EdgeConnector's centrally manged door access controls support Keep Cool's cloud-based model for national networks of gyms.

ABOUT KEEP COOL

→ Keep Cool have more than 250,000 members and a network of over 170 franchised gyms across mainland France and the overseas territory of Réunion in the Indian Ocean. From their start in Avignon during 2013, the brand has successfully expanded in to a national network; all offering a convenient, low-cost but excellent quality service.

Keep Cool prides itself on providing their members a relaxed approach to keeping fit; at their own pace and at which ever place suits them best. Keep Cool's philosophy of 'Le Sport Bonheur®' is about fitness for well-being and feeling happier, not for competition or just to 'please the mirror'.

THE GROWING PROBLEM

→ Keep Cool wanted all of their growing number of gym sites to have physical access controls that linked in real-time to their cloud-based membership system; enabling their customers to access any gym location at any time with their membership ID card, while allowing them to revoke or enable access-rights for members quickly and easily from anywhere, when required.

To keep things simple for their franchisees, Keep Cool needed their door access control system to be easy to deploy, avoiding any necessity to install servers or management software at each site. Additionally Keep Cool wanted to make it easy for franchisees to enrol new membership cards at front desk PCs by automating the capture and registration of card details on their web-based management system.

After opening their first few sites, Keep Cool could see the limitations, and costs, of trying to link together conventional site-centric door access control systems. With ambitious plans to scale to hundreds of sites, and hundreds of thousands of members, Keep Cool needed a better solution.

THE SCALABLE PHYSICAL ACCESS CONTROL SOLUTION

→ EdgeConnector scales easily across any number of sites and users, together with centralised monitoring and management of access rights.

Rather than following the traditional model, where a local server periodically sends data files of allowed card IDs to each electronic door controller on-site, EdgeConnector uses IP-network connected controllers that pass each live door access request to a central server for validation in real-time.

In a typical enterprise installation, EdgeConnector connects directly to Microsoft Active Directory; door opening requests are checked against the access-rights specified in a user's login account in just the same way that logical access requests for any IT resource are centrally validated against Active Directory. EdgeConnector processes all access requests from across the whole network within a fraction of a second, with end-to-end encryption to ensure security of all communications.

Because of its modular design architecture the EdgeConnector team had no problem in specifying a secure custom integration with the Keep Cool membership database instead of Microsoft Active Directory. The EdgeConnector integration also delivers significant benefits in terms of real-time data collection, management and reporting.

To guard against any occasional internet connection outages, EdgeConnector crucially allows for back-up data to be automatically distributed to the door controllers, allowing them to temporarily take over the validation of door access request when required. All 'off-line' transactions are logged and transferred back to the central server when connectivity is restored.

Deployment at each Keep Cool site simply involves plugging a controller into the local network, and wiring up the door locking hardware. Power-over-Ethernet (PoE) provides power to controllers and readers at each door or turnstile with the minimum of wiring. This is all thanks to the elegance of the EdgeConnector IP-based system architecture, which works well on WAN, VPN and internet networks.
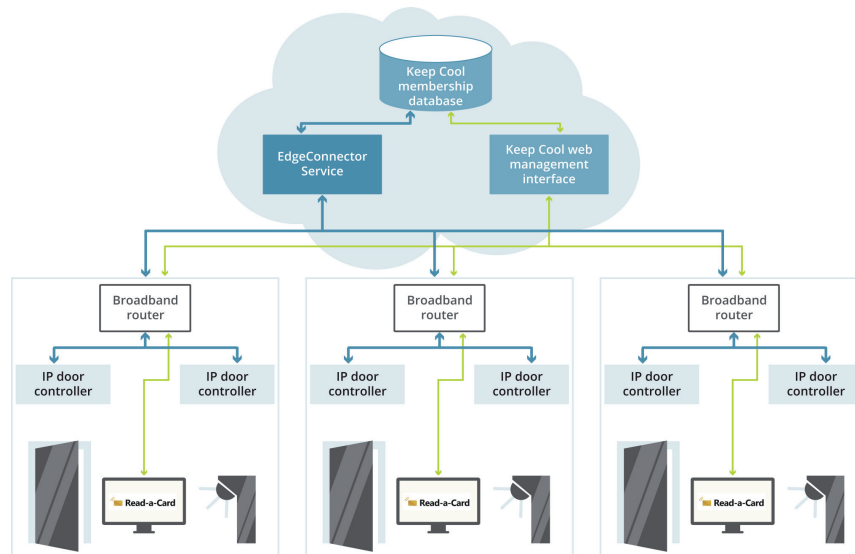
KEEP COOL

AND

WORKOUT ANYWHERE
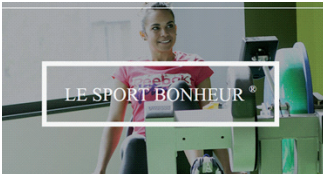
"We needed an IP-based door access control system that fitted with our model: simple to extend to new sites and easy to integrate and manage anywhere, including the cloud. EdgeConnector delivers exactly that, and the team behind the product has supported us in our growth".

Jean-Sébastien GRELLET-AUMONT
Directeur du Concept

Franchisees are also able to automatically enrol new members' ID cards, or update existing members' card information, directly through the Keep Cool web management interface. 'Read-a-Card' is a software utility, created by the makers of EdgeConnector, that runs on either a Windows PC or Apple Mac at gym reception desks, connected via USB to a low cost RFID card reader. Read-a-Card uses its JavaScript integration feature to automate the transfer of ID card information from the card reader directly to the Keep Cool web management interface, without the need for manual re-keying which would otherwise be time consuming and prone to error.

INTEGRATED SOLUTION ARCHITECTURE

SUPPORTING BUSINESS EXPANSION

Following the enormous success of the Keep Cool brand across France, further geographic expansion is planned, as well as the launch of an additional brand to address a different market segment. Once again EdgeConnector and Read-a-Card form a key part of the operational infrastructure across the new brand's network of sites, with the introduction of features that include the ability to issue customers with unique PINs for temporary membership, along with matching touchscreen RFID readers for door access.

FIND OUT MORE

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