



Success Story

South Carolina Boosts Wireless with ZyXEL Solution

"ZyXEL's wall-plate APs and managed switches offered all the features we were looking for in the solution, along with the best price performance hands down out of all the solutions we considered."

Overview

Customer Name

Holiday Inn in South Carolina

Customer Industry

Hospitality

Challenges

Provide high-performance Wi-Fi to all hotel guests

Solutions

- Wall-Plate Unified Access Point
- 24-port PoE Switch with GbE Uplink

Benefits

- Offers a convenient, all-in-one box access with provision for phone, wired and wireless connectivity
- Easy management and reporting features
- Reliable solution with best-in-class price performance
- Responsive and knowledgeable support

Challenges

Holiday Inn relies on a detailed site survey before designing a Wi-Fi solution. According to them, the majority of hotel guests accessing hotel Wi-Fi networks are using mobile devices with low-power Wi-Fi. So, even though signal from an AP reaches guests' mobile devices, the reverse signals may fall short. For this reason, deploying high-powered APs is not enough. Newer Wi-Fi deployments need a higher density of APs spread throughout the coverage area. This further puts pressure on the budget of cost-conscious hotel management. They have had experience with several wireless technology vendors including ZyXEL. Post due-diligence, Holiday Inn concluded that ZyXEL equipment exceeded their performance and budget requirements.

Background

The growing use of multiple mobile devices has increased the dependence on Wi-Fi access. Hotel chains like Holiday Inn are setting higher standards for acceptable Wi-Fi signal strength to keep guests happy. Most hotels require signal strength of 4 bars or more for acceptable service. When the management of a Holiday Inn in South Carolina was ready for a Wi-Fi upgrade to their three-story, 100-room facility, they approached ZyXel for a solution.

ZyXel is a leading IT and telecommunications manufacturer for the hotel and motel industry. In business since 1989, ZyXel professionals have years of experience provisioning voice, network data, high-speed Internet, networking and video surveillance solutions.

Solutions and Benefits

ZyXel determined that for the best in-room Wi-Fi coverage for all Holiday Inn guests, they needed to deploy APs inside the rooms. The signal from mobile phones couldn't reach APs in the hallway. ZyXEL wall-plate form factor access points NWA5301-NJ offered the perfect solution. Holiday Inn installed ZyXEL's wall-plate APs in the outlet by the desk in each room that was already wired for Ethernet. The solution was very efficient, requiring no additional wiring. The ZyXEL AP also has provisions for wired connection and phone jack—providing an all-in-one box for phone, wired and wireless Internet connectivity. Each AP provided Wi-Fi coverage to nine adjacent rooms.



Holiday Inn also used ZyXEL for their managed PoE + Ethernet switches ES3500-24HP to connect and manage all the wall-plate APs that are PoE as well. ZyXEL managed switches with PoE+ are capable of powering all 24 ports, allowing Holiday Inn to connect to the switch to 24 APs without any additional equipment. The switches are loaded with sophisticated management features that enable Holiday Inn to manage and configure and troubleshoot the network remotely—anytime from anywhere. Additionally, Holiday Inn is able to configure, and monitor each port individually, so only the problem APs could be reset while leaving the

remaining Wi-Fi service intact. The management features allow Holiday Inn to be more responsive to all Holiday Inn customers as well as offer better quality service.

Holiday Inn's new Wi-Fi deployment by Zyxel's Engineers has been performing exceedingly well, offering guests a great Wi-Fi experience in the rooms, lobby and everywhere they could expect to have Wi-Fi coverage. The wall-plate APs are performing reliably and the managed switches have put Holiday Inn in complete control of their network 24/7.

Products Used



NWA5301-NJ 802.11 b/g/n Wall-Plate Unified Access Point

- Unique mounting dock design that fits the majority of outlet boxes in the world
- Punch-down Ethernet interface for significantly reduced installation efforts
- 2.4 GHz 802.11n technology providing data rates of up to 300 Mbps
- High-gain antenna that optimizes Wi-Fi services for mobile devices
- Extending phone and IPTV services with integrated interfaces
- LED suppress mode for comfortable room services
- Layer-2 isolation to secure personal data from leaking



ES3500-24HP 24-port FE L2 Switch with GbE Uplink

- 16 K MAC address table
- Policy-based QoS optimizes multi-service quality
- IGMP snooping v1, v2, v3, MVR
- Multilayer (L2/L3/L4) ACL suite for security protection
- High redundancy and resilient architecture with RSTP and port trunking
- Intuitive Web-based management with all features configurable
- IPv6 management support
- IEEE 802.3at PoE Plus standard
- Enhanced energy efficiency with PoE consumption mode

About ZyXEL Communications

ZyXEL Communications Corp., founded in 1989 and headquartered in Taiwan, is the leading provider of complete broadband access solutions. As one of the early modem manufacturers, ZyXEL has undergone many transformations in the fast-paced networking industry. Today, ZyXEL is one of the few companies in the world capable of offering complete networking solutions of Telco, SME/Enterprise, and Digital Home for a wide range of deployment scenarios. Telco solutions include wired and wireless access network equipments, networking customer premises equipments, and Carrier Switches. SME and Enterprise solutions include Unified Security Gateway, LAN Switches, WLAN, and IP telephony. Digital Home solutions include network connectivity devices and multimedia solutions.

The company has 1000 employees and distributors in 70 countries, reaching more than 150 regional markets. The ZyXEL Communications Corp. includes 35 subsidiaries and sales offices and two research and development centers worldwide. For more information, visit the company's Website, <http://www.zyxel.com>.

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