

SERVER RACK ACCESS CONTROL MS2B/P



Introduction

As with conventional door access systems, Mastiff's Server Rack Access Control systems utilise proximity card readers to control electronic locks securing sensitive doors. Linked to software running on a server or PC via a control unit, cards can be validated and invalidated for any employee, visitor or contractor for access to any combination of specific racks at specific times.

Cost effective

Most door access systems utilise a separate card reader for each controlled door on the system. Unlike the doors to rooms in a building, server racks are almost always in groups and located side by side, resulting in many doors in close proximity to each other. Mastiff's MS2B/P systems take advantage of this, employing just a single pair of readers for controlling access to a group of anything from 1 to 32 racks (one reader for accessing the front doors, and the other for accessing the back doors) - saving on the costs associated with having a dedicated card reader at every single controlled door.

In use

Cardholders access server racks by presenting their card to either the front door or back door reader where upon corresponding push buttons illuminate for each rack they have access to. Pressing the button corresponding to the rack they wish to access triggers the lock on the door of that rack to release. If released doors are not closed and secured after a preset time delay (typically 2.5hrs) or if a door or lock is forced open, an alarm message is generated by the software. The software can be configured to trigger an external process (such as email notification).

MS2B or MS2P

With the MS2B system, the readers are fitted to the front and back doors of one of the racks. Push buttons are fitted onto every rack door.
With the MS2P system, the two readers plus one push button for each rack are mounted on a special "Access Request" Panel which will normally be mounted on a wall of the data centre, in proximity to the racks.
Customer preference and site requirements will dictate which method is most suitable.

Rack doors

Each rack door is fitted with either a replacement solenoid controlled swing handle or an internal solenoid controlled cabinet lock plus a door status monitor contact. Each set of door hardware from each of the rack doors is wired to an RJ45 connection point locally at the door and then a single CAT5 patch cable is run to the door control unit. The systems have the versatility of being able to control a wide range of different locking mechanisms, ensuring that almost any type of server rack door can be accommodated, and that differing types of racks can be connected to the same control unit.

Control units

Door control units can be supplied either as a 19inch rack mounting unit fitted within one of the server racks, commanding anything up to 20 server racks (40 controlled doors), or as a wall mounting case, commanding anything up to 32 server racks (64 controlled doors). Either type of unit can be built with differing capacities and can therefore be selected according to the number of racks which are to be controlled.

Software

"Guard Point Pro" access control software is installed onto a server and all control units communicate with it either via a hard wired RS485 link or via a LAN/WAN. In larger installations, multiple client PCs can be configured as required, enabling administrators and security personnel to access the system simultaneously. Software includes graphical representation of each server rack's status (doors secure, doors open: accessed, doors open: alarm). All cardholder and server rack door events are reported and historical reports of this information can be produced.

MS2R

Despite the cost savings offered by the MS2B/P solutions, there may be some installations where the preferred choice is for cardholders to access server racks by merely presenting their card at a dedicated reader fitted on the door they wish to access. This can be catered for by Mastiff's MS2R system, which is generally more appropriate for systems containing small numbers of server racks. Please enquire for more information.