



Success Story

Zyxel Connects Belgian Brewery IT Network with Bottling Plant



Brewery



De Halve Maan
Brewery



Belgium



Zyxel
Nebula
Solution

Overview

Challenges

- Legacy network was slow and unreliable
- Separate networks used by the brewery and bottling plant reduced overall productivity
- New solution must provide centralized access and management of network assets

Benefits

- New network solution was deployed quickly and efficiently with negatively impacting service
- Fiber optic cable linking facilities increased overall network performance
- Gateway enhanced network security
- Centralized management provides greater efficiency

Solutions

- Zyxel Nebula Cloud Solution

The central IT network leads to more productivity and more efficient work: "Given the excavation work for the beer pipeline, it was a logical step to also build a fiber optic network. The big change this entailed was that both the brewery employees and the bottling plant employees can now work on one network."

Thomas Van de Putte
ICT consultant at Puype

Background

De Halve Maan is a family-owned brewery with a history dating back over six generations. The brewery is located in the Belgian city of Bruges, home of the city's famed beer the Brugse Zot. In 2016, the brewery built an underground beer pipeline to replace the traditional method of transporting beer by tanker truck to lower costs, increase productivity, and reduce local traffic and pollution. Every day, Brugse Zot beers flow three kilometers underground from the brewery in the city

center to its bottling plant just outside the city, which can fill 12,000 bottles of beer an hour.

The De Halve Maan has 70 staff working in the administrative department of the bottling plant, beer production facility, laboratory, brasserie, kitchen, and shop. The brewery is open to the public for beer tasting tours, meetings, and dining.

Challenges

The brewery and the bottling plant's legacy IT network were separated. The company's employees and remote offices connected via a slow and unstable virtual private network (VPN). Because the networks were not centralized, employees needed to work on two different systems, reducing staff productivity. These challenges made it necessary for the brewery to upgrade to a new network solution with the help of Puype Consulting & Computing, an IT solution provider and valued Zyxel partner that has worked with the brewery for over 15 years.



Solutions and Benefits

The De Halve Maan replaced the network with fiber-optic cable and a redesigned infrastructure based on Zyxel Nebula solution, a cloud-based network management system that included access points, power-over-Ethernet (PoE) switches, and security gateways. Before the implementation, Puype performed a significant amount of preparation that included a site survey and network research.

"Some parts of the brewery's network were 20 years old and no one really knew exactly how the cabling was installed" said Thomas Van de Putte, ICT consultant at Puype. "So, the site survey lasted no less than a week. Now we knew how the network functioned and everything was clearly written down in a blueprint."

The installation took less than four days thanks to Nebula, which features zero-touch deployment, allowing the whole process to go smoothly without the need to deploy controllers at each site.

Van de Putte said, "With an implementation, it's important that the products that need to be configured can actually be configured at a specific point in the transition process.

With Zyxel products, you can be sure that it will all go according to the script, which is great."

The brewery installed a Zyxel firewall to manage network services from two different Internet service providers. If one fails to connect, the firewall can automatically switch to the second ISP, ensuring always-on connectivity. Van de Putte said, "The cable or DSL has already failed on several occasions. Employees didn't notice anything during the changeover, which went smoothly."

The integration of the networks at both locations has created a single central network that all employees can rely on, which is faster, more efficient, and more secure. And thanks to the beer pipe, the brewery can now brew beer 24/7, whereas previously it could only brew at night.

"Due to the noise pollution caused by the trucks driving from the brewery's location at the heart of the old town to the bottling plant and back, De Halve Maan was only allowed to brew at night," Van de Putte said. "Because of the beer pipe, the trucks have become superfluous and now beer can be brewed during the day as well. The 24/7 production is, of course, a huge step forward that also

gives the brewery more time to improve the quality of the beer.”

Future Plans

Van de Putte expects Puype to do more business with Zyxel in the future for customers who require cloud

solutions. The company has already become acquainted with Zyxel Nebula. With Zyxel Nebula, IT departments can remotely deploy and manage multiple redundant networks and prevent or quickly resolve any incidents. This leads to increased network availability and productivity.

Nebula Cloud Solution



Nebula Control Center (NCC)

- Responsive web design & intuitive user interface
- Multi-tenant & multi-site view
- Role-based administration privilege
- Real-time and historical monitoring/reporting
- Site-based auto & smart configuring tools
- Misconfiguration protection against disconnecting NCC
- Rich site-wide management tools (Dashboard, Map & Floor plan, Topology)

About Zyxel Communications

Focused on innovation and customer-centricity, Zyxel Communications has been connecting people to the Internet for nearly 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.

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