

Customer Profile

With origins dating to 1907, Wyomissing Area School District employs approximately 330 administrators, faculty, and staff, and is comprised of two elementary centers and a junior/senior high school, educating nearly 2,000 students throughout the Wyomissing, Pennsylvania area.



Situation

The Wyomissing Area School District (WASD) is committed to providing students the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills to be successful in the 21st century. However, its outdated, disparate network was well behind the curve. The District had four separate, unconnected networks, each of which had its own Internet connection via 1MB cable modem. Beyond the inefficiency and lack of security this fragmented infrastructure presented, WASD's outdated phone system lacked functionality and four-digit dialing, and was expensive to support and maintain.

With goals of improving efficiency and better supporting users and its overall network, WASD turned to Weidenhammer Systems Corporation for an advanced Cisco communications solution. The Wyomissing-headquartered Cisco Premier Certified partner founded in 1978 has over 200 professionals and six additional locations across the country, and is a leading provider of information technology solutions to educational and commercial markets — making them a smart fit.

Solution

Weidenhammer began the yearlong implementation in Summer 2005, installing a robust network core featuring Cisco Catalyst switches, which deliver intelligent network services including advanced quality of service (QoS), scalable performance, comprehensive security, and simple manageability.

For robust voice communications, Weidenhammer installed Cisco Unified Communications Manager, an enterprise-class IP telephony call-processing system that provides traditional telephony features as well as advanced capabilities. To that, Weidenhammer added Cisco Unity, a feature-rich unified messaging platform that enables WASD employees to access voice messages using a variety of devices.

To extend its new network capabilities throughout the schools, Weidenhammer installed an advanced Cisco wireless solution featuring the Cisco Wireless Control System, the industry's leading platform for next-generation wireless LAN planning, configuration, management, and mobility services.

Finally, Weidenhammer secured the entire solution with a robust Cisco solution including a Cisco Adaptive Security Appliance that

provides intelligent threat defense and secure communications services that stop attacks before they impact business continuity.

Results

“ROI will consist primarily from man hours saved by being able to remotely support everything from desktops to phones,” says Mike Matz, IT services coordinator, Wyomissing Area School District. “Not only did we increase the efficiency of the network in terms of bandwidth and security, but we've greatly reduced response time without increasing our IT staff headcount.”

“Phone support issues have dramatically decreased due to a centralized management system and our new voicemail solution gives end users quick and easy access to their messages from anywhere in our schools and even from their homes,” said Matz. “And everyone in the district can connect with each other with simple four-digit dialing.”

“Teachers now have more mobility and can provide a more interactive teaching environment for students via our wireless infrastructure. And because we can segment our network via VLANs, we can protect students from inappropriate material on the Internet by routing them through a content-filtering server on their specific VLAN, as well as conduct high-bandwidth maintenance operations such as snapshot backups and imaging without downtime.”

“We now have a flexible, scalable infrastructure we can shape and configure to accommodate almost anything we can think of in terms of new networking features and functionality. Weidenhammer and Cisco have met our expectations from design through implementation, and we'll continue working with them as our needs grow and evolve.”

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