keycafe

Introduction:

Keycafe automates the process of sharing physical keys to manage property access in the cloud. Property owners may store their keys at their nearby Keycafe locations and then manage guest access remotely with an app. Locations are available in 15 major cities in North America and Europe and coming to more soon. Keycafe is key exchange simplified. For more information visit www.keycafe.com. Keycafe also has an enterprise division helping property management companies, real estate agencies and other service providers manage large fleets of keys with the Keycafe technology.

Background:

Keycafe was conceived by Clayton Brown in mid 2012 while hosting a room in his home on Airbnb. He was having difficulties getting keys to guests while he was out of town or at work. The final straw came while he was travelling and received a frantic call from his guests saying they had not received the keys. Clayton had paid a cleaning service to deliver the keys and they forgot. So after a lot of stress and spending more money in taxi fares than he earned from Airbnb, he was able to get the guests their keys.   He looked for a solution and none existed so he decided to build it himself.   Working with co-founder Jason Crabb they quickly discovered that this problem was not just their own but there was a need in the world for a solution. Keycafe was incorporated in January of 2013 to begin the process of building and scaling the business.

The first version involved using baristas that worked at cafes to actually receive and hand over the keys to guests, using an app and a key lockbox mounted behind the counter. Keycafe has evolved from this to a fully automated SmartBox that allows hosts and guests to be completely self-serve.

In Nov, 2015 Keycafe integrated with Airbnb through their Host Assist program. The integration allows hosts to automate the key exchange process, so when they accept a booking they can rest easy knowing their guests have all the information they have to access their home.

Keycafe is now part of a greater movement of smart cities to enable urban dwellers to manage their lives easier. As people get busier and work harder, technology has grown to automate more areas of their lives such as food delivery, on demand cleaners, car sharing, bike sharing and dog walking. Keycafe has grown its service to manage access to keys for any reason a homeowner has to get someone into their home, car or bike. Keycafe has become the missing link in the sharing economy to enable all of these new services to be provided seamlessly.

Video of SmartBox in use
https://vimeo.com/220032349

www.keycafe.com

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