PathMinder
optical turnstiles

PathMinder's next generation of **optical turnstiles with retractable barrier wings:** extra security without extra hassles

Designing a product that restricts physical access to a site is tricky business. A device that blocks passage must be fast, secure, easy for anyone to use, robust, and reliable, all while complying with accessibility regulations. For some designers, this can be quite a challenge.

Perhaps that's why so many mechanical barrier and revolving door systems are disabled soon after installation--high priced blunders that never quite worked as advertised. Sometimes they are just too slow, and lineups occur. Other times, they generate too many false alarms, so are either ignored or disabled by the security staff. Or sometimes they just don't work--think of mechanical (subway-style) turnstiles that re-lock after a given period of time, even if there is still somebody inside.

PathMinder's approach is different: we know that end-user satisfaction is just as important as security.

Our turnstiles with retractable barriers feature an optical detection array, so our barriers can operate in an intelligent manner. Advanced algorithms assure that the barriers never close on a person (audible and visual alarms are generated when necessary). The sensor array is also used to regulate the barrier operation--closing the barriers as soon as the person is past the barrier, for instance, or waiting until the person has entirely cleared the detection array.

The barriers are powered by large servo motors, for precise acceleration and deceleration. They snap open with barely a whisper, and close smoothly. As a result, users feel comfortable and confident when using the turnstiles.

The turnstiles also integrate with existing card readers and access control systems for easy adoption. In fact, "easy" describes the PathMinder experience: solid, reliable, durable units that are easy to install, easy to use, and easy to appreciate over the long term.

Barriers against intrusion

(without any barriers to acceptance)

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entrance design decisions

Considering installing optical turnstiles? The first step is to plan your lobby layout.

Whether you're building a new entrance from scratch or installing in an existing site, there are a few points to ponder:

- Decide how many lanes you need based on observed traffic flow. With the help of a stopwatch, count each person who enters or exits during a rush period--some time around 8 or 9 AM usually works best--and determine how many people pass per minute. PathMinder products handle 30 or 35 people per minute, per lane (limited only by the access control system). Take your observed traffic flow, divide by 30 (or 35), and round up to find the minimum number of lanes you need.
- Place your turnstiles near a guard station, and make sure that a seated guard can see all the end lights of each lane (to quickly identify alarms--and the people who have caused them)
- Consider narrowing all the lanes but one. At least one lane must meet ADA or CSA regulations. PathMinder turnstiles are specially designed to meet ADA at a 32" lane width (not the oft-quoted 36"); other lanes can be even more narrow. PathMinder turnstiles can be as close as 24" apart, if local authorities having jurisdiction approve, although 30" is more common. Place the accessible (widest) lane closest to the guard desk to offer visitors the easiest access.
- Consider optimizing traffic flow by having some "one-way" lanes at peak periods--this smoothes traffic flow and increases total throughput. Turnstiles can be reprogrammed on-the-fly or on a schedule with PathMinder software.
- Think about different shapes--rather than having all turnstiles in a row, stagger them, place them on a diagonal, or arrange them in an arc (PathMinder turnstiles are very tolerant of misalignment, giving you extra layout options)
- Fill in extra space between turnstiles and nearby walls with elegant glass panels to maintain security and an open look
- Place the security desk such that it spans both the secure and public sides of a row of turnstiles; this way, visitors can sign in before passing through the turnstiles, couriers can deliver packages without entering the secure area, and employees can talk to security staff without having to exit the secure area

brown bag, bright ideas

Join PathMinder online for brown bag lunchtime seminars, starting in February.

It's not a sales pitch, but rather a chance to share our years of experience with you and answer any questions. And it's **not** just another boring PowerPoint presentation.

Check out pathminder.com in February for dates and topics. Have a request? E-mail brownbag@pathminder.com.

Let's do lunch.

linear thinking about non-linear lobby layout

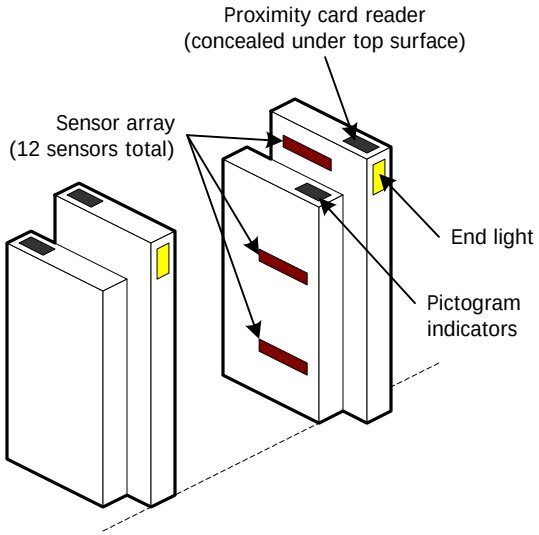
Having your ducks in a row doesn't mean your turnstiles must be.

At PathMinder, we're constantly finding new approaches to make lobbies secure in a way that complements site architecture--adding big security in small elegant packages that blend into the surroundings.

A relatively new way to make turnstiles blend in is to avoid the traditional "straight line" approach, where all units are parallel, lined up in a row. PathMinder turnstiles are so tolerant of misalignment that they can easily be placed in an arc or offset from one another (staggered).

PathMinder even produces custom designs that accentuate these special layouts. One recent customer ordered units with a housing that was divided into halves, with each half offset from the other. Staggered diagonally across an entrance, the turnstiles make a dramatic impact.

When planning a high-profile entrance, don't limit your options--choose PathMinder optical turnstiles and organize your lobby the way you want it.



PathMinder custom offset housing for use in staggered layouts

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