

Major Healthcare System Organization Relies on AirMagnet to Ensure Integrity of Wireless Networks

AirMagnet wireless solutions chosen for monitoring and troubleshooting 1200+ Cisco APs across multiple hospitals

As one of the largest non-profit healthcare systems in the Northeast, this organization has nearly 9,000 employees, a combined total of 1,133 licensed beds and more than 2,100 affiliated physicians providing a wide array of health care services to more than five million residents.

Highlights

Industry

Healthcare

Challenge

- Alleviate configuration, monitoring and management of multi-site WLAN
- Centralize WLAN security and performance troubleshooting
- Optimize wireless network on-the-fly
- Integrate with existing Cisco infrastructure

Solution



AirMagnet Enterprise Analyzer for Cisco



AirMagnet Laptop Analyzer



AirMagnet Survey PRO



AirMagnet Spectrum Analyzer

"All of AirMagnet's products are easy to use, provide robust functionality, and identify WLAN issues very quickly. This means that the organization can manage, secure and troubleshoot the WLAN on-the-fly, ensuring the integrity and effectiveness of the network."

Peter Casano
 PacketLogix

The Challenge

Medical facilities often operate with a lean IT staff, making the configuration, monitoring and management of a multi-site wireless LAN difficult. That's exactly the challenge at this major healthcare system organization, with more than 1,200 Cisco access points (APs) spread across three hospitals and associated facilities. The IT team desperately needed a solution that would centralize its WLAN security and performance troubleshooting, so that even with minimal dedicated IT resources they could ensure wireless access for a large employee base. And, ideally this solution would avoid the need for additional equipment by tightly integrating with the existing Cisco infrastructure.

In addition, modern healthcare facilities present some of the most challenging wireless environments. Wi-Fi performance and reliability are at a premium with staff relying on wireless LANs in order to do their jobs. Densely packed technology, X-ray facilities and moveable metal obstructions all contribute to performance and interference problems. Yet even with centralized WLAN management, on-site surveys and troubleshooting are necessary in order to optimize network performance, so the organization needed to identify effective tools for on-the-fly mobile field planning, testing and analysis.

To complicate matters further, Atlantic Health's lean resources meant that they couldn't afford unnecessary administrative overhead – all of these various tools needed to work together seamlessly.

The AirMagnet Solution

To address these demanding requirements, the healthcare organization worked with systems integrator PacketLogix to deploy a full spectrum of AirMagnet's solutions for wireless security and performance management.

"AirMagnet delivered a very cost effective solution for this organization and it put the WLAN expertise at their fingertips," noted Peter Casano of PacketLogix. "The products are easy to use, offer robust functionality and very quickly identify any WLAN issues. After using these tools for some time now, the IT managers couldn't be happier."

For centralized troubleshooting of its Cisco WLAN infrastructure, the health system organization selected AirMagnet Enterprise Analyzer for Cisco, a software-only Wi-Fi troubleshooting solution designed specifically for Cisco Unified Wireless Networks. The software cooperates with the Cisco WLAN controllers and lightweight access points to collect critical Wi-Fi performance data, and then automatically pinpoints, explains and advises on more than 130 classes of wireless

performance issues – essentially turning the network into its own troubleshooting platform. Network managers can even use AirMagnet's Enterprise Analyzer for Cisco to remotely troubleshoot wireless problems in real time, enabling them to resolve most problems without having to travel on-site.

Where on-site tools are required, for instance to help identify areas of high noise and interference, to validate the coverage for wireless voice and data, and to test and troubleshoot in the field, the company selected AirMagnet Laptop Analyzer, AirMagnet Survey PRO and AirMagnet Spectrum Analyzer.

The organization uses AirMagnet Survey PRO for effective simulation and planning of its WLAN deployments, collecting live signal, packet and spectrum data during site surveys to ensure real world performance and coverage will closely match on-paper plans. AirMagnet Spectrum Analyzer then helps proactively identify, classify and

physically locate sources of RF interference that impact Wi-Fi networks, a common issue with the broad range of medical equipment in a hospital setting. AirMagnet Laptop Analyzer, the industry's most popular mobile troubleshooting field tool, helps the IT staff to quickly understand and resolve any end-user Wi-Fi performance complaints that arise.

"The IT managers at this company faced a fairly common set of WLAN challenges in the medical field," noted Casano of PacketLogix. "A lean IT staff, geographically dispersed infrastructure and the need to effectively identify and quickly resolve issues like RF interference in order to maintain network performance. I'm a firm believer in selecting the best tool for the job, and there's a reason AirMagnet is the market leader in this WLAN security and performance management."

About PacketLogix

PacketLogix provides sophisticated end-to-end solutions. We deliver comprehensive infrastructure solutions within converged environments. We see your IT infrastructure as a whole and our willingness to go to any lengths to make your systems and technology serve your organization. We work with leading businesses and governments, universities and hospitals throughout the north east of the United States.

Our track record speaks for itself. Our implementation team's objective is to surpass our clients' expectations. We pride ourselves on our proven ability to architect and implement a wide range of enterprise computing solutions in a timely and thorough manner. In the process, we collaborate closely with our clients. We listen to your needs. Anticipate future challenges. And deliver the tools that will help you maximize your opportunities. In short, we use our expertise to map the right IT solution to your business needs.

People choose PacketLogix because of our commitment to success. We are customer-driven: With our integrated suite of business practices, we have all the services and vendor relationships you need to build, improve, and manage your IT infrastructure. We are solutions-oriented. Our technology-driven strategic services offer end-to-end security and reliability across heterogeneous environments.

Most importantly we are absolutely dependable. Our experienced, talented professionals have earned industry-wide respect for their record of delivering timely customer solutions with excellence. This is what makes PacketLogix a respected and trusted leader in the technology industry.



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