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Success Story

Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust Expands with Networking Upgrade from Zyxel

INDUSTRY — Community, non-profit

CUSTOMER — Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust

COUNTRY — UK

SOLUTIONS — Zyxel Nebula Solution

Overview

Challenges

- Achieve faster, wider and more secure connectivity to support growth and the ability to take on business tenants
- Maintain a business-wide network without full time IT support
- Implement a scalable network solution that will grow with an expanding number of daily and external WiFi users

Solution

- Zyxel Nebula Solution

Results

- Quick, stable network across the whole center
- Stronger and faster WiFi network

"Operationally, co-working is now fundamental to what we do here. Thanks to that extra revenue, the trust broke even on our building costs this year for the first time, meaning we're able to put more money back into the work we do with disadvantaged young people – and we haven't had to pick up the phone to IT support once."

Chelsea Way,
Programmes Manager, Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust

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Background

Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust works with young people from disadvantaged backgrounds aged 13 to 30 to inspire and enable them to succeed in the career of their choice. The Trust believes that someone's background should not limit what they can achieve and run high impact programmes that inspire and enable young people from disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds to succeed.

The Trust owns an iconic building, The Stephen Lawrence Center, in South London which was built in 2008. In 2017, the interior of the building was redesigned by world-famous architects Gensler, introducing the co-working hub, Your Space.

The operation of Your Space required fast WiFi network throughout the whole building to support multiple users and enterprises.

Challenges

As a non-profit organization, Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust doesn't have dedicated IT support service or setup, relying instead on one part-time IT volunteer to help troubleshoot devices and reset routers. Originally, the center was fitted with just one router and a WiFi extender to boost the signal in more distant parts of the building, which often failed. As a result, the signal was poor, network transparency was limited and the Trust had no central bandwidth control. As the trust grew larger and wanted to include separate businesses on its

WiFi network, it was faced with a growing concern: the need for faster, wider and more secure network coverage. "Previously, we only had WiFi for staff, which constantly broke down and only had signal in certain areas of the building. So, we knew that to transform our new center into a co-working space, we needed a faster, more stable network. Since installing the Zyxel Nebula system our WiFi is stronger and faster, and we have been able to take on tenants who can use our center as their office.

Solutions and Benefits

The trust approached IT support provider Vibrant Networks, initially looking for new routers or WiFi boosters. After assessing the center's needs, Vibrant advised deploying the Zyxel Nebula system, along with access points and a switch to ensure a fast and secure network.

As the center redevelopment was a pro-bono project, Zyxel donated equipment to help the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust achieve growth, without having to use funding that could otherwise go back into the trust.

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money back intothe work we do with disadvantaged young people – and we haven't had to pick up the phone to IT support once," comments Chelsea Way, Programmes Manager at Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust.

Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust now enjoys a quick, stable network across the whole center. In the 12 months since the Zyxel system was installed, Vibrant Networks, which monitors the new network, hasn't received any calls for support or to fix issues. The trust can now work more efficiently, without having to worry about the WiFi or IT systems. Importantly it has also been able to expand the number of users on the network, now up to 70 a week including tenants, with no downtime or loss in connection.

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Products Used

NSW100-10P • 8-port GbE Nebula Cloud Managed PoE Switch

- Optimized for quality voice and video traffic with 180-watt power budget PoE technology
- User-friendly ACL and VLAN configuration
- Intelligent PoE technology and network topology
- Supports Port Mirroring for network traffic monitoring
- Supports DHCP white list and IGMP snooping
- RADIUS, static MAC forwarding and 802.1X authentication

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

- NebulaFlex™ gives you the flexibility to switch between stand-alone and license-free 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 Gbp
- Compact ceiling-mount design with optimized RF performance
- Robust build quality including solid-state capacitors to ensure long life and operational reliability

About Zyxel

Focused on innovation and customer-centricity, Zyxel 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.