How can you give data center customers the protection of high security and the convenience of fast, easy access? Get the HandKey II!

“We needed a system that would let us identify hundreds of customers without giving them badges that they could lose.”

- Amar Virk, Facility Manager, XO Communications

XO Communications is one of the world’s leading providers of broadband communications services, including local and long-distance voice, Internet access, Virtual Private Networking (VPN), Ethernet, Wavelength, Hosting and integrated voice and data services. Through growth and mergers, the company now has data center colocation facilities located across the U.S. Although a card system controls overall access to the facilities, XO management needed a way to control customer access that would be more user-specific and easy to update.

The answer was to install HandKey® II readers for secondary access control. Facility Manager Amar Virk says, “We needed a secondary access control system that we could use only for customers. We didn’t feel confident giving them cards that could be lost or stolen.”

Statistics

**Industry:** Broadband

**Application:** Access control

**Biometric:** HandKey®

**HandReaders:** 10

**Users:** 1000+

**Geography:** United States
Since installing HandKey® readers at its first facility, XO has expanded them to several other locations, with plans to add the system at its data centers throughout the U.S. Now, once enrolled, a user simply enters the facility using the card and places his or her hand in the HandKey to make a positive identity verification. Virk explains, “Once a person is enrolled in the HandNet software and we create a similar account in the primary access control system, their hand actually acts as a badge. The HandKey reader compares the hand template with the PIN number and, if it matches, sends a 26-bit Wiegand output representing the badge number to the primary system. The primary system then decides whether the badge is allowed entry.”

Virk says that the system administrator now can simply enable or disable an account to control access by a specific customer. “We don’t need to have the person who manages the system also taking care of all the customer traffic,” he explains. “We put in a 6-hour window after which authorization is automatically disabled, so we don’t have anyone in our data centers who shouldn’t be there.”

XO Communications
Each of the 10 sites has one Ethernet HandReader, with additional Hand Readers connected to it via RS-485 “daisy chain,” using twisted pair cable. This configuration minimizes hardware costs; only one Ethernet module is needed at each location.

About Allegion
Allegion (NYSE: ALLE) creates peace of mind by pioneering safety and security. As a $2 billion provider of security solutions for homes and businesses, Allegion employs more than 8,000 people and sells products in more than 120 countries across the world. Allegion comprises 27 global brands, including strategic brands CISA®, Interflex®, LCN®, Schlage® and Von Duprin®. For more information, visit www.allegion.com/us or call 888.758.9823.