

### The College

- Rowville Secondary College
- Over 1900 students
- 150 staff with 5.5 FTE in IT team
- 2 Campuses 4km apart
- Mix of Windows laptops and netbooks, Macs, iOS devices

### The Challenges

- Challenging on-boarding of new devices
- Shifting to BYOD
- Lack of visibility into the Wireless LAN
- Internet filtering hard to manage
- High support effort

### The Solution

- End-user based design
- New, controller-less WLAN using Aruba Networks
- Internet filtering and firewalls with Netbox Blue
- User-driven on-boarding with ClearPass

Education is a complicated business. As the Internet and computers have become essential tools for 21st century learners, the demands placed on IT staff and infrastructure have increased. As a result, federal and state agencies have contributed to the procurement and deployment of computers and networks.

However, while these "one size fits most" solutions are adequate for some schools, they don't meet the needs of everyone.

Rowville Secondary College felt that the existing systems were not going to be sustainable as the college moved ahead in their BYOD program.

The college's mandatory BYOD program, while new, will cover every student in years 7 to 10 in 2015 with year 11 and 12 students following in 2016. However, students in senior classes can optionally bring their computers or tablets to the college in 2015.

## It's Not Just About Products

The college's CIO, Paul Garnham explains.

"We originally operated with the department's standard operating environment. Although it provided certain strengths, it was found to be quite challenging in it's management and delivery. There was a manual one-on-one certificate based process to provide access to the system".

In addition, the college's Internet connection was pushed to its limits and the filtering system provided by the department didn't offer the flexibility they needed.

They needed rapid on-boarding of new devices, a more manageable and better performing wireless network and an easier content management and filtering solution.

**"Honeylight Consulting assisted us putting the design together. The authentication process is set up with ClearPass so we had full accountability for each individual"**

"We've now changed to an Aruba wireless network solution, which we assessed and chose

with the support of Honeylight Consulting. We're now running a controller-less solution at each campus. We've enabled the capability for students and staff to on-board their own devices, eliminating the need for IT to have a manual process to access the network".

This means students and staff can now bring devices from home and connect them to the college's network without the need to engage the IT department.

"As part of the solution delivered with Honeylight Consulting, we've introduced a ClearPass service. This has allowed the delivery of a simplified on-boarding process for staff and students joining the network. A landing page guides users through the on-boarding process with IT able to set limits on the number and type of devices they can connect".

The wireless LAN utilises approximately 110 Aruba IAP-225 access points distributed across the two campuses. The controller-less set up means that one access point is designated as the master and holds all of the configuration information. As new access points are added, they are automatically detected and configured.

With such a complex wireless network, Garnham was looking for a way to analyse performance, identify high-traffic areas and find ways to optimise his investment. Through discussion with Honeylight Consulting, he chose AirWave to complement the Aruba Networks access points.

"We're able to see what areas are receiving more load. For example, general areas like the library can be monitored to determine if they have sufficient access points for superior delivery to all end users. An amusing discovery occurred while students were entering or leaving the college. The access points located at the front of the property showed a spike at the beginning and end of day".



## User-led Design



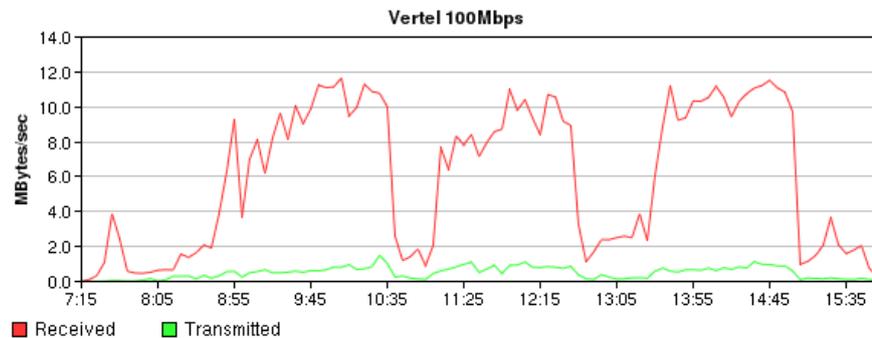
"When we started designing what we'd need for a BYOD program, we reflected on what the experience was going to be for the end-user. That's what we based the design on. We had a concept of a student or a teacher - how do they get their device going? When you view it in that way you reflect on your current infrastructure. With the previous system and certificate-based authentication, we had the realisation that if we suddenly had 1000 students turn up on day one of term one with their BYOD device, we would be inundated with too many requests. We'd lose the better part of term one catching up".

The thought process for Garnham and his team was focussed on developing a network that has the needs of users at the core rather than the technology. They knew they needed a better solution that allowed simpler on-boarding to support the BYOD initiative. They realised the need for more robust internal and external networks as well as better management tools for IT and a user-centric model for connecting to the network.

Again, Rowville Secondary College turned to Honeylight Consulting to assist them with identifying a service provider that could meet the college's growing needs. The college engaged Vertel as their ISP because of their reputation in serving the education sector. Honeylight Consulting complemented this service with the Netbox Blue filtering system so that the college met its duty of care responsibilities.

The full solution that was designed, including the wireless LAN, Internet connection and filtering exceeded the college's expectations.

Mr Garnham noted that what Rowville Secondary College received wasn't simply a collection of products. The service delivered by Honeylight Consulting meant that the college was able to maximise the benefits.



## Outcomes

"Honeylight Consulting assisted us with putting the design together that provides full accountability for each individual user, as well as connection through the Aruba access points; authentication through ClearPass; wireless network monitoring through AirWave; and filtering through Netbox Blue for the Vertel Internet connection".



Feedback within the college has been very positive. For example, by managing connection filtering internally, Rowville Secondary College's IT team is able to more effectively meet the needs of staff and students.

The relationship between Rowville Secondary College and Honeylight Consulting has been very fruitful. There has been ongoing dialog between the college and Honeylight Consulting to ensure the continuing operation of the new solution and that it meets the college's current needs with an eye on the future.

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