



SCHOOLS (K-12)



BIALIK COLLEGE

Hawthorn | Victoria | Australia

A 1:1 STUDENTS CONNECT TO A NEW LEARNING EXPERIENCE with a Meru virtualized wireless LAN.

“It is easy to see that Meru Networks was the right choice for us. We are pleased that the Meru Networks 802.11n infrastructure can support high densities of wireless users. It gave our school an easy-to-implement, problem-free solution.”

David Micallef | Head of Technology, Bialik College

Meru Products Used

- ❑ MC4100 Controllers
- ❑ Meru AP320 Series

Challenges

- ❑ Proliferation of wireless devices overwhelmed existing wired connections.
- ❑ School needed to provide expanded access to online connectivity and tools.
- ❑ Free choice of devices required network flexibility.

Results

- ❑ Achieved high reliability and performance for large number of simultaneous users.
- ❑ Freed students from classroom boundaries.
- ❑ Simplified installation and management by eliminating need for channel planning.

Challenges

Bialik College consistently ranks among the leading schools in Victorian Certificate of Education performance, providing more than 1060 students with an outstanding Jewish and general education. Children from kindergarten to year 12 learn literacy and math skills and expand their educations with a rich, diverse choice of subjects and encouragement to develop a desire for lifelong learning. This capacity and passion for learning empowers students and helps them achieve excellence in their future educational pursuits.

Rapid proliferation of technology has made it essential for Bialik to provide its students with the best possible support as they prepare for tertiary studies. A key element of that support is use of the school's network and the Internet. Students are encouraged to discover the benefits of online connection and practical online tools, such as email and search engines.

Students and staff increasingly used their personal computers, laptops, tablets, Apple iPads, and smartphone devices such as the iPhone and Blackberry, on campus. However, without a wireless network, access was limited to wired connections. Students and staff were not able to obtain network or Internet access consistently enough to maximize the learning experience.

"We wanted all our students to have a fair go at using the school's network with Internet access," says David Micallef, head of technology for Bialik College. "We already have access to a number of devices with the capability for wireless Internet connectivity. The only thing that was hindering our progress was the lack of a wireless network solution for the campus."

Solution

Bialik College explored a number of wireless LAN solutions, most of which required complex installation or time-consuming management. With the help of Wavelink Communications, Bialik chose a Meru Networks virtualized wireless LAN.

"Bialik College needed a wireless LAN solution that was simple to implement and manage throughout the campus, without affecting classes," says Ilan Rubin, Managing Director, Wavelink Communications. "We are proud to support this highly academic school with an accountable and reliable wireless LAN solution from Meru Networks that can offer students a stable Internet connection."

The Meru virtualized wireless LAN provides a comprehensive wireless coverage across the Bialik campus and supports any 802.11 a/b/g/n mobile device. Meru Virtual Cell™ technology makes the network simple to install and manage by eliminating the need for channel planning and enabling all access points to be deployed on the same channel. Each access point is deployed at full power, delivering greater coverage with fewer access points—up to 30% fewer access points may be required, which also reduces capital costs. Adding capacity for dense user environments is as simple as adding a channel, and performance for bandwidth-intensive devices is significantly improved.

In addition to delivering excellent throughput and power, Micallef also praised the network's fully scalable component. If additional coverage

is needed, access points can easily be added—even by school IT administrators who are not wireless experts. Bialik staff completed full deployment of the Meru controller and 26 access points themselves, in less than one week.

"The best thing about Meru Networks virtualized wireless LAN was the ease of implementation," says Micallef. "Unlike solutions from other vendors, there was no need to hire additional consultants to deploy the product, as it was all done in-house."

Benefits

Staff and students enjoy the high reliability of the Meru virtualized wireless LAN. They use the school's network with Internet access from anywhere on campus. There have been no connectivity interruptions or issues associated with channel interference. Staff and students now have freedom from the boundaries of classroom walls and expanded possibilities for learning. On a beautiful day, students can be found sitting on the grass, conducting research for their schoolwork with their laptops. Teachers are also happy to bring their classes to other locations around the school, because they know that no matter where they go, online access will be available.

"It is easy to see that Meru Networks was the right choice for us," says Micallef. "We are pleased that the Meru Networks 802.11n infrastructure can support high densities of wireless users. It gave our school an easy-to-implement, problem-free solution and the benefits definitely outweighed the costs."

For more information about Meru Networks wireless networking solutions, visit | www.merunetworks.com |
For more information about Bialik College, visit | www.bialik.vic.edu.au |

Meru Networks | Copyright © 2010 Meru Networks, Inc. All rights reserved worldwide. Meru Networks is a registered trademark of Meru Networks, Inc. in the US and worldwide. All other trademarks, trade names or service marks mentioned in this document are the property of their respective owners.



Corporate Headquarters
894 Ross Drive
Sunnyvale, CA 94089
T +1 (408) 215-5300
F +1 (408) 215-5301
E info@merunetworks.com