



FACEKEY BUYER'S GUIDE

Where to Begin?

Start With the Most Important Question!

Do You Know Who Is Entering?

New Installation or Upgrade

6 Key Decisions

A guide to choosing an access control system that delivers security, simplicity, and long-term value.

Controlling access begins with knowing who is at the door.

Your Face and Fingerprint Are Your Keys.



FACEKEY CORPORATION

www.facekey.com

BIOMETRIC ACCESS CONTROL

2027 BUYER'S GUIDE

Security challenges are changing and growing. Business must protect their facilities, safeguard valuable assets, and provide a safe environment for employees and visitors. And, at the same time, security solutions must meet operational needs, fit within budgets, and work with systems already in place.

For many organizations, access control is a combination of legacy equipment, newer technologies, and applications that must work together. Replacing an entire system can be costly and disruptive, yet maintaining outdated technology may leave important security needs unmet.

FaceKey offers a practical approach to this challenge. By combining advanced biometric identification with reader-centric access control and its **Smart Bridge** with the ability to integrate with existing systems, FaceKey makes it possible to strengthen security immediately where it matters most without a tear out. Organizations can replace card readers where they need them most and add readers with face and fingerprint recognition as need and budget allows.

Where to Begin?

Start with the Most Important Question: Do You Know Who Is Entering?

When selecting an access control system, buyers are often presented with a long list of technology choices. Cloud or on-premises? Wired or wireless? Legacy or smart readers? Physical cards, mobile credentials, or biometrics? Standalone or integrated systems? While these decisions have their place, they can overshadow the most fundamental purpose of access control: **knowing who is actually entering your facility.**

A card, PIN, or mobile credential may be authorized, but that does not necessarily mean the person using it is the authorized individual. FaceKey approaches access control from a different starting point. By using facial recognition and/or fingerprint identification, FaceKey connects access privileges to the individual rather than simply to a credential. The result is a stronger foundation for security, with the flexibility to accommodate the technology and operational requirements of each facility.

Access Control: Know Who Is Entering

6 Key Decisions for a New Installation or a Smarter Upgrade

ARE YOU CONTROLLING WHO ENTERS—OR WHICH CARD OPENS THE DOOR?

You purchased access control to protect people, property, and operations. As a stand-alone access control system, the conventional card-based systems can only confirm that a credential was presented—not that the person presenting it is the authorized individual.

A card can be shared, borrowed, lost, or stolen. You may never have intended to accept that identity gap, but it can remain when one card-only system is replaced with another.

This guide explains the choices available to owners planning a new installation or improving an existing access control investment. It focuses on identity assurance, installation design, compatibility, and long-term cost.

The central question

Should your doors recognize a card—or verify the person requesting access?
You will see this message again and again as it is the most important question?

Who are the FaceKey products for?

FaceKey products are suitable for NEW INSTALLATIONS and UPGRADING EXISTING SYSTEMS?

Inside this guide

- 1 Identity verification versus card recognition
- 2 Reader-centric versus panel-centric design
- 3 Modernization Plan: Upgrade selected doors or replace the entire system
- 4 Evaluate the full cost of ownership
- 5 Plan for privacy, reliability, and operational fit
- 6 Make the purchasing decision with a 10-point checklist

1 Are You Verifying a Person or a Credential?

A card transaction records the credential used. It does not, on its own, establish whether the assigned employee or contractor was standing at the door. Biometric authentication can address that distinction by matching the person to an enrolled identity.

CARD-BASED ACCESS	BIOMETRIC VERIFICATION
• Advantages: familiar to users • Straightforward to issue and revoke. • Limitations: a card can be shared, lost, or stolen; a valid card does not prove who presented it. • Cards are expensive and will be a cost for the life of the system.	• Advantages: face or fingerprint is tied to the enrolled person; reduces reliance on transferable credentials. • Considerations: enrollment, matching accuracy, exceptions, privacy, and user acceptance require planning. • Cards are not required, but are optional.

