



Location	Coventry, UK
WLAN Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80 rising to 120 wireless access points
Hardware	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cisco 350/1100/1200 Bluesocket WG-2100 WLAN Gateway
AirWave Product	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AirWave Management Platform Professional Edition RAPIDS Rogue AP Detection Module

WLAN Management Needs

The University of Warwick is one of the most prestigious universities in the United Kingdom, with more than 15,500 students and 4,500 faculty and staff members. The university IT staff decided to install a wireless LAN to provide students and faculty with mobile network access in public areas as well as some university departments, and implemented the Bluesocket WLAN gateway solution to provide easy, web-based login for users.

IT Services quickly realized a need existed for a sophisticated network management solution to integrate with the Bluesocket security solution to provide real-time visibility of network performance as well as historical reports to monitor changes in usage. "Trying to manage a wireless LAN without monitoring capabilities is like flying a plane without any gauges – you simply cannot make good judgments without good information," said Mary Visser, Deputy Director of IT Services. The ability to automatically detect unauthorized 'rogue' access points by students and faculty, thus violating the University security policy and interfering with the performance of the authorized wireless network users has proved to be highly beneficial.

AirWave Solution

The University of Warwick evaluated their hardware vendor's proprietary WLAN configuration tool before selecting the vendor-neutral AirWave Management Platform™ Professional Edition software. For Warwick, the key advantages of the AMP solution were:

- Centralized Configuration and Firmware Distribution**
 'The AirWave Management Platform makes it easy for us to define security and network policies, and to automatically push the appropriate configuration to each access point on our network. When we install a new base station, AMP automatically detects and configures them. AMP even allows us to specify a minimum firmware version for each model of AP and automatically updates any AP with older firmware.'
- Multiple Ways to Detect Rogue Access Points**
 'AMP offers multiple methods to detect rogue access points, including RF scans using Wi-Fi enabled Windows PCs (with the AirWave Management Client) as well as scans from the wired side of the network to identify the unique "fingerprints" of rogue APs. Combining a wired and a wireless detection technique gives us the ability to detect and remove rogue APs quickly – and doesn't require any expensive hardware.'
- Intelligent Triggers and Alerts**
 'AMP helps us detect and diagnose problems as soon as they occur. It automatically sends email alerts to the Helpdesk to ensure that any problems are addressed immediately, which dramatically improves the reliability and performance of our network.'
- Historical Reporting**
 'AMP automatically generates historical performance reports providing that help us audit our network and identify areas where performance or WLAN capacity may become problems.'

Results

"The AirWave Management Platform has exceeded our expectations and is an essential tool for managing our wireless network. Even better, everyone in AirWave's organization has worked closely with us and been extremely responsive to our need for a superior, reliable, and cost-effective management solution," said Mary Visser.