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Success Story

Zyxel Delivers Seamless, Secure WiFi to Famed Hilltop Church in Colombia

INDUSTRY
Tourism

CUSTOMER
Monserrate Sanctuary

COUNTRY
Colombia

SOLUTION
Zyxel Wireless Solution

Overview

Challenges

- Provide fast, stable WiFi access that can handle high numbers of users at once
- Manage WiFi network by using multiple SSIDs
- Set up authentication to ensure secure connectivity
- Optimize bandwidth usage for better application control and management

Solution

- Zyxel Wireless Solution

Results

- Constant network connectivity robust enough for up to 1,000 simultaneous connections in a high-density environment
- Efficient application control and management for customizable employee privileges and access
- Robust and future-proof firewall that ensures network security and reliability
- Scalable, easy-to-use network infrastructure at an affordable price

Summary

The Monserrate Sanctuary is a popular religious attraction that sits on Monserrate Hill in Colombia's capital, Bogota. Long a symbol of the city, the church is on the must-see list of every traveler, receiving a growing number of visitors from around the world every year. And they've been bringing their phones, increasing demand for WiFi. Hunting a reliable WiFi solution capable of providing visitors and staff with fast and secure internet connectivity across the entire site, even during peak times, the church's administrators turned to Zyxel. This is how we delivered.

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Background

Monserrate Sanctuary, built in the 17th century, is a renowned Catholic shrine on Bogota's Monserrate Hill at an altitude of over 3,000 meters. The church is regarded as a symbol of the Colombian capital and, even as a tourist hotspot, remains an important place of religious

pilgrimage. Visitors can ascend the hill via a path or by funicular to enjoy exceptional panoramic views of the city and beyond.

Challenges

With the growing demand for WiFi access from visitors in the church, its administrators knew they needed to put in place reliable wireless network infrastructure capable of providing staff and visitors alike with internet access across the entire site.

However, providing comprehensive connectivity for large numbers of users across every inch of an expansive site like the church was not an easy prospect. And that wasn't all: the administrators also needed to be able to efficiently manage bandwidth usage and ensure their network was protecting users' security and privacy. They knew basic wireless network devices wouldn't be able to support the necessary bandwidth and security protection, but were concerned that more advanced solutions might be overly cumbersome and expensive.

Solutions and Benefits

The administrators turned to their long-term system integrator partner, ODF NetSolution, to help find a reliable IT supplier that could provide not just the equipment but also strong customer support and customization capabilities. Both parties agreed that Zyxel was the partner they needed, having been won over by its consultation and proposed solution, which met their requirements of centralized management and easy deployment of access points – and at an affordable price.

Our **NWA1123-ACv2 802.11ac Dual-Radio Ceiling Mount PoE Access Points** were deployed to provide fast and seamless WiFi to users throughout the church area. Built with a high-power amplifier, anti-noise shielding, and a host of features such as dynamic channel selection and load balancing, the APs can deliver a wireless experience that fights dead spots and is the definition of smooth.

The NWA1123-ACv2 access points support NebulaFlex, a Zyxel feature that allows APs to work autonomously in standalone mode or be switched to cloud managed mode. In the latter, they can be centrally managed through the easy-to-use **Nebula Control Center**. The Nebula solution also supports multiple WiFi SSIDs, each of which can have a customized captive portal set up within minutes.

The sacred site's network is kept safe by the **ZyWALL USG1100 Next-Gen Unified Security Gateway Extreme Series** firewall, with anti-virus, anti-spam, and filtering services, among others. Its unified threat management delivers high-speed virus scanning technology that identifies and blocks viruses quickly and efficiently. In addition, the USG1100 has not only helped the church set up authentication to protect the network, but also provided comprehensive, real-time security against evolving malware threats.

The firewall's duties don't end there. It's also helping the church prioritize application usage and manage bandwidth utilization, including through employee access privileges, thereby ensuring smooth and steady network performance. The Application Patrol function can be utilized to control employees' network use as well as a variety of applications, enabling administrators to customize management protocols based on specific applications and behaviors.

With Zyxel's solution in place, WiFi users' prayers have been answered: patchy connections are a thing of the past for pilgrims and tourists. Up to 1,000 users can stay connected at a time. And all the while, the church administrators ensure their network is safe and secure.

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Products Used

NWA1123-ACv2 • 802.11ac Dual-Radio Ceiling Mount PoE Access Point

- NebulaFlex™ gives you the flexibility to switch between standalone and Nebula cloud management
- Nebula cloud management allows easy deployment, real-time configurations, and access to all your access points at anytime
- 802.11ac 2x2 supports a combined data rate of up to 1.2 Gbps
- Compact ceiling-mount design with optimized RF performance
- Robust build quality including solid-state capacitors to ensure long life and operational reliability

ZyWALL USG1100 • Next-Gen Unified Security Gateway Extreme Series

- UTM Firewall for medium- and large-sized businesses and campuses
- Anti-malware protection with Anti-Virus, Anti-Spam, Content Filtering 2.0, IDP, Application Protocol and SSL inspection
- Robust SSL, IPSec, and L2TP over IPSec VPN connectivity and VPN High Availability (HA)
- Device HA Pro ensures smart handover
- Built-in WLAN controller for centralized AP management and effortless WLAN scalability of up to 1024 APs
- Cloud-based intelligent analytics and report service support
- Facebook WiFi for intelligent social media authentication

Nebula Control Center (NCC)

- Responsive web design and intuitive user interface
- Multi-tenant and multi-site views
- First time setup wizard
- Role-based administration privileges
- Real-time and historical monitoring/reporting
- Rich site-wide management tools
- Powerful organization-wide management tools
- Configuration changing alerts
- Misconfiguration protection against disconnecting NCC
- Configure login auditing

About Zyxel

Focused on innovation and customer-centricity, Zyxel has been connecting people to the Internet for over 30 years. Our ability to adapt and innovate with networking technology places us at the forefront of creating connectivity for telcos and service providers, business and home users.
Zyxel is building the networks of tomorrow, unlocking potential, and meeting the needs of the modern workplace — powering people at work, life, and play.
Zyxel, Your Networking Ally.