WirelessWall News

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Industry
County Government

Challenge
Increase productivity of the county's law enforcement professionals by (a) providing them with immediate access to police records, and (b) enabling them to securely write and submit police reports in real-time.

Project Goals
- Enable officers in the field to securely access highly sensitive, confidential information via Wi-Fi
- Provide easy capture and transmission of police reports in real-time
- Enable officers to move from node to node without losing session persistence - and without having to re-authenticate to the system
- Achieve full integration with Directory Services

Solution
TLC WirelessWall®
Software Suite:
- WirelessWall Manager
- WirelessWall Access Controller
- WirelessWall Client

Key Benefits
- Provides officers with secure, real-time, wireless access to police records
- Cuts paperwork and speeds processing of cases
- Reduces the time officers spend filing police reports, which translates to greater public safety

Wireless LAN Security Case Study
County in Washington State Goes Wireless

Wanted: Greater Public Safety with Increased Productivity

Snohomish County, Washington noticed that its law enforcement officers were spending a significant amount of time filing reports, which required them to return to headquarters from their patrol locations. Moreover, the county wanted to provide law enforcement officers with real-time access to police records, including mug shots and police reports. Finally the mandate in Washington State calls for FIPS 140-2 solutions for operability with federal agencies.

To do this, Snohomish decided to install a secure wireless network county wide. A big challenge was selecting the security solution, as the information transmitted on via WiFi was highly sensitive and confidential. Adding to the challenge was the county needed to find a solution that integrated with its existing Novell Directory Services platform. The county elected to use access points and bridges from Cisco Systems for its Wi-Fi network.

Why WirelessWall?

After reviewing a number of security solutions, Snohomish selected TLC-Chamonix Systems' **WirelessWall** FIPS Certified Suite to secure its network. Because WirelessWall's encryption works at a deeper level (Layer 2) within the network, it ensures both data privacy and network protection by hiding more of the vital technical information that hackers could use to break into the network. Also important for the county, WirelessWall software provides seamless, cross-subnet mobility. That means officers can move from node to node, without having to re-authenticate themselves to the network, saving time and frustration. Finally, the WirelessWall Software Suite was the only security solution that was able to integrate seamlessly with Directory Services, a key criterion in the selection process.

Significant Productivity Improvements

With TLC's secure wireless solution in place, Snohomish County law enforcement officers now have secure wireless access to police records and can access mug shots and police reports online. Officers can also write and submit police reports in real-time, without having to return to headquarters. In addition, the real-time access to data enables officers to determine the true identities of individuals who are pulled over or stopped by law enforcement. Previously, if someone presented false identification, the officer in the field was not able to determine immediately whether the individual was identifying himself or herself truthfully. Now they can, thanks to the secure wireless network.

"The greatest value with WirelessWall is investment protection. It meets our FIPS 140-2 requirement, and just works. It has significantly increased the efficiency of the Snohomish County officers. They now can write and submit police reports over a secure, wireless network, without having to return to headquarters. As a result, our officers stay out in the field more, which translates into greater public safety."

- Tim Wise
System Engineer, SR
Snohomish County, WA

Implementing the secure wireless LAN has saved the county "a significant amount of time," reducing the time officers spend filing reports. As a result, officers stay out in the field more, which translates into greater public safety. Law enforcement officers also have responded favorably to the new system, citing time savings and productivity gains as key benefits.

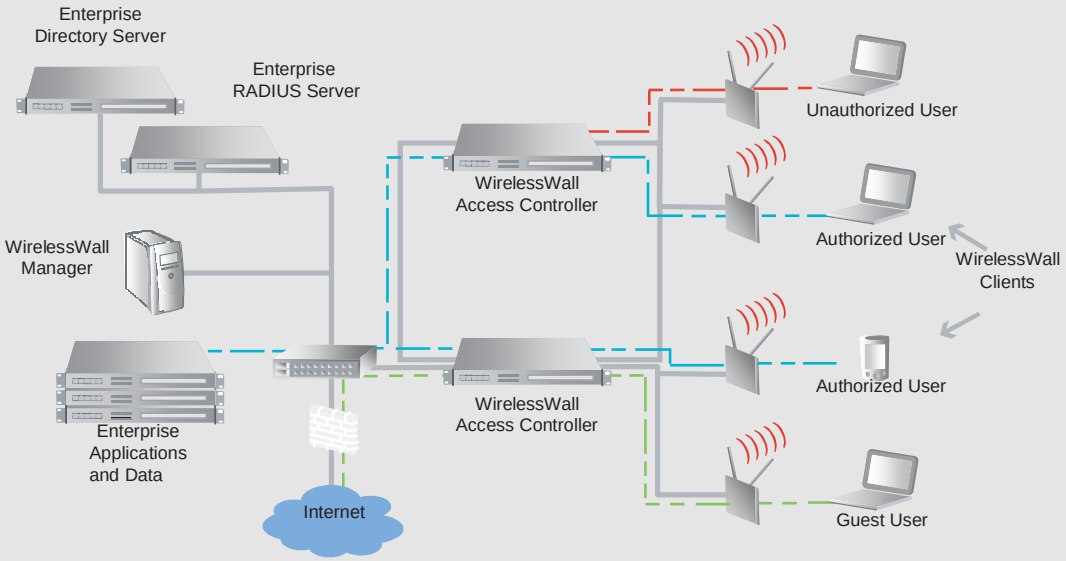
Future Plans

The secure network has been so successful that plans now are underway to broaden the system to include other municipal government departments, including fire, public works, and other county employees.

WirelessWall Enterprise Edition

The WirelessWall Enterprise Edition is designed to meet the reliability, scalability, and cross-subnet mobility requirements of larger enterprises. In this distributed architecture, the WirelessWall Manager can be configured to control a network of WirelessWall Access Controllers, each operating on a different subnet.

Each Enterprise Edition license includes the WirelessWall Manager software, multiple instances of the WirelessWall Access Controller server software, and unrestricted WirelessWall Client installations. The Enterprise Edition is highly scalable, supporting thousands of users across hundreds of subnets. WirelessWall Enterprise Edition customers can define multiple network management devices through which to administer access points in the secure wireless network.



A typical WirelessWall Enterprise Edition deployment

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