We never have to re-key our facility again

By Steven Timmerman

PROBLEM:

One of our big concerns at Grace Christian Center was having to re-key the entire facility every time someone lost a key ring. For example, someone lost a master key and we had to re-key everything, which is a big deal for a church with three buildings and 2,000 members.

In the past six years we have had to re-key our facility three times, which cost more than $3,000 each time. We had to hire someone else to come in and do it, and it took about a week to complete. Plus, we realized there was no end in sight if we continued with the same system.
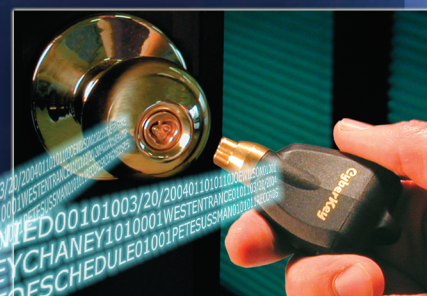
SOLUTION:

So we initiated our search for a new security system. We were looking into alternatives and learned of the CyberLock in the spring of 2004, and began researching the product. We discovered that it's a lock system that converts existing mechanical locks into an access control system. With electronic lock cylinders, programmable CyberKeys and CyberAudit software, we can create a system to track and control access to every lock in our facility.

We chose CyberLock for several reasons. One, there's no electricity needed at the doorways which brought big cost savings on the installation, and means that if we lose electricity

we don't lose access to the doors. Two, we liked the audit trail of events that can be pulled from both the locks and keys. The audit trail has already proved itself worthy a couple of times. Three, the scheduling ability of each lock allows each person's key to be programmed to access selected locks on specific days at specific times. And finally, it greatly reduced the number of keys each person has to carry. I was carrying more than 20 keys; now I carry the CyberLock and four desk keys.

INSTALLATION:

The installation began in July of 2004 and will be done in September, because we decided to install the new system in increments by making a list that prioritized our most immediate needs. We started with six CyberLocks on exterior doors. Next, we installed them on the outside of buildings. Then we added to other areas.

We installed the locks on exterior doorways, office doors, interior classrooms and sound booths. We also have CyberLocks in six padlocks, and we padlock the wire cage securing one of our sound booths. Padlocks on the outside children's play area and basketball court also have them.

COST:

The initial cost of installing the locking system is significant. However, each door after that costs about $148, and we don't have to outsource the installation because it's simple enough for our own maintenance staff to do. Each door can now be done in less than 10 minutes. The new system has definitely already proven it's worth, and is more cost effective than re-keying the entire facility.

OUTCOME:

As the person in charge of security, the audit trail has been the most important thing the CyberLock has provided. It has increased accountability.

We're already planning to expand the system. We have almost 170 doors, and about 30 closets have no CyberLocks on them. We plan to convert some of these closets to the new lock system as well.

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