Summary

UNIFIDE presents an innovative solution to modernise student IDs across our university. By digitising student ID cards through a mobile application, we're creating a more efficient, sustainable, and secure approach to campus access management.

Introduction

The current reliance on physical student ID cards presents many challenges for both the university and students. While St Andrews have modernised many of their systems, the physical student ID card remains a critical yet cumbersome component of daily campus operations. UNIFIDE transforms this essential tool into a powerful digital asset, creating a connected campus experience that enhances security, reduces costs, and improves convenience/efficiency for all users.

Problem Statement

The university faces several critical challenges with physical ID card systems:

1. **High Replacement Costs**
   a. Regular expenses for producing replacement cards
   b. Administrative burden of processing lost card reports
   c. Environmental impact of plastic card production
2. **Operational Inefficiencies**
   a. Need for a large number of nighttime porters to assist locked-out students
   b. High labour costs for nighttime porters
   c. Time-consuming manual processes for building access and services, e.g., the library
3. **Student Inconvenience**
   a. Risk of being locked out of accommodation
   b. Physical card requirement for multiple daily activities – lectures, tutorials, etc.
   c. Limitation of always carrying physical wallet/card
4. **Environmental Impact**
   a. Continuous production of plastic cards
   b. Waste from discarded and replaced cards

Solution

UNIFIDE offers a comprehensive digital ID solution:

1. **Mobile Application Integration**
   a. Secure scanning of existing student ID cards
   b. Apple/Google Wallet integration for convenient access

  c. NFC compatibility with existing university infrastructure
2. **Feature Set**
  a. Building access control (accommodation, library, gym)
  b. Digital payment system for certain services such as meal plans for halls
  c. guest pass management for library and sports centre
  d. Library book borrowing functionality
  e. Subscription management portal
3. **Security Measures**
  a. Two-factor authentication
  b. Encrypted data storage
  c. Secure transaction processing

Implementation Plan

1. **Phase 1: Development and Testing**
  a. Application development and security testing
  b. Integration with university systems
  c. Beta testing with selected student groups
2. **Phase 2: Initial Deployment**
  a. Staff training and system setup
  b. Student onboarding process
  c. Support system establishment
3. **Phase 3: Expansion**
  a. Feature enhancement based on user feedback
  b. Integration with additional campus services
  c. Preparation for multi-university deployment

Impact and Benefits

For Universities:

1. **Cost Reduction**
  a. Decreased staff requirements for night-time support
  b. Reduced card replacement and production costs
  c. Less paperwork and staff time spent processing ID card replacements
2. **Operational Efficiency**
  a. Simpler and faster way to access different university buildings
  b. Services like gym guest passes, library loans, and meal plans are processed automatically through the app, without staff needing to manually check or approve them
  c. Enhanced security measures, e.g., 2-factor authentication
3. **Environmental Impact**

a. Reduced plastic waste
b. Lower carbon footprint
c. Alignment with the university's sustainability goals

For Students:

1. **Convenience**
    a. Always-available mobile access
    b. Simplified service utilisation
    c. Reduced risk of lockouts
2. **Enhanced Security**
    a. Two-factor authentication protection
    b. Secure transaction processing

Conclusion

UNIFIDE's digital student ID solution represents a significant step forward in campus access management. By addressing current operational inefficiencies while providing enhanced security and convenience, our platform offers a compelling value proposition for St Andrews University and their students. The potential for scaling to multiple institutions across the UK presents a clear path for growth and wider impact in the higher education sector.

The implementation of UNIFIDE not only solves immediate practical challenges but also positions universities at the forefront of digital innovation in campus management. Through our subscription-based model, universities can achieve cost savings while providing students with a modern, efficient, and environmentally conscious solution for campus access and service utilisation.