Goddard Public Schools Aruba Case Study

GODDARD TAPS ARUBA FOR A CLEARPASS TO BYOD



After a survey verified the majority of Goddard Public Schools students already owned a Wi-Fi-enabled device, Mitch Krueger knew a robust, secure wireless network could not only enable new teaching initiatives but also serve the surrounding community.

"We wanted to move away from static labs towards a 1:1 environment, including BYOD, for technology-centered learning," explains Krueger, Director of Technology for the 5,500-student Goddard, Kansas, school district.

"We also envisioned extending wireless access to the public library and other 'hot spots' where people could use, and benefit from, BYOD access," he adds.

At the time, the strategy was particularly forward-thinking due to lack of existing models for similar BYOD projects.

Working with partner AT&T, Goddard determined its existing Cisco wireless network was insufficient for a planned hybrid mobile computing environment, which would consist of districtissued and personal devices.

"By introducing BYOD into our schools, we'd enable a paradigm shift – almost a 'flip the classroom scenario,'" Krueger says.

Eventually, about three-quarters of devices connecting to the network could be personally-owned. "Over the long term, we could achieve savings by purchasing and replacing fewer district-owned machines," Krueger points out.

MAKING IT MOVE

After piloting Aruba equipment, Goddard quickly undertook a "rip and replace" of its existing system. As a foundation, Goddard installed a unified wired and wireless access network based on Aruba's Mobile Virtual Enterprise (MOVE) architecture.

"Aruba was super-helpful with engineering the new setup," says Krueger. "A senior systems engineer spent two weeks onsite and then assisted us remotely throughout the balance of the deployment."

BENEFITS:

- Enables BYOD and school-owned device access for teachers, staff, students and guests district-wide.
- Unifies wired and wireless networks with Aruba's Mobile Virtual Enterprise (MOVE) architecture.
- Includes Aruba ClearPass Access Management System for centralized, comprehensive policy enforcement, including ClearPass Policy Manager, ClearPass Guest, ClearPass Onboard
- Utilizes Aruba AirWave for optimized wireless network management and Aruba AirGroup for Apple TV and Apple AirPrint.
- Allows for extending access to the community by providing Wi-Fi to the public library and other spaces.

"Our unified Aruba network has helped us create a technology-centric learning environment and enabled us to leverage BYOD district-wide."

Mitch Krueger,
Director of Technology,
Goddard Public Schools





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With over 550 access points, three mobility controllers and 54 switches, the unified Aruba system covers indoor and outdoor spaces at the district's 12 schools, five support and administrative buildings, a facility for at-risk students and the gymnasiums, softball fields and football stadiums at the two high schools.

Also, to ensure efficient, effective and secure management of the network and user access, Goddard deployed Aruba's AirWave Network Management System and ClearPass Access Management System, including ClearPass Policy Manager, ClearPass Guest and ClearPass Onboard.

The ClearPass Access Management System provides AAA (Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting) services, assisting organizations like Goddard with comprehensively managing network policies, onboarding and managing devices securely and admitting guest users, all from a single platform.

For classrooms, Goddard is deploying Aruba's AirGroup to give teachers and students easy access to Apple TV and Apple AirPrint.

AUTOMATED ONBOARDING

Goddard's IT department is also automating network access for educators, staff, students and guests by leveraging Aruba's intuitive onboarding controls. This allows individuals to quickly gain appropriate access to the network, either via a secure certificate or their existing Active Directory login.

Regardless, Krueger reports teachers and students already use mobile devices and apps extensively. "Through professional development seminars, like one that we called 'Happy Appy,' we've encouraged teachers to share how they're using specific applications and devices in the classroom," he says.

Beyond teaching and learning, Goddard's Aruba network enables district officials and local public safety officials to monitor and secure school facilities.

"Our maintenance personnel use district-issued Apple iPads to connect to our HVAC server and administer those systems remotely," says Krueger. "Also, our building administrators and local police department can access and remotely monitor security cameras throughout our facilities using their mobile devices."

"Overall," he adds, "our new Aruba network has been essential to enabling our technology-centric learning environment as well as improving the comfort and safety of our schools. That kind of 'right now' access makes us very happy we chose Aruba."



ABOUT ARUBA NETWORKS

Aruba Networks (NASDAQ:ARUN) is a leading provider of next-generation network access solutions for the mobile enterprise. Its Mobile Virtual Enterprise (MOVE) architecture unifies wired and wireless network infrastructures into one seamless access solution, enabling entities of all sizes to securely address the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) phenomenon, dramatically improving productivity and lowering capital and operational costs.

Based in Sunnyvale, California, Aruba has operations throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia Pacific regions.

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