# A CLOSER LOOK AT DMP AREAS AND DOORS

*Application Note*

## INTRODUCTION

For DMP, areas are paramount to making intrusion and access control work elegantly together. But areas are a unique concept when installing an access control system — typically, they're part of an intrusion system. Many people are more accustomed to working with access-only systems and may not know how areas add greater flexibility and security. Let's take a look.

## AREAS AND DOORS

DMP's flagship commercial panel, the XR550, has the capacity to program up to 32 areas. You can also add up to 96 doors of access control with multiple doors granting access to the same area. By doing this, you're effectively creating "door groups" or the ability for users with proper authority to gain entry without wasting your time programming every door to each user's profile.

But it gets even better. Here's where you spend even less time and money...

Because the XR Series is also an intrusion system, each one of these areas can be armed or disarmed independently of one another or together; you have that flexibility. Therefore, while giving all authorized users the access they need, this integrated system can also keep other areas armed and secure.

For added security, each of these areas can also be monitored with intrusion devices such as glassbreak and motion sensors, as well as contacts for non-access doors. Even the access control devices you've already installed can now become part of your monitored intrusion system. Those request to exit motions, for instance, become more than just a way to unlock doors when leaving — when the system is armed, they can become an intrusion point that will report alarms to the central station, giving you more protection without added cost or labor.

## PROGRAMMING BEST PRACTICES

To determine your system's areas, a good starting point is to consider your system's users:

- What parts of the facility or campus do they need access into?
- Are there spaces they share in common?
- If so, what profile groups need to get in which doors and when?

Even in a large access system, it's very unlikely that every door leads into a totally different area. Rather, it's far more typical that several different entrances give access into the same spaces that are often shared by groups of users. Therefore, it's good practice to have a "general access" level representing those common entry points and spaces where groups of users' access needs overlap.

Furthermore, within your common area, you may have spaces such as a server room that only IT personnel should be able to access. By designating this space as a separate area and adding it to those users' profiles, you're effectively adding another layer of security for spaces that are restricted to a limited group of users. And don't forget, you can combine "like" devices, zones and outputs to all work together, creating a floor plan with individual areas of protection and access for all who need it.

## CONSIDER THIS SCENARIO

A large business has a dozen perimeter access control doors: Eight in the front office and four in the manufacturing plant. The eight doors could be grouped into a single area with a second area for the remaining four doors. Each new hire is assigned to a profile that is already programmed to allow access into one or both of these two areas, according to their profiles' authority levels and schedules. There's no need to program each of the area's doors every time someone is hired.

Regardless of which of their area's doors they use during their scheduled time, employees only need to present their credentials to enter. After the office has closed for the day and manufacturing employees working third shift arrive, they have access while the office remains armed and secure.

Furthermore, turning off the alarm in an area only requires swiping the credential at the reader — there's no need to memorize codes. Plus, every credential doesn't automatically disarm the system — only authorized personnel have that authority. And, to prevent false alarms, when they arrive and the system is still armed, as soon as they use their credential, the system automatically disarms.

