

Case Study

Spectrum Brands

Warehouse wireless LAN upgrade and truck mounted computer solution for the global consumer products company that house brands such as Russell Hobbs, Black and Decker and IAMS.

About

Spectrum Brands is a global producer and supplier of consumer products, distributing some of the high-street's most recognisable brands such as Remington, George Foreman, Black and Decker Home and Russell Hobbs. Headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin, the company were seeking to improve the network infrastructure of their main UK distribution centre and high-bay warehouse in Wolverhampton.

The Brief

The new network would not only need to be fast and reliable but resilient enough to support the multiple vehicle mounted computers planned for deployment at the site. After diagnosing their existing infrastructure, Ensign highlighted a number of areas for improvement and began work on a complete re-design.

The Project

Ensign's technical architects designed an Aruba Networks controller based Wireless LAN solution, which allows profiles to be created for individual users whilst providing secure networks access for guests. Spectrum Brands also required Ensign to replace their out-of-date vehicle mounted computers. The Honeywell Thor VM1 device was selected for its flexibility, user-friendly Windows interface and ruggedized design, making it the ideal choice for the often harsh warehouse environment.

Warehouse deployments present a number of challenges, not least the height at which much of the work must be performed. Braving the elevations and avoiding the high-speed forklifts below, Ensign's engineers installed new Cat 5e cabling across the entire site alongside fibre-optic cable; strengthening the LAN backbone and providing full and resilient coverage to the entire warehouse.

Due to the nature of the retail supply chain industry Spectrum could not afford any costly interruptions to their time-critical operations. Ensign pre-configured the new vehicle mounted computers with existing WLAN profiles, ensuring that there was no loss in operational productivity.

Summary

Location:

Wolverhampton

Sector:

Distribution + Warehousing

Solutions

- Wireless LAN
- Cat 5e Cabling
- 30 Aruba AP 93 and AP 105 Access Points
- Honeywell THOR Vm1 Truck Mount Terminals

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The Conclusion

With the pervasive Aruba Networks wireless infrastructure now in place, and supporting the enhanced mobility of the Honeywell Thor Vehicle Mounted Computers, Spectrum Brands have seen their UK sales increase by 15% on the previous year. Streamlining their warehouse operations through real-time tracking and reporting, improved accuracy, and workflow management has had a positive impact on the business which looks set to continue.



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