Globecomm Systems, of Hauppauge, NY, is today one of the leading industry providers of complex satellite broadcast solutions and services, counting among their customers organizations ranging from major broadcast networks to governments and militaries around the world. Nearly all of their full time staff are communication systems and data network engineers – a rapid deployment force of fine minds, ready to tackle the toughest global telecommunications problems when they arise.

CHALLENGE

- Upgrade wireless networking infrastructure to more flexible and secure platform
- Establish secure guest wireless network for use by visitors and other limited access users
- Provide central wireless network management that could be maintained with minimal intervention
- Update and standardize Ethernet data switch infrastructure for greater flexibility and reliability

SOLUTION

- Installed Meru Networks wireless network infrastructure at multiple customer locations
- Deployed guest wireless functionality with Meru Networks Captive Portal user authentication
- Achieved customer network management goals with Meru System Director controller platform
- Replaced legacy Ethernet switches with new infrastructure based on Extreme Networks solutions

PRODUCT LIST

Wireless Ethernet Networking

- Meru Networks AP1020i Access Point
- Meru MC1500 Wireless Controller
- Extreme Networks Ethernet Switch

Globecomm Systems Brings Collaboration To The Forefront With Meru and Extreme Networks Solutions
CHALLENGE

Globecomm Systems today is headquartered at a 144,000 square foot facility on Long Island, in Hauppauge, New York. From this central location, this company has played a pivotal role in the success of countless telecommunications and satellite network projects for customers around the globe – vast, highly complex efforts that call upon the strengths and talents of hundreds of engineers internally, as well as a network of thousands of contractors worldwide. To achieve the results their customers need, Globecomm is strongly dedicated to the tools and techniques required for effective team collaboration and workforce communications.

As growth and new challenges tested both their infrastructure and work capacity, Globecomm management realized that they needed a new, updated wireless network for their headquarters. It needed to be highly reliable and predictable, offer strong and uniform coverage, and meet the very demanding security standards required by Globecomm’s most highly sