International School of Luxembourg Enhances Integration of Technology in the Classroom

Founded in 1963, The International School of Luxembourg is an independent, non-profit, university-preparatory day school.

Requirements

- Reliability to service large numbers of simultaneous users
- High bandwidth coverage for roaming laptop carts
- Quick installation with minimum number of devices and cable pulls

Solution

- Improved user density and throughput with 4 to 16 radios per Array
- Distributed intelligence in each Array with built-in Wi-Fi controller
- Greater coverage with high-gain directional antennas
- Simplified capacity expansion and field upgrades with modular platform

Benefits

- Simple, cost-effective, and reliable high-performance wireless
- Pervasive Wi-Fi connectivity for students and faculty using fewer devices
- Robust wireless access for laptop cart program

The International School of Luxembourg was founded in 1963 as an independent, non-profit, university-preparatory day school in the City of Luxembourg. Having earned an outstanding reputation as an International Baccalaureate Organisation World School, ISL continually strives to further enhance the rich and stimulating educational environment for students and faculty. ISL has a student population of approximately 960 students in grades K-12, with plans of growing to 1,500 students over the next few years.

A reliable and robust wireless network became necessary when ISL integrated a laptop cart program into curriculum school-wide. The new laptop carts were an important and progressive step in ISL's growth as they serve to enhance student learning by allowing further integration of technology in the classroom. ISL chose to deploy Xirrus Wireless Arrays to support this program due to the affordability and simplicity of the solution compared to the other wireless vendors they considered.

Xirrus Offers an Affordable Wireless Solution

Compared to traditional thin access points, the high-performance Xirrus Wireless Array integrates from 4 to 16 radios, high-gain directional antennas, a multi-gigabit switch, controller, firewall, and threat sensor into a single access device. This unique architecture provides 4X the coverage and up to 8X the bandwidth and capacity of traditional access points, which is perfect for high user density and throughput needs in an educational environment. When it comes to wireless networking for education, no company does it better than Xirrus.
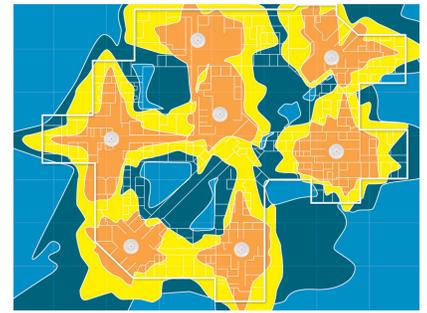
"We deployed the Wi-Fi primarily to support student laptop carts so they can connect anywhere in the school," said Pete LeFrance IT Manager at ISL. "The carts can now be used right in the classroom instead of a teacher disrupting a lesson to pull students into the computer lab, and that is invaluable to the teacher. The laptop cart program also supports integrating the technology right into the curriculum."

Pete continued by explaining their decision to deploy Xirrus Wireless, "our network hardware right now is all Cisco, so the logical step would have been to deploy their wireless as well. We looked around quite a bit at Cisco wireless and other vendors, but ultimately Xirrus presented a solution that was affordable to us. With the Xirrus solution we have one Array on each floor instead of one access point in each classroom, so we didn't have to run nearly as much cabling, and we didn't need to dedicate switch space to accommodate those devices. It was a simple, elegant solution. In fact, teachers & students didn't even realise the installation was happening, other than the fact that they suddenly had great Wi-Fi. Since the installation, the speeds have been fantastic – we have had no issues of slow-down. We have over 500 student devices registered and there's been no bottleneck in the Wi-Fi service whatsoever. It's been a very good, quick, easy solution."

The Xirrus Advantage

With the explosion of smartphones and tablets, mobility has become ubiquitous. People expect to connect wirelessly. Organizations depend on high-bandwidth to send and receive voice, video and data, from any device to any one. And no one delivers better than Xirrus. Our array-based solutions are unique. They draw from cellular tower design principles to provide wired-like reliability, increased user density and capacity plus superior security. They perform under the most demanding conditions and have lower infrastructure requirements. When integrated with business and IT objectives, they help you do more than ever before.

At Xirrus, we apply the "best practices" of wired networking to wireless infrastructures by distributing the intelligence to the edge and outfitting the Array with dense multistate radios in the same manner as a wired switch. That's how Xirrus delivers the best performing, most scalable wireless solutions in the industry. It's a strategic IT infrastructure advantage that fuels organizations. Because Xirrus does wireless networks right.

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PETE LEFRANCE,
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