

Best Access Control Systems



kisi

Introduction

The last decade has seen a radical change in how access control regulates our workplaces. The cloud has certainly played a big role in this change but it would not be possible to neglect what other non-cloud-based brands have accomplished. The way you access your office is not dependent on access cards or key fobs most of the times and the softwares that keep track of entries and exits are getting fancier and better every year. Workplaces are re-thought with the end-user in mind and how technologies can facilitate the ideal workplace experience. Physical security starts to play a larger role in this transition to on-demand real estate. But there are so many vendors and as a first time buyer of physical security it is hard to understand the difference or even getting all required information.

In this guide we'll review the most common categories of access systems and benchmarks in each:

- Cloud Access Control Systems
- Traditional Access Control Systems
- Mobile Access Control Systems

In this seemingly crowded landscape, how can one choose the best access control system for its company? At Kisi, we have thought about four criteria that you should keep in mind when choosing the best solution for your infrastructure:

- **Security Setup and System Type:** How easily can you install and maintain an AC system with your current setup? Installation requirements, installation ownership & maintenance must be taken into consideration.
- **Credentials and Access Sharing Options:** How easy would it be for an admin to manage this system? Does the software have features such as Access Reporting, Visitor Management & Time Tracking?
- **Software Integrations and Hardware Compatibility With Other Systems:** How many of your current softwares can you pair with the access control system? Which benefits do these integrations bring?
- **Customer Support, Training Availability & Self-Service Documentation:** If you are managing the entrance to your office or your facility, you need an easy interface and a quick support in case you encounter issues so that your members or employees have a flawless experience.

Now that we have our four evaluation criteria, let's dive into the main types of access systems you can find on the market.

Mobile Access Control

The Kisi logo consists of the word "kisi" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.The OpenPath logo features the word "open" in orange and "path" in black, both in a sans-serif font.The ISONAS logo includes a blue circular icon with a white crosshair and the text "ISONAS" in blue, with "Pure IP Access Control" in smaller text below it.The Brivo logo features a blue circular icon with a white crosshair and the text "brivo" in blue, with "simply better security" in smaller text below it.The Proxy logo includes a red stylized "P" icon and the word "proxy" in a black, sans-serif font.The HID logo consists of the letters "HID" in white, bold, sans-serif font, enclosed within a blue rectangular border.The Salto logo features the word "SALTO" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with a blue stylized "A" that incorporates a triangle.

Many companies which provide access control systems now offer the possibility of using smartphones instead of the more traditional access cards and fobs. This choice is extremely practical as mobile phones are already essential items which we carry at all times and therefore less likely to be forgotten at home than a compact access card, for example.

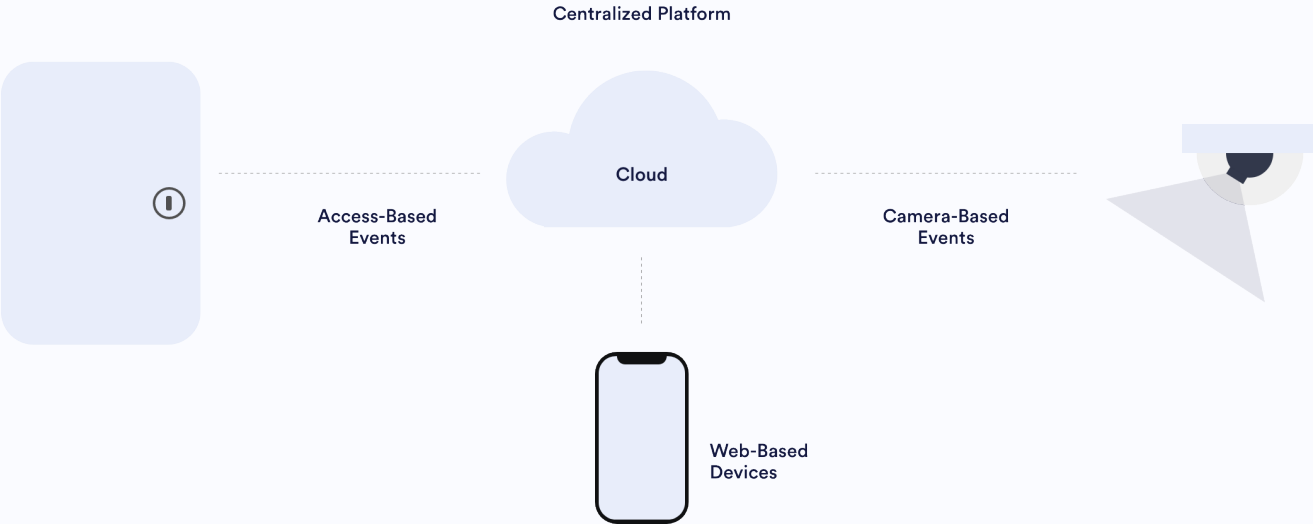
The main pros of having a mobile access system include:

- You remove the requirement for any type of access hardware (key fobs, access cards) so you no longer have to deal with the costs and admin associated with this hardware.
- It is more hygienic to unlock the door with your phone as you do not need to touch any surfaces. While this might not be true with all companies, Kisi makes sure you can open the doors without having to come in contact with any surfaces.
- Unlocking the door through Bluetooth or NFC makes the unlock process very quick and efficient.

Cloud-Based Access Control



A cloud-based access control system provides centralized security management in your browser and removes the cost and complexity of traditional physical access systems since it can be configured remotely. For example, systems like Kisi can be deployed rapidly and globally by regular IT vendors or electricians without additional training. Cloud-based access control systems can be integrated with the software your company uses for its user management, visitor management and data logging. Other brands besides from Kisi in this category include Lenel S2, Bosch and Honeywell.



