

How to Make Your UniFi Access API Reachable for Coworks

The UniFi Access API runs only on your local network (e.g. <https://192.168.x.x:12445>). For Coworks to integrate with your doors, we need a public URL that securely points to your UniFi Cloud Key. Below are three supported ways to do this. Pick whichever fits your technical comfort and resources.

Good: Port Forwarding (Quickest & Cheapest)

Expose the UniFi Access API port (12445) directly through your router.

Steps:

1. Log into your office router.
2. Add a Port Forwarding rule:
 - External port: 12445
 - Forward to IP: your Cloud Key's LAN IP (e.g. 192.168.86.212)
 - Forward to port: 12445
3. Restrict access so only Coworks' server IP can connect (for security).
4. Share your public IP or a dynamic DNS hostname (e.g. yourspace.dyndns.org).

Example URL: <https://12445/api/v1/developer/users>

Better: Cloudflare Tunnel (Free, Secure, Branded)

Runs a small service inside your network and creates a secure, always-on tunnel to Cloudflare.

Steps:

1. Create a free Cloudflare account at <https://dash.cloudflare.com>.
2. On a computer or server in your network, install cloudflared.
3. Run: `cloudflared tunnel --url https://192.168.86.212:12445`
4. In Cloudflare, map a subdomain (e.g. access.yourdomain.com) to that tunnel.
5. Share that subdomain with Coworks.

Example URL: <https://access.yourdomain.com/api/v1/developer/users>

Best: Dedicated Server/PoE Switch with Tunnel

Run a tunnel service (cloudflared/ngrok) on a device that's always on, like a NAS or VM host.

Steps:

1. Install tunnel service on the always-on device.
2. Run as a daemon or container so it's persistent.
3. Map to a branded domain like <https://access.yourdomain.com>.

Example URL: <https://access.yourdomain.com/api/v1/developer/users>

At a Glance

Option	Cost	Setup Time	Security	URL Type
Port Forward	Free	5–10 mins	Low → Medium	<a href="https://<public-ip>:12445">https://<public-ip>:12445
Cloudflare Tunnel	Free	15–30 mins	High	https://subdomain.domain.com

Dedicated Tunnel	Varies	30–60 mins	Very High	https://subdomain.domain.com
------------------	--------	------------	-----------	---

Example Diagram

Example Diagram

