
Elements of Physical Security Systems I: Access Controls

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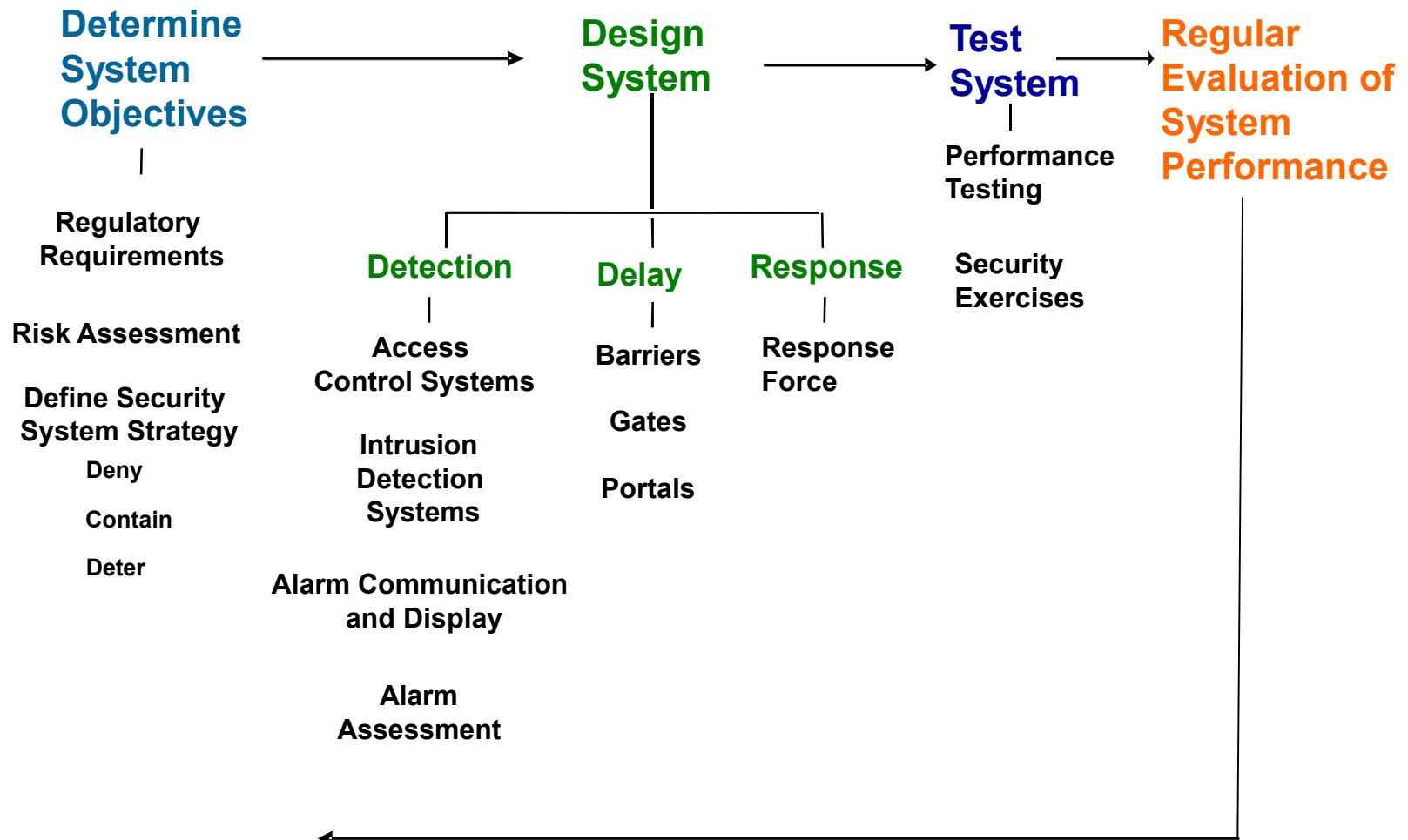
Physical Security for Bioscience Laboratories
ABSA pre-conference course

