

Vanderbilt University Selects the AirWave Management Platform™ as its WLAN Management Solution



VANDERBILT
UNIVERSITY

Wireless Network Overview

Location:	Nashville, TN
WLAN Size:	330+ access points
WLAN Hardware:	Cisco Aironet 1200 (802.11a/b/g) Cisco Aironet 350 (802.11b) Cisco Aironet 340 (802.11b)
AirWave Product:	AirWave Management Platform Professional Edition with RAPIDS™ Rogue AP Detection

WLAN Management Needs

By the time network administrators at Vanderbilt University had deployed more than 300 wireless access points in several dozen buildings on the school's campus in Nashville, it had become apparent that they needed a centralized WLAN management and monitoring solution to control their wireless infrastructure. "We really needed a way to effectively monitor the wireless network, so we could tell how the network was being used and where we had potential problems," says Vanderbilt network engineer John Brassil. "Without the AirWave software we were mostly limited to monitoring the wired side of our network. We weren't getting the detailed RF data we needed to ensure that the network was performing well for our users."

Vanderbilt's top priorities in selecting a WLAN management solution were:

- Automatic discovery of new access points connected to the wireless network to enable efficient installation
- Monitoring and reporting on network usage and critical RF-specific attributes
- Easy-to-use, scalable user interface for monitoring the network and implementing configuration changes.

AirWave Solution

After a side-by-side comparison of the leading products available, Vanderbilt University selected the **AirWave Management Platform™ Professional Edition** software as its wireless network management solution. The primary reasons that Vanderbilt chose the AirWave software were:

- ✓ **Easy, reliable discovery of wireless APs**, across multiple subnets and a streamlined process for adding new devices to the network, ensuring that Vanderbilt can quickly discover all devices on its network (including rogue APs).
- ✓ **Automatic generation of detailed performance reports**, included graphical inline representations of connected users, bandwidth utilization, and key RF statistics.
- ✓ **Email alerts** to let administrators know when key measures of WLAN performance are outside acceptable parameters.
- ✓ **Easy-to-use, web-based user interface** that allows administrators to monitor and manage the WLAN from anywhere they have secure network access.
- ✓ **Stable, secure platform** running on a Red Hat Linux OS.

"The Airwave Management Platform is superior in terms of both usability and functionality. AirWave has continuously and rapidly added new features to enhance its stability and functionality, making it the premier product in this space at this time."

- John Brassil,
Network Engineer

Results

Once the AirWave software was installed, network administrators noticed an immediate improvement in their ability to control their wireless infrastructure and achieve optimum performance. "With the AirWave Management Platform, we have the infrastructure to monitor our wireless network and intelligently plan additional growth," says Brassil. "We have added a powerful wireless management tool that allows us to monitor existing resources and plan for the changes and growth in wireless networking that we know are coming."