



# Amino Communications

## Location

Swavesey, Cambridgeshire, United Kingdom

## Industry Vertical

Amino Communications supplies the AmiNET™ series of high performance IPTV set-top boxes and gateways for deployment in the telecommunications, broadcast and hospitality markets.



## Scope

The goal of this project was to implement comprehensive, building-wide wireless LAN (WLAN) at Amino's Commercial Division to provide connectivity to critical applications for a highly mobile workforce of approximately 100 administrative staff. The network would ensure access to the Internet and internal servers via VPN, and also support future expansion to include use of Wi-Fi devices.

A key requirement was that the system overcome RF interference and handoff issues. An additional stipulation was that the system be easy to set up and maintain, and require little or no configuration once in production.

## Challenges

The Amino headquarters was a modern steel-framed building with lots of partition walls, making signal propagation difficult and resulting in coverage holes for other wireless systems. Reflective coating on windows created problems related to multipath interference; microwave reflectance issues were present as well. Finally, the system was to be deployed over two floors, which could potentially pose challenges in terms of RF signal propagation and interference from floor to floor.

## Why Extricom ?

Amino had tried cell-based solutions based on multiple APs, but had experienced limited range, RF interference, and problems with getting the APs to handoff. The result was a wireless network that was inefficient, slow or even unusable. The Extricom WLAN's Channel Blanket™ architecture, in which wireless devices associate directly with the switch rather than the individual AP, ensures seamless mobility and hence robust connectivity throughout the wireless coverage area.

Furthermore, the Extricom system's uplink/downlink diversity means that wireless devices transmit on the AP which is best placed to serve that device, guaranteeing the highest possible data transfer rates for every user. In addition, the Extricom WLAN is inherently future-proofed, meaning it can support whatever applications Amino chooses to deploy without requiring additional modules or add-on components.

## Implementation Summary

The WLAN was designed and implemented by the Weston Group, a leading technology solutions provider, with assistance from Extricom support staff. The team easily deployed a 12-port switch with 9 APs in 4 hours to cover both floors of the facility, much faster than comparable enterprise-class wireless solutions from other vendors according to Kerry Dodson of the Weston Group. The fact that there no need to perform complex RF cell-planning, was a major factor in the speed of implementation.

## Current Status and Next Stages

The Extricom WLAN is fully deployed and in production with no issues. "Users think it's excellent" says Dodson, and Amino is now weighing implementing a VoWLAN phone solution on the same infrastructure, leveraging the ability to use separate channel blankets for voice and data to ensure QoS and toll-quality communications.

## What the Customer is Saying

*"Previous experience suggested that reliable, enterprise class wireless networks were difficult to set up, and even harder to keep running. Extricom has done away with all of that, and has provided a solution that works pretty much straight out of the box."*

*Philip Mansfield MBCS  
Information Systems Administrator  
Amino Communications*