

University of Oregon Selects the AirWave Management Platform™ to Control its Cisco WLAN Infrastructure



Wireless Network Overview

Location:	Eugene, OR
WLAN Size:	80 access points
WLAN Hardware:	Cisco Aironet 1200 Cisco Aironet 350
AirWave Product:	AirWave Management Platform Professional Edition

WLAN Management Needs

The University of Oregon's twenty thousand undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, staff, and administrators needed wireless access in campus libraries, classrooms, and administrative buildings. By late 2002, the University's IT staff was in the fourth stage of their wireless network deployment. After extensive testing in the prior stages, the University had selected Cisco Aironet 1200 and 350 wireless access points as its primary WLAN hardware. The IT staff had developed its own access control solution to determine which users should be authorized to use the network.

Yet, as the University expanded its wireless network to more than 80 locations, Senior Network Engineer Jose Dominguez knew that they would need a centralized management solution: "Our students and faculty love having wireless access across campus, but we have a limited IT staff. We needed a solution to manage and troubleshoot the entire wireless network efficiently from a central console."

AirWave Solution

The University selected the **AirWave Management Platform™ Professional Edition** software as its wireless network management solution. The primary reasons that the University chose the AirWave software were:

- ✓ **Centralized AP configuration and firmware management** to ensure that the 100+ RF and network settings on the Cisco APs could be controlled from a remote console.
- ✓ **Performance monitoring and alerting** to guarantee that the IT staff is notified promptly when network problems may be affecting their users
- ✓ **Vendor-agnostic management** to control Cisco access points efficiently but would also be able to support hardware from additional vendors in the future.
- ✓ **Scalability** to guarantee continued manageability as the University wireless network expands over the years to include hundreds of access points.

It's important for the university to have a network management solution that can manage hardware from multiple vendors and from a company that would be willing to establish a close relationship with the IT staff.

- Jose Dominguez
Sr. Network Eng.

Results

The University purchased the AirWave Management Platform software through an authorized AirWave reseller in December 2002. The process of installing the software and bringing all existing wireless access points under management took less than a day. "With the right tools, 802.11 wireless networks are as manageable and reliable as traditional Ethernet networks," says Dominguez. With the AirWave software, we know exactly who is connected to our network and what kind of performance they are receiving. We have complete control over our hardware infrastructure, so it's no problem to add or reconfigure a wireless access point."