

ENTERPRISE-LEVEL SOLUTION ON A BARE BONES BUDGET: ALESCO SCHOOL



Based on the NSW Central Coast, Alesco is an independent, community-based school for students who are unable to find success in the traditional education system. Currently offering classes to youth in years 9 and 10, the school offers an education structure tailored to each student, rather than a one-style-fits-all model. To its students, Alesco is a place to learn and gain a sense of meaning through vibrant, relevant and creative learning options.

In mid-2012, Alesco received a grant to further grow its technology offering; knowing what the school needed – an enterprise-level technology solution on a bare-bones budget – Principal, Peter Eddy, started researching IT options that would cater to his specific needs.

The challenge: Find a system that was easily self-managed, cost effective, reliable and ready-to-grow.

Partnering with Accucom Systems Integration Pty Ltd, Alesco deployed an Aruba Networks™ Instant Solution. Today, the school has four Aruba Access Points across four classrooms and a network that caters to around 50 computers on a daily basis. The school plans to roll out more Access Points in the coming year, as it looks to expand into years 11 and 12.

“We’re a small, independent school on the Central Coast of NSW, however, that doesn’t mean we don’t deserve a world-class IT system. From day one I knew the school needed a wireless network that would provide us with a fast, reliable IT foundation for the future,” said Mr Eddy.

“Our kids don’t fit in to mainstream schooling; they’re impatient and often quick to dismiss tasks that don’t engage or stimulate them from the get-go. We needed a system where our kids could log-on and get in to it almost straight away – if we failed to achieve this, we’d have lost their attention for the day, and the process wouldn’t have been nearly as effective”.

The process of finding a partner who understood Alesco was surprisingly easy, said Mr Eddy. “Accucom understood my budget and desires, and set the wheels in motion. They were quick to do an onsite analysis, and then introduced us to Aruba. From this point I began a solid technology partnership with Accucom”.

CHALLENGE:

A system that was easily self-managed, cost effective, reliable and ready-to-grow

SOLUTION:

An Aruba Networks™ Instant Solution; Four Access Points across four classrooms catering to 50 computers.

SOLUTION BUILD:

4 x IAP-93’s

RESULTS:

- An enterprise-level solution in a small, community classroom
- A consistent, reliable wireless network that educates students who were otherwise disengaged



He added, “Because we had no wireless system in place prior to our current structure, the Instant Solution suited our needs more than any of the other vendor’s offerings. It was small, yet flexible and uncomplicated. I installed the system in under an hour simply by following the instructions. We’ve had no major issues since”.

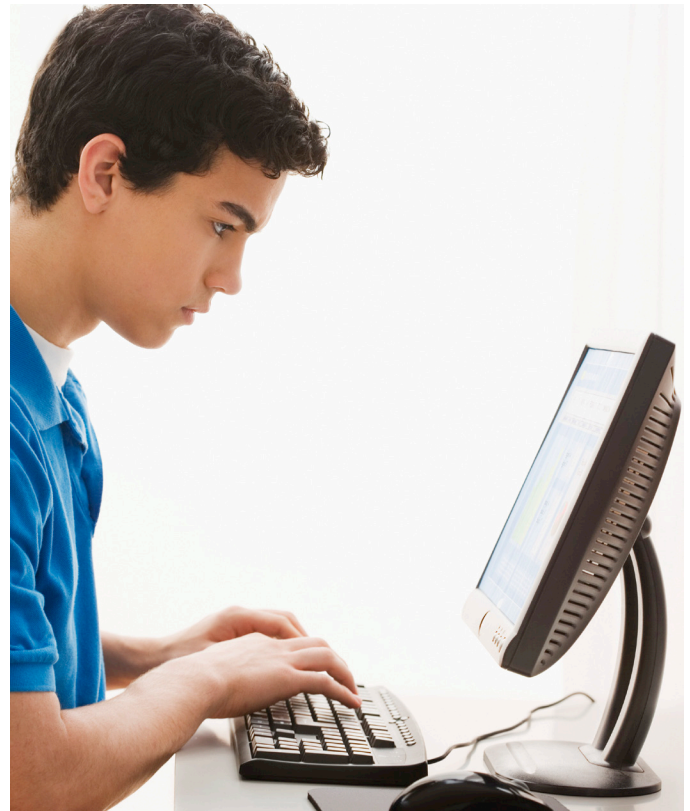
Once the system was in place, it didn’t take long for the students to make the most of the technology. Today, the kids use the network to research topics that interest them, rather than following a set syllabus.

Alesco students don’t do homework, and most don’t have access to the internet other than at school. For many, the classroom is their only opportunity to question, observe and learn. “We recently implemented a program where the kids design their own websites on topics they find interesting. They spend 10 weeks researching material on the wireless network, and then present this information in a web layout. The best will be uploaded to the web. It’s a fantastic opportunity for the students to profile their work in the community. It’s also a creative outlet that they drive – so far, the initiative has been a huge success”.

“The Aruba Networks™ Instant Solution is intuitive and easy to manage, and I know it will grow with our school as we expand. Through our relationship with Accucom, we were able to find a system that worked with us, rather than us working to fit a standard system”.

“We wanted something that would give these kids the best access to technology available, and our expectations were met. The key takeaway of our partnership with Accucom and Aruba, is that even on a small budget, we achieved what we wanted – a world class system that benefits our kids, and encourages them to engage and learn in the classroom”.

Accucom’s Sales & Marketing Manager, Natasha Babic added, “Our relationship with Peter and the Alesco School is particularly special, as we believe all kids deserve access to enterprise-grade technology to further their education. It’s thanks to Aruba’s wireless network, that Alesco’s kids are able to showcase how talented and special they really are. Projects like this are especially rewarding”.



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