

## ARUBA NETWORKS CUSTOMER STORY | EDUCATION

# CRANEBROOK HIGH SCHOOL

Cranebrook High School deploys Aruba Networks, allowing staff and students to seamlessly access high speed and reliable Wi-Fi throughout its learning premises



Cranebrook High School, located in Sydney's West, educates more than 1,000 students and employs 70 staff. The secondary school constantly embraces new technology to enhance its learning environment and teaching capability. The Aruba Networks Wi-Fi solution provides the fundamental platform to support Cranebrook's 'Connected Learning Plan'.

Technology is an increasingly critical element integrated into the student learning agenda at Cranebrook. With a vision of "meeting the future through caring and learning today", the school is dedicated to moving with technology trends and meeting the digital needs of its students and teachers, positioning itself at the forefront of future learning.

According to Andrew Murray, Chief Technical Officer at Cranebrook High School, "Technology at Cranebrook is instrumental in our everyday education. Our 'Connected Learning Plan' is responsible for aiding the learning process for all of our students and it is critical we have an infrastructure that supports these needs."

"Students and teachers alike are embracing new technologies and bringing them into the learning environment, from laptops to tablets and smartphones. As new technologies are constantly being introduced, and as the technologies of choice differ between individuals, it is integral for Cranebrook to be supported by a network that enables any device to connect to high-speed, reliable Wi-Fi."

According to Murray, Aruba Networks was the answer to providing a fast, high performance wireless network throughout

### BENEFITS

- Leverages Aruba Networks access points for secure, high performance wireless that supports the teaching and learning demands of Cranebrook High School
- Efficient and constantly reliable Wi-Fi for over 1,000 students and 70 teachers
- Enables the ability to onboard any device type used by the students, teachers and administrators including desktop computers, laptops, iPhones, iPads and Android devices
- Allows users to connect various devices to the network at any one time without slowing down
- Derives strong value with minimal ongoing support requirements
- Seamlessly integrate with existing infrastructure and provide a future-proof platform for the School's connected learning strategy



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**Andrew Murray,**

Chief Technical Officer at Cranebrook High School

every space and classroom in the school, with the ability to scale as the demand for Wi-Fi among students and teachers who use multiple devices, increases density. The solution from Aruba Networks, specialists in user experience Wi-Fi with significant expertise in the education sector, was a perfect match for Cranebrook High School due to its ability to be easily installed and seamlessly onboard any device.

## MOVING TO A MORE RELIABLE, HIGH SPEED WIRELESS NETWORK

Cranebrook High School implemented Aruba's wireless networking solution in 2009. The solution included 50 access points distributed throughout the site and the deployment took little time to implement. According to Murray, the school's previous network didn't provide the scalability needed in the site's increasingly mobile environment.

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The new Wi-Fi network needed to meet several core criteria set by Cranebrook High School:

- Connect any device type at any time, by any verified individual
- Ensure seamless integration with existing infrastructure and provide a future-proofed platform
- Require only minimal IT support
- Support constant, high speed connection to the school's Moodle platform

## IT'S AVAILABLE EVERYWHERE

With access points deployed across the school, the Aruba Wi-Fi network is playing a key role in the student's collaborative learning. The ability to obtain Wi-Fi anywhere in the school, including spaces outside of the classroom, has given Cranebrook the capability to teach in the most effective ways possible.

Murray states, "The most important feature of the Aruba Wi-Fi network is that it's available everywhere, an aspect I am most impressed with. Every room and space within the campus has access to the wireless network. The ability for any user to move from one area of the school to another is achieved seamlessly as Aruba keeps them connected to our Wi-Fi throughout the school campus."

"Aruba is an effortless Wi-Fi solution that enhances teaching capabilities. For instance, teachers at Cranebrook High School can allow students to collaborate on projects outside of the classroom in any space on campus, as they can easily remain connected to the Wi-Fi and access necessary collaboration applications, rich media and other information. Through the Aruba Networks infrastructure, technology is seamlessly integrated into the learning space."

