



Oise departmental Council

With Aerohive Networks, Oise Council Encourages Digital Mobility in its Junior Secondary Schools

WLAN Network Challenges

- Increase of the use of mobile devices in the 66 secondary schools of the department
- Ensure network is fast enough and reliable to enable the 38 000 students and the 3 500 teachers to use Internet in the education program
- Wi-Fi network infrastructure able to answer to the education market obligations such as ease of remote administration, reliability terminals, ease of deployment, the ability to support many simultaneous connections and price

Aerohive Wi-Fi Solution Benefits

- The network provides better coverage, with improved reliability of device connectivity
- HiveManager allows the IT team to easily manage, from remote access, easily multiple networks through a simple web based interface and allows policies to be set and bandwidth prioritised
- The access points are instantly available for different kind of use without waiting for setup from the IT

In France it is the local Council for the department that is the public body responsible for social services, roads, culture, local development, tourism and education, especially junior secondary schools. The Oise departmental Council is in the process of developing mobile networks in all its secondary schools, and has chosen and deployed Aerohive Networks as the Wi-Fi provider.

The increasing use of tablets and laptop computers by students and teachers in schools, following a programme to make these new digital tools more widely available, has required the Oise departmental Council to rethink the computer networks in its educational centre, up to now relying on the Ethernet protocol. The

departmental IT service has deployed wireless networks in all colleges and has improved the existing networks, using Aerohive Networks technology.

Adapting to new uses for mobile

In the search for ways of adapting to these new uses, the IT service set out to find a solution capable of dealing with the specific constraints of a school environment, and to give a good connection for all users. The Wi-Fi service must be simple to configure, with remote administration and able to support a significant number of simultaneous connections, so that an entire class can use it with no loss of quality of service. They must also run on PoE (Power over Ethernet).

In addition as the parents of pupils are keen to limit their children's exposure to Wi-Fi radiation, it was decided that the wireless network would be used in self-service mode. Each teacher could 'book' a Wi-Fi terminal for a given lesson, so that connections would not be on all the time.

Aerohive Networks connects 38,000 students and 3500 teachers

The Wi-Fi deployment project covers the 66 state schools, with 38,000 students and 3500 teachers. So this is a fairly substantial project, with particular constraints: aside from compatibility of the

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—Mr Dziergacz,
Project manager for Oise departmental Council

terminals with the PoE standard, they must be easy to install in the buildings, with no visible antenna (to avoid damage and theft). Moreover, to ensure the professional standard of the connections, the IT service of the departmental Council that provides maintenance must be able to work remotely on every terminal if necessary (it is impossible to travel to the schools as soon as a problem is found).

After examining and testing various solutions on the market, the IT service of the departmental Council of the Oise chose Aerohive Networks, based on many factors: ease of remote administration, reliability of Wi-Fi, ease of deployment, capacity for multiple connections at once, and price. The Council already used Aerohive Access Points, which give complete satisfaction. So larger scale deployment tests were carried out.

To date 160 Access Points have been installed, out of a planned total of 350. The students and their teachers in the département are benefiting from the best conditions for their classes, using new technologies. A teacher can use a video to add an educational dimension, can correct homework or do research with these mobile terminals and the proper Wi-Fi network.

“Deployment of the Aerohive technology is very simple. There is minimal configuration, just select the Access Point: it’s a child’s play! They are preconfigured, so for instance, serial numbers are already entered in the software by Aerohive which speeds up deployment. We are currently setting up three with fibre optic links, which does not cause any extra problems. Besides, the solution has a mapping system, which makes it easier to create the optimum coverage.”

—Mr Dziergacz,
Project manager for Oise departmental Council

Simplified administration via a single terminal

As the schools’ IT network is a protected local area network, with a single connection to that of the local education office, it is not possible to monitor the access terminals from the departmental Council’s network. The Aerohive solution provides a simple way of keeping hold of the terminals with its cloud-based administration terminal.

“The Aerohive solution has no equivalent on the market. Competing solutions need a controller installed in each school to manage this number of access points, making their solutions much more expensive”, continues Mr Dziergacz. “Aerohive’s solution accesses each Access Point via the Cloud, with no need for a controller. This remote access to terminals makes administration much easier. At the same time, the administrator has access to connection logs to assess the use of the terminals, so optimising deployment.”

The Oise departmental Council also stresses the reliability of the Aerohive Networks solution: “As our partner company, Aerohive accompanied us during deployment to help us become familiar with the technology. Since implementation began, not one fault has been reported to us!” Mr Dziergacz smiles. “What is more, the solution provides excellent performance: over 30 users can connect on the same access Point, while competing solutions only offered us around twenty simultaneous connections at most. Finally, real-time management helps us protect against any faults, enabling or disabling one or more hot spots on demand.”

The Oise departmental Council is satisfied with the solution: “Given the many constraints associated with our environment and our specific requirements we thought we would find it hard to meet these new needs. Thanks to Aerohive Networks, not only was it easy, but we now have a durable, scalable infrastructure (updates are easy to deploy). And all this for a reasonable investment. We are now fully equipped to face the new challenges of the digital school” concludes Mr Dziergacz.

About the Oise departmental Council

The departmental Council is an institution that goes back about 200 years. The Administrative assembly of the Oise was created on 27 June 1790. The Oise departmental Council is the department’s decision-making body. It is a deliberative assembly with 42 members that works to improve daily life for the people of the Oise.

The Department’s areas of competence and its missions cover social and community services, local planning, education, culture and heritage. Decentralisation laws have given local councils the same responsibility for junior secondary schools as regional councils have for high schools. So it is the departmental Council which is responsible for managing the 66 state secondary schools in the department.



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