Cranite®

Law Enforcement Officers Go Wireless

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Industry
Municipal Government

Challenge
Increase productivity of the City'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 Novell Directory Services

Solution
Cranite 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 by 20% the time officers spend filing police reports, which translates to greater public safety

Wanted: Greater Public Safety with Increased Productivity

The City of Renton, 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 City wanted to provide its law enforcement officers with real-time access to police records, including mug shots and police reports.

To do this, the City of Renton decided to install a wireless local area network (LAN) for its police force. A big challenge was selecting the security solution, as the information transmitted on the wireless LAN was highly sensitive and confidential. Adding to the challenge was the City's need to find a solution that integrated with its existing Novell Directory Services platform. The City elected to use access points and bridges from Cisco Systems for its Wi-Fi network.

Why Cranite?

After reviewing a number of security solutions, the City selected Cranite Systems' WirelessWall Software Suite to secure its wireless LAN. Because Cranite'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 City, Cranite's 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 Novell Directory Services, a key criterion in the City's selection process.

Significant Productivity Improvements

With the secure wireless LAN in place, the City of Renton's 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.

"Implementing WirelessWall has significantly increased the efficiency of the City of Renton's police 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."

- Steve Miller
Senior Network Systems Specialist
City of Renton, WA

Implementing the secure wireless LAN has saved the department "a significant amount of time," reducing by 20 percent 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 wireless LAN has been so successful that, although the City initially intended the deployment for the police force alone, plans now are underway to broaden the system to include other municipal government departments, including fire, public works, and other City 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.
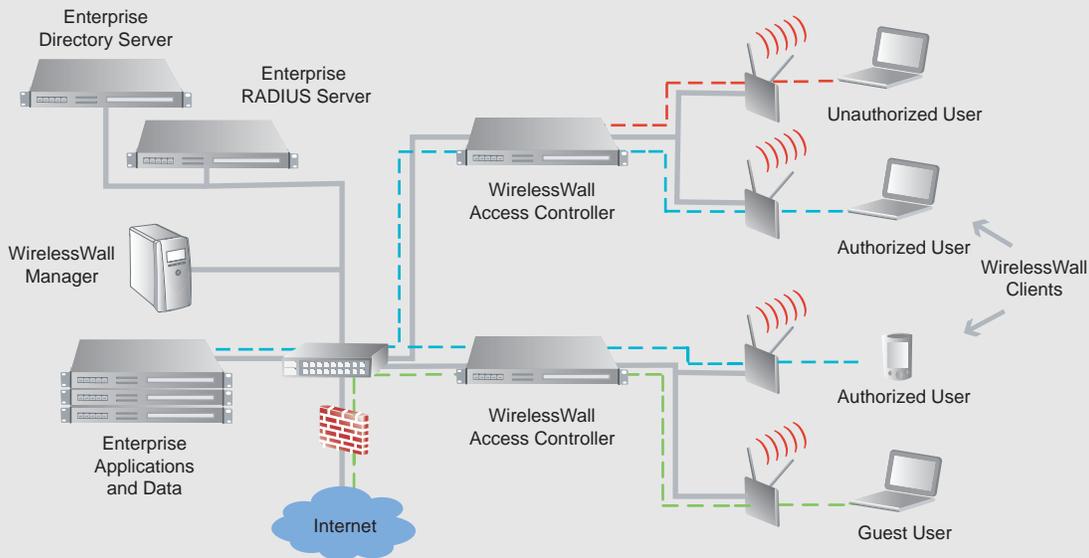
A typical WirelessWall Enterprise Edition deployment

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