ISLE OF WIGHT COLLEGE PREPARES NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS WITH ARUBA AND BROCADE

THE ISLE OF WIGHT college

Situated off the south coast of England, the Isle of Wight College is the first and foremost adult and further education center in the area. The multifaceted college stays in tune with fast-moving economic and business developments to prepare students to enter the UK workforce and launch a long-term career.

Science, engineering, catering, horticulture, and video game development are among the most popular classes for more than 17,000 students. No matter what students are studying, they all expect easy access to the wired and wireless networks from their smartphones, tablets, and laptops.

"Our students arrive on campus with multiple devices, and they want to connect to the network from anywhere and anytime on campus," said Rosie Quelch, network manager, Isle of Wight College. "Our network must support these varied devices and all the traffic they generate."

During peak times, a couple thousand devices connect to the network to browse the Internet, share CAD files, watch movies, listen to music, send e-mails, and access learning portals and college resources. No matter the time or day, students, staff, and faculty expect the network to deliver consistent and continuous high performance.

"The network needs to be available during every holiday, throughout the night, all the time," Quelch said. "Reliability and high availability are extremely important to our business. Our student and faculty expect non-stop service and readily let us know if this SLA is not met."

CHALLENGE

Build a scalable, future-proof network that delivers high-performance wired and wireless connectivity to support a best-in-class educational learning environment.

SOLUTION

- Brocade integration with Aruba wireless network
- Brocade ICX 6610 Switches at network core and edge
- Brocade Network Advisor for management and administration

RESULTS

- Advanced wired network delivers performance and high availability needed for an expanding wireless network and BYOD initiatives.
- Efficient network implementation with Brocade Network Advisor management integration across the wired and wireless infrastructure.
- Open, standards-based infrastructure integrates easily with legacy and new wireless equipment.
- Scalable network that will easily handle the addition of new educational facilities as the college continues to expand.

"The network is fundamental to our business operation. We can't run the college or the curriculum without the network. It has to be there and perform reliably and efficiently without outages. It is the key to educating our students and providing skilled employees into the local workforce."

Rosie Quelch
Network Manager, Isle of Wight College

ARUBA AND BROCADE LEADS AS THE NETWORK CONTENDERS

The expanding student population and their multitude of devices had progressively been taking a heavy toll on the network.

The college's management team agreed to upgrade the wireless network to meet student performance demands and to support future plans for building more facilities. Because increased wireless traffic impacts wired networks, the college budgeted to include an upgrade for both wired and wireless infrastructures.

Brocade infrastructure has been a mainstay in the Isle of Wight College wired network for more than a decade, and the network team has a lot of confidence in it. When Quelch received permission to upgrade, she didn't even consider another network provider.

"There wasn't a compelling reason for me to look at anything else," said Quelch. "We've been using Brocade for quite some time. We know that it's solid, performs well, and is easy to manage. We knew Brocade was the right choice. I wouldn't consider anything but Brocade."

The college placed Brocade® ICX® 6610 Power over Ethernet (PoE) switches throughout the network core and edge.

"We chose the stackable switches because of their redundancy and ease of management," said Quelch. "We love that one switch model can handle core and edge requirements, and it makes life easy when you are configuring them,"

The switches deliver 1 Gigabit Ethernet (GbE) today, and when the time is right, they can be easily upgraded to 10 GbE.

The newly deployed Aruba wireless network works in tandem with the Brocade network.

"When we got the go-ahead to do both refreshes at once, and found out that Aruba and Brocade had integrated their technologies, it was a no-brainer," Quelch said. "We quickly made the decision to go with Brocade and Aruba."

Rolling out both networks was painless for Quelch and her team. The solutions integrated with existing platforms, minimizing the deployment time.

> **This solution is extremely scalable and will handle all our future needs**

"Aruba and Brocade work really well together. It feels like one seamless embedded network solution rather than discrete wired and wireless solutions that we had to make work together," said Quelch.

"We were pleasantly surprised at how quickly and easily the changeover was completed," she added. "It didn't seem like a complete rip-and-replace with two brand new solutions. It went very smoothly and was a really good experience."

Brocade Network Advisor manages both networks, providing visibility into the wired and wireless activities. "I've got a very small team, so easy management is paramount," Quelch noted.

THE BUSINESS OF EDUCATION

Isle of Wight College plans to extend the wired and wireless networks into a new Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) building and to other facilities on its roadmap.

"This solution is extremely scalable and will handle all our future needs," said Quelch. "We can easily add more switches in the new buildings and quickly bring them online."

With the new Brocade wired and Aruba wireless networks up and available, Isle of Wight College can continue doing what it does best—preparing students to make positive contributions to the workforce.

"The network is fundamental to our business operation," said Quelch. "We can't run the college or the curriculum without the network. We are very much a business. Local companies and organizations are our customers, and the student is our product."

"The network has to be there and perform reliably and efficiently without outages," she added. "It is the key to educating our students and providing skilled employees into the local workforce."

ABOUT ARUBA NETWORKS, INC.

Aruba Networks (NASDAQ:ARUN) 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.

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

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