riverbed | XIRRUS

EDUCATION CASE STUDY

Nationally Ranked Texas School District Achieves More for Less with Xirrus Wireless Arrays

Plano Independent School District (ISD) covers approximately 100 square miles, encompassing the city of Plano, the ninth largest municipal in Texas. The district currently employees 7,000 faculty and staff members and educates over 55,000 students per year. Plano ISD has achieved national recognition for its high academic standards.

Plano ISD realized that their existing wireless solution was not capable of accommodating the number of simultaneous users that pending initiatives would require. To meet the anticipated demand, the district needed to replace their legacy wireless hotspot technology with a future-proof solution. After testing several wireless vendors, Plano selected Xirrus for their district-wide rollout and was confident in the superior performance of the Xirrus wireless Array.

Xirrus Delivers Higher Performance and Capacity for Less

Plano ISD was looking for a secure and stable wireless infrastructure that could handle the performance required for their online learning applications, while offering the capacity to meet their future 1:1/BYOD initiative.

Xirrus wireless Arrays passed the test. Compared to conventional thin APs plus closet controllers, the unique Xirrus Arrays integrate 4 to 16 radios, high-grain directional antennas, a multi-gigabit switch, controller, firewall, and threat sensor into a single access device. Together this provided 4X the coverage and up to 8X the bandwidth and capacity necessary for Plano ISD's high user density.

By selecting Xirrus, Plano ISD was also able to realize substantial cost savings on infrastructure, back-end maintenance and operations by deploying 80% fewer devices. Xirrus allowed Plano to extend their robust network infrastructure wirelessly, while retaining the stability of their wired network.

PLANO Independent School District

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Infastructure requirements included:

- Support across 80+ sites
- Replacement of an inadequate legacy hotspot wireless solution
- Meet future 1:1/BYOD initiative requirements for online learning and testing

The Xirrus solution provided:

- Substantial cost savings on infrastructure, back-end maintenance and operations by deploying 80% fewer devices
- Improved user density and throughput
- A modular platform for simplified capacity expansion and field upgrades

Benefits:

- A future-proof solution, capable of scaling to meet future bandwidth and density requirements.
- Ability to extend their robust network infrastructure wirelessly, while retaining stability.
- Simple and secure interface to remotely monitor, manage and control their wireless network.

"We narrowed it down to two vendors, and we did a battery of tests against both vendors in-house on their equipment. We did video streaming, throughput testing, usability testing, and also testing on the management side to make sure that whatever we selected, we would be able to manage it in our environment," explained Mitch Mitchell, senior enterprise systems engineer at Plano ISD.

The evaluation process further enforced that Xirrus offered measurably higher performance and higher capacity to support wireless devices. Plano was also impressed with the superior manageability of the edge-intelligent Xirrus Arrays, which utilize a single XMS management interface.

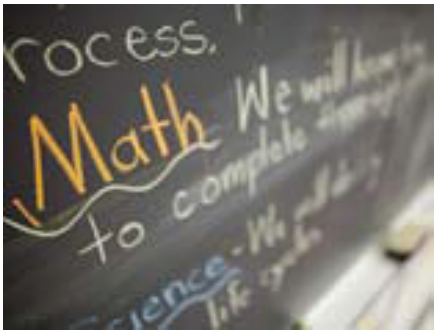
"After evaluating the Xirrus solution we noticed that it would take about 80% fewer devices to deploy across our district [competition estimated between 5,000 and 8,000 access points]. Xirrus greatly reduced our infrastructure costs and we continue to see substantial maintenance and operations savings to our year-to-year budgets," stated Dan Armstrong, director of technical support services for Plano ISD.

The innovative Xirrus architecture propelled Plano ISD to simply and cost efficiently integrate the next level of classroom technology into their network. Today, the district continues to expand their wireless coverage and increase capacity as they implement their technology initiatives across their flourishing district.

The Xirrus Advantage

With the explosion of smartphones and tablets, mobility has become ubiquitous. People expect to connect wirelessly. Organizations depend on high-bandwidth to send and receive voice, video and data, from any device to any one. And no one delivers better Xirrus. Our array-based solutions are unique. They draw from cellular tower design principles to provide wired-like reliability, increased user density and capacity plus superior security. They perform under the most demanding conditions and have lower infrastructure requirements. When integrated with business and IT objectives, they help you do more than ever before.

At Xirrus, we apply the "best practices" of wired networking to wireless infrastructures by distributing the intelligence to the edge and outfitting the Array with dense multistate radios in the same manner as a wired switch. That's how Xirrus delivers the best performing, most scalable wireless solutions in the industry. It's a strategic IT infrastructure advantage that fuels organizations. Because Xirrus does wireless networks right.



"After evaluating the Xirrus solution we noticed that it would take about 80% fewer access points to deploy across our district, giving us a great cost savings. Xirrus greatly reduced our infrastructure costs and we continue to see substantial maintenance and operations savings to our year-to-year budgets."

Dan Armstrong, director of technical support services for Plano ISD

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