

PathMinder control solutions comparison

PathMinder offers two advanced control solutions for managing a series of turnstiles. One option is a hardware-based **desktop control panel**, which offers a set of push buttons for doing basic turnstile management. The other option is a software package called **TrueCount System Administrator**, which offers robust monitoring and control capabilities

for security desk staff, and offers advanced programming, scheduling, and traffic analysis tools for security professionals. It is typically deployed at a guard desk on a Windows computer, often with an LCD touch screen.



Desktop control panel



TrueCount System Administrator

	Desktop control panel	TrueCount System Administrator
Number of simultaneous lanes per controller	4 or 6	60
Operator can control lane state (lane open/card access/lane closed) of each turnstile in each direction	●	●
Operator can identify cause of alarms and selectively clear alarms	●	●
Operator can permit one person to pass through a turnstile without presenting a security badge (guest access)	●	●
Operator actions are logged for future reference		●
Controller can generate audible chime when alarm occurs (in addition to chime generated by turnstile)	●	●
Controller displays current traffic rate (people per minute) and site occupancy		●
Controller displays traffic and alarm history (histogram view)		●
Controller can be used remotely	●	●
Administrator can program turnstile parameters (timings, sensitivity, annunciators, lights, etc.) without modifying turnstile dip switches		●
Administrator can use controller to maintain consistency of turnstile parameters (one common programming template for many lanes)		●
Administrator can schedule changes in lane state; i.e., automatically offer free exit during business day/require card to exit after hours		●
Administrator can filter (by time and type) and review alarms, entrances/exits, and changes to turnstile configuration		●
Can be used to remotely diagnose and troubleshoot common turnstile problems		●
Wiring requirements (14 ga. conductor pairs) per lane	18	2

The TrueCount System Administrator software has several soft advantages over the desktop control panel.

While the desktop control panel may seem less intimidating to novice computer users, PathMinder's software development team has taken special care to ensure that it is easy for anyone to use. When guards log in, a simplified interface is presented, showing only the functions they are permitted to use (those that roughly correspond to those provided by the desktop control panel). The software offers a better user experience, presenting large, intuitive, and colourful indicators instead of uniform buttons and LEDs.

Because many guard stations already feature PCs, the TrueCount System Administrator offers a zero footprint control solution. The guard desk

is usually the first point of contact between visitors and staff at high-profile sites; reducing clutter there gives the visitor a much better first impression of the facility, an impression that carries through the rest of their visit.

Guard desks can be hectic at times. As in any high-traffic environment, hardware is susceptible to common accidents like spilled coffee and dropped packages. While ruggedly built, PathMinder's desktop control panels are still vulnerable to the physics of such a stressful environment, and can be damaged. So can a computer running the TrueCount software; however, it is dramatically more cost-effective to replace a damaged PC keyboard than a desktop control panel.

Cabling requirements are dramatically less for the TrueCount software.