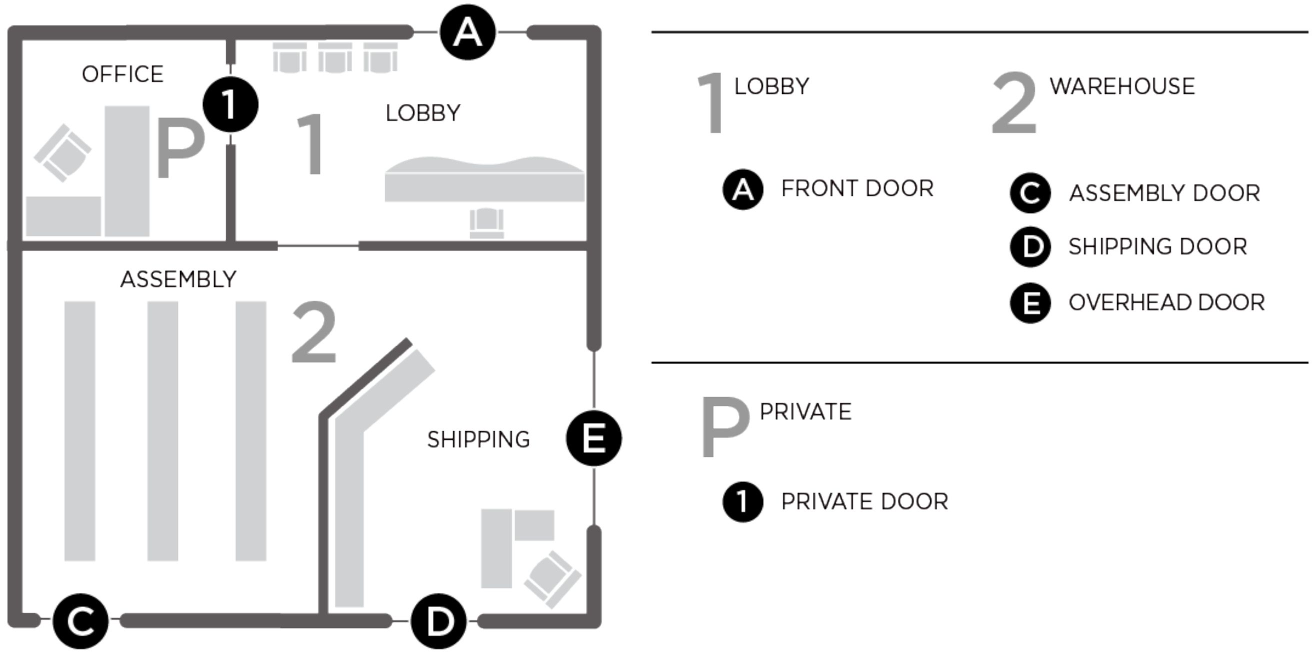
## DESIGNED FOR FLEXIBILITY

Because DMP's access control works hand-in-glove with intrusion, you can take advantage of the convenient scheduling feature to automatically turn off the alarm and unlock your business entrances every workday at 8 a.m. or whenever your business opens. And don't forget, in case  you need to adjust business hours due to bad weather or another unexpected situation, with Schedule Override, you can easily keep the system armed and those doors from unlocking until you or another authorized employee arrives. You wouldn't have this flexibility with two independent systems.

Even if a business is using the XR panel only for its access control capabilities, areas are a foundational component of the panel's design. As a result, you have the flexibility to divide a facility to suit your needs, now and in the future as the business expands. This is a simple check box in the panel's programming.

On the other hand, there are instances when a single door requires access control. But assigning one of the system's 32 areas just for this one door would be wasteful. DMP offers a better solution.

AREAS & PRIVATE DOORS



## DMP'S PRIVATE DOOR FEATURE

In addition to the areas you can assign to any given profile, the XR Series Version 202 firmware update also allows you to apply Private Doors to users on a profile-by-profile basis. For instance, supervisors and their staff can share one profile for access to the same office without using any of the system's 32 areas.

You can have up to four Private Doors per profile and up to four profiles per user to control access to those doors based on the profile's schedules. Another application for designating a private door might be a storage closet or a manager's office. Rooms like these typically have one door and do not contain intrusion points. They're great candidates for the Private Door feature, saving areas for other key locations throughout the building.

In light of this enhanced security and convenience, why choose a system that only includes access control without intrusion protection? Wouldn't you rather spend less time with one software platform that does both?

With DMP's XR Series, users have the access they need while other parts of a facility can be armed and monitored for added security. And, when you need to restrict access into a vault, office or other individual room, DMP's Private Door is a simple solution.

# BEST PRACTICES & COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Setting up and managing areas with Virtual Keypad isn't overly complicated, although it may seem so at first to users. Below are a few best practices as well as answers to frequently asked questions to help you simplify the learning process.

### AVOID USING THE WORD "DOOR" IN AN AREA NAME

Using "door" in the area name can be confusing to users — they may ask why they would ever arm or disarm a door. A good way to start is to ask, "Where are you standing if you took two steps inside that door?" The answer is usually a good area name.

### WHAT'S A GOOD WAY TO DETERMINE THE AREA NAME SO IT MAKES SENSE TO THE USER?

Technicians may understand areas and how to manage them, but users can get overwhelmed. Train your technicians to ask the following two questions and write down what the customer tells them.

1. What areas of your building would you need to arm or disarm separately from others?
2. What areas of your building would you like to restrict or allow people to enter with their credentials? (Let the customer know it's not a problem if they say the same area name twice.)

### WHAT IS THE ADVANTAGE OF COMBINING INTRUSION AND ACCESS DOORS?

Integrated intrusion and access systems allow customers to take advantage of several great features like Schedule Override, profile authority and the ability to disarm an area with a credential based on the user's profile, just to name a few.

Some dealers may lean toward separating access from intrusion by creating separate intrusion areas. They may ask, "If someone loses their credential in the parking lot, doesn't that mean anyone who finds that credential could get in and turn the alarm off?" A great response to this question is to suggest they apply Card Plus Pin for just the exterior door area(s) and readers only with access doors inside. Also, as you may know, if a credential is lost, Virtual Keypad allows you to make that credential inactive.

### WHY WOULD I PUT MULTIPLE DOORS IN AN AREA?

Because there are multiple doors leading into that area. You can physically walk into one door and walk out another. Another example would be if they were all maintenance closets located on various floors throughout a building, group them into one maintenance area.

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