Customer Information

MEDICA Cloud
Making medical care simpler and easier to understand

MEDICA Cloud Inc.
Shirogane-cho Building, 3rd floor, 2-4 Shirogane-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan

MEDICA Cloud develops and provides IT solutions for hospitals and clinics, with the goal of creating patient participation-style medical care. They also contribute to health care management with "Aruko! Kazasu-kun" ("Let's Walk, Kazasu!") and "Sukoyaka Links" ("Healthy Links") services for health point system, and with Health Care Timecards, which enable residents to record the times they start and stop work.

Product Used

HULFT

Effects

Development Hours Reduced by
1/3

Quality and Reliability
of File Transfers Ensured

Data Integration with a Commercial Facility for
Japan's First Health Points System

Improving People's Health with Activity Meters

Background	Rewarding Residents According to Their Daily Physical Activity

MEDICA Cloud provides solutions to support the municipality's heath points system. The system encourages residents to perform an appropriate amount of exercise by awarding points to those who improved their BMI or body fat percentage. One local government reduced the annual medical expenses of residents who used the system by approximately 30,000 yen per person. As a result, the system has drawn attention as a way to improve citizens' health while lowering medical costs.

One of the solutions provided to support this activity is "Aruko! Kazasu-kun" ("Let's Walk, Kazasu!") This system is designed to be sold to local governments, and is designed primarily for elderly residents. They can view their pedometer data, BMI, body fat percentage, and other information by swiping their activity meters at a signage station. Another system, "Sukoyaka Links" ("Healthy Links"), provides a basic design that prioritizes ease of use and operability.

Sukoyaka Links is being used for a campaign involving a health point system designed in collaboration with LaLaport Kashiwanoha, a shopping center in Kashiwa City, Chiba.

Residents wear a wristband-style device, called an activity meter, as they walk. They can view their pedometer data by swiping the activity meters at one of the signage stations inside the LaLaport shopping center. The heath points system awards the resident points depending on how far they have walked which can be used at the shopping center. This is the first time activity meters have been used with such a large-scale commercial facility in Japan.

"The most significant feature of this service is the visualization of health-related data, which allows residents to track their physical activity," said Dr. Ichiro Miyagawa, President and CEO of MEDICA Cloud. Residents can become more aware of their own health indicators, without needing to use a smartphone or a computer. Also, because the signage stations are in places where many people gather, the service gives residents a chance to meet others and share their data, which leads to communication among them.

Introduction	HULFT Integrates with a Point Card System

To implement this health point system, the signage stations needed to be integrated with LaLaport Kashiwanoha's point card system. This was necessary to award points based on where and when a resident had walked, as well as the amount of walking the resident had done. "The data from these activity meters is important personal information," said Dr. Miyagawa. "We needed a data integration platform with a high degree of security and reliability."

A similar system that had been previously created by another company used FTP. It required adjustment of specifications, including the management of transfer records, operational settings, and the creation of rules for integration. Furthermore, separate development was also required to ensure security and reliability. This led to prohibitive costs and extensive labor.

To build a more secure and efficient solution, MEDICA Cloud selected Saison Information Systems' HULFT. Dr. Miyagawa explained this choice by saying, "HULFT is used by a wide variety of businesses, including financial institutions. It has an established reputation as being highly reliable and stable."
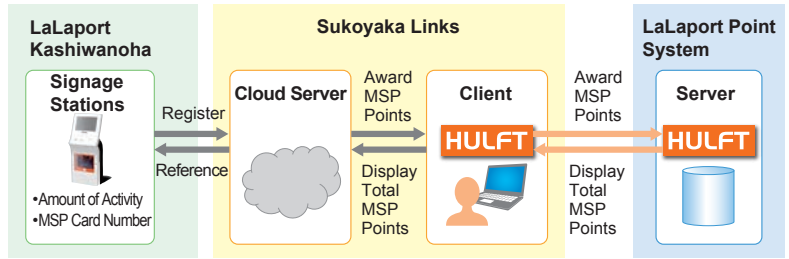
Because a wide range of data formats are supported, development work was kept to a minimum and labor-saving measures could be taken during evaluation testing. In addition, the company that manages the point card system that the signage stations were to be linked to already used HULFT.

Data integration for the health points system

When a user swipes the activity meter at a signage station, that user's pedometer data is sent to the Sukoyaka Links cloud server. At the same time, HULFT is used to perform data integration between the Sukoyaka Links client and the point card system, and users earn points based on the number of steps they walked.

This health point system has attracted attention from other local governments and companies as a catalyst for improving health and revitalizing communities. By using HULFT as the data integration platform, this system can also be flexibly expanded.

Dr. Ichiro Miyagawa

- President and CEO
  MEDICA Cloud Inc.
- Director and Head Doctor
  NICO Association of Healthcare Corporations
  Narashinodai Orthopedics & Internal Medicine
  Clinic

| Effects | Achieved Secure Data Integration in 1/3 of Traditional Development Hours |

Dr. Miyagawa praised HULFT and this solution, saying, "Because HULFT makes secure data integration possible, we can operate this system with peace of mind and with minimal concerns about personal information leakage. The reduced system development time was also a big plus. The hours required for building and testing the system with HULFT were about 1/3 of what would have been required for a traditional FTP integration. HULFT's reliable integration has made our operations a lot smoother."

The novelty of this system lies in the fact that residents can see a visual representation of the health benefits gained from walking, and earn points that can be used at a commercial facility. Everyone benefits: residents, local governments, and participating companies.

HULFT plays a vital role as the platform behind such a system. Looking forward, Dr. Miyagawa said, "Because HULFT supports integration among a wide variety of systems and data formats, we will be able to continue integrating data easily, even if the number of companies participating in the point system increases. Through the participation of a wide variety of companies, we hope to be able to increase the kinds of incentives that residents can choose from, and expand this system even further."

In the future, the company hopes to take advantage of the benefits of data integration to utilize data on-site at medical facilities. "For example," said Dr. Miyagawa, "we could collect data about residents' vital signs, such as their daily blood pressure and heart rate, in addition to the activity meter data. If we could then refer to that data when they visit a medical facility, we could shorten examination times and improve the quality of medical care. HULFT is simple, safe, and easy to use. We look forward to using it in future projects."

By using HULFT to implement a data integration platform, MEDICA Cloud, in cooperation with a local government and a commercial facility, deployed a groundbreaking health point system. In addition to expanding the usage of this system, MEDICA Cloud plans to utilize medical data to contribute to the creation of a healthy and prosperous society.