



Leonardo & Co.

Financial Institution Centralises Management of Wireless Access and Policies across European Offices

Requirements

- To enable corporate Wi-Fi access for employees and provide secure, manageable guest access.
- Standardise on a resilient wireless infrastructure across all mobile internet devices, laptops and its estate of voice-over-WiFi (VoWiFi) phones.
- Centralise management across European offices, and replace cumbersome one-to-many shared-key PSK method for enhanced security and administrator operations

Results

- Aerohive Wi-Fi architecture enables unlimited scalability through eliminating the need for a controller
- HiveManager allows Leonardo to remotely monitor and manage WLAN performance
- Wireless access, per user, can now be centrally managed and revoked by the IT team, providing quick and secure temporary Wi-Fi access to visitors.

The Company

Leonardo & Co. is a European company that specialises exclusively in independent, objective consulting on mergers and acquisitions, investments, and debt financing and restructuring. As a major financial consulting group with offices throughout Europe, Leonardo & Co. demands a network infrastructure that is manageable, scalable and high performance. Working in the financial services environment, security is especially important to Leonardo & Co., to ensure access to corporate resources for employees and visitors is managed appropriately.

"Aerohive makes it possible to create time-scalable solutions simply by adding new Access Points to the group. This is limitless; the fact is that up to 5,000 Access Points could be managed without any need to reprogram the entire network. The elimination of the controller is one of the strongest points of the solution."

—Mr. A. Altieri
IT Director, Leonardo & Co.

The Challenge

The existing wireless infrastructure at the financial services company was piecemeal, and did not provide the simple and secure control of wireless access across mobile internet devices, laptops, and voice-over WiFi (VoWiFi) telephones that Leonardo & Co. was looking for.

Leonardo & Co. pays a great deal of attention to security. It was previously using a traditional PSK (Pre Shared Key) system where all users share the same password. Unable to authorise access on an individual user basis, the IT team were required to change the keys of all synchronized devices when the password became invalid. This was cumbersome and time consuming, and the company sought a WLAN solution that could replace the one-to-many shared-key PSK method and enhance controlled access for staff and visitors.

Looking to standardise on the same wireless infrastructure for employees, visitors, and voice devices, the company set out to find a solution that would centralise management of wireless access and policies across European offices to simplify provisioning, reduce management overheads and enhance security control.

The Solution

Following a competitive evaluation alongside solutions such as Aruba and Cisco, the IT team chose to implement Aerohive.

The financial organisation has implemented Aerohive Access Points across its European offices and has deployed Aerohive HiveManager Online Network Management System at its headquarters in Italy. The Aerohive solution provides Leonardo & Co. with separate role and user profiles. This has made it possible to guarantee and regulate the access and configuration mechanisms for all the European offices of Leonardo & Co. simply by profiling access policies.

Aerohive's centralised management platform, HiveManager, has enabled the IT team to efficiently configure and manage all wireless devices on the network from one location, helping to minimise the demands on operational resources.

Mr. A. Altieri, IT director at Leonardo and Co., commented, "The flexibility of the Aerohive solution has made it possible to structure a variety of access and control policies administered centrally for guest access and at a local level for employees."

Aerohive's Private Pre-Shared Key (PPSK) feature was a must-have functionality for the company. Wireless access, per user, can now be centrally managed and revoked by the IT team, providing quick and secure temporary Wi-Fi access to visitors.

Proprietary implementation of the Aerohive Networks PPSK allows account-diversity profiling by SSID (Service Set Identifier) of different network security rules for a variety of accounts (Quality of Service, Firewall L2, Firewall L3, VLAN Hopping, etc.), thereby guaranteeing a more suitable system of access to the wireless network.

Benefits

The Aerohive cooperative control has enabled Leonardo & Co. to decentralise the wireless infrastructure while centralizing management, thus making access easy to manage, without sacrificing quality and performance.

From a security perspective, the PPSK from Aerohive enables IT to furnish an individual password for each user or device. Eliminating the time-intensive one to many system previously used, this one-to-one key/user association permits personal verification of every device and allows the administrator to revoke a set of authorizations that is no longer valid, quickly and easily. With this in place, Leonardo & Co. is able to simply allocate different roles and policies depending on the key used, and in this way ensure high user/device profiling capability.

Mr. Altieri concluded, "This is a winning solution in many ways. For example, Aerohive makes it possible to create time-scalable solutions simply by adding new Access Points to the group. This is limitless; the fact is that up to 5,000 Access Points could be managed without any need to reprogram the entire network. The elimination of the controller is one of the strongest points of the solution."



Contact us today to learn how your organization can benefit from Aerohive wireless LAN architecture.

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