Where identity assurance matters

Employee entrances, server rooms, research facilities, cash-handling areas, records storage, and other sensitive spaces may justify stronger verification. Different doors may warrant different levels of assurance.

Questions to ask

If someone uses another person’s card, would your current system know the difference? Do you need a single biometric factor or additional controls for particularly sensitive doors?

No technology is infallible. Access policies, enrollment quality, and operational procedures remain essential.

2 New Installation: Where Should the Intelligence Reside?

For a new facility, the system architecture is expected to result in less installation complexity, future service, and total cost. A conventional panel-centric design typically will require at least one panel and cabling because the decision to grant access will typically be at the panel level. In a properly planned FaceKey reader-centric project design, PRO3 performs biometric matching and supports access decisions at the reader, which is usually the door.

CONVENTIONAL PANEL-CENTRIC	FACEKEY READER-CENTRIC
• Reader communicates with a separate access control panel. • Additional panels and associated wiring may be required. • Established design familiar to many integrators.	• Biometric verification at the reader. • May not require panels and may reduce some wiring. • Potentially fewer components and shorter installation time, depending on the project.

Additional considerations

Request a door-by-door engineered proposal addressing locks, power, emergency egress, fire-code compliance, network requirements, offline behavior, commissioning, and support. Compare complete installed prices, not reader prices alone.

The appropriate architecture depends on the building, its life-safety requirements, and the approved design.

3 Existing Facility: Modernize or Replace?

An existing card system may be functioning well, with familiar software, established reporting, and substantial investment already made. Stronger identity verification does not necessarily require discarding that infrastructure.

SELECTED READER REPLACEMENT	SMART BRIDGE MODERNIZATION
• For supported applications, replace an existing card reader with a FaceKey biometric reader. • Keep the existing access control platform operating. • Verify electrical, credential, and protocol compatibility before specifying.	• Synchronize relevant information between FaceKey and a compatible legacy access control database. • Use FaceKey on selected doors while supported legacy doors remain in operation. • Validate database versions, permissions, mappings, reporting, and recovery procedures.

A practical modernization path

The FaceKey **Smart Bridge** makes it possible to modernize existing access control systems without the cost, disruption, and chaos of a complete tear-out. This software solution synchronizes the databases of the existing system and FaceKey's reader-centric system, allowing both systems to operate as one.

To accomplish this, the existing system's database must be compatible with the Smart Bridge software. A preliminary technical review will determine whether synchronization is possible with your current system.

A typical plan: Begin with one to five doors where identifying the person is most important. Test compatibility and operations, then expand according to priorities and budget.

Smart Bridge is not a universal plug-and-play connection. Each proposed integration must be evaluated.

4 What Will Access Control Really Cost?

The lowest equipment quotation may not be the lowest-cost solution over five or ten years. Owners should evaluate acquisition, installation, service, software, credentials, integration, and disruption.

INITIAL PROJECT COSTS	LONG-TERM OPERATING COSTS
• Readers, panels, cable, door hardware, network infrastructure. • Installation labor, cabling, configuration, testing, training, and commissioning. • Migration or integration work for existing sites.	• Software licenses, subscriptions, support, maintenance, and upgrades. • Replacement credentials and administrative effort. • Future expansion, service interruptions, and third-party fees.

FaceKey’s licensing distinction

FaceKey does not charge recurring FaceKey software licensing fees. One-time software charges, hardware, installation, service, and third-party software or integration fees may still apply.

The ownership question

For modernization, compare a full replacement with a phased upgrade that retains useful infrastructure. Include staff retraining, operational disruption, and the remaining useful life of existing equipment.

5 Security, Privacy, and Reliability

The right solution must do more than authenticate a user during a demonstration. It must operate reliably under real facility conditions and fit your organization's policies.

