Nøvlingskov Efterskole

Overview

Client
Nøvlingskov Continuation school

Industry
Education

Number of users
130

Challenge
To upgrade the school’s current network infrastructure to a new future-proof solution able to accommodate the increased IT demands faced by a modern educational institution.

Solution
By combining ZyXEL’s products, the Continuation school now has a future-proof solution which solved the school’s immediate challenges, meaning that it now has an IT infrastructure that is fully capable of maintaining the level of service that it wishes to offer its students, both inside and outside the classroom.

Client benefits
The school now has a solution that fully lives up to its expectations of a new network infrastructure.

What does the client say?

Lars S. Hansen, in charge of IT at Nøvlingskov Continuation school says: “I currently satisfied with our new wireless network from ZyXEL. A stable network has become a prerequisite for a good school and tuition. And I think that that is what we now have. It is difficult to future-proof in IT, but I think that we have a user-friendly system which also accommodates unknown possibilities -- also for extra expansions.”

The challenge

In terms of area, Nøvlingskov Continuation school is a large one. We had a wireless network that did not satisfy our requirements.

We were after full wireless coverage; from classroom to motor workshop to the hall and the students’ private bedrooms. As the students are residents at the school, stable coverage is required all day long. We needed a system that was able to cope with a varied degree of load throughout the day.

During teaching hours, there were up to 130 units gathered in a small area around the classrooms, but in the evening the concentration moved to the students’ corridors.

At the same time, the system needed to be futureproofed so that even more devices would be able to be connected, many pupils today having more and more wireless devices like smartphones and tablets. We also needed to isolate the wireless network for administration, teachers, pupils, guests and in particular the examination network.
The solution

Brian Andersen from HBK Data Service told us:

In winter 2010, Nøvlingskov Continuation school wanted to update the network component of its IT infrastructure, focusing on a wireless network due to the fact that their current solution with single location Access Points was insufficient and presented many challenges due to poor coverage and users frequently lost their connections, so the school decided that they were willing to try ZyXEL’s new NXC 5200 Wireless LAN Controller solution, together with the new NWA5160N Access Point, which provided central management of the wireless network.

The school wanted to divide the new network into an administrative and a tuition network for teachers and pupils. To achieve this, it was necessary to split the network into several logical Vlans. ZyXEL was chosen as supplier for the task as their devices have a reasonable cost and are easy to work with, while still accommodating many functions that a school can benefit from in the course of a normal day.

A ZyXEL USG 300 was chosen as the new Firewall, as it was well-suited to the school’s size with approx. 130 simultaneous users.

The new switch that was selected for the solution was ZyXEL’s GS1510-24P series with PoE and a GS-2750-48 switch as primary Vlan switch. The new switches could be administrated and supported the set-up of more Vlans for logical network splitting.

The school required that different schedules could be set up on the wireless network so that the wireless student network could be turned off at night. The solution has now been in operation for three years and has proven to be perfect for the school. It precisely meets requirements, both past and future, while they were able to terminate and save money on various subscription services with UNI-C.

The solution presented challenges along the way, as the solution was completely new, but ZyXEL solved the problems along the way in an effective manner without extra costs for the school and it is important for me as dealer that I can rely 100% on the fact that ZyXEL is behind its own products and does not shirk its responsibility.

Lars S. Hansen, in charge of IT at Nøvlingskov Continuation school says:

Before we agreed to ZyXEL’s new solution, we were well aware that it was a new product on the market, which could have start-up problems as a result. We were nominated as reference school, which meant free support until the system was working properly. And there were major teething troubles - the APs lost contact with the controller, constantly, which meant a very unstable and unsatisfactory network. To begin with, ZyXEL was not particularly popular at the school. But they delivered what they promised – free support until it was working. Initially, our skilled IT guy, Brian from HBK Data Service struggled with the problem. But on numerous occasions we had to call in assistance from ZyXEL technicians from Copenhagen, who were not only physically present but who were also able to monitor our system. But there were still problems, so ZyXEL brought in two IT engineers from their head office in Taiwan, who lived at the school for a week to find a solution. A pleasant meeting of cultures. After they had returned home and monitoring of our system was moved to Taiwan, they sent an update which solved the problem. A long and hard process, but today we have a good and well-functioning system.
About Zyxel Communications

Zyxel Communications Corp., founded in 1989 and headquartered in Taiwan, is the leading provider of complete broadband access solutions. As one of the early modem manufacturers, Zyxel has undergone many transformations in the fast-paced networking industry. Today, Zyxel is one of the few companies in the world capable of offering complete networking solutions of Telco, SME/Enterprise, and Digital Home for a wide range of deployment scenarios. Telco solutions include wired and wireless access network equipments, networking customer premises equipment, and Carrier switches. SME and Enterprise solutions include Unified Security Gateway, LAN switches, WLAN, and IP telephony. Digital Home solutions include network connectivity devices and multimedia solutions.

The company has 3200 employees and distributors in 70 countries, reaching more than 150 regional markets. The Zyxel Communications Corp. includes 33 subsidiaries and sales offices and two Research and Development Centers worldwide. For more information, visit the company’s Website, http://www.zyxel.com.

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About HBK Data Service

HBK Data Service was established as an independent company in August 1998, so we have gradually accumulated 15 years of practice in the field of IT.

Our primary objective is to function as a service company, where we assist our clients with various projects, both in terms of hardware and software. The basis for our skills come from being trained as IT-supporters. Continued training, certification and our experience give us the right tools to help our customers in the best way.

If your business has a challenge you need to solve, we are the right company to contact so we can solve it in the best way. Thanks to open communication, we will ensure that all parties are aware of what is going on.

We believe that you get further by openness and honesty. It is most important to us that our customers feel secure and that tasks are completed satisfactorily. That is why we are the right IT partner to guide you through your projects.

A selection of the solutions we offer

- Wireless solutions – Controller based
- Network troubleshooting – professional cable testing etc.
- Server solutions – Hardware, Virtualisation etc.
- PC solutions – Hardware, configuration, installation
- Image rollout – new- or reinstallation of Windows and programs onto a PC
- Info screen solutions
- Microsoft Licence advice

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A selection of our customer references
Den Kristne Friskole i Holstebro
Aulum Kristne Friskole
Nøvlingskov Efterskole
Alme Skole
Esajasskolen
Finderup Efterskole
Filipskolen i Aalborg
Luthersk Missionssk Højskole
Dronninglund Slot

We are accredited at the highest level in Zyxel’s products

ZyXEL Certified Network Engineer
- Security Level 1 + 2
- Wireless LAN Level 1 + 2
- Switch Level 1 + 2

Reference List

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