MTC AUSTRALIA

MTC deploys Aruba Networks across 30 locations Australia wide, delivering fast, reliable Wi-Fi.

BENEFITS

- Leverages Aruba Networks access points for secure, high performance wireless that supports the working environment at MTC Australia
- Efficient and constantly reliable Wi-Fi for over 500 staff in 30 locations
- Leverages Aruba Networks AirWave network management allowing IT to centrally manage wired and wireless multivendor networks, through a single pane of glass
- Enables the ability to onboard any device type used by staff; including computers, notebooks, tablets and smartphones
- Support for Microsoft Lync

MTC Australia is a not-for-profit organisation that has been helping people to gain employment, skills training, work experience and greater self-confidence for over 20 years. As an integrated service provider, the company offers support through training courses, employment services, youth programs and community initiatives. MTC employs over 500 staff across 30 locations in Australia and trains more than 35,000 people annually.

In 2013, MTC Australia conducted a comprehensive review of its IT infrastructure resulting in a decision to embrace a Cloud focused strategy, which required a robust and secure network to facilitate a more nimble, agile culture. As the organisation increasingly utilises notebooks, tablets and smartphones, this has created greater demand on the IT network. MTC Australia’s management team knew that it was time to take a wireless, entirely mobile approach across its operations.

Imperative to introducing an all-wireless office to a new generation of mobile staff, MTC Australia required a high performance Wi-Fi network that ensured secure access for any device, reliability in areas with high density traffic and smart enough to allocate necessary bandwidth to Wi-Fi enabled activities. Additionally, logging on to the network had to be automated, simple and hassle-free.

“We already had Aruba’s 802.11n network in place across some of our sites, and it was performing flawlessly, however, we required a more organisation-wide deployment. We selected Aruba primarily based on reputation, our past experience, and because its 802.11ac offering met our full requirements. Aruba was a natural fit for us,” said Ash Kumar, Chief Information Officer, MTC Australia.

“With Aruba, many of our staff are now more collaborative, going out to sites and taking their equipment with them - maximising the use of their tablets, smartphones and notebooks throughout the sites. It’s fantastic to see them working in a mobile fashion and not being tied down to their desks,” Ash Kumar, Chief Information Officer, MTC Australia.
EFFICIENT DEPLOYMENT SOLIDIFIES A WISE INVESTMENT, ENHANCING ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES

According to Mr Kumar, Aruba’s 802.11ac solution was a smart investment option for the community-focused organisation that must ensure its funds are spent wisely. It was important the rollout of the new standard delivered valuable ROI for the company.

MTC Australia called upon AKCS consultants to determine new and improved technology that enabled a scalable, effective yet cost efficient deployment for both its current IT services and future needs, including seamless use of Microsoft Lync services. Following this, Aruba’s 802.11ac network was progressively deployed across its sites.

“In 2013 MTC expanded nationally, adding two sites in Victoria and another in Adelaide. These new branches were immediately moved onto Aruba’s 802.11ac platform. This new Wi-Fi standard was then progressively migrated across all existing branches, the college and head office,” said Mr Kumar.

Aruba’s 802.11ac wireless network was deployed across all 30 offices spanning across Australia in a remarkably short period of time.

POWERFUL, SEAMLESS WI-FI LEAVES NO NEED FOR HUMAN INTERVENTION

Since deploying the new 802.11ac solution, the staff at MTC Australia have been positive about the high-speed and reliable wireless they’ve experienced.

Aruba’s automated authentication functionality is just one feature that’s drawn glowing reviews, enabling seamless and secure access to the network across their various devices and removing the need for laborious, manual logins.

“Staff are delighted they no longer need to enter their login details for every device they use, each is automatically recognised following its on-boarding. They can go from site-to-site, securely, and it just works,” said Mr Kumar.

MTC also required a centralised management system that protected the company’s pre-existing investment in third party wired networks, and ensured a seamless mobility experience for users at all times.

The organisation drew on Aruba’s Airwave network management solution, which allows IT to monitor both wired and wireless multivendor networks centrally, through a single viewpoint. The solution has enabled an improved device and user experience for those accessing the network, showing IT a visual overview of how coverage and devices are performing.

“With Aruba’s Airwave, IT can proactively plan for capacity and troubleshoot any issues before the user is even aware of any problem,” said Mr Kumar.

AN ALL-WIRELESS ENVIRONMENT ENHANCES PRODUCTIVITY

According to Mr Kumar, the staff at MTC Australia have now been empowered to work together more closely and increase productivity.

“With Aruba, many of our staff are now much more collaborative, going out to sites and taking their equipment with them - maximising the use of their tablets, smartphones and notebooks throughout the sites. It’s fantastic to see them working in a mobile fashion and not being tied down to their desks,” said Mr Kumar.

Since deploying Aruba’s latest solution, the network has coped with an increasingly strong demand for wireless access.

Teachers at MTC Australia’s Warakirri College, an Independent High School, are using Apple TVs to complete wireless presentations from interactive smart boards. According to Mr Kumar, staff find it simple to connect to these machines from their tablets and notebooks via the Aruba Wi-Fi network.

MTC Australia uses the full functionality of Microsoft Lync including Presence, Desktop Sharing and Enterprise Voice. With Enterprise Voice for instance, Aruba 802.11ac is being utilised on staff’s mobile devices for video conference calls, which requires a high Quality of Service from the network.
Aruba Networks is the leading Wi-Fi solution supporting Microsoft Lync, and includes capability to prioritise collaboration applications such as voice and video.

Currently, the Aruba wireless network is available only to MTC Australia staff devices and MTC owned client training devices. However, MTC Australia plans to deploy Aruba's ClearPass Access Management solution, which will allow guest access to the network from visitors, temporary staff, and speakers.

RELIABLE, HIGH-SPEED WI-FI CONNECTIVITY IMPROVES COLLABORATION

According to Mr Kumar, since upgrading to the Aruba Networks 802.11ac solution, the benefits have been immediate.

"Since introducing 802.11ac, we have seen an increase in collaboration among co-workers. This is due to the freedom staff now have to get creative with the devices available, benefiting from the full functionality of our IT systems," said Mr Kumar.

Additionally, the organisation’s investment with Aruba has resulted in ongoing cost saving opportunities.

"The cabling throughout one of our sites, which was 18 years old, was recently starting to fail. Rather than re-cabling we just implemented the new wireless standard and connected this to computers. It has been a significant saving for us," said Mr Kumar.

"With Aruba’s 802.11ac wireless network we can work, talk and conference wirelessly and know that it will work seamlessly. It’s a great outcome. It’s literally been set and forget," added Mr Kumar.

According to Steve Coad, Aruba Networks Managing Director for Australia and New Zealand, enterprise organisations across various sectors - from professional and financial services, education to health and public-facing enterprise - are upgrading their Wi-Fi networks with Aruba’s 802.11ac solution.

"Organisations are seeking next-generation technology that enables an all-wireless workplace and customer environment. This is being driven across all sectors, led by the increasing demand by businesses and consumers for Wi-Fi that’s fast, secure, reliable and stable enough to withstand significant demand at any one time," said Mr Coad.

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.

Listed on the NASDAQ and Russell 2000® Index, Aruba is based in Sunnyvale, California, and has operations throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia Pacific regions. To learn more, visit Aruba at http://www.arubanetworks.com. For real-time news updates follow Aruba on Twitter and Facebook, and for the latest technical discussions on mobility and Aruba products visit Airheads Social at http://community.arubanetworks.com.