

Wolverhampton Girls High School Deploys High-Density Wi-Fi

Preserving the past with technology of the future



Requirements

- High-speed, high-density wireless for hundreds of wireless devices
- Least amount of equipment as possible due to historical building
- Ability to manage from a central location

Solution

- Support for hundreds of concurrent student devices
- Greater coverage with high-gain directional antennas
- Distributed intelligence in each Array with no central controller
- A modular platform for simplified capacity expansion and field upgrades
- Easier installation and network integration with on-board switch, firewall and management

Benefits

- Plenty of bandwidth and performance for students and faculty eLearning initiatives
- Ability to manage all devices from a central computer
- Automated management, RF spectrum, and security tools

Wolverhampton Girls High School, located in Wolverhampton, United Kingdom, is one of the most prestigious girls schools in the area. With over 700 students and a rich historical background, Wolverhampton's excellent academic reputation makes it one of the most desirable schools in the country. Its historic front building is one of the highlights of the campus, bringing the premise over a hundred years of beauty. But while the faculty of Wolverhampton decided that they needed to join the new technology with their history, and they turned to Xirrus to help.

"Wolverhampton Girls High School has a very beautiful and very old building" explained Sharon Holness, Assistant Headteacher. "It was important to us to get a system in place that would be sympathetic to that building." The school wanted to keep its history alive as it stepped into the future with a wireless system. Having a wireless system in place would mean less impact on the building, and therefore, much less cabling. It would also mean a variety of courses in the curriculum would be able to have a number of concurrent students on the network, allowing for a richer lesson plan.

The building's age required careful installation of the wireless arrays, as installing cable runs would not be possible. "The Xirrus engineers did very in depth investigations around the school regarding where they would place the wireless devices. They were very thorough, very professional." Holness said.

"We chose to use Xirrus because we felt that they were also sympathetic to the idea of making sure the system worked in our historical building" continued Holness. "Xirrus provided a good warrantee; they guaranteed that the coverage that we were paying for was the coverage that we would get when we used the system on a day to day basis."

As technology develops, it has become increasingly important for schools to maintain a working wireless system, that students and teachers can easily access. As the BYOD trend increases, it is becoming harder for schools to solely rely on desktop labs and wired systems, as the students prefer to use their own laptops, tablets and smartphones.

A good wireless system in place allows for an advancement in teaching styles. Video sharing, interactive lessons, and online texts create collaborative lessons between students and teachers. However the backbone for these improvements must be a wireless system with the appropriate amount of bandwidth to support the student and faculty population. With more radios per array, Xirrus allowed Wolverhampton to use less arrays and get the same amount of coverage, with no alterations to their buildings.

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.



"Xirrus engineers have been true to their word. Overall, we've been very pleased with the product and the service that we've had from Xirrus."

SHARON HOLNESS,
Assistant Headteacher



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