Inspiring a new generation of learners

University of Dammam enhances student and faculty experiences with unified communications, collaboration, and broad Wi-Fi coverage.

“The addition of high-density Wi-Fi enabled a complete transformation for the university.”

- Dr. Saad AlAmri, dean of Information and Communication Technologies, University of Dammam

Doubling enrollment in just 3 years. Equipping a new building every 4 months. The infrastructure is ready, and learning is uninterrupted.

Challenges

- Implement a scalable network foundation
- Provide access to course materials from anywhere
- Enable face-to-face online collaboration among faculty

At University of Dammam, the ongoing challenge is growth and technology is essential to connecting its 16 campuses across 500 kilometers (435 miles). Supporting new services and growth requires a robust network.

“We need a solid infrastructure to be ready for the future,” says Muhammad Al-Ghanineh, operations director, University of Dammam. “We want to equip the university with the latest technology to benefit teaching and learning.”

The university wanted a scalable integrated solution for unified communications and collaboration along with the supporting infrastructure to provide wireless and wired connectivity. “Unified access is a fundamental requirement for a world-class university,” says Thamer Ahmed Al-Jahamneh, project manager, University of Dammam.
An end-to-end infrastructure provides reliable services and Wi-Fi for 57,000 users.

Increasing user engagement
Students and faculty can now access course materials and lectures from any building on any campus over the Wi-Fi network.

“It’s much easier for faculty to teach and engage students,” says Al-Gharribeh. “We’ve had a tremendous impact on faculty-student engagement.”

Creating new opportunities
Unified Communications and collaboration applications create new possibilities for research, teaching, and learning. The university now offers distance learning, as well as courses on mobile computing and wireless data networks.

Simplifying network management
Centralized management enables two administrators to support a network of more than 3200 wireless access points and implement quality of service (QoS) for more than 1,000 switches.

“Everything works in harmony with unified management,” says Salah Addin ElShekeil, network and security manager, University of Dammam.

Lowering TCO
Efficiencies gained with Cisco Unified Access™ enable greater business agility, operational efficiencies, and delivery of new connected experiences.

Solutions
- Deployed Cisco® Unified Access for wired and wireless networking
- Simplified communications with collaboration tools
- Managing networks centrally with Cisco Prime™ Infrastructure

TCO
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Ready for the next 5 years

Soon, the university plans to install outdoor access points to allow users to stay connected while traveling around campuses. “We are now positioned for the next 5 years of growth with an expandable network,” says Al-Gharribeh.