Case Study
Nonprofit integrated healthcare system upgrades network and prepares for mass distribution of COVID-19 vaccines

Client: Healthcare system

Located in northeastern Ohio, this healthcare system employs more than 7,000 and provides comprehensive emergency, acute, critical, outpatient, and long term care. Their current wireless hardware was reaching end of life and a refresh was needed. The client engaged CBTS as their trusted IT partner.

Challenge	CBTS solution	Results
• Current wireless network was nearing end of life.	• Weekly discovery call over the course of three months to understand client's requirements.	• CBTS Professional Services integrated existing network security solution with Aruba.
• Existing vendor was switching to OpEx-subscription model for financing.	• Aruba proof of concept in tech center building with extended RAPs for IT support.	• Total upgrade of network topology using Aruba 535 Series APs, RAPs as endpoints, and Aruba Airwave.
• Upgrade process required to fit within budget constraints.	• Three-year phased approach to refresh four hospitals, 14 medical centers and all physicians' offices.	• Granular visibility into network requiring less management and easily expanded to include parking lot vaccination center.

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Challenge

A long-standing client of CBTS, the healthcare organization came to CBTS to discuss the current state of the wireless network and desired future state. Client and CBTS met on a weekly basis for three months to ensure all requirements would be included in the final solution and educate client on product capabilities. After the discovery, a proof of concept was implemented on one floor of the client's tech center building.

CBTS solution

The proof of concept provided all requirements determined during the discovery process. Aruba controllers and mobility master solution provide centralized configuration management and scaled deployment options along with centralized license management. The Aruba 535 Series with Airwave provides deep visibility into performance and usage of mobile and web apps. Reputation reports enable immediate action against high-risk sites and control Wi-Fi usage by app category. The implementation of the Aruba RAPs allows the IT department to access the network as if they were in the tech center.

Results

A rip and replace of existing wireless infrastructure used various models of Aruba 500 series APs, RAPs at end points and Aruba Airwave. The total upgrade was planned in a three-year phased approach to allow for client's budgeting requirements. Using Aruba Airwave, the IT department now has granular visibility into the network with far less time spent managing the network. CBTS Professional Services was able to integrate the existing network security solution with Aruba controllers and mobility master, providing a secure environment without the need to purchase additional security solutions.

In addition

While the POC was in flight, the client was planning an outdoor, large-scale vaccination site. CBTS was able to demonstrate the scale and flexibility of Aruba by using wired and wireless mesh APs to extend the network out to the vaccination site, located in the client's parking lot.

A coordinated effort between Aruba and CBTS provided the client with loaner hardware to facilitate proof of concept for the data center, tech center office, remote workforce and the Super Vaccination Center which is providing much needed vaccines to the community.

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