



## Wi-Fi Solution Saves the Day

When there's a communication breakdown between client and contractor, it could cause a minor problem or result in major trouble. For Atlas Security in Springfield, Missouri, a misunderstanding created what seemed to be a huge roadblock to successful project completion. The solution came in the form of some new Wi-Fi technology.

### An Add-on Job Creates Confusion

"We provide security systems, monitoring, and access control for a residential property management company," says Jim Metcalf, Technical Service Manager for Atlas. "They asked us to provide a quote to add access control to the pool gate at one of their properties. We looked at the site, saw that it was a straightforward installation, and provided our quote."

"Shortly after that, the client said they wanted to do exactly the same thing at another property approximately 30 minutes away. We simply did a plus-one on the original estimate."

Unfortunately, when the tech arrived at the second site, he quickly realized it was an entirely different situation. The first pool had an adjacent building, providing a short, simple cable run for power to the gate and data from the gate to the Wiegand interface module, a DMP 734.

"The second pool was freestanding," Metcalf says. "There was no building close by, so we couldn't simply drill a hole through the wall for the power and data cables. This pool was really more of an island."

Making the problem worse was the fact that the concrete for the pool had already been poured. Atlas could install a

traditional wired module, but that would mean jackhammering concrete, trenching, laying cable, and then replacing the concrete and restoring the landscaping.

"The client felt that we should pay for those additional costs, which would have made this a very expensive job for us," Metcalf recalls. "The project went on hold as we searched for a solution; but the client was eager to get the job done, because summer was approaching, and residents were eager to take advantage of their new pool."

### Turning to New Technology

Metcalf learned about a just-released device that might provide an answer to his problem, the DMP 734N-WIFI Wiegand Interface Module. There was an underground cable pathway for the high-voltage power lights that Metcalf

could use to run the 24V DC to the gate, and the property was equipped with Wi-Fi. His only problem was getting the data from the gate to the panel, and a wireless Wi-Fi module would do that job. Atlas installed a box at the gate to bring the power to the lock and house the module.

"Because it was a brand-new product, we were involved in some of the troubleshooting," Metcalf says. "DMP actually enhanced the product based on our application, improving some of the hardware. In the end, it did the job and really saved the day."

Metcalf makes it clear to his customers, however, that the Wi-Fi elements of the access control system are only as reliable as their Wi-Fi network. He works with their IT person or system administrator to make sure the Wi-Fi network will do the job reliably before he installs the system.

**"In the end, it did the job and saved the day. I don't know what we would have done without the 734N-WiFi module."**

**Jim Metcalf**  
Technical Service Manager  
Atlas Security

## Managed Access System

The gate is one of the access points monitored and controlled by Atlas, which provides managed access control services to the property management company.

"We have everything running under Entré™ CS Access & Security Management System Software, installed on our servers," Metcalf says. "We provide managed access control services for a number of our clients, including the pool owner. They can log into their system and manage it, but don't have the worries of maintaining the software themselves."



Entré enables Atlas to create access schedules and profiles. For the pool, as an example, the schedule allows visitors – using a fob provided by their property management company – to enter the pool and fitness areas only at the

allowed times. Atlas created access profiles for tenants that grant them access rights to only certain places at certain times. They created different profiles for management and maintenance staff that give them additional access to the protected entrances.

## Creating New Possibilities

The need to connect remote access points to a panel is a fairly common occurrence, one that Metcalf regularly has to deal with. He's happy that he now has a simple solution for his customers.

"We have three or four other projects in the pipeline that would otherwise have required expensive trenching and conduit. Wi-Fi is increasingly available in residential, commercial, and government facilities. The 734N-WIFI gives us an affordable solution to provide the reliable access control systems our customers expect from us."



### About Entré

Entré Access & Security Management System, used with DMP XR500 Panels, gives users fast, simple, point-and-click control over every aspect of their access control or security system. All security management activities are combined in a single, high-functioning platform. As a network application it lets users see and manage facilities wherever they are located from anywhere the operator has an Internet connection.

### Equipment List

- 734N-WiFi Wiegand Interface Module
- XR500 Series Access, Burglary and Fire panel

### Atlas Security

Atlas Security Service was started in 1962 by Marvin Britton, followed by the Alarm Control Center central monitoring station in 1963. Mr. Britton's desire was to provide security to the people of Springfield and the surrounding regions by providing quality security systems and quality monitoring services at reasonable prices.

Atlas Security Service is the largest independently owned and operated security company in Southwest Missouri.



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