

**WIRE-IT**

**SECURITY SYSTEMS**

# Is Your Security System Actually Working?

A step-by-step evaluation guide for commercial  
surveillance, access control, and alarm systems.

A free resource from Wire-It | Omaha, NE

# Is Your Security System Actually Working?

Many businesses invest in cameras and alarms only to discover they fail when it matters most. Wi-Fi cameras drop during outages, DVRs overwrite footage before incidents are reviewed, and access control stays on default settings. Score each item below on a scale of 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent) to find out if your security is real protection or just theater.

## Section A: Camera System

### 1. Wired vs. Wi-Fi

Are all cameras hardwired to a dedicated network, or relying on Wi-Fi?

1 = All Wi-Fi | 3 = Mix of wired and Wi-Fi | 5 = 100% hardwired on dedicated VLAN

Your Score:  1  2  3  4  5

### 2. Storage and Backup

Is footage stored locally on an NVR AND backed up to the cloud?

1 = SD card only | 3 = Local NVR, no cloud | 5 = NVR + cloud with redundancy

Your Score:  1  2  3  4  5

### 3. Camera Resolution

Can your cameras capture faces and license plates clearly?

1 = Under 2MP | 3 = 2-4MP | 5 = 4MP+ with WDR and IR

Your Score:  1  2  3  4  5

### 4. Coverage Zones

Do cameras cover all entry points, parking areas, and high-value zones?

1 = Major blind spots | 3 = Most areas covered | 5 = Full coverage, no gaps

Your Score:  1  2  3  4  5

### 5. Footage Retention

How many days of footage are stored before overwriting?

1 = Under 7 days | 3 = 14-30 days | 5 = 30+ days or meets industry requirement

Your Score:  1  2  3  4  5

### 6. Remote Access

Can you reliably view live and recorded footage from mobile and desktop?

1 = No remote access | 3 = Works sometimes | 5 = Reliable app + web access 24/7

Your Score:  1  2  3  4  5

### 7. Firmware and Maintenance

Is camera firmware updated regularly and hardware inspected?

1 = Never updated | 3 = Annually | 5 = Quarterly updates + maintenance schedule

Your Score:  1  2  3  4  5

### 8. Network Isolation

Are cameras on a separate VLAN from your business computers?

1 = Same network as everything | 3 = Separate SSID only | 5 = Dedicated VLAN, firewalled

Your Score:  1  2  3  4  5

Section A Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_ / 40

## Section B: Access Control

### 1. Lock Grade

Are your entry points secured with commercial-grade electronic locks?

1 = Standard key locks | 3 = Consumer smart locks | 5 = Commercial electronic + key card/fob

Your Score:  1  2  3  4  5

### 2. Credential Management

Are employee credentials managed centrally and revoked on departure?

1 = Shared codes, never changed | 3 = Individual codes, slow revocation | 5 = Central system, instant revoke

Your Score:  1  2  3  4  5

### 3. Access Logging

Do you review access logs regularly for anomalies?

1 = No logs | 3 = Logs exist, never reviewed | 5 = Monthly review with alerts

Your Score:  1  2  3  4  5

### 4. Remote Lockdown

Can you lock down the facility remotely in an emergency?

1 = No remote capability | 3 = Partial (some doors) | 5 = Full remote lockdown

Your Score:  1  2  3  4  5

### 5. Visitor Management

Is there a system to track non-employee access?

1 = No tracking | 3 = Sign-in sheet | 5 = Digital visitor management with badges

Your Score:  1  2  3  4  5

### 6. Integration

Does access control integrate with cameras and alarms?

1 = Standalone systems | 3 = Partial integration | 5 = Fully integrated, event-triggered

Your Score:  1  2  3  4  5

Section B Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_ / 30

## Section C: Alarm System

### 1. Professional Monitoring

Is your alarm monitored 24/7 by a professional central station?

1 = Self-monitored only | 3 = Monitored during business hours | 5 = 24/7 professional monitoring

Your Score:  1  2  3  4  5

### 2. Sensor Coverage

Do sensors cover all entry points including windows, roof, and loading docks?

1 = Front door only | 3 = Main entrances | 5 = Every entry point + motion zones

Your Score:  1  2  3  4  5

### 3. Communication Path

Does the alarm have cellular or dual-path backup?

1 = Landline only | 3 = Internet only | 5 = Cellular or dual-path (internet + cellular)

Your Score:  1  2  3  4  5

### 4. Testing Frequency

How often is the alarm system tested and documented?

1 = Never tested | 3 = Annually | 5 = Monthly with documentation

Your Score:  1  2  3  4  5

### 5. Video Verification

Do alarm events trigger camera snapshots or video clips for verification?

1 = No integration | 3 = Manual camera check | 5 = Automatic video verification on alarm

Your Score:  1  2  3  4  5

### 6. Environmental Sensors

Does the system detect water, temperature, or power failures?

1 = Intrusion only | 3 = Some environmental | 5 = Full environmental monitoring

Your Score:  1  2  3  4  5

Section C Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_ / 30

## Tally Your Total Score

Section A (Cameras): \_\_\_\_\_ + Section B (Access Control): \_\_\_\_\_ + Section C (Alarms): \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Score:** \_\_\_\_\_ / 100

## Your Results: What Your Score Means

### **80 - 100 Professional-Grade Security**

Your security infrastructure is well-designed, maintained, and integrated. Cameras are hardwired, footage is backed up, access is managed centrally, and alarms are professionally monitored. You have a real security system, not a collection of consumer gadgets.

**Recommended Action:** Schedule an annual security review to keep firmware current, test alarm response times, and verify camera positioning as your facility evolves. Ask your provider about AI-powered analytics and license plate recognition for your next upgrade cycle.

## 50 - 79 Partial Protection — Gaps Are Dangerous

You have security components in place, but critical weaknesses exist. Cameras may be on Wi-Fi, footage retention may be too short, access control may lack central management, or alarm monitoring may have blind spots. These gaps create a false sense of security that is worse than having no system at all — because you believe you're protected when you're not.

**Recommended Action:** Your security system needs a professional evaluation. Wire-It will walk your facility, identify every gap, and deliver a prioritized upgrade plan with transparent pricing. Many businesses in this range can close their most dangerous gaps for a fraction of what a single incident would cost. Schedule your free threat assessment today — before the next 3 AM phone call.

## 20 - 49 Security Theater — Immediate Action Needed

Your current setup is creating a dangerous illusion of protection. Wi-Fi cameras that drop during outages, DVRs that overwrite critical footage, unmonitored alarms, and consumer-grade locks mean that when an incident happens — and it will — you will have no usable footage, no verified alert, and no audit trail. Your 'security system' is just expensive plastic on the wall.

**Recommended Action:** Stop hoping your cameras are working and find out for sure. Wire-It designs facility-wide surveillance, access control, and alarm systems that are hardwired, monitored 24/7, and built to function when the power or internet fails. We have been protecting Omaha businesses for 25 years. Schedule your free threat assessment now.

*Wire-It Tip: If your cameras are on the same network as your business computers, a single breach compromises both your data and your security footage. Always isolate on a dedicated VLAN.*

## Ready to Take the Next Step and Secure Your Business?

Schedule a free threat assessment with Wire-It today.

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