

2021

**Commercial Security
Technology Top Trends**



Security technology is evolving at a dizzying pace today, particularly because of the global pandemic. As a commercial security integrator, it's vital that we stay on top of the trends and we want to share that knowledge with you.

This quick guide will lay out the top trends for you to watch and what that means for you as we go into 2021. Plus, we'll share how ACT is stepping up to the challenges to help our customers as we head into the new year.



1

Touchless Entry & Exit

More than ever today, businesses are looking to remove high-frequency touch points to help prevent spreading germs. Current best practices call for eliminating as many touch points as possible, so this year's "it" accessories include swinging doors, automatic openings, wave buttons and mobile phone credentials.

Eliminating touch points cuts down on extra cleaning and maintenance which, in turn, cuts down on germs.

Types of Solutions

Here are three types of touchless entry solutions we've been recommending and installing for our clients:

Automatic doors that open when you enter.

Automatic doors can be designed as swing doors, sliding doors, folding doors or revolving doors to fit any entryway. You often see these in retail environments. But now, many other types of businesses are adopting this technology.



Mobile phone credentials.

A mobile credential is an authorization token much like an access card or key fob. A smartphone has a unique ID number acting as an electronic key to open a door. Using a smartphone for access is much easier than hoping employees remember a key card or FOB—after all, no one goes out of the house without a cell phone.



Wave buttons.

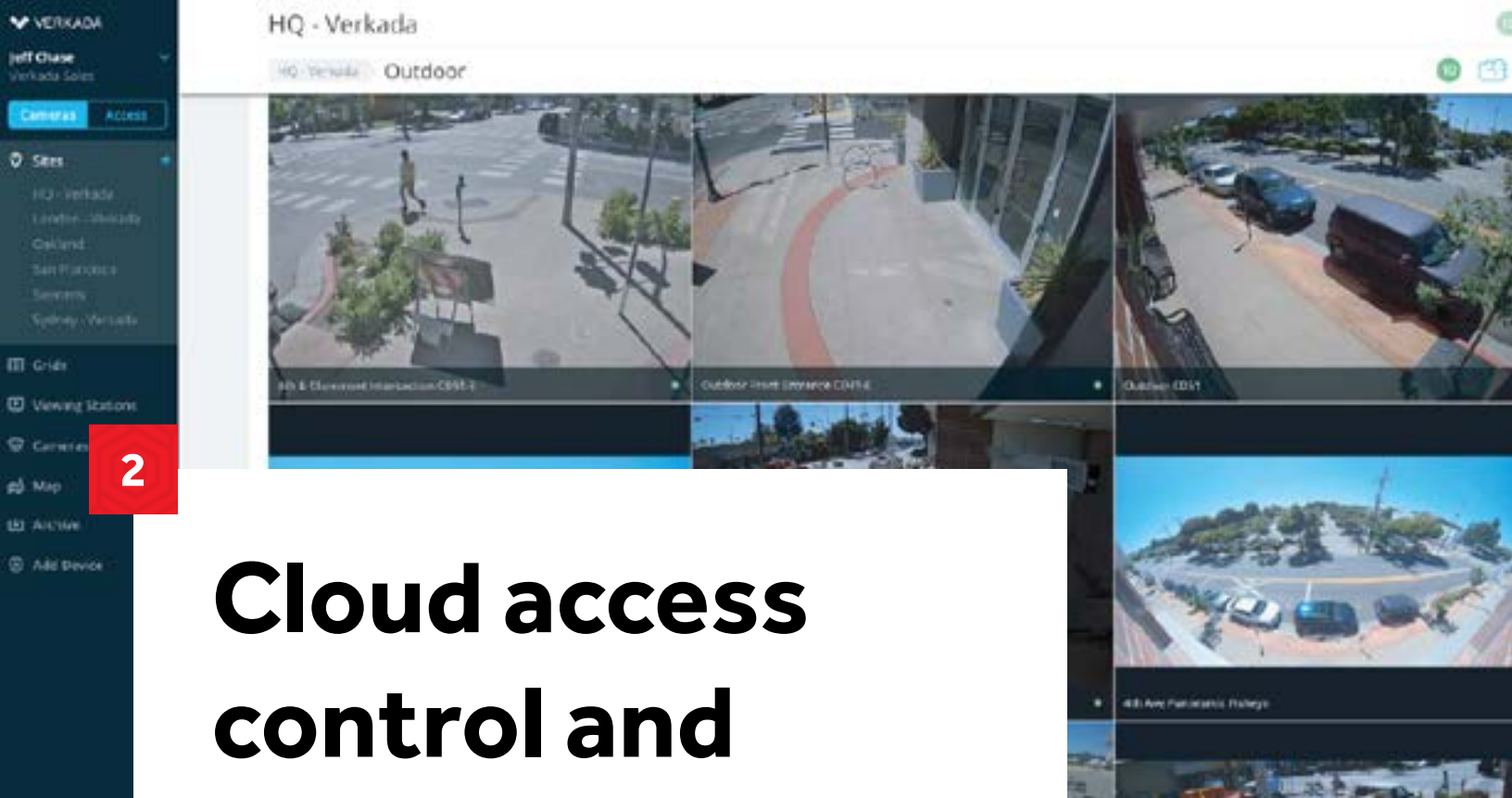
Wave-to-open switches detect motion and open doors without touching hardware and transferring germs. While the other solutions have been in the market for awhile, this technology is brand new to the industry. And it couldn't have come at a better time.



