

Keys Are the New Access Control

Georgia Tech's new key policy reveals a hidden layer in AI infrastructure security.

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Jan. 4, 2027

Implementation Date

Georgia Tech will require all physical key requests to be processed via ServiceNow starting January 4, 2027.

This date marks a formal shift from ad hoc access to auditable, digital-tracked key issuance—a critical step in securing physical infrastructure that underpins AI development. As AI chips demand extreme environmental control and isolation, access to facilities must be tightly managed. The delay until 2027 reflects the complexity of integrating physical access with digital identity systems.



01

Security Is Now a Process

The move from walk-in key requests to ServiceNow tickets signals that physical access is no longer a backdoor but a managed, traceable component of infrastructure integrity. In AI semiconductor facilities, where even a single unauthorized entry can compromise cleanroom integrity or expose sensitive IP, this shift mirrors the digital security protocols already standard in chip design and fabrication. Access control is no longer just about locks—it's about audit trails, identity verification, and process enforcement.

02

The Human Factor Is the Weak Link

The policy's exceptions for temporary contractors highlight a paradox: the most secure systems still rely on human judgment. Even with automated tracking, the need to 'sponsoring department' approve access introduces latency and risk. In AI hardware, where time-to-fabrication is critical, delays in access can bottleneck entire production cycles. This underscores that the next frontier in semiconductor security isn't just technology—it's organizational design and behavioral compliance.

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