



Leading university calls on Radiant Networks for Cisco hybrid-mesh wireless solution

Customer Profile

Founded in 1842, Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, is a nationally recognized college for the liberal arts and sciences with 26 buildings, approximately 500 employees, and over 2,000 students representing 37 states and approximately 29 countries.



Situation

To satisfy growing student, faculty, staff, and competitive demand, Wittenberg University wanted to expand its partial indoor wireless coverage to offer comprehensive, campus-wide indoor-outdoor wireless connectivity. Without the time or resources to do it alone, the university had long sought a technology partner who could deliver a robust wireless site survey and install a suitable wireless solution. Unfortunately, the search proved difficult and frustrating.

“We needed a partner who could incorporate our existing wireless equipment, account for areas requiring higher-density coverage, and ensure wireless antennas fit aesthetically with our historic buildings,” explains Joseph Deck, Wittenberg’s director of Computing Services. “We also wanted detail recommendations on specific equipment, radio strengths, and frequencies. However, after meeting with four vendors to secure site-survey reports, we remained unsatisfied with the information we received.”

Deck – who proudly lays claim to being Cisco’s forty-ninth customer while working at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, some years ago – consulted Cisco to help find a vendor who could implement a Cisco wireless solution to meet his and Wittenberg’s expectations. Cisco referred Deck to Radiant Networks, LLC. The Louisville, Kentucky-headquartered Cisco Wireless Advanced Technology Partner and Cisco Premier Certified Partner with approximately 18 employees and offices throughout the Midwest is one of the country’s leading wireless engineering companies.

“Radiant provided a 200-plus-page site survey with details no other vendors even came close to producing,” says Deck. “The document included model numbers for radios and antennas, radio frequencies for each access point, power settings, and even photos of buildings with proposed access point placements. We were blown away.”

Solution

In August 2006, Radiant began the three-month implementation of a robust Cisco hybrid-mesh solution to provide complete wireless coverage to students, faculty, and staff throughout school grounds.

Radiant installed Cisco Aironet wireless access points (APs) - ideally suited for challenging RF environments - to deliver the versatility, high capacity, security, and enterprise-class WLAN features the university demanded.

To provide Deck and his staff greater control over the university’s ever-expanding wireless network, Radiant also installed Cisco 4400 Series Wireless LAN Controllers. Smoothly integrating into existing enterprise networks, these advanced devices support automation of numerous WLAN configuration and management functions and provide the control, scalability, and reliability network managers need to manage secure wireless networks.

Results

Following a smooth implementation, Deck and Wittenberg are experiencing the advantages of the Radiant-installed Cisco wireless solution.

“Our new Cisco wireless solution is benefiting the university in many ways,” says Deck. “School is no longer contained in classrooms. Students and faculty are free to roam the campus and connect with resources, associates, and other students from anywhere in a relaxed, comfortable setting.

“From a network administration perspective, the control capabilities save a lot of time, cost, and hassle. We can easily diagnose problems on the wireless network and use location functionality to determine if access issues lie within the network or the devices attempting to access it. We can also more easily provide quick, secure wireless access to guest speakers without having to set up special accounts.

“Radiant definitely delivered on our expectations. Their competency, commitment, and way they fully stand behind their work is impressive. We’ll continue to partner with them and Cisco as the university’s needs grow and evolve.”

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