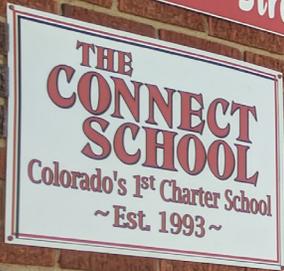


104 E. 7th Street



CONNECT SCHOOL



CASE STUDY: THE CONNECT SCHOOL

UniFi Answers the Call to Advance Digital Learning

Deployment of Ubiquiti® products creates a fast and reliable network to help keep digital classrooms lag-free.

The intuitive UniFi® Controller facilitates network monitoring and troubleshooting through its easy-to-use management interface.

UniFi AC EDU APs integrate Public Address (PA) services and high-performance wireless coverage into one product.

The Connect School was founded in 1993 in Pueblo, Colorado, as the very first charter school in its state. Providing public education for grades 6 through 8, the school strives to prepare students for college and their eventual careers by providing a high-quality, digitally connected learning environment. To this end, the Connect School uses Ubiquiti Networks® devices to deliver reliable, high-performance connectivity.

THE UBIQUITI SOLUTION

With their previous technological equipment, the Connect School experienced a variety of difficulties with compatibility, cost, reliability, and hardware obsolescence.

Another challenge resulted from the school's physical environment. Channel congestion, due to its location in a crowded area of downtown Pueblo, disrupted the wireless networks at both the main campus and remote site.

The school decided to replace their previous devices with Ubiquiti products based on the following three factors:

- Ubiquiti offers the best cost-to-performance ratio
- Ubiquiti provides an intuitive management system that is accessible to all types of users
- Ubiquiti maintains a reliable online support system that offers configuration tutorials and troubleshooting help



A UniFi AC EDU Access Point provides PA services and Wi-Fi to a classroom

"Switching to Ubiquiti was the best thing we have ever done for our school in regards to technology, and it continues to serve the needs of our users on a daily basis."

Mark Hedrick, Technology Assistant, The Connect School



UNIFI CAMERA COVERAGE



A UniFi Video Camera G3 Dome monitors a classroom

PRODUCT SELECTION

The Connect School relied on a variety of Ubiquiti products to support their 278 students and 29 faculty and staff members:

Product Model	Number	Purpose
USG-PRO-4	1	Routing with Gigabit Ethernet
UAP-AC-PRO	3	802.11ac wireless coverage for indoor/outdoor use
UAP-AC-LITE	2	802.11ac wireless coverage in a reduced footprint
UAP-AC-EDU	5	802.11ac wireless coverage with integrated PA system
US-16-XG	1	10G aggregation switching
US-48-500W	2	Gigabit switching with 10G SFP+ Ports and PoE+ support
US-24-500W	1	Gigabit switching with PoE+ support
US-8-150W	1	Desktop Gigabit switching with PoE support
UC-CK	1	Centralized management of UniFi devices
UVC-G3	2	Indoor/Outdoor IP camera with infrared
UVC-G3-LED	2	Extends night vision range for UVC-G3 cameras
UVC-G3-DOME	13	Wide-angle dome IP camera with infrared
UVC-NVR	1	Plug-and-play UniFi Video® management

“Because of Ubiquiti, we are able to provide reliable, high-performance, low-latency internet connections to students and educators alike [...] Whether it be the amazing prices, rock-solid performance, or down-to-earth support team, Ubiquiti has never disappointed us, and we plan to stick with them.”

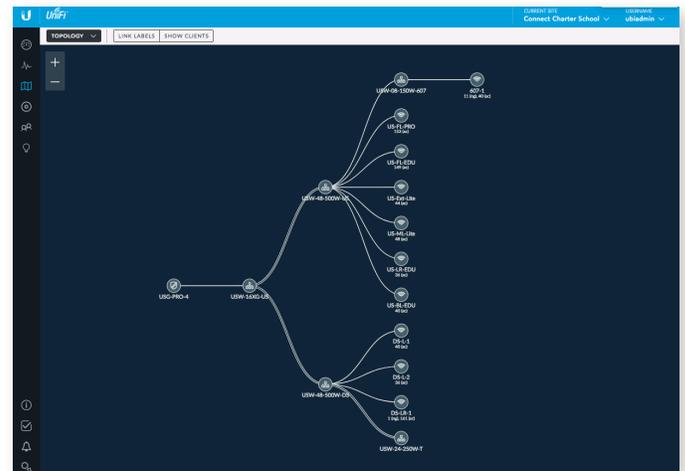
Mark Hedrick, Technology Assistant, The Connect School

DEPLOYMENT OF UBIQUITI PRODUCTS

The Connect School needed a network that would support 300 users and their various devices, which include laptops, desktop computers, printers, servers, surveillance cameras, smart thermostats, and more.

The school campus is comprised of the main school building and a remote site across the street. The main school building holds the majority of student classrooms and offices, while the remote site offers space for an additional classroom, a library, an office, and an exercise room for yoga and aerobics classes.

The main school building and the remote site are connected via Ubiquiti airMAX® products. The Connect School's backbone is fiber with a UniFi Security Gateway Pro, model USG-PRO-4, serving as the gateway to the primary WAN connection in the main school building and remote site. The remote site only required a single UniFi AC Lite AP to support their network while the main school building required additional switches and APs to fully support their network.



UniFi Controller Map screen shows topology of the network

UNIFI IN ACTION

Deployment was fast and efficient: installation of all devices was completed in just a few days. The intuitive mounting system of the UniFi AC PRO and Lite APs also allowed for quick and seamless installation of all APs. After the initial installation of the switches and APs, the Connect School expanded their network with the UniFi AC EDU Access Points.

With the help of the UniFi AC EDU APs, the Connect School implemented their first PA system. The Connect School chose the UniFi AC EDU APs because they conveniently integrate 802.11ac wireless coverage and public address capabilities in one reliable product, making them ideal for campus-wide deployment. The EDU APs feature simultaneous dual-band, 3X3 MIMO technology and 802.3at PoE+ compatibility.



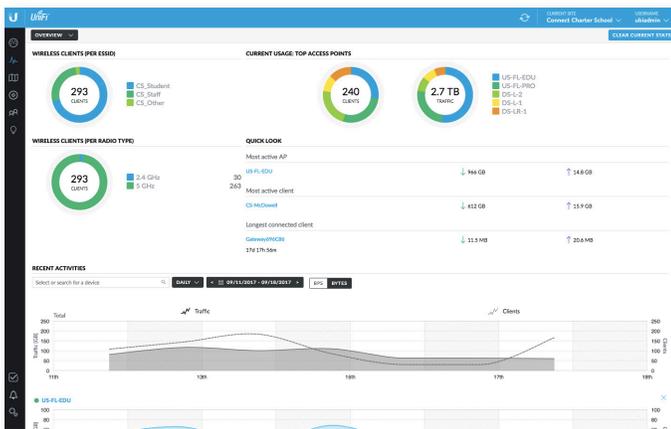


A ceiling-mounted UniFi AC EDU AP in a classroom

The school also utilizes the UniFi EDU app, an announcement app that allows users to conduct live broadcasts, schedule announcements, and save recordings for later use. All the administrative staff at the Connect School (principles, deans, directors, and administrative aids) have access to the app from their smart devices. Currently, the school uses the app to schedule announcements for public events, such as parent night; they have also used the app to save prerecorded emergency messages that can be sent out by the staff depending on the situation.



Multi-camera live feed from UniFi Video Cameras



UniFi Controller Dashboard screen

CONVENIENT CONFIGURATION

Configuration of the devices went just as smoothly as installation due to the UniFi Controller's intuitive interface. Designed for convenient management, the UniFi Controller allows admins to configure and monitor UniFi devices using a graphical user interface. UniFi also offers high price-to-performance value as there are no separate software, licensing, hosting, or support fees. The Connect School opted to use the UniFi Cloud Key, a software controller housed in a sleek form factor, to manage the UniFi Controller.

POSITIVE RESPONSE

With the implementation of Ubiquiti products, the Connect School saw a significant increase in bandwidth, reliability, and user satisfaction. The reliability of Ubiquiti products is especially important to digital classroom environments, as they require fast and reliable networks to keep content streaming lag-free, which helps keep students engaged. The user-friendly UniFi Controller has helped decrease the turnaround time for IT tickets at the school, as non-technical staff members can help to diagnose an issue.

The Connect School has been so pleased with their Ubiquiti solution that they have discussed its benefits with other schools and neighboring businesses and encouraged them to make the switch as well.

"We are able to educate the future engineers, leaders, doctors, scientists, and people of this world with bleeding-edge content thanks to the reliable and high-performance nature of Ubiquiti products."

John Mikulas, Director of Operations, The Connect School

FUTURE PLANS

Due to the successful deployment of Ubiquiti products and high levels of user satisfaction, the Connect School remains committed to Ubiquiti products. Future plans include acquiring additional Ubiquiti products, as well as upgrading existing ones as needed. For example, their most recent network expansion included the addition of the UniFi AC EDU APs, and next on their list is the incorporation of the new UniFi Application Server, model UAS-XG. They plan to use the UniFi Application Server to house their UniFi Controller and video management system.

Visit the Connect School at www.connectschool.org

For more deployment case studies, visit: www.ubnt.com/customers

