

Iglu enhances cool reputation for student residence safety with connected door locks using RUCKUS® IoT Suite



Company sees opportunity to strengthen safety and security of student residents with IoT initiative

Not all college students can or want to live in student dormitories. Perhaps they want to be part of campus life, but also enjoy the vibrant cities where their schools are located. They want to be close to campus and have access to public transportation. For accommodation, they want a combination of amenities and affordability. Iglu is answering these needs and, in the process, becoming Australia's coolest student accommodation provider.

Iglu, headquartered in Sydney, is a privately held company founded in 2010. Iglu clearly has its finger on the pulse of young adults. Built on the values of cool design and warm hospitality, Iglu creates fully furnished private or shared apartments and spacious communal areas. They have five locations in Sydney,



two in Brisbane and one in Melbourne. They have additional properties in the planning and development stages.

The safety and security of its residents will always be of the highest priority for Iglu. "Technology has always played an important role in how we implement smarter and more effective security," says Brad Magri-Olson, IT Manager at Iglu. "We're always looking for innovative ways to improve the security of our facilities. Without question, applications coming out of Internet of Things (IoT) are

offering cutting edge capabilities. We are interested in how we could use IoT for connected or wireless door locks."

IT wanted a practical, cost-effective and high-performing solution. That meant avoiding an overlay network. "An overlay network is more labour intensive, time consuming, disruptive and costly," says Magri-Olson. "It would require additional cabling, gateways and switches for each IoT device. That simply wasn't a practical approach for upgrading all of our properties."



ASSA ABLOY Global Solutions

RUCKUS, now part of CommScope, met with Magri-Olson and proposed an integrated solution: The RUCKUS IoT Suite and Visionline connected door locks from ASSA ABLOY Global Solutions. It was exactly the approach that Magri-Olson wanted. “The integrated solution removed the complexity associated with implementing connected door locks. The economics works and eliminating the need to run new cabling meant less disruption of the building and our residents.”

The joint CommScope and ASSA ABLOY solution includes the RUCKUS IoT Suite and the ASSA ABLOY Global Solutions Visionline wireless locking solution and door locks that use the Zigbee standard for communication. The RUCKUS IoT Suite enables one wireless network supporting both Wi-Fi and IoT.

Iglu easily plugs into wireless door locks connected over its existing Wi-Fi network

Magri-Olson authorized a pilot deployment at one of its properties. The RUCKUS H510 access points (APs), which are already deployed across all Iglu properties, were equipped with RUCKUS plug-in IoT modules that support Zigbee. The modules also support Bluetooth Low Energy, iBeacon and Eddystone-based IoT endpoints, giving Iglu a platform for future IoT projects.

Each ASSA ABLOY Global Solutions door lock transmits and receives information to an IoT enabled-AP, which connects to the RUCKUS IoT controller software running on a RUCKUS SmartZone controller. The IoT controller manages and controls the APs; the IoT controller also connects to the ASSA ABLOY Global Solutions Visionline server, which manages the connected entry system.

By leveraging the integrated solution, Iglu reduced its cabling and extra gateways costs by as much as 20 percent in just the pilot project.

Iglu partnered with ASSA ABLOY Global Solutions to complete the deployment of the online connected door lock system. The ASSA ABLOY Global Solutions Zigbee-based door locks were installed on every existing door and those under construction.

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Brad Magri-Olson
IT Manager at Iglu

“The partnership with RUCKUS and ASSA ABLOY Global Solutions was invaluable. Everything was integrated and there were no surprises throughout the implementation,” says Magri-Olson. “We were also pleased because we were deploying the new solution in a fully populated building. The disruption was minor compared to what an overlay network would have caused. It was important to us that students didn’t feel inconvenienced.”

Authorized Iglu staff can now see all door lock activity on a central dashboard. “We have a good level of visibility on door activities that enhances safety and security for our student residents,” says Magri-Olson. “We can tell if a door has been left open for too long, if someone is trying to scan one door multiple times with a keycard or if they are trying to gain access to multiple doors. Once we’re alerted to suspicious behavior, we have the ability to remotely cancel any keycard and prevent access to all doors.”

Additionally, authorized Iglu staff can read the lock logs remotely and receive automated battery reports on the connected door locks so that they can replace batteries proactively. This eliminates the chance that a battery will lose power before they have a scheduled maintenance visit.

For new student housing builds, Iglu has started to implement RUCKUS ICX switches. They want faster switch ports and more power to drive the latest Wi-Fi technology so the company can take full advantage of other emerging technologies.

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