

Essant Customer Case Study

“Essant provided the network consultancy and programme management skills to scope, design and implement a system-wide wireless network, transforming a greenfield site into a leading-edge client meeting and presentation facility, supporting data, voice and video”

Karen Jacks,
Bird & Bird

AT A GLANCE:

Company Name:
Bird & Bird, UK
www.twobirds.com

Industry:
International Law Firm

Key Challenges:

- Design and implement a scalable & secure wireless infrastructure
- Improve ability of employees and clients to connect to applications during meeting.
- Improve overall employee productivity and collaboration
- Ensure the solution was sized correctly in terms of sufficient wireless coverage, access points, position and mounting type.

Bird & Bird takes flight with latest wireless networking technology

BIRD & BIRD

The Background

Bird & Bird is an international law firm, providing a comprehensive range of legal services to clients in industry sectors that include aviation and aerospace, banking and financial services, communications, IT, life sciences, e-commerce, media and sport.

The firm's clients include some of the most innovative and technologically advanced companies worldwide.

With a view to raising both client service and productivity levels, Bird and Bird recently purchased a fourth site in London to create a leading-edge presentation and reception facility for key client meetings.

With a move date to the greenfield site already set, Bird & Bird approached UK advanced network specialist Essant to scope, design and implement a leading-edge system wide wireless LAN, to provide fast and easy network access across the building for hosts and visitors alike.

Requirements Analysis

The main business objective for Bird & Bird was to enhance the quality and productivity of meetings taking place at the new facility.

The new site was required to provide business-critical wireless applications for internal users, including data, voice and video, whilst providing 'non-trusted' wireless connectivity for client email and web-access.

From a technical perspective, the network needed to smoothly integrate with Bird & Bird's existing enterprise network and offer the scalability and centralised management for seamless growth, in terms of access points and application service delivery.

Karen Jacks, <Insert Title Here> at Bird & Bird, explains.

"We approached Essant to scope, design and implement a solution that precisely met today's requirements for resilience, security availability and quality of service, as well as offering dynamic multicast routing capabilities for the future."

With the network management team based off-site, remote access and centralised network management were essential.

Karen continues, "We required centralised administration, policy creation and enforcement, plus zero-touch configuration to possess complete visibility and control of the wireless LAN, from day one."

The Solution

The solution links all 3 major London production sites and provides access control to either the entire network or a restricted VLAN for internet only access.

The design utilises a collapsed-core architecture, which provides a cost-effective, yet resilient and scalable architecture suitable for mission-critical networks, including Quality of Service.

Karen continues, "Essant was able to quickly mobilise the CCIE expertise and programme management resource to successfully scope, design and implement a leading-edge CISCO Wireless LAN within our tight timescales." The resulting solution delivers system-wide wireless LAN functions, such as security policies, intrusion prevention, RF management, quality of service (QoS), and mobility.

At the heart of the solution lies Cisco 4400 series Wireless LAN Controllers, providing resilience, redundancy and easy management of all of the Cisco lightweight access points within the site.

The Benefits

The secure, scalable, cost-effective WLAN solution offers:

- Anytime, anywhere access to information, which promotes collaboration with colleagues, partners and clients alike .
- Real-time access to instant messaging, e-mail, and network resources, which boosts productivity and speeds business decision making.
- Mobility services, such as voice, guest access, advanced security, and location, to help transform business operations.
- The control, scalability, security, and reliability needed to operate a secure, enterprise-scale wireless network.

Karen concludes, "The Unified Wireless Network solution combines the best elements of networking technologies to deliver a secure and entirely scalable WLAN, with zero touch configuration and remote management a low total cost of ownership."

"Essant's CCIE consultancy and collaborative programme management capabilities have enabled us to take full advantage of leading-edge wireless technology, with minimum disruption to daily operations. With this installation we have gained the control, security, redundancy, and reliability necessary to cost-effectively scale and manage the wireless network to exploit future opportunities for organisational and technological advancements."