



Hebron Group

Location

Ilha do Leite, in Recife – PE – Brazil

Industry Vertical

Hebron Group is one of Brazil's largest pharmaceutical companies, with a workforce of 550.

Scope

The goal of this project was to implement a comprehensive wireless LAN (WLAN) system to support users in Hebron's new corporate headquarters facility. The implementation was performed by Bless Connect, a major Brazilian partner of Extricom.

The initial project scope was to provide connectivity for data management applications. The system also had to be scalable and flexible enough to support wireless PDAs, VoIP, and other mobile applications as a follow-on phase.

Challenges

The Hebron project featured a number of technical and operational challenges. The deployment site was in a densely built location with multiple sources of RF interference. Also, the chosen system would need to operate equally well in 2.4GHz and 5.8GHz bands, and had to be highly "future-proofed" to support planned applications such as VPN, RFID, guest networks, etc.

Why Extricom ?

Grupo Hebron's previous experience with WLAN had been marked by poor coverage, low data transmission rates, and significant connectivity problems. The Extricom system appealed to Hebron because it would enable them to build a high performance, scalable, and flexible infrastructure, and offered wired-network reliability without compromises in terms of capacity, coverage, security and mobility.

Furthermore, "the installation and maintenance of Extricom's WLAN system is much simpler than any other existing solution in the market today", stated Josué Júnior, Technology Director at Bless Connect. And the Extricom WLAN was a technologically differentiated solution that could easily support future applications.

Implementation Summary

Hebron Group gave Bless Connect a 30-day window in which to accomplish the implementation, but it was actually completed and put into production in two days, far faster than comparable cell-based solutions. The deployed system consists of EXSW-2400 switches and EXRP-20 dual radio access points capable of running two concurrent WLANs on any combination of channels, including two in the same 2.4GHz band. This gives Hebron plenty of leftover capacity to expand the network without needing to make more infrastructure investments.

Current Status and Next Stages

The network is fully operational, and critical management applications and decision-making processes are now being handled via WLAN. User reaction has been extremely positive, with users unable to tell the difference between the wired and the wireless network. For the next stage of the project, Hebron is planning expansion of the system to its manufacturing and logistics facilities.

What the Customer is Saying

"It's clear that technology is always changing, and Hebron is keeping up-to-date. Extricom is a door opener for other applications: with this system, we can leverage wireless Wi-Fi telephony and palmtops with zero-latency mobility, no co-channel interference, and without losing signal. We'll be able to unify our data on one single technology and will, in the end, save money. It's matter of cost-benefit analysis."

*Anthony Ferreira
Technical Support Analyst
Hebron Group*

