Access technology

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1. Introduction

I've had a quick look at the technology available to provide more flexible access control into and within 7VT.

Per our previous discussion, it's worth distinguishing at least four types of access we might consider (thanks to Majk for filling in details):

Front door

>**Outer door**   Two yale locks
>**Inner door**   Motorised. Currently push-panel activated in both directions, or just from inside (locked from outside), or continuously open. Entryphone provides audio, but no longer video, to remote panels on 1st (kitchen) and 2nd (outside the meeting room) floors as well as a handset by the front desk, all of which can unlock the inner door temporarily

Upper Bow stair door

> Not locked from inside, yale lock for entry from the stair. Will trigger intruder alarm if it's enabled.

Internal doors

>**Office**   Yale lock
>**Kitchen**   Yale lock
>**Various cupboards**   Yale locks

Elevator

> Currently can be turned off by a switch in the plant room, not currently locked.

(I've assumed we won't change the exit-only emergency nature of the double-doors at the bottom of the main staircase.)

Most of the companies whose websites I've looked at are aimed at either homeowners or businesses. Some of the business-orientated ones at least mention small businesses, which is probably the closest we're going to get for our needs.

Below are summaries of the offerings from a few of the companies I've looked at. We would not deal directly with any of them, but would need to contract with a local specialist firm for installation. I presume we've got someone on the books for maintainance of the current entryphone/door-opener etc., but we may need a different outfit for a new system.

I've attempted estimates of cost below, but they are *very* much under-informed by hard facts. I found one quote from an installer, copied below, but I think for what we want that's an under-estimate by at least a factor of two.

> "The average starting cost for an access control security system is around £500-£800 per door. The average starting price for installing an access control system is around £300. A typical maintenance visit would cost you around £75-£125. It would cost you on average £92 to have your access control system repaired."

2. Manufacturers

2.1. Paxton

Recommended by the team at Augustine United: "the Paxton Net2 system [is] very popular and something of a market leader".

Two relevant devices: A standard entry-panel and a door-latch.

Both are activated by a proximity card or fob, and both can be installed for standalone use, with a master card used to enable access cards, or as part of a network-controlled system for much more sophisticated usage patterns.

"Staff and visitors are issued with electronic tokens instead of keys. User tokens can be added to the system in seconds by presenting an enrolment card to the door/entry-panel. "If someone loses their token, it can be simply barred from the system by presenting a shadow card to a reader."

The entry-panel version would be the candidate for the front door, replacing the existing panel.

The standalone system has three components: the entry panel, the monitor(s) and the controller. I *assume* multiple monitors can be used. It's not easy to find prices, but I am pretty confident that the parts we need should be available for between £1000–2000. Installation would be at least a person-day, I would guess, so could easily be £500 or more.

Upgrading to the next level, with full (PC and mobile app) software-based control of token-holders, remote management, etc. would probably be as much again.

I *think* that only a further upgrade, and replacement of the door panel, would get us to mobile-as-keycard functionality.

2.2. [Failed to find another system I could match to our needs]

I looked at approaching a dozen other websites, and they were all badly designed, as well as being targeted at multi-tenant apartment buildings.

3. Local installers

3.1. **Eden Group**

List Paxton as a brand they supply, "Paxton Gold" supplier. 25 mostly good Google reviews, mostly aerials rather than security, individuals not corporate...

3.2. **Safe Simple Secure** (S-S-S)

"Paxton Gold" supplier, security only, 125 Google reviews, 5-star overall, at least one regarding commercial premises.

4. Next steps

Get a recommendation for an installer from Paxton's list, from Paradise Green (the folks at AU), failing which go with S-S-S.

Invite them around for a visit and discussion, leading to an RFQ.

Get a quote from one other outfit at least (but maybe not yet?).