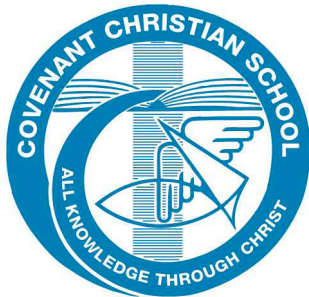


CRYSTAL CLEAR CONNECTIVITY AT COVENANT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Established in 1978, Covenant Christian School (CCS) prides itself on high standards of ethical and academic guidance. The private Christian school is considered the cornerstone of a close, supportive community that focuses on the needs of each student.

CCS has grown significantly over the past 35 years, and today offers Christian based co-education to approximately 900 students from Transition (pre-school) to Year 12.

The school's current IT system includes the management of 370 laptops between students and teachers, as well as numerous desktops networked together across nine campus buildings.

CCS partners with Accucom for IT infrastructure, and through this partnership, deployed the Aruba Networks Airwave™ solution across the school's campus. In 2011, CCS rolled out its one-to-one computer program. The school currently has access points in a number of senior and junior classrooms.

THE SITUATION

Like many education facilities, over the past 5 years CCS has invested significantly in its IT offering, in response to the reality that technology enables better education opportunities.

With a proud history of academic leadership, the school started to upgrade its IT system in 2009, virtualizing its infrastructure; a significant undertaking for a campus of its size. However, this new network, alongside their existing wireless system, wasn't allowing CCS to get the most out of the environment.

With plans to implement their one-to-one program in 2011, and with the proliferation of smart devices and personal laptops starting to hit the market, CCS was experiencing growing demand for a network with reliable connectivity. With limited budget, the school needed a network that allowed it to proactively manage IT, while capitalising on the benefits of a world-class network.

THE CHALLENGE

CCS needed a cost-effective, wireless network that catered to the varying needs and devices of students, staff and guests, while upholding the school's ethical standards.

Guy Burge, IT Manager at CCS, said there were a significant number of hurdles they needed the network to overcome to be successful. "CCS is a parent-control school, and with this comes certain expectations. Parents influence the way the school conducts itself, and naturally, this impacts how technology is managed".

"We needed a system that would allow students to access the necessary vocational tools, while giving teachers and parents free access to the internet".

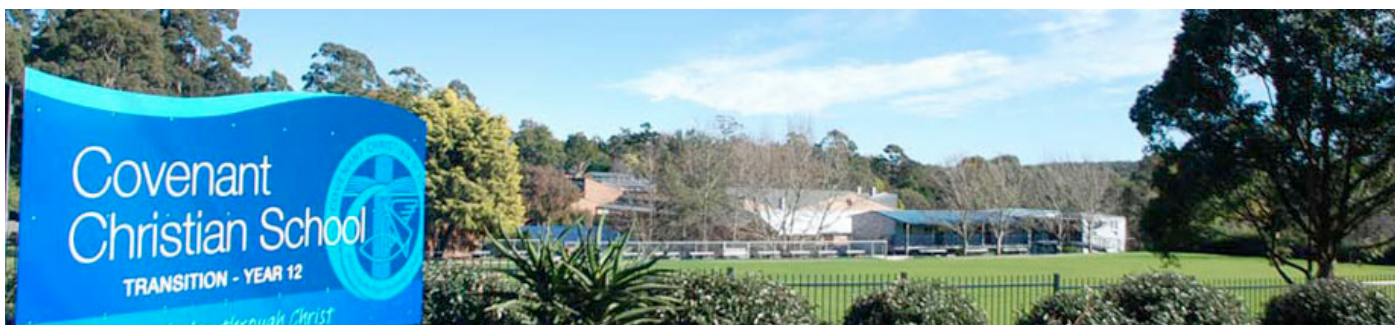
"Further, we wanted to be able to lock students from coming in with iPhones and iPads and logging onto the system with adult authorisations. Some parents also wanted a degree of control around their child's browsing options outside the school campus. Being a Christian school we wanted to do that ethically, yet we needed to provide protection, and restrict access when necessary. Thus, we needed a network that was flexible, yet technically able to handle our specific requirements".

THE SOLUTION

"We'd been working with Accucom previously, and through this partnership had a lot of trust in the products and services they supplied. I'd heard of Aruba and was interested in their offering, so it worked well that they came recommended by Accucom," said Mr. Burge.

In addition to the Aruba Controller based wireless network CCS also deployed the Aruba AirWave™ System, which allows CCS to employ a user-centric approach, identifying who is on the network, where they are accessing the network, the mobile devices they're using, and how much bandwidth is being consumed by specific devices. It has given CSS total control over the network and visibility into everything that affects service quality. "The system also allows us to successfully manage all of our challenges," added Mr. Burge.





CCS employed a unique trialing system before choosing the Aruba solution. “We’re fortunate that we have several buildings across our campus. Because of this, we were able to install and isolate 3 competing systems. We were then able to compare each system, without them interfering with each other”.

“Each system had its benefits, but without a doubt it was Aruba and Accucom that stood out”.

Accucom’s Sales & Marketing Manager, Natasha Babic said, “Guy and his team did extensive pilots with all three solutions. Using the Aruba technologies, we were confident that our specifically tailored solution would cater to all of CCS’s needs. We knew our pilot would provide the results we’d committed to”.

Mr. Burge added, “One of the competitor’s solutions had a particularly awkward user interface, while the other was difficult to navigate, and their overall concept was flawed”.

“The Aruba Accucom solution was the clear choice; particularly because of their above-and-beyond management approach. We also appreciated their solution bundling, which included training and an additional five access points for future growth or redundancy,” said Mr. Burge.

THE RESULTS

With Aruba, CCS is able to give students a certain amount of freedom and responsibility. In three of CCS buildings there’s a wireless access point in each classroom and as you get down to the lower years they spread those access points even further.

“The system is designed to grow with us, and since implementation by the Accucom team, we’ve been impressed and extremely happy with our end decision,” Mr. Burge said.

SOLUTION BUILD:

- 1 x 3400 Controller
- 45 x AP-105 Access Points
- 1 x AP-124 Access Point
- 1 x AirWave™ for network management
- Accucom Professional Services (project design, installation/configuration & support)

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