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# ***Elements of Physical Security Systems I: Access Controls***

**International Biological Threat Reduction Department  
Sandia National Laboratories  
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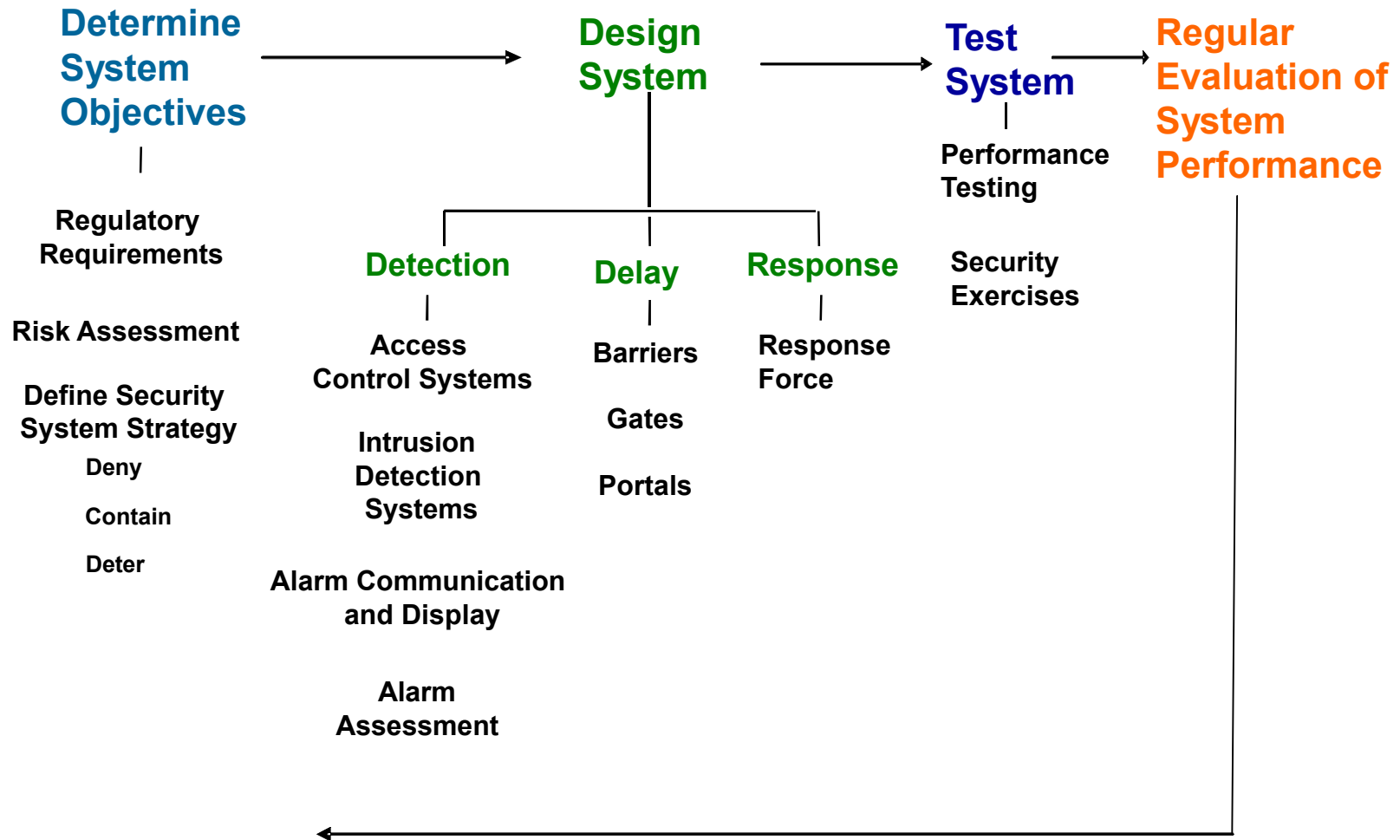
**Physical Security for Bioscience Laboratories  
ABSA pre-conference course**

**[www.biosecurity.sandia.gov](http://www.biosecurity.sandia.gov)**

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# Physical Security System



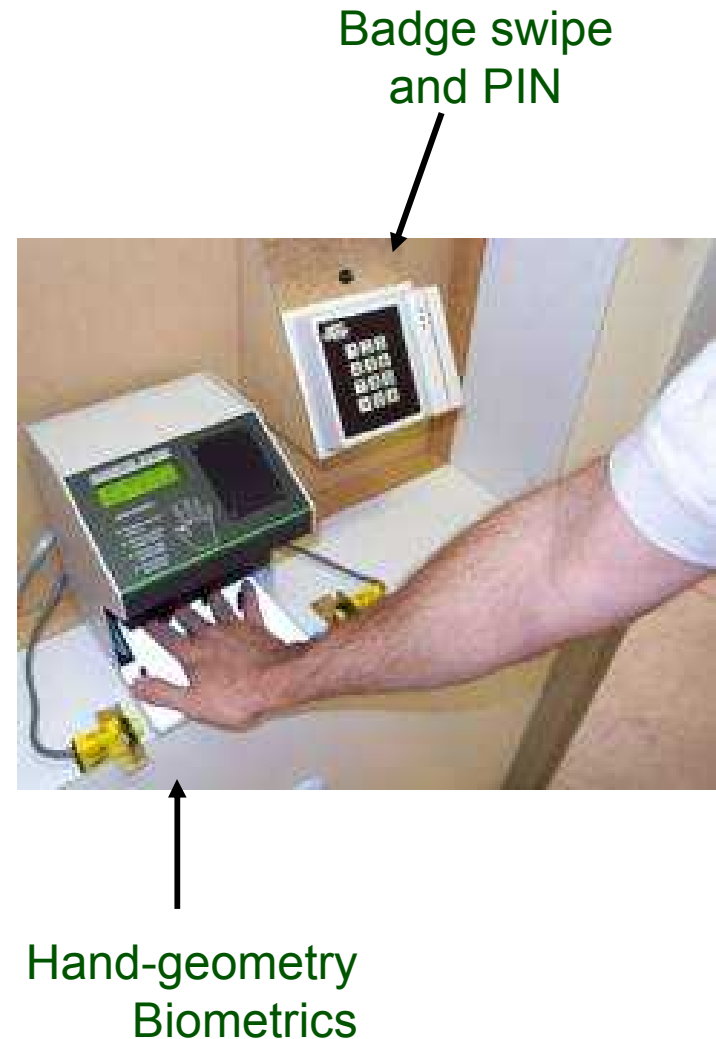
# Purpose of Access Controls

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

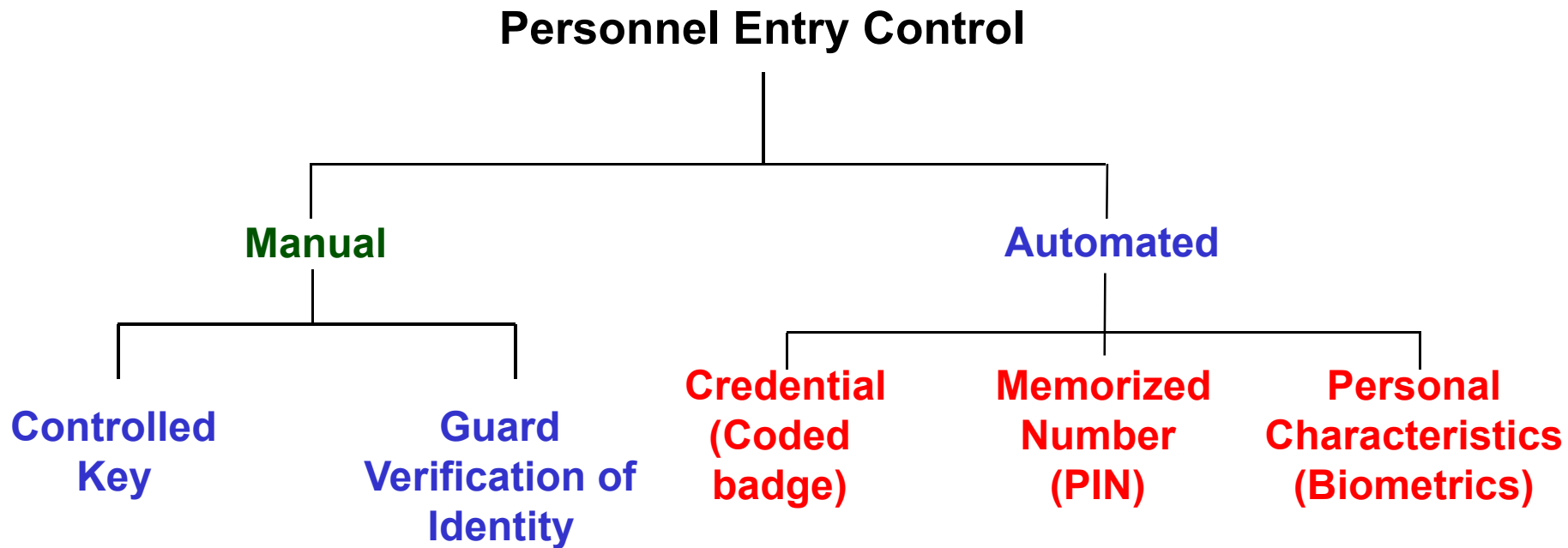


# Basis of Access Controls

- **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

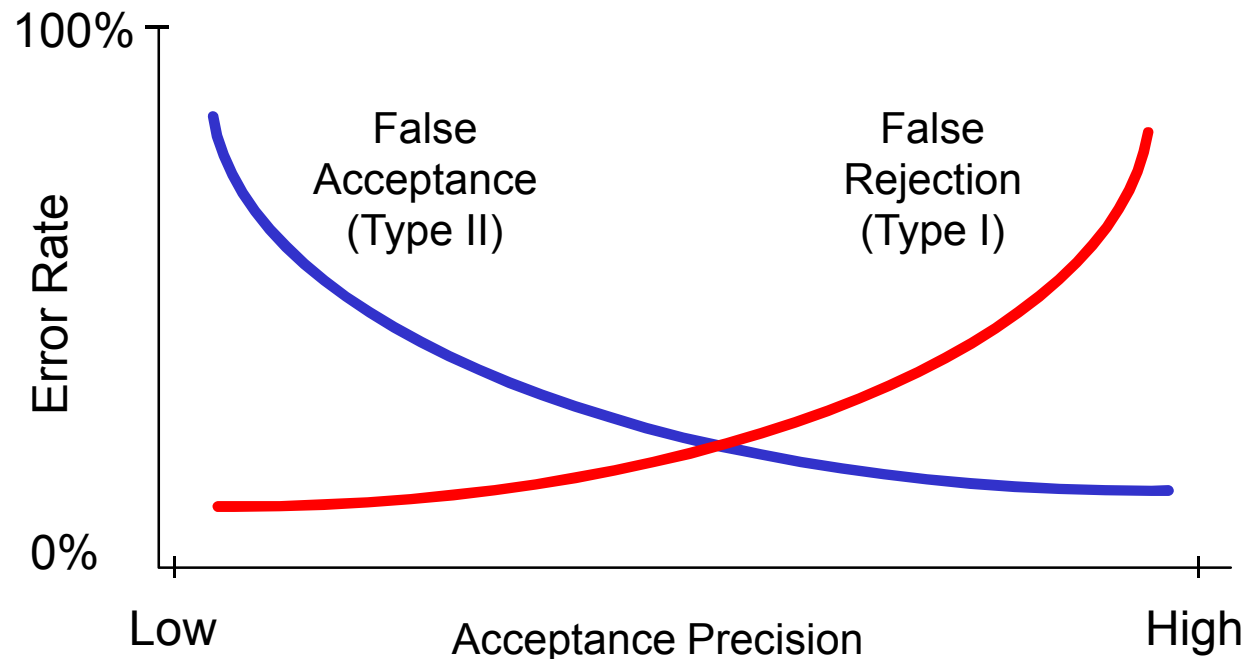


# Access Control Techniques



# 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

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## Positive Features

- Control access by area and time
- Record each access
- Have low false rejection rate
- Perform consistently
- Easy to Change Authorization

## Negative Features

- 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

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- **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)

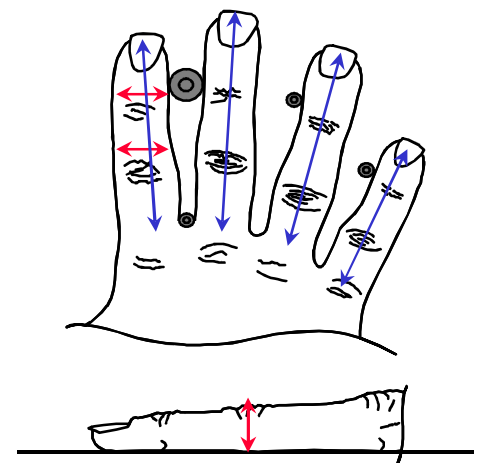
# Fingerprint Scanner

- **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



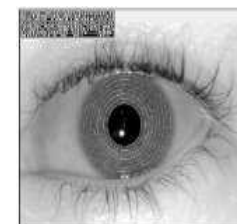
# Hand Geometry Scanner

- **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

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- **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