The University of Derby Modernizes with a Connected Digital Campus

Customer profile

Customer name
University of Derby

Industry
Higher education

Results

By partnering with Cisco and Logicalis, the University of Derby upgraded its network infrastructure and experienced great results:

- 1 Gbps to the desktop supported by exceptional applications-on-demand delivery
- 13,000 student wireless devices added to the network during the past year
- Data-driven decisions about facilities, transport, building use, and safety made through advanced network analytics

Connectivity is of vital importance. It’s the first service that students experience and expect when they arrive on campus. And faculty members are hard pressed to teach effectively without access to a reliable network.

Understanding this, the University of Derby—a public university in the city of Derby, England—deployed a connected digital campus, enabling the institution to deliver learning, teaching, and research at peak performance and availability.
Business challenge and results summary

To build a connected digital campus that would meet the current and future needs of students, faculty, and other stakeholders, the University of Derby turned to Cisco’s Catalyst 9000® wireless and switching platform. This decision included implementing Cisco Software Defined Access (SDA). Making the decision to use Cisco SDA means the university can layer on new services without increasing costs, drive greater operational efficiencies, and support a greater diversity of applications and data.

To mitigate risk, the university turned to the expertise of Cisco partner Logicalis to design a software-defined network architecture. The Logicalis team brought a deep understanding of Cisco technologies to the project. It also offered a flexible approach to services engagement and a continued focus on anticipating and resolving issues through collaborative go-live support. As a result, installation was completed within three months, which—given the scale of the solution—impressed the University of Derby team.

Students now benefit from speeds of 1 Gbps to the desktop. In addition, wireless uptake from students has grown exponentially, with 13,000 student wireless devices added to the network in the past year.

Also, by utilizing Cisco CMX, Cisco DNA™ Spaces, and Cisco wireless access points, the university team now has functioning wireless analytics across its three campuses, enabling it to observe and evaluate how users move through its locations and use teaching and social spaces. These valuable insights are helping Derby streamline services and improve resources for students, staff, and guests.

“The network supports more devices and increasing traffic flow without disruption. We’re also planning to extend coverage, even out to the bus stops, so students can connect sooner as they head into campus.”

Neil Williams
Chief Information Officer