



"Working with a controller-based wireless solution was an absolute nightmare, so as soon as we had the opportunity to abandon the controller and move into the cloud, we jumped. After evaluating several wireless vendors and solutions, and after personally working with Aerohive's technology in a previous position, Aerohive was the clear choice for our deployment revamp. With a seamless implementation, simple configuration and effortless management capability, working with Aerohive has been a dream. As we continue to expand our district, we look forward to working with Aerohive every step of the way."

— **Wayne Steffan**
Network Specialist at
Carlsbad Municipal Schools

Carlsbad Municipal Schools

Aerohive Brings Carlsbad Municipal Schools Back Online with Controller-less Wi-Fi and Cloud-Managed Networking Solution

Customer Overview

Known as the "Pearl on the Pecos," Carlsbad, New Mexico is located along the banks of the Pecos River and is known for its strong presence of Potash mining, oil and gas extraction and surrounding national parks. Carlsbad's population is approximately 27,000 with a student population of 5,200. Carlsbad Municipal Schools spans 84 acres with 14 schools including one pre-school, one early childhood education center (kindergarten), eight elementary schools (grades 1-5), two middle schools (grades 6-8), one high school (grades 9-12) and one Montessori academy (grades K-12). Carlsbad Municipal Schools strive to create a public school environment that meets the individual educational needs of all children and is dedicated to providing each student with the opportunity to develop intellectually, emotionally, physically and socially in a safe and orderly environment.

Challenges

Prior to Aerohive, Carlsbad Municipal Schools were leveraging both Cisco and Hewlett Packard's (HP) controller-based wireless solutions throughout the district. However, when a power line was cut during a campus construction project, one building's Cisco controllers were destroyed causing them to lose contact with over 50 access points and ultimately creating a network outage in the high school, a middle school and one of the elementary schools. This incident, combined with an initial botched deployment, consistent network management challenges and issues with the physical Cisco and HP controllers, forced Wayne Steffan, network specialist at Carlsbad Municipal Schools, to begin the search for a single, controller-less, cloud-based wireless solution.

Aerohive Solution

Carlsbad Municipal Schools evaluated traditional Wi-Fi networking vendors including Meru and Aruba before selecting Aerohive. Ultimately, Aerohive was chosen for its strong feature set, remote management capability, ease of deployment, ease of use and cost-effective, controller-less solution. Carlsbad Municipal Schools are currently utilizing Aerohive's AP121 and AP170 access points and Aerohive's [HiveManager Online](#) Network Management Service.

Why Aerohive Was Selected

- Aerohive's "smart" access points are manufactured with built-in intelligence to operate without a controller, which reduces the cost and complexity of deployment. Additionally, Aerohive's access points have a stronger signal than previous solutions, which can penetrate the thicker walls of the older school buildings in the district and also provide a much larger range of coverage.
- Aerohive's cost-effective controller-less solution provides the performance, availability, management, mobility and security needed in a large district. Due to the controller-less solution, expanding to future and faster wireless technologies – like 802.11ac – will be much easier for Carlsbad Municipal Schools than with traditional Wi-Fi systems.
- Aerohive's HiveManager Online is a cloud-based centralized network management interface that provides customers with real-time topology, performance and client information to simplify troubleshooting and capacity planning. Additionally, the web-based application interface allows for managing Aerohive devices remotely – anytime, anywhere.

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