



Connector System

Connection Utility Software

Product Datasheet

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Quiconnect Connector System

-  Simple, intuitive interface
-  Detect, identify and push users to partner networks
-  Roaming policy management
-  Automated login to wireless broadband networks

The Quiconnect Connector System offers an ultra-simple user experience which “pushes” connectivity to your users. As a service provider, this means your customers can easily activate their service and log in to your network or your roaming partners’ networks without needing to submit credentials or navigate operator landing pages.

Featuring a unique network-side intelligence model combined with a lightweight client, the Connector gets your users onto the network quickly and easily.

About Connector

How does Connector work?

A small piece of client software is installed on the user’s PC, customised by their wireless service provider. This software detects wireless networks within range, identifies those which belong to the home network or participating roaming partners and pushes a message to the user to inform them that connectivity is available.



Figure 1 Example of customizable network availability message – text and icon can be replaced with Service Provider branding

The user can opt for no-click automated login to the network using their home service provider credentials so no searching through compatibility lists, deciding which network to use or struggling with foreign language login pages is required. The client can always communicate with the server component hosted by Quiconnect and so is always up-to-date with the latest additions to your partner list and the login methods required for each.

System Architecture

The Connector System includes the following components:

1. A small **Connection Utility** installed on the user’s PC, comprised of a client utility library and a user interface. This component handles the communication channel between the client device and the hosted network service, and provides connection management functions to the end user through a simple interface, allowing the Service Provider to manage connection behaviour through interaction with the Network Core.

2. The **Network Core** which is a Quiconnect-hosted network service incorporating the Connection Knowledgebase, storing connection policies, network parameters and roaming service availability. This information is provided to the Connection Utility to control connection behaviour and supply the necessary connection information to allow automated login.

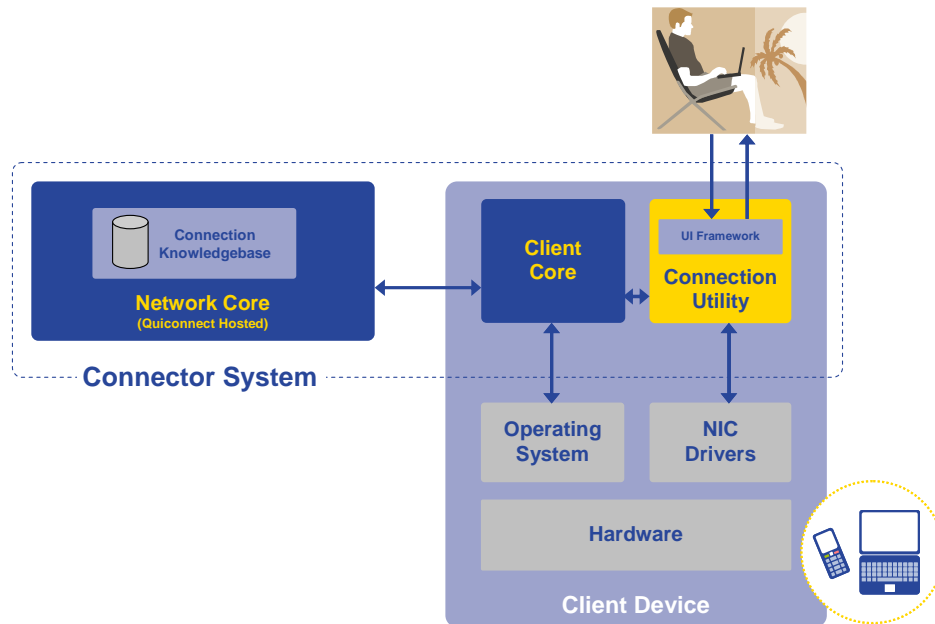


Figure 2 Connector System Architecture

Key benefits of Connector

Using Connector as a connectivity management solution for your users offers many advantages for user experience and network management.

Alert for roaming network availability

With network connectivity provided through a range of roaming partners, keeping users updated about the locations at which they can roam becomes a significant overhead. With Connector installed, users will be informed of the availability of roaming partner networks in the vicinity and can login with just one click (or none at all if they choose to fully automate the login).

Automate the login process

Connector retains the user's credentials and submits them securely, logging the user into the network without the user needing to do anything. It is also possible to turn off automatic login, which allows the user to directly access the operator landing page if desired by simply launching a browser window.

A familiar experience everywhere

A positive experience for users can increase the number of revenue-generating transactions. One key aspect of a good customer experience is consistency – by providing users with a familiar process they will be confident to access their wireless account wherever they go.

Intelligence in the network

Connector includes a server component which is always available to the client software on the user's computer, transparently providing the client with login methods, roaming policies and priorities over the network. This allows you to dynamically control your customers' roaming experience without software updates and even provides instant connection capabilities for networks added to your partner list after the client software was installed.

Stop losing your customers to other networks

If confused about whether roaming is available from a given hotspot, or how to access it (possibly faced with foreign language landing pages) users may opt to buy connectivity direct from the local provider with a credit card or charge to a hotel bill. By providing your users with Connector, your customers can easily get connected via their home account and you don't miss out on this transaction. You may even save your customers money as a result!

Lightweight, easy-to-install client

Clients which take up a lot of disk space and are slow or complicated to install end up rejected by users. In contrast, the Connector with its small footprint is quick and easy to install, increasing user acceptance and reducing support requirements.

Supports different network types

Connector's authentication capabilities include support for standard login protocols used on IP networks, so users won't be limited to just WiFi networks. Using the Connector to manage

network access provides the opportunity to fill out coverage using, for example, both WiFi and WiMAX networks where appropriate hardware is installed.

Integrate with your existing setup

Connector can be pre-configured to work alongside your existing user experience. For example, if you want your users to see your login page, Connector can push users to this page in place of the automatic login. By request, Connector can also be customized to work to provide authentication for your existing connection manager, seamlessly adding roaming capabilities without conflicts.

No network changes required

A key criterion for operational management of roaming connections is that networks should be subject to only minimal or no engineering to accommodate new roaming partners. Connector is compatible with leading authentication mechanisms and is indistinguishable from standard manual logins which means users can be up and running quickly on new partner networks and with little cost impact.

Specifications

Network types supported	WiFi, WiMAX (Network authentication) Any IP interface (Software/script update)
Authentication methods	Wireless Internet Service Provider Roaming (WISPr) Universal Access Method (UAM) IEEE 802.1x
Operating systems	Windows XP, Vista
Customisation	Standard version US English Client branding supported

About Quiconnect

Quiconnect is a leading provider of interconnectivity solutions for wireless broadband networks with a client list which includes most of the world's most important players in public WLAN. We offer a range of services including AAA proxying, data/financial clearing, user experience engineering and RADIUS architecture consulting.

Our Connector software sits alongside our roaming and service access management offering. While these services may be taken up on an individual basis, there are considerable synergies between the two areas. Talk to us about how you can benefit from the Connector as part of a broader connectivity services package from Quiconnect.