TECHNOLOGY IN APPLICATION

Our customers want to keep their teams safer than ever. That's why we are getting more and more requests for this technology. In fact, we just finished installing four touchless re-entry doors for a company. This was such a priority for them that they didn't want to re-open their facility until the job was complete.





Cloud access control and surveillance

Cloud-based access control and video surveillance has been a growing trend in recent years as the technology has improved in this area. Cloud-based security cameras are easier to deploy and manage, plus you can access footage from your phone (which is something more companies are requesting).

And now with COVID-19 moving most employees home and skeleton crews left at company sites, the need for remote management of buildings and other assets has become even more important.

While there are a lot of benefits to a cloud-based solution, here are just a few of the ways cloud-based video surveillance can be valuable to you right now:

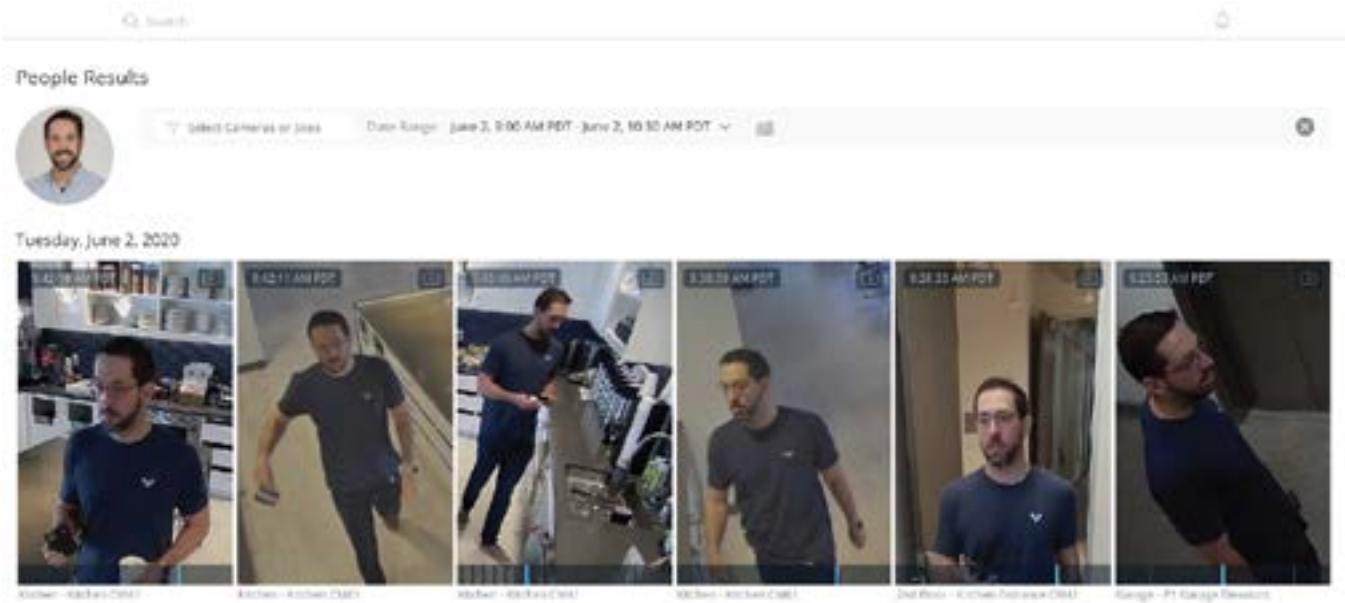
Get real time alerts on your phone every time your cameras detect movement at your facility.

Easily check in on your business operations while you are off-site.

Watch for proper social distancing protocols on-site, which can especially be useful for grocery stores and retail locations that are still operational.

Keep an eye on overcrowding, especially in healthcare environments.

Receive notification of potential problems, such as network outages or if the cameras being tampered with.



Types of Solutions

Verkada's line of hybrid cloud security cameras combines powerful edge-based processing with the limitless capabilities of cloud computing. With Verkada's hybrid cloud architecture, cameras analyze events in real-time, while simultaneously leveraging Verkada's industry-leading computer vision technology for instantaneous insights that bring speed and efficiency to incidents and investigations.

