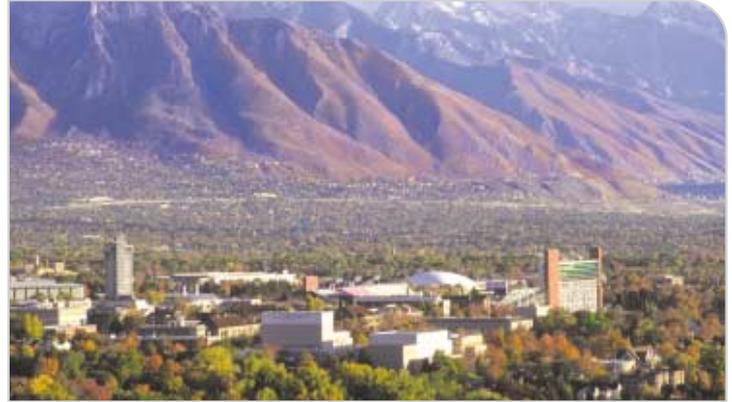
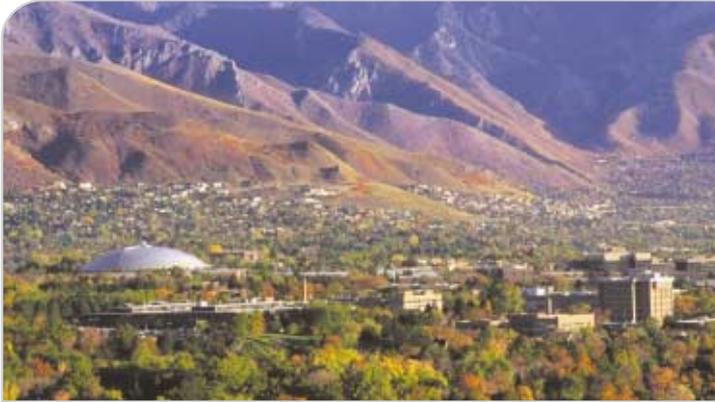


The University of Utah



BACKGROUND

The University of Utah in Salt Lake City is considered one of the leading colleges in the United States. According to the National Science Foundation, the University of Utah is ranked among the top 35 research universities in the nation, with particular distinction in medicine, genetics, and engineering. The University boasts nearly 30,000 students, an abundance of activities as well as several strong undergraduate programs including communication, finance, psychology, political science and economics.

The University of Utah also takes pride in its state-of-the-art information technology systems that attracts new students and faculty every year. Today, the University supports a high-speed, highly secure network with access to the Internet, an email system and a wealth of educational resources including Pioneer, the state of Utah's Online Library that holds thousands of full-text articles.

The next step for the University of Utah was to deploy a wireless network for students and faculty who wanted access to the Internet, email and online resources regardless of their location on campus. In addition to enhancing connectivity on campus, the University chose to deploy a wireless LAN solution to foster a fun and productive learning environment.



“With PowerDsine’s PoE midspan technology, we were able to plug all of our wireless access points into one central location on the rack. That alone saved us time and money, and kept our departments looking clean...”



THE CHALLENGE

Over a dozen departments are currently installing wireless; it is a huge campus and the project is decentralized. Each department installs according to its needs and budgets. In an attempt to bring order out of chaos the University has organized a wireless committee. This committee meets regularly and discusses successes and failures of the wireless community.

Robert Wineriter, computer professional at University of Utah, serves on this committee and has led the university’s many projects to deploy a wireless network that could better serve the more than 43,000 faculty, staff and students. Given a limited budget, Wineriter had to deploy a wireless network cost-effectively. Wineriter’s first decision involved purchasing Foundry’s IronPoint 200 Wireless LAN Access Points because they were less expensive than Cisco Wireless LAN Access Points. Given the number of Foundry Access Points to deploy, wiring each one for electrical power, along with Ethernet cabling, would be a timely and costly task.

In addition, wireless access points must be installed in specific locations for proper operation. In order to achieve effective area coverage and radio reception, wireless access points are mounted in unique places, such as above ceiling plates, where it is rare to find an available AC outlet.





PowerDsine 6000 Family
Power over Ethernet Midspan

THE POWER OVER ETHERNET (POE) SOLUTION

Mr. Wineriter investigated alternatives to supplying electrical power to his 200 Foundry Access Points. He discovered that he could use the existing Ethernet cabling to power the Access Points, saving both time and money in the deployment of the wireless network.

Mr. Wineriter first purchased a 6-Port and 12-Port PoE Midspan from PowerDsine, a leading pioneer in the PoE market. Soon thereafter, the University of Utah received a PowerDsine Education Grant that allowed Mr. Wineriter to pursue his WLAN deployment more aggressively by deploying more power over Ethernet devices.

“With PowerDsine’s PoE midspan technology, we were able to plug all of our wireless access points into one central location on the rack. That alone saved us time and money, and kept our departments looking clean. It was also nice having to plug one device - The PoE Midspan - into our UPS that provides backed-up power in the event of an electrical outage,” said Mr. Wineriter.

IMPLEMENTATION

The most recent deployment of the 12-Port PoE Midspan was installed in the University of Utah’s Park Building, which currently houses the president, senior vice presidents and other university administrators. The 6-Port PoE Midspan, which was deployed in April 2004, is located in the University Guest House that primarily serves out-of-state guests and local staff.

Mr. Wineriter added that within the year, the six PoE Midspans awarded to the University through the PowerDsine’s Education Grant program would be deployed most likely in the Student Union so that students inside and outside of the building could enjoy high-speed wireless access. Mr. Wineriter also is considering a wireless network using PowerDsine’s PoE Midspans in 10 other buildings.

BUSINESS BENEFITS

According to Mr. Wineriter, installation of a wireless LAN access point without PoE technology would have cost the University approximately \$200 or more per Access Point in certain remote locations on campus. Using PowerDsine’s 6-Port and 12-Port Midspans, the University of Utah saved \$1,800 alone. Mr. Wineriter was quick to add that the cost savings didn’t include the valuable labor hours saved during the deployment. In addition to the installation time and cost savings, the University of Utah’s wireless network provides freedom and productivity benefits for both students and faculty.

CONCLUSION

Now that the University of Utah’s campus-wide wireless network is becoming reality, Mr. Wineriter is certain that using PowerDsine’s PoE Midspan technology was the right choice. He was able to stay within budget while saving considerable amounts of time deploying WLAN Access Points throughout campus.

Thanks to the PowerDsine Education Grant, Mr. Wineriter has been able to pursue his WLAN deployment more aggressively. Not only has deploying PowerDsine’s PoE Midspans been instrumental to the success of the WLAN deployment but the reliability of PoE and PowerDsine’s quick response to troubleshooting questions has given Mr. Wineriter peace of mind.

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