additional Information

Did you know, a standard access control door utilizes five of the six simple machines? They include:

1. Lever (knob)
2. Wedge (hinge)
3. Wheel and Axle (latch)
4. Screw (fasteners)
5. Pulley (closer)



References

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2. *https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_unbroken_seal_on_Tutankhamun%E2%80%99s_tomb,_1922.jpg#filelinks*

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Your Independent Guide to Security Excellence

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Contact us now for a free initial consultation!