University of Limerick WiFi Project
Overcoming campus challenges
HEAnet Conference 2022

UNIVERSITY OF
LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

University of Limerick *WiFi Project*
Overview

The University of Limerick have recently completed one of the largest and most sophisticated Wi-Fi Network installations in Ireland, improving the quality and availability of Wi-Fi on the university campus. This was a key requirement identified by Students and Staff and was delivered as part of the IT Strategic Digital Plan.

ONE OF THE LARGEST WI-FI NETWORKS IN IRELAND

➢ 2,000 Wi-Fi Access Points across campus.

➢ 30 KM cabling to enable the wireless network.

➢ Average of 30,000 weekly unique device connections.

BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

➢ High-speed, high-performance, reliable Wi-Fi network throughout the campus.

➢ Measurable user experience with capability to monitor Wi-Fi network performance.

➢ Secure authentication with individual account access.

➢ Facilitates Covid-readiness with easy reconfiguration of meeting spaces.

➢ Fully integrated learning environment across campus and with other eduroam educational institutions.

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Campus wide network

The technicalities of deploying a wireless network are well understood, but installing the necessary equipment on a University campus can pose challenges when dealing with buildings of historical and architectural significance. Our stakeholders requested a campus wide network.

Student Union Courtyard
Outdoor student meeting areas surrounded by stone buildings

Outdoor Meeting Areas
Popular campus meeting areas and walkways

Plassey House
1760 listed building, administrative centre for the university

Living Bridge
Irelands longest pedestrian bridge. Winner of design awards in 2008.

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Overcoming campus challenges

The project team, in collaboration with the innovative design engineers in Agile Networks and the Buildings and Estates department, developed unique solutions for each challenge. The aim was to ensure the network equipment and cabling did not impact the aesthetics of campus buildings, while maintaining the quality of the wireless network. Specialist equipment was sourced and coloured coatings were applied to Access Points where necessary.

Student Union Courtyard
Coating applied to the access point to blend in with the stone

Outdoor Meeting Areas
Access Points coated to match the campus buildings, no external cabling

Plassey House
Equipment hidden in furniture throughout the building

Living Bridge
Access Points installed underneath the seated areas along the bridge.