



"Aerohive has provided Calvin College with an outstanding enterprise Wi-Fi solution across most of our entire campus, the areas that have been migrated from the old wireless system. Aside from the technology boosting our network along with simplicity of management, the support from Aerohive has been exceptional and instrumental to ensure a successful deployment. The ability to carve out how users authenticate is a key capability and gives us the flexibility we require to accommodate our network and user needs. As we leverage additional features and expand our network, we know we can count on Aerohive to continue to architect a successful wireless solution."

— **Mark Corliss**
Network Engineer
Calvin College

Calvin College

University Deploys Aerohive for Flexible Campus Wi-Fi and Simplified Management

About Calvin College

With deep roots going back to its founding in 1876, Calvin College is ranked number one in Regional Colleges Midwest. With approximately 4,000 students and 500 faculty, Calvin is a private Christian liberal arts college located in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The institution aims to form the hearts and minds of its students to prepare for the future, with emphasis on the liberal arts to expand worldviews and become better citizens as Christ's agent of renewal in the world. Research, expansive global opportunities, service-learning and hands-on experiences contribute to the success Calvin graduates have in careers and further graduate study.

The Challenge

Many years ago, the college implemented a Cisco network with an ad hoc approach, placing access points in campus buildings and if problems arose, the IT team would simply try moving the AP to a different location. With the onslaught of mobile devices on campus over the past several years, Calvin College needed to take an enterprise approach to its network, upgrading to 802.11ac technology and understanding how best to set up a comprehensive wireless network to improve connectivity.

The IT team looked to AmeriNet, in partnership with WZC Networking, to conduct a site survey in order to make informed network decisions and validate wireless requirements. The data gathered from this survey was especially insightful to learn the number of mobile devices now populating the campus and the recommended number of wireless access points required to keep up with demand.

Calvin College needed to provide coverage across its main campus, as well as five additional physical locations, with plans for expansion over the next two years to other facilities, including a large athletic complex and fine arts center.

The Solution

After evaluating Meraki, Calvin College decided to move away from a Cisco brand solution and rolled out an Aerohive pilot in the President's Office, testing connectivity and bandwidth before deploying across the larger campus. Calvin College chose Aerohive AP230 access points, BR200 branch routers, VPN Gateway Virtual Appliance and HiveManager on-premises.

The IT team set up one SSID for faculty and students, assigning different VLANs for individual users. In addition, the college has leveraged the Private Pre-Shared Key (PPSK) feature from Aerohive to authenticate users at the graduate seminary to the larger network. Branch routers are used at an adjacent clinic from Mercy St. Mary's Hospital, located close to campus and ensuring network connection for Staff members who need access to Calvin's system.

Bonjour Gateway from Aerohive has helped in the management of the network, giving Apple devices such as Apple TVs and iPads a path to firmware updates and service readiness. Band steering capabilities from Aerohive will allow devices to route to the 5GHz band, relieving network congestion for the campus. Other future plans include implementing VoIP phones with Jabber for a campus-wide advanced communications platform.

Why Aerohive

- Intelligent, cooperative control enabled access points, ensure simplified management and control while eliminating single points of failure.
- Flexible features such as Private Pre-Shared Key enable IT team to manage users and groups of users on the same SSID.
- Intuitive and intelligent network management system with HiveManager.

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