www.biosecurity.sandia.gov

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Physical Security System



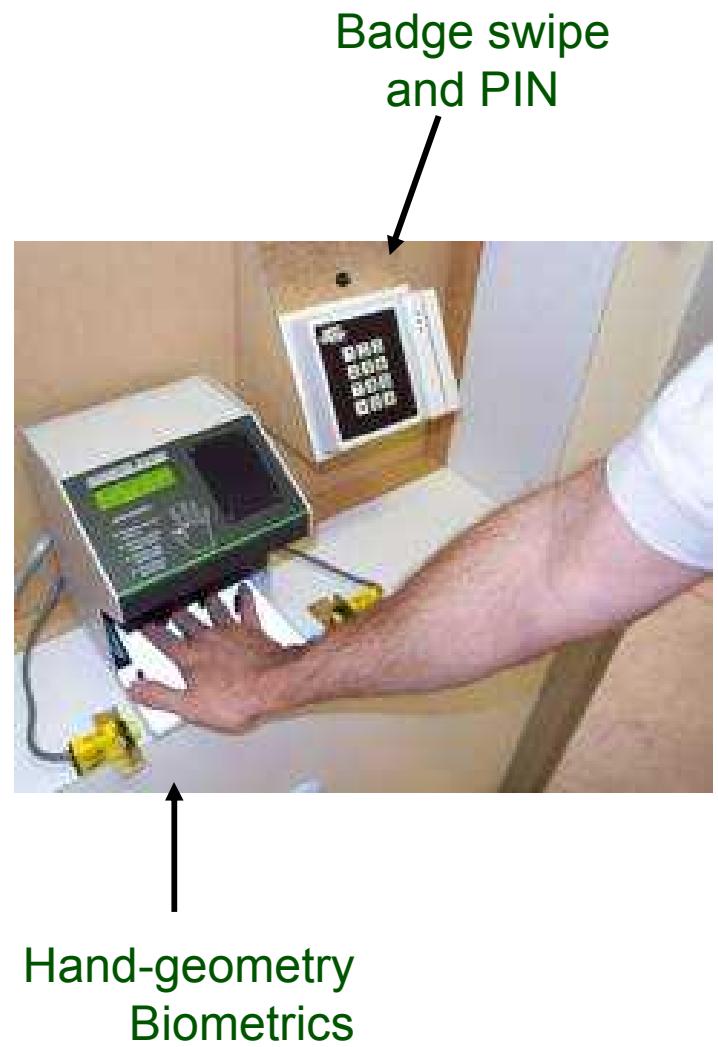
Purpose of Access Controls

- Allow entry of
 - Authorized persons
- Prevent entry of
 - Unauthorized persons
- Allow exit of
 - Authorized persons

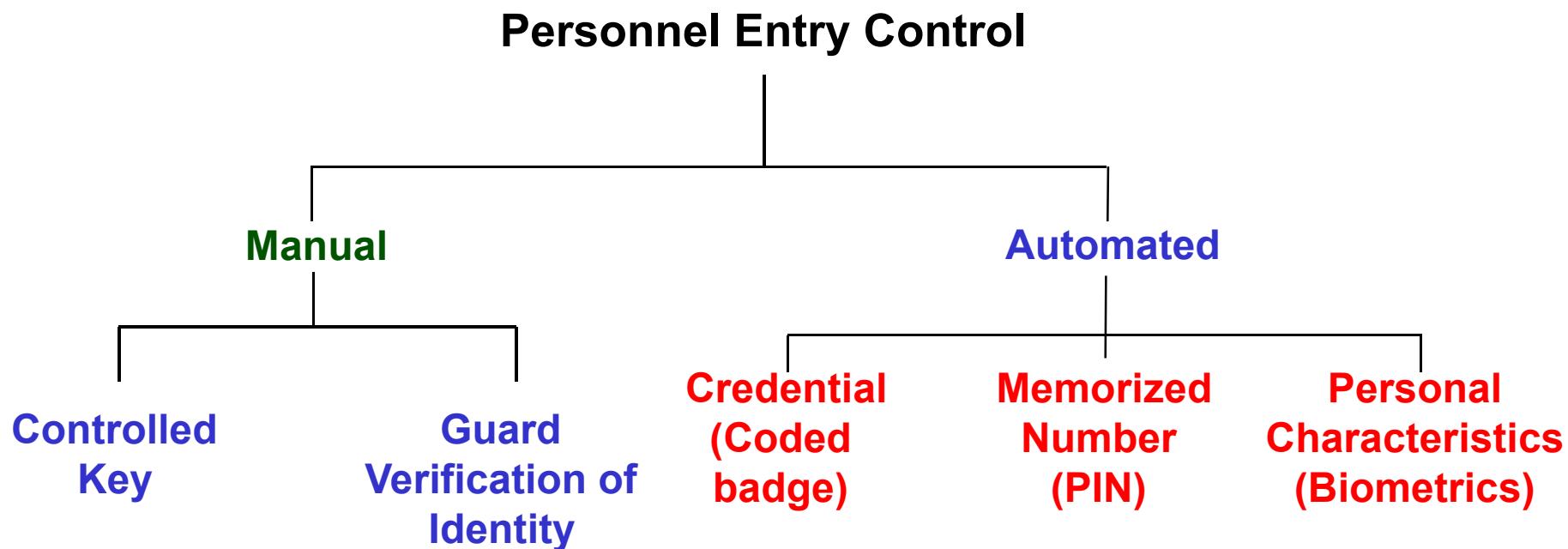


Basis of Access Controls

- **Something you have**
 - Key
 - Card
- **Something you know**
 - Personal Identification Number (PIN)
 - Password
- **Something you are**
 - Biometric feature (i.e., fingerprints)
- **Combining factors greatly increases security**
 - Combinations typically used for Exclusion or Special Exclusion Areas