Traditional Access Control



Traditional legacy access control (an access system that is not backed up by the cloud, e.g. Rosslare or Kantech), have some prerequisites and limitations which are worth noting:

- Legacy systems require a local server to function. This means that you will have to purchase one local server and maintain it if going for a legacy system. Server maintenance has a high cost as skilled IT workers have high hourly fees. All of these costs are hidden and often businesses do not consider them.
- Building with this kind of infrastructure makes it harder to switch your access control system in the future, after a case of poor performance, for example. Cloud-based systems are easy to change if you are not satisfied.
- Centralized controllers, such as the ones you would need with a legacy system, are usually limited to a certain number of doors (for instance, 8 or 16) or have a maximum number of users. In contrast, cloud-based systems typically have unlimited capacity as they can be modularly deployed for however many doors you have and are not restricted by users. The cloud has limitless possibilities!
- With a legacy system, you will need a person that's trained for maintenance, and that person needs to always be available at the office. Cloud-based systems prevent you from hiring new personnel or training up existing staff and adding to their workload - saving you money and resources.



Comparing Kisi with other Cloud and Mobile Access Systems

Features	kisi	Other Cloud-Based Brands	Other Smartphone-Based Access Control Brands
Cloud-based	✓	✓	✗
Native Mobile Access	✓	✓	✗
Remote Unlocks	✓	✓	✓
Directory Integrations	✓	✗	✗
SAML SSO-Enabled	✓	✗	✗
Cloud Camera Integration	✓	✓	✓
Alarms	✓	✗	✗
Data Export	✓	✗	✓
Public API	✓	✓	✗
Direct Support	✓	✗	✓
Lockdown	✓	✓	✗

Do you have doubts about some of the details in this chart? Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

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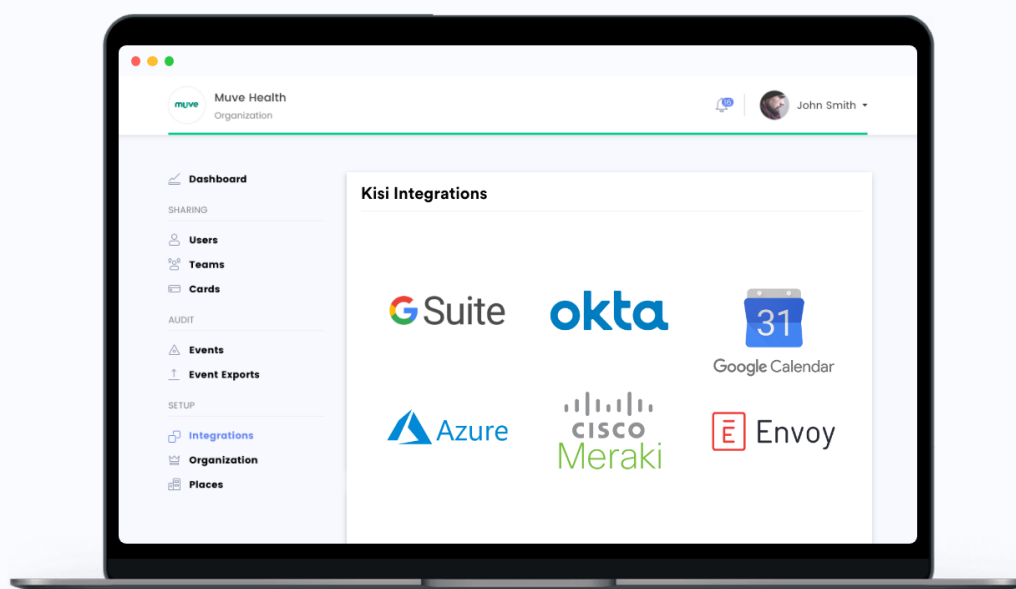
Kisi prides itself on being a complete solution. The chart above shows the differences in terms of features when you compare Kisi with other cloud or mobile access control systems. Kisi combines the best of the mobile and cloud worlds, in terms of access control, but also adds additional value through unique features such as single-sign integrations with alarm systems.

Kisi for Enterprises

If your company has large scale requirements in terms of locations, doors, and overall operations management, Kisi has you covered with our [Enterprise plan](#).

This lets you:

- **Manage Users Across Multiple Places With One Click:** You can add and remove users with one click to give them access to multiple places with predefined permissions. You can add users to “teams,” which consist of access rights to different places.
- **Set Up Teams: Manage permissions easily through teams:** Simply set up a team, select the access to doors across your entire organization, and manage all permissions globally.
- **Streamline Billing Under One Account:** Get one invoice for all your places. You can also view all invoices in detail and download receipts from your dashboard.



The Kisi Advantage

Here's what you get from a Kisi access control system:

- No local server is needed and you can manage the system from anywhere.
- Our hardware is plug and play. It's so simple you can even [install it yourself](#).
- We run over-the-air updates for our hardware so that the updates are always fuss-free. We release new features each month and our [API is well documented](#).
- Our key sharing is seamless. It's as easy as [sending an email](#).
- We allow for [out-of-the-box integrations](#) with user directories, e.g. Google Apps or Microsoft Azure, and other security software.
- We are the only provider in the market offering documented and published end-to-end encryption. This means that the reader communicates with your firewall before sending a signal.
- We're proud to have the highest-rated system in the industry.

Conclusion

We hope you found this guide useful and it's helped you to learn about the different types of access control systems available and the different criteria to keep in mind when selecting an access control system. All the information that you have read here and more can be viewed on our learning resources page about the [best access control brands](#).

Get in touch with our team for more information

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