



Hollis-Brookline High School Fusion 300 Wireless LAN Solution Case Study



U4EA Technologies' Fusion 300 Provides the Best Value in Wi-Fi for Nationally Ranked High School

Hollis-Brookline High School is a Silver Medal High School, as reported in *U.S. News & World Report's* national high school rankings, and is ranked in the top 1,300 high schools in the United States, as reported by *Newsweek* magazine.

"We found the U4EA solution very easy to set up and manage. The security is far better than what we previously had. The range of the U4EA APs is far better than our previous solution. A single AP can cover up to 6 classrooms with cinder block walls."

- Richard Raymond
District IT Coordinator

The Issues for Hollis-Brookline High School

The school needed an affordable, reliable solution that could scale to support the wireless needs of a large school system, including 100 student laptops and several faculty laptops and PDAs. The system also needed to be fast and easy to set up and manage.



Overview

Challenges

- High equipment cost
- Reduced productivity – difficult to manage; each AP had to be configured separately.
- Unreliable wireless connections

Requirements

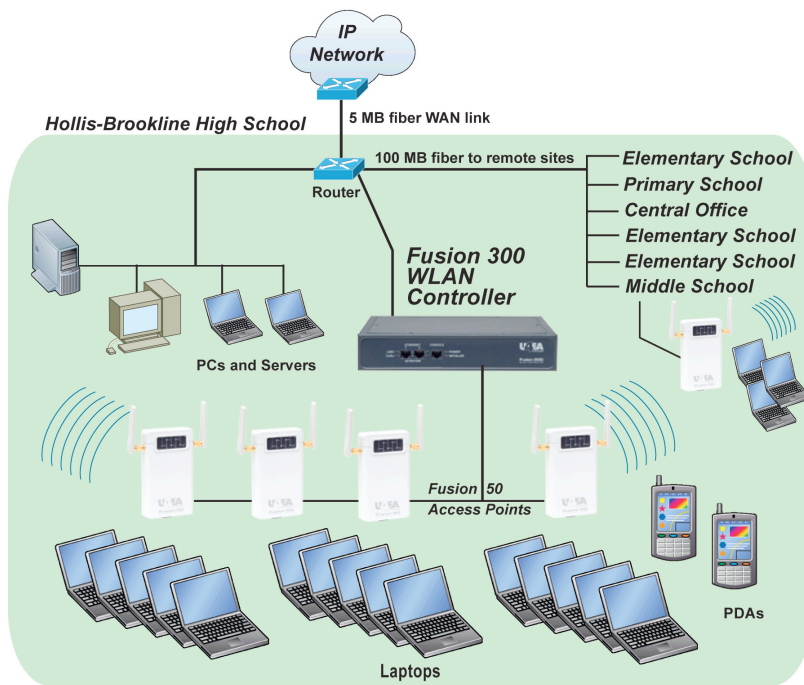
- "Enterprise-class" performance and functionality at an SMB price
- Easy to deploy and manage
- Ability to support future wireless standards with existing hardware.
- Support for genuinely secure networks

Solution

- The solution consists of a U4EA Fusion 300 Wireless LAN Controller and U4EA Fusion 50 Access Points

Results

- Seamless Scalability – The Fusion 300 is cost effective for a small initial deployment, yet accommodates future growth as large as 250 users and 25 APs.
- Plug and Play – The U4EA Fusion 300 WLAN solution is easy to deploy and manage, with automated configuration.
- Future-Proof – The Fusion 300 controller is 802.11n-ready to handle the next generation of APs and Wi-Fi capabilities.
- Enterprise-grade Security – The U4EA solution enables genuinely secure networks without the burden of running separate authentication servers or other complicated network devices.



Primary Challenges

Specific challenges with Hollis-Brookline High School's prior system included:

- High equipment cost
- Reduced productivity – difficult to manage; each AP had to be configured separately.
- Unreliable wireless connections – technicians would often have to go to the classroom to provide support.

Requirements for a Wireless LAN Solution

- "Enterprise-class" performance and functionality at an SMB price
- Easy to deploy and manage, with automatic configuration
- Future-proof; software upgradable to next generation capabilities
- Support for genuinely secure networks, without the complication of separate security appliances
- Scalable for up to 250 users

The U4EA Solution

The Fusion 300 is easy to deploy and manage, is 802.11n ready, provides enterprise-grade security, and provides toll-quality voice and seamless roaming for Wi-Fi capable phones.

The solution consists of two main components: the Fusion 300 Wireless LAN Controller and Fusion 50 Access Points (APs), which combine to allow the fastest and most cost effective entry to the rapidly growing Wi-Fi mobility market.

The Fusion 300 is optimized for environments that may have limited in-house IT or wireless expertise and scales seamlessly from a few users up to 250 users. EasyPoint™ provides plug-and-play set-up, usually within 15 minutes, and automatic RF optimization.

The Network

The school's network includes a 100MB 802.3 WAN connection, Juniper Firewall, HP ProCurve 3500 POE switch, 3COM 3300 switch and 100 MB fiber between sites with a 5 MB fiber Internet connection.

Results

Before U4EA, the school had multiple wireless routers that needed to be configured individually. With the U4EA Fusion 300 Wireless LAN solution, all configuration is completed on the controller, which the school reports saves their technical staff incredible amounts of time.

The U4EA solution greatly reduced setup time in the classroom, which means more teaching time.

The Power Over Ethernet (POE) capable access points also make deployment much easier – no more finding a wall plug to power the APs.

"The teachers love it! They no longer have to worry about connecting cables. They wheel the laptop carts into the room and the students are able to start work right away. The reliability of connecting to the U4EA system improves quality use of technology in the classroom. This also means less time training teaching staff to use the wireless carts."

- Richard Raymond
District IT Coordinator

Summary

The U4EA Fusion 300 Wireless LAN controller and U4EA Fusion 50 wireless Access Points helped Hollis-Brookline High School reduce their equipment cost, increase the productivity of their staff, and provide access to a reliable, secure wireless network environment for their students.

This highly flexible and scalable solution allows them to add cost-effective technology on an as-needed basis, without the risk of outgrowing their equipment.

U4EA Technologies is pleased to play a small part in helping Hollis-Brookline High School to continue its tradition of inspiring lifelong learning and achievement. We wish them continued success.

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