From Command, Verkada's centralized web-based platform, users can find the footage they need in seconds.

TECHNOLOGY IN APPLICATION

We have deployed the Verkada platform for multiple clients, including a large development in downtown Nashville. The customers didn't want an on-site server to manage, and wanted ease-of-access for their teams. There were compliance concerns as well, so this system was an ideal option to address those needs.





3

Fully integrated systems

Today's tech is all about apps and phones. Everybody wants to monitor and control their systems from the palm of their hands. A fully integrated, app-driven system means less client management, fewer hassles and more mobility.

This approach has been a growing demand in recent years, but it's especially important these days with many companies adopting a remote work environment.

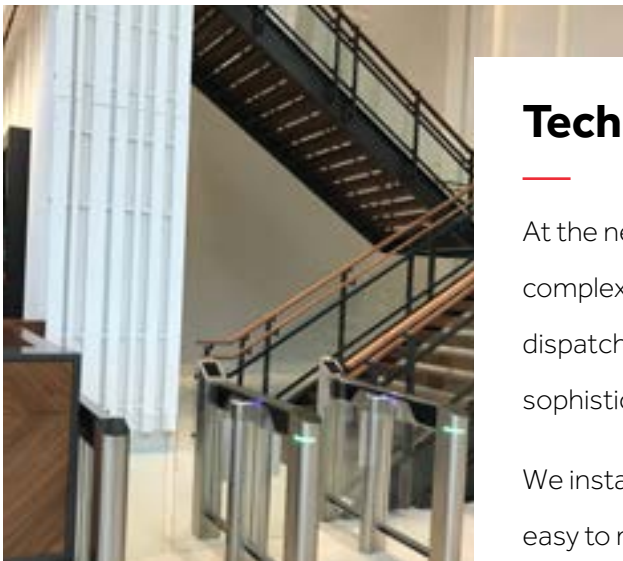
We have what it takes to give you a seamlessly integrated system so your team can monitor everything from your network to security to your physical plant.

Types of Solutions

The technology in this space is ever-evolving, but one of the most common ways to integrate your security solution is via a tie-in with the access control system. This approach allows you to monitor the access control system and alerts from your dashboard or user interface. Additionally, the CCTV or intrusion systems all filter into the access control platform so the end user does not have to have all of the control windows for these different platforms open at once.

The other option is to use a cloud interface where all of these systems tie into the cloud and can be monitored/controlled from one application.

The key is to work with a team who understands how to work with multiple technologies to tie everything together in a secure, user-friendly way.



Technology in Application

At the new LifeWay headquarters in Nashville, we deployed a complex integrated system with access control, CCTV, elevator dispatch, intercoms and parking control. This is one of the most sophisticated, comprehensive and complex systems we have built.

We installed an enterprise-level platform that was easy to use, easy to maintain and that could monitor activity across all of their properties. Using Exacq integrated into the S2 access control system, onsite security teams can oversee cameras and access control feeds.

Client Results

The ACT team really became our partner on this project. They took great pride in the project and became an extension of the LifeWay team during the construction process. The installation crew they provided was one of the best I've ever seen. LifeWay never had to worry about things getting done or about things being done correctly. Every person we dealt with both during construction and now in ongoing support of our system has been top notch.

**Tom Lamb
Engineering & Business Support Manager
at LifeWay**

Make Your Security Technology Work Better For You in 2021

With the curves 2020 has thrown us all, it's tough to think long-term. But as we head into a new year, now is the time to plan for 2021 and your company's changing needs for security.

Take a good look at your security—inside and outside your workplace. Maybe you are ready to revamp your access points to make them touchless and easier to maintain. And with more employees using outside points to log into your networks, perhaps you want to move to a cloud-based system that allows you to access it from anywhere. And, finally, why not tie it altogether, making it easier to maintain and monitor with one app that can control it all?

Whatever you decide to do, we hope this guide gives you a good starting point as you consider solutions. And if you need help choosing technology and designing your system, our team at ACT would love to help you.



About ACT

ACT designs commercial security, video surveillance, access control and fire and life safety systems for Nashville's largest and most prominent businesses. We believe the technology in your business should be smart, simple, and seamless. Our solutions are customized to meet your specific needs—to make your work environment safer, your space more sophisticated and your facility management hassle-free. From design and installation to ongoing service and support, our focus is on delivering you an extraordinary experience.

We are trusted by government agencies, assisted living and multi-family facilities, multi-tenant buildings, schools, colleges and luxury estates. Ready to make your security technology work better for you? [Give us a call](#) or [set up a free site assessment](#) here. We'd love to help.