## MANAGING ACCESS FOR MULTIPLE DEVICES FOR EACH STUDENT AND TEACHER

At present, students at Cranebrook High School are using desktop computers, laptops, iPhones, iPads and Android devices in the classroom to further their learning. Murray believes that by allowing students to use and have access to these devices encourages and initiates their drive to learn.

The school has implemented an educational management system, Moodle, which allows teachers to upload teaching materials and activities. Students can then access these resources on their personal devices, as well as devices owned by the school through a seamless connection with Aruba's wireless solution.

Murray states, "Moodle is used by teachers and students everyday. Students can access the Moodle platform anywhere in the school through the Aruba Wi-Fi network. Moodle has been integrated into all aspects of the learning and teaching culture at Cranebrook, furthering the capability of collaborative learning."

"We also have a program at Cranebrook called ClickView, where students have access to a server that contains a range of educational videos that they can play on their own device, making the whole idea of sitting in front of a video a lot more interesting."

Murray notes that the Aruba wireless network supports teaching initiatives, allowing teachers to walk into a classroom with their mobile device and seamlessly connect to printers, projectors and televisions. The Wi-Fi system aids the process of keeping students involved and interested in the learning process, by allowing them to connect their own wireless devices to Wi-Fi, and access the school's systems such as ClickView and Moodle. The ability to do so empowers both user groups, altering the ways in which students learn and teachers teach.

Aruba's technology is also smart enough to differentiate between users, ensuring that teachers aren't given restricted access to the Internet, whilst also making sure students only have access to limited and appropriate websites for learning. Identification management embedded within the Aruba technology allows Cranebrook High School to incorporate departmental protocols within the system, an important feature for the learning environment.

Cranebrook High School needed a network that allowed students and teachers to easily sign on to the Wi-Fi network

from each device they use. With 1,000 students accessing the Wi-Fi all day long, the capabilities of Aruba's solution enables the platform to support a high density of users, without disrupting speed and access.

### LESS IT SUPPORT REQUIRED

Since Cranebrook High School implemented Aruba's network, the school rarely experiences any Wi-Fi support requests, reducing the need for the IT department's assistance, and minimising the need to monitor and manage the Wi-Fi service.

Murray says, "The Wi-Fi network is centrally managed so we don't have to worry about any issues. If anything does happen, then you'll be able to report it and get it fixed very quickly."

### THE FUTURE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The importance of Wi-Fi in the learning environment is prolific at present and this prominence is only going to increase. As Cranebrook High School continues to adhere to the technology trends that are evident within education, as well as respond to the demand thrust upon them by students and teachers, they are confident that Aruba can continue to provide the Wi-Fi network needed to support this demand.

"Wi-Fi in the learning environment is essential. Technology devices are now engrained in our culture. New technologies are constantly emerging, and our students are driving the demand for this in the school. Having implemented the Aruba Wi-Fi network, Cranebrook is now equipped to be more dynamic and deliver the classroom of the future."

With a significant amount of primary and tertiary schools utilising the 802.11n wireless standard for a few years now, many are starting to upgrade to the latest next generation Wi-Fi networks based on the 802.11ac standard. The Aruba Wi-Fi solution is revolutionary and allows schools to easily incorporate the new technology.

According to Steve Coad, Managing Director Australia and New Zealand for Aruba Networks, "Many current corporate and education Wi-Fi networks are now using 802.11ac technology, offering enterprise Wi-Fi that provides greater user experience, high speed, high performance and high functionality."

Another new technology from Aruba is ClientMatch which manages the issue of sticky clients. There are also improvements to the AirWave Management Software, which further reduces the load on IT.

### ABOUT ARUBA NETWORKS, INC.

Aruba Networks is a leading provider of next-generation network access solutions for the mobile enterprise. The company designs and delivers Mobility-Defined Networks that empower IT departments and #GenMobile, a new generation of tech-savvy users who rely on their mobile devices for every aspect of work and personal communication. To create a mobility experience that #GenMobile and IT can rely upon, Aruba Mobility-Defined Networks™ automate infrastructure-wide performance optimization and trigger security actions that used to require manual IT intervention. The results are dramatically improved productivity and lower operational costs.

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