

City of Redondo Beach Deploys Xirrus High Performance Wi-Fi to Improve Staff/Public Experience and Operational Efficiency



The City of Redondo Beach is a coastal Southern California town located 20 miles from downtown Los Angeles. With white sand beaches and year-round sunny weather, Redondo Beach is a preferred resort destination and one of the most desirable areas to live in the country.

In order to increase productivity and improve The City boasts its own police department, fire and public works departments, two public libraries, 15 parks and 13 parkettes, a large recreational and commercial harbor, as well as the Redondo Beach Pier and Seaside Lagoon. Redondo Beach outfitted its city buildings, libraries and performing arts center with Wi-Fi access to create more dynamic recreational experiences for the public and increase productivity for the city's 420 employees and 15 departments.

Installed in 2006, the incumbent controller-based Wi-Fi solution was difficult to manage and rapidly becoming outdated. The IT team began to experience equipment failure leading to wireless outages. Additionally, performance did not match the density requirements of the areas served. Due to the rigidity of the system, the staff spent a significant amount of time managing and repairing the network when it failed. These compounding issues resulted in City staff receiving complaints about the spotty access and poor network speed.

City administrators began to evaluate alternative Wi-Fi vendors, and looked at Xirrus through the company's partnership with Avaya. Xirrus' strongest selling point for Redondo Beach's IT administrators was the support for Shortest Path Bridging to the access point through Avaya's Fabric Connect service. Also attractive were the application layer visibility and management capabilities. Lastly, the ability to tune all radios to either 2.4 or 5GHz was of particular importance to the IT team to future-proof the network. Redondo Beach IT staff deployed 82 Xirrus APs and Arrays in total, including 2 radio XR-520s, 4 radio XR-4420s, and 8 radio XR-4820s.



Requirements

- Enough bandwidth to enable 430 full time and 205 part-time employees plus customers and constituents of the city to access the network
- Future proof infrastructure that offered investment protection as technology standards change

Solutions

- 82 APs/Arrays, including XR-520s, XR-4420s, XR-4820s and XR-520AH APs
- Hardened to cover outside patio areas and dock areas
- Sufficient bandwidth for continuous Wi-Fi access in the public libraries, which are the highest density areas of the city

Benefits

- Reduction of time associated with managing and troubleshooting the network
- Application visibility to throttle the network and allocate bandwidth appropriately
- Software-programmable radios that allow tuning to 2.4GHz or 5GHz

“It’s been very reliable to date. We didn’t have any dead-on-arrival units upon implementation and it hasn’t hung or crashed on us. It’s just runs since the day it went in,” said Christopher Benson, IT Technology Director at City of Redondo Beach. “Other than basic management, we haven’t had to spend any time troubleshooting or fixing anything. For a department with our staffing level, that’s a big plus.”

Xirrus Application Control provides the City of Redondo Beach visibility into application usage to determine how the network is being used by constituents, partners and city staff. One area of focus for the City is ensuring that their network is not used for illegal downloads of content. With Xirrus, IT administrators are able to block access to certain applications and thereby limit the City’s risk and liability.

Network administrators also monitor and control bandwidth used for certain applications in order to optimize network usage rather than increasing the Internet pipe size, which can be a costly proposition. This throttling also reserves headroom for people accessing the public network.

The previous network at the City of Redondo Beach was rigid and did not provide the flexibility for the system to grow and change with the evolving technological landscape. Rather than a forklift overhaul to move to the next generation of wireless standards, administrators can tune the Xirrus radios to the 5GHz band as wireless devices change over time. This lets Redondo Beach keep its infrastructure in place and adapt it to changes in clients.

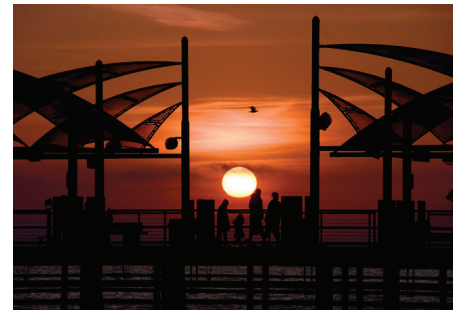
With the Xirrus network fully up and running, IT administrators observed a significant reduction in time spent managing troubleshooting the network. Since the day the network deployed, there have been no complaints from the public or constituents of the city. They have also noted an increase of Wi-Fi usage by the public and staff due to the reliability and speed of the network. Users no longer become frustrated and log off after experiencing slow speeds, as with the previous network.

The two public libraries offer free Wi-Fi access the public, and despite being the highest-density areas of the city’s network, the performance has been seamless. Redondo Beach also offers Wi-Fi access to guests attending events or corporate events at the performing arts center. Lastly, the City utilizes outdoor units to cover patio areas and the loading dock at the performing arts center.

The Xirrus Advantage

With the explosion of smartphones and tablets, mobility has become ubiquitous. People expect to connect wirelessly wherever they are. Organizations depend on high bandwidth to send and receive voice, video and data, from any device to anyone. And no one delivers better than Xirrus. Our wireless solutions 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 operating software programmable radios. 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.



About Xirrus

With the explosion of smartphones and tablets, people expect to connect wirelessly whenever and wherever. Organizations require high-bandwidth connections to send and receive voice, video and data, from any device to any other device. And no one delivers better than Xirrus. The Xirrus suite of Wi-Fi optimized solutions—Arrays, access points and cloud services draw from cellular tower design principles to provide wired-like reliability, increased user density and capacity, and superior security. They perform under the most demanding conditions and have lower infrastructure requirements than traditional controller-based Wi-Fi systems. When integrated with business and IT objectives, they help users 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 our solutions with dense software programmable radios, device optimizations and application layer logic. 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.

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