

Dex SafeVenue is installed at a number of South African venues including Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane



Freestyle turnstiles

Every venue and every event is different, but they all need adaptable technology. Experts from The Dex Group talk about how they met the access control requirements of the FIFA World Cup

“Most of the time, for a lot of event organisers, the current infrastructure and facilities don’t really cater for their access control and crowd management needs,” says Rendu Barkhuizen, director of software engineering at The Dex Group (Dex).

Fortunately, solutions are available that can be installed whenever and wherever they are required. “Organisers can have the best security and access control available to them; it doesn’t matter where they want to have them.”

Whenever, wherever

Dex provides a fully integrated access control solution called SafeVenue that

can be fixed or mobile. Christo Kruger, director of product and firmware at Dex, explains: “The Dex mobile solution can either be used with small boxes that scan the tickets, or for total crowd management, Dex has waist-height turnstiles if a physical barrier needs to be created.”

This mobile solution was implemented for the first time in 2007 for the A1 Grand Prix, which was held in Durban, South Africa. “This event was a street race through a part of the city of Durban and Dex did all the access control for this high profile event. Dex also did the access control at this event during the year of 2008.

Access control points were set up in the street,” says Kruger.

Barkhuizen adds: “There was actually no infrastructure and all the gates were situated in the street. Dex provided everything for the access control: the software, the hardware, power from generators, the tents, waist-height turnstiles with the ticket readers in the lid of the turnstiles, Dex support staff and a dedicated wireless network with a redundant network in place.”

Added dimensions

For the 2010 World Cup, Dex SafeVenue was selected for the Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane. This was

one of five completely new stadia built for the event.

The system was configured to the unique requirements of the event.

Barkhuizen says: "After winning the

tender, Dex had various meetings with Match and FIFA at the stadium and with the Polokwane municipality.

Dex made some adjustments to the proprietary

SafeVenue software to be able to use the FIFA tickets and continued with testing and trials at the stadium."

According to Kruger, the Dex SafeVenue solution is very advanced in terms of the functionality it offers.

"There are a lot of features that Dex can provide that were not used. For example, Match used one dimensional barcodes; Dex offers two dimensional barcode capability."

"The tight integration between Brazil and South Africa helps us to leverage the know-how acquired during the FIFA 2010 World Cup"

—Rogério Silva, DexBrasil

Barkhuizen adds: "Dex also has a copy protection patent that can be used at the stadium if required. That was not a requirement during the FIFA World Cup 2010, but it was an additional security level that could have been provided."

In addition to the Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane, Dex provided waist-height turnstiles for two Fan Parks in the province of Gauteng and ticket scanning boxes in at Fan Park in Cape Town.

Barkhuizen says: "The four scheduled 2010 FIFA World Cup matches at the Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane went without any incident from Dex's side. The Dex

SafeVenue solution worked extremely well; it wasn't surprising at all as several stadia have been using our SafeVenue solution for a number of years."

The solution worked so well that it is still in place at the stadium. A variety

The turnstiles and card readers at Peter Mokaba Stadium installed for the World Cup are still being used





Dex SafeVenue is installed at Sport Club Internacional's Estádio José Pinheiro Borda

of events are running continually at the Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane, such as open days, festivals, and football and rugby events.

Barkhuizen says: “The total solution was purchased outright – hardware and software – and it’s now a fixed permanent solution. Dex provides set-up and checks before an event, support during the actual event and then post-event support.”

With Dex SafeVenue, the level of security used at an event is configurable according to the event organiser’s requirements. Barkhuizen

says: “Different levels of security or access control can be set up for different types of tickets through specific areas and gates.”

Playing for Brazil

With three existing stadia in Brazil using Dex SafeVenue, Dex is already well established in Brazil. The Dex SafeVenue solution is also installed in one of the country’s top tourist attractions on top of Corcovado, where access is controlled to the very famous Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro.

Two of the proposed World Cup stadia, Sport Club Internacional and Clube Atlético Paranaense, already use Dex SafeVenue, as well as the 20,000-capacity Paraná Clube stadium. Kruger says: “Depending on which ones are selected for the World Cup, Dex will expect to be involved in two or more FIFA 2014 World Cup competition venues.”

Dex is clearly very well positioned to play a central role in the FIFA 2014 World Cup, but there may be a few surprises in store. Kruger says: “Dex is not 100 per cent sure if the processes

and implementation will differ. FIFA might restructure the way the event teams are handled.”

According to Barkuizen, one of FIFA’s goals during the FIFA 2010 World Cup was to create a ‘safe zone’ in and around the stadium. “This is something that is not currently implemented in the same way at existing stadia in Brazil. So this will be a big change for existing stadia to change the way that they currently manage the stadium and surrounding areas to create a ‘safe zone’.”

Know the people

What does it take to succeed in an event of this scale? Kruger says: “We need a lot of dedication from the people because it is really quite intense to successfully implement access control for a soccer stadium. You also need people that know what they are doing because you cannot afford any mistakes. Dex has the experience, passion, dedication and know-how!

“You need individuals that have



A turnstile at Estádio José Pinheiro Borda in the World Cup host city of Porto Alegre

excellent people skills, who are able to communicate very well, so that when

a concept is being transferred, people can understand and implement this correctly. There are a lot of technical terms – if they are not familiar with these terms, it is quite difficult to speak to somebody.

“The biggest challenge everyone will be facing in Brazil will be the language barrier. Dex has been there for quite a while and have local representatives who are all experts in their field there.

“In any solutions that will be provided, I believe communication is key. Dex knows the culture, the people and the language.”

DexBrasil – the Brazilian branch of The Dex Group – has sold, supported and developed solutions for the Brazilian market since 1992. Rogério Silva, product and technology manager at DexBrasil, says: “The tight integration between Brazil and South Africa helps us to leverage the know-how acquired during the FIFA 2010 World Cup and use this to exceed customer expectations for FIFA 2014 World Cup.”

Clube Atlético Paranaense in Curitiba also has Dex SafeVenue installed