Identity and privacy

Ask how face and fingerprint templates are created, encrypted, stored, accessed, retained, and deleted. Confirm applicable privacy requirements, consent or notice practices, and the process for enrollment and exceptions.

Resilience and safety

Confirm behavior during network interruptions, power outages, device failure, and emergencies. Access control must be engineered around required emergency egress and applicable building and fire codes.

Operational fit

Clarify staff training, support responsibilities, diagnostics, future expansion, and any integration dependencies. The system should meet both security and day-to-day operational needs.

FaceKey Distinction:

Face and Fingerprint Templates: The templates are created during enrollment. The face and fingerprint(s) are enrolled, converted to a numerical code and encrypted.

Operations: The FaceKey system is compatible with local codes and has been designed to operate during network interruptions, power outages, device failure, and emergencies. In case of power outage, the system can be backed up using typical IT protocols and if the network is down, access will be granted because, access is granted at the door rather than at the panel.

Support: FaceKey provides support via person conversation and assists in planning and designing systems if requested.

6 The 10-Point Buyer's Checklist

Use these questions when reviewing proposals from manufacturers and integrators.

- 01 Does the solution verify the person, or only a card or device?
- 02 Which doors require stronger identity assurance?
- 03 For new construction, what panels, cabling, and hardware are required?
- 04 For an upgrade, what existing equipment and software can remain?
- 05 Has compatibility with our existing system been demonstrated?
- 06 What is the full installed cost, including labor and commissioning?
- 07 What software and other recurring charges will apply over 5–10 years?
- 08 How are biometric templates protected, and what privacy practices apply?
- 09 What happens during network, power, or device failure?
- 10 Who will train our staff, provide support, and help us expand?

Is FaceKey Right for Your Facility?

FaceKey merits evaluation if you want to verify who is requesting entry, simplify a suitable new installation, modernize selected doors without unnecessary replacement, or avoid recurring FaceKey software licensing fees.

Planning a new installation?

Ask FaceKey and your integrator to compare a suitable PRO3 reader-centric design with a conventional panel-centric proposal.

Improving an existing installation?

Identify one to five doors where stronger identity verification would matter. Ask FaceKey to evaluate reader replacement or Smart Bridge compatibility.

Start the conversation

Share the number of doors, the existing access control manufacturer and software version (if applicable), your priority locations, and your project timetable.

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Product capabilities and compatibility must be confirmed for each design. This guide supports purchasing evaluation and does not replace project engineering, safety review, or privacy and legal assessment.

Why FaceKey? The Last Access Control System You'll Ever Need.

At FaceKey, we believe access control should begin with one simple question:

Do you know who is entering your building?

For more than 25 years, FaceKey has focused on answering that question through biometric identification. Your face and fingerprint are your keys. They cannot be forgotten, borrowed, or passed along like traditional cards and credentials.

But knowing who is entering is only part of the story. FaceKey's reader-centric technology eliminates the need for traditional control panels, reduces wiring and installation costs, and simplifies system management. And with our new Smart Bridge technology, many existing access control systems can be modernized without the expense and disruption of starting over, subject to compatibility.

Whether you are planning a new installation or upgrading an existing system, FaceKey offers a smarter, simpler, and more economical approach to security, one that can grow with your needs and your budget.

FaceKey Always Supports the End User

Stronger Security. Simpler Operations. Greater Value.

From planning to installation and beyond, FaceKey is with you every step of the way.



Enhanced Security

Verify the person, not just a card, to protect your people, property, and critical areas.



Flexible Modernization

Add biometrics to selected doors or deploy a new reader-centric system.



Lower Total Cost of Ownership

Fewer components, simpler installation, and reduced long-term maintenance.



Reliable Operations

Designed for real-world environments with dependable performance.



Expert Support

Our team helps you plan, integrate, and succeed — today and in the future.



A SAFER, SMARTER BUILDING STARTS HERE

Practical biometric security.
Modernization without disruption.
A partner committed to your success.



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