

Canopy IT Solutions

A Case Study in the Education Environment



Nativity of Our Lord's New Wireless System Provides Full Coverage

The Situation

Prior to their implementation of a Ruckus Wireless network from Canopy IT Solutions, Nativity of Our Lord had a wireless network that was not making the grade. Their legacy system consisted of Apple Airport wireless routers throughout the building using varying models, SSIDs, and passwords. These devices lacked the capacity and coverage to support their one-to-one Chromebook initiatives. Operating under the old system, teachers experienced difficulty connecting all student devices to the network, and efforts to maintain working connectivity was difficult and often caused disruptions during classes.



In September each year, Nativity of Our Lord hosts a school fundraiser auction that requires wireless network connectivity for mobile bidding. In prior years, they rented an expensive wireless system that 150 bidders would use to receive up-to-date auction item status. Nativity of our Lord wanted their internal wireless system to support the high-density auction environment and save the cost of renting the portable wireless system.

Technical Support Considerations. As Nativity of Our Lord's legacy wireless network grew over time, it became increasingly more disparate. Consequently, the IT team found themselves lacking an efficient way to implement system management and

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Principal,
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Bob Thompson
Chief Technical
Officer,
Canopy IT
Solutions

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controls—including preventing the infiltration of unauthorized devices. At the same time, with the number of users steadily growing, finding an effective way to segregate student and public access from the private faculty/staff wireless network was becoming a priority. With no single point of management, the IT staff was spending increasing amounts of time performing hands-on maintenance and troubleshooting of individual components throughout the school. They also had to find a way to abate the growing number of students and faculty using their own personal wireless devices on the school network (laptops, mobile phones and other hand held devices). These critical issues related to system management and security became a drain on IT department resources.

Canopy IT's solution

With its list of technology priorities in hand, a short window of opportunity to deploy a new solution, and a fixed budget, Nativity of Our Lord moved forward with Canopy IT Solutions' Ruckus wireless Smartzone 100 system using HP 2900 series switches for core networking.



“Late summer provided the perfect opportunity to complete the cabling and implement a new network core without interrupting class or summer programs. “We replaced the core network components, re-addressed the network, ran cabling, and configured the systems during an opportune time for the school” said Bob Thompson, Chief Technical Officer at Canopy IT Solutions.

According to Kate Wollan, principal at Nativity of Our Lord, the benefits realized as a result of the new network and wireless solution deployment were numerous. “We’ve been extremely pleased. We now have a really powerful system that has all the

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Gordon Geist
IT Coordinator,
Nativity of Our
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Canopy IT
Solutions

612-747-6213
www.canopyit.com
bthompson@canopyit.com

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capabilities we need,” Gordon Geist, IT coordinator added, “From an IT perspective, the Ruckus system’s centralized configuration and management features have cut down on a lot of time we used to spend maintaining all the different systems we had.”

New Opportunities with the upgraded network

The 2015/16 school year brought forth new opportunities for Nativity of Our Lord to improve the learning environment using their state-of-the-art wireless system and network core. With a network that will support more than 30 Chromebooks per classroom, and wireless bandwidth to support each of those Chromebooks streaming high definition video, they are in a position to grow without worrying about network reliability and capacity as a constraint.

Students and school personnel alike are reaping the benefits of being able to successfully run applications over the air including web-based assessments, instructional videos and presentations, along with Internet-based learning and staff training.

About Nativity of Our Lord

Nativity of Our Lord is a K-8 private catholic school located in Saint Paul Minnesota. Nativity is a strong, dynamic, neighborhood catholic school serving the parish and surrounding community. Their goal is to guide all students as they grow in their faith, in knowledge and in character. They strive to help each child recognize and develop the many gifts they have been given.

About Canopy IT Solutions

Canopy IT Solutions is a managed IT services company located in Minneapolis that provides solutions and technical support to schools and businesses throughout the Twin Cities. They are certified Ruckus Big Dog partner, and an HP, Apple and Microsoft partner.

To learn more about Canopy IT, the web at www.canopyit.com

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bthompson@canopyit.com