

## LIBERTY-EYLAU INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### BUSINESS CASE STUDY

### HOW A SMALLER DISTRICT IMPLEMENTED A LARGER VISION

#### LEISD Overview

Liberty-Eylau Independent School District is headquartered in Texarkana, TX, in east Texas near the Texas-Arkansas border. The district educates approximately 2,800 students on six campuses and employs a staff of approximately 400.

The district is rural in nature, and economically diverse, with 61% of students classified as economically disadvantaged, and 76% of students receiving free or subsidized lunches.

#### History

The impetus for IP telephony at Liberty-Eylau was based on increasing teacher productivity by improving communications. Telephones had never been installed in district classrooms; instead schools got by with antiquated intercom systems. However, in 2002 the district began looking at ways to upgrade its data network to replace outdated network infrastructure, increase available bandwidth, and support future technology requirements.

Because the schools did not have existing phones in the classroom, making the decision to migrate to IP telephony was easy. By using IP telephony, the school could avoid the expense of wiring individual classrooms for regular analog telephones, and could instead leverage the existing IP wiring drops. In addition, the district's existing telephone leases were expiring, which made the decision to move to IP telephony even easier.

#### The IP Telephony System

By January 2003, the district had completed a forklift upgrade of its data network and had implemented IP telephony at all of its schools. The major components of the district's IP telephony system include Cisco switches with in-line power, redundant Call Manager servers, a Cisco Unity unified messaging system, and Cisco IP phones (7960's for administrators and 7940's for classrooms). The district has also installed a Berbee paging system to enhance the usefulness of its IP telephony system.

Implementation of the new Cisco IP network took place during the Christmas break. According to Dan Dutton, IT Director at LEISD, the installation of the system was pre-staged and accomplished seamlessly. The system went live in January 2003.

#### Benefits Realized

LEISD has not done an in-depth ROI analysis, but instead primarily based its business case on the value of improving communications by telephone and voice-mail, and preserving instructional time. However, there were a number of other benefits that the district realized from using IP telephony. These benefits included:

- **Installation savings.** The district leveraged its existing network to deploy IP telephony rather than having to install a dedicated voice network using traditional analog telephones.

- **Cost-savings.** The district was able to eliminate 50 unnecessary telephone lines district-wide, saving approximately \$2,000 per month with IP telephony.
- **Improved safety and security.** The installation of IP phones in the classroom and the Berbee Informacast application have contributed to increased safety and security by improving communication capabilities between the school office and the classrooms.

Overall, teachers and staff at Liberty-Eylau has been very pleased with the new IPT system. The phones, Call Manager servers, and Unity voicemail have been highly reliable, deployment went smoothly, and user training was easily accomplished and successful. According to Dan Dutton, Director of Technology for LEISD, "Overall, I'd give it a good A."

### Plans for the Future

Liberty-Eylau's new Cisco IP telephony system plays an important role in its technology strategy for the future. In the short term, the district will be doing some minor upgrades to its Call Manager and Berbee applications for improved functionality.

Over the longer term, LEISD is implementing AAC's time and attendance application for the IP phones as well as the deployment of wireless IP phones in select locations such as bus loading zones.

Besides IP telephony applications, the district is also evaluating video over IP applications for distance learning and curriculum enhancement, as well as IP video surveillance for improved safety in and around campus.



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