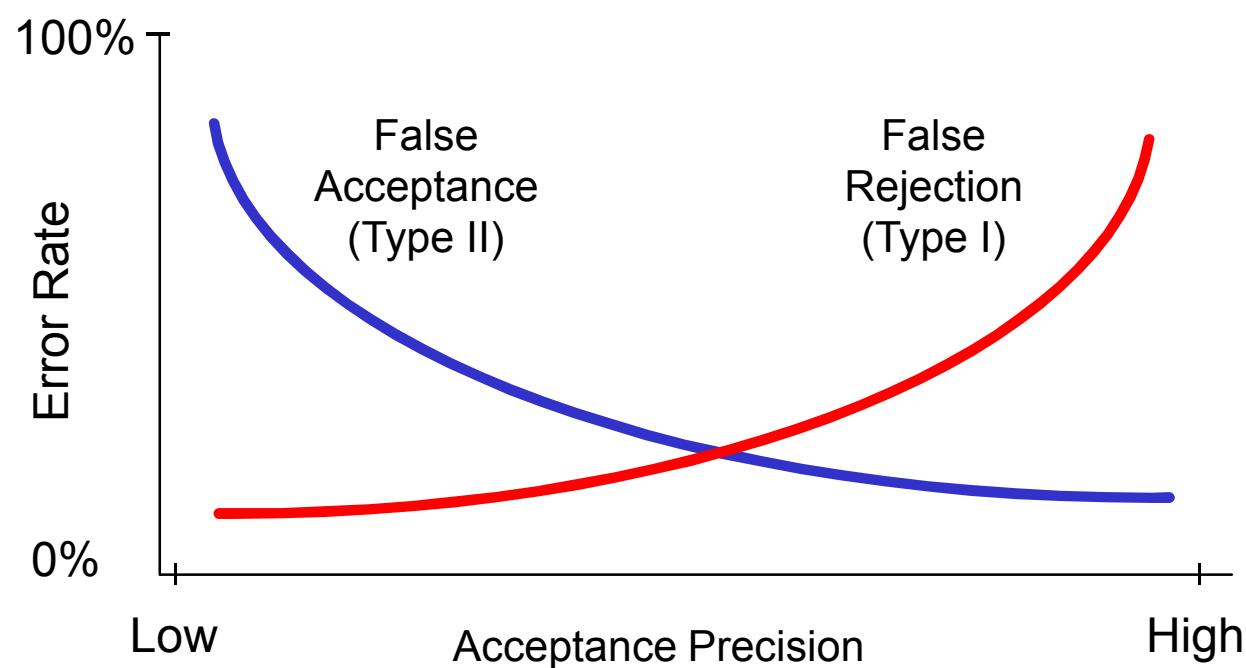


Access Control Techniques



Errors for Access Control

- **False rejection - Type I**
 - Authorized persons are not allowed to enter
 - Easy to quantify
- **False acceptance - Type II**
 - Unauthorized persons are allowed to enter
 - Difficult to quantify



Manual Access Controls

- **Mechanical Keys**
 - Controlled keys
 - Pros
 - Familiar to user
 - Inexpensive
 - Cons
 - Can be copied
 - May be lost or stolen
 - Relatively easy to defeat
 - Must be recovered when authorization is terminated
- **Guard verification of identity**
 - May use photo badges or id cards
 - Pros
 - Easy to implement
 - Recognize personnel
 - Cons
 - Labor intensive
 - Easy to tamper with badge



Coded Badges

Positive Features	Negative Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Control access by area and time• Record each access• Have low false rejection rate• Perform consistently• Easy to Change Authorization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify badge, not person• Require maintenance• May be defeated by counterfeit badge

Proximity Badges

- **Induction powered**
 - Coded RF transmitter
- **Pros**
 - Hands-free operation
 - Can be worn under Personal Protective Equipment
 - Difficult to counterfeit
- **Cons**
 - Requires maintenance
 - Identifies the badge, not the person



Characteristics of Magnetic Stripe Badges

- Two magnetic “strengths” (coercivity)
 - Low coercivity, 300 Oerstead (e.g., bank card stripes)
 - High coercivity, 2500 to 4000 Oerstead, typically used for badges
- Pros
 - Widespread use of magnetic stripes
 - Users are familiar with the technology
 - Easy to use
 - Difficult to counterfeit high coercivity card
- Cons
 - Requires maintenance (replacement cards)
 - Easy to counterfeit low coercivity card
 - Identifies the badge, not the person



Characteristics of Wiegand Cards

- Card consists of a series of embedded wires with special magnetic properties
- Position of wires and their magnetic polarities determine the encoding
- Pros
 - Widespread use
 - Easy to use; card is read via a “swipe” action similar to magnetic stripes
 - Output format is an industry standard
 - Average ease to counterfeit
- Cons
 - Average ease to counterfeit
 - Requires maintenance (replacement cards)
 - Identifies the badge, not the person



Characteristics of Smart Cards

- Credit-card-sized device with CPU, memory, I/O, and operating system
- Onboard EEPROM allows storage of ID information, including
 - PIN / password
 - biometric template
- Pros
 - Easy to use
 - Difficult to counterfeit
 - Capable of doing encryption
- Cons
 - Relatively high cost
 - Requires maintenance (replacement cards)



Biometric Access Controls

- **Identification is based on a unique feature, such as:**
 - Fingerprint
 - Face
 - Hand geometry
 - Retinal pattern
 - Iris pattern
- **Most biometric systems verify identity**
 - You claim to be someone by presenting a card or PIN
 - System compares recorded template for the claimed identity with the live biometric (one-to-one)
- **Some biometric systems recognize you**
 - No claim of identity is required
 - System searches through database to find a match (one-to-many)

Fingerprint Scanner

- **Reads Fingerprint**

- **Different types:**
 - Direct contact with chip
 - Ultrasound
 - Can combine with pin number or badge swipe



- **Verification time: fast (approx 5 seconds)**
 - **Cost per terminal: approx \$1200 per unit + software and installation costs**



- **Pros**

- **Easy to use**
 - **Low False Acceptance error rate (0.001%)**

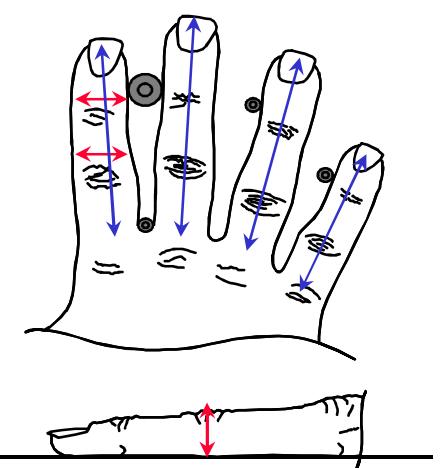
- **Cons**

- **Cannot be wearing gloves**
 - **Tests have shown higher False Reject rates for laborers with dirty hands or worn fingerprints**
 - 1% is normal, dirty hands can increase up to 40%
 - **Requires maintenance – keep it clean**
 - **1-3% of the population is incompatible with any biometric device**



Hand Geometry Scanner

- **90 readings of length, width, thickness, and surface area of the fingers**
 - Can combine with pin number or badge swipe
 - Verification time: fast (approx 5 seconds)
 - Cost per terminal: \$1500 per unit + software and installation costs
- **Pros**
 - Most popular Biometric device
 - Easy to use
 - Low False Accept and False Reject error rate (0.1% for both errors)
 - Relatively inexpensive and reliable
 - Can use with some types of gloves
- **Cons**
 - Requires maintenance



Retinal or Iris Scanner

- Iris scanner uses camera to look at patterns of the iris
 - Verification time: Approx. 5-10 seconds
 - Cost per terminal: Approx. \$3,000 - \$5000 + software / installation
 - Pros:
 - False Accept error of 0.0%
 - Operates in “Recognize Mode” - no need for pin number or card
 - Can use with Glasses, Contacts, or PPE
 - No physical contact between face and scanner (10 inch / 25cm away)
 - Cons:
 - False Reject error is 1% (some people have an iris that is so dark that the TV camera and software cannot enroll them)
 - Eyeglasses / PPE will interfere if have a reflection
 - Does not operate in “Verification Mode”



Conclusions

- **Access control systems**
 - Can be low or high tech
 - Give varying levels of assurance of person's identity
 - Risk assessment!
 - Have error rates and enrollment issues
 - 1-3% of the population is incompatible with any biometric device
 - Must have secondary method for those who cannot pass automated inspection
 - Needs to accommodate peak loads
 - Should be designed for both entry and exit