



SUCCESS STORY

Hit the Bricks

datto



SMALL TO MEDIUM SIZED HOSPITALITY BUSINESSES WITH AGING INFRASTRUCTURE REPRESENT A BIG OPPORTUNITY TO INSTALL DATTO NETWORKING."

Daniel Morgan
Senior Network Engineer



About Datto

Datto protects essential business data for tens of thousands of the world's fastest growing companies. Our Total Data Protection platform delivers uninterrupted access to data on site, in transit and in the cloud. Through Datto's network of partners, we provide companies with products and services designed to continually keep business running. Businesses rely on Datto for industry leading technology combined with unrivaled customer service. Datto is headquartered in Norwalk, Connecticut, and has offices in Rochester, Boston, Toronto, London, Singapore, and Sydney. Learn more at www.datto.com.

Teknologize Inc., a WA-based Datto partner, recently deployed over 30 Datto AP60 Access Points in a housing facility for government researchers in Richland, WA. The installation posed some challenges, according to Senior Network Engineer, Daniel Morgan. "There were a number of issues we had to work around," he said. "But mesh networking was well suited to address them. We looked at Ruckus and Xirrus as well, but ultimately chose Datto for the mesh capability."

The facility, which comprises three buildings and two courtyards, is home to approximately 300 students and researchers. "They're all on Netflix, Roku, and other streaming services," Morgan said. "It's fairly bandwidth intensive." The facility is an older brick construction, a material notorious for knocking down WiFi signals. On top of that, the customer, **Paragon Housing**, did not want to run new cabling as a part of the project.

So, Morgan installed Datto AP60s every 20 to 30 feet throughout the hallways of each building using the existing fiber cabling. These access points, which are directly connected to the Internet, act as WiFi gateways. To create the mesh network, he installed additional AP60s acting as repeaters throughout the facility, extending the WiFi signal beyond the coverage of the hardwired access points. "I think that's one of the strongest selling points for the access points—you don't need to run cable, cut holes in walls, etc," Morgan said. "For installations like this, mesh networking is an ideal solution." He also installed a Datto E24 Switch as part of the deployment.

Datto Networking products are designed to be fast, easy and efficient to deploy and manage via the Datto Partner Portal. Access points self-organize into a self-healing, encrypted mesh network with WiFi roaming automatically enabled, and Datto switches offer plug-and-play integration with APs. Morgan used **Ekahau HeatMapper** to plan out the deployment. HeatMapper detects WiFi signals and creates a WiFi heat map, that is, a visual representation of WiFi coverage. That allowed him to strategically place access points throughout the facility to ensure full WiFi coverage. He configured the network in such a way that APs acting as repeaters are never more than a single hop from a gateway to ensure consistent performance.

While he did not specifically plan for outdoor WiFi coverage in the two courtyards, Morgan said that connectivity was available on the 2.4 GHz band which offers broader coverage with slower speed (Datto APs offer concurrent 2.4 and 5 GHz WiFi). "Based on my heat maps and disbursements 2.4 GHz will cover outdoors, but 5 GHz won't reach," he said. Finally, he used Datto's native captive portal capability to create an Internet use terms and conditions page.

This project was Morgan's first using Datto Networking products, but he said that he is currently pitching a second installation. "Small to medium sized hospitality businesses with aging infrastructure represent a big opportunity to install Datto Networking," he said. "Mesh networking is ideally suited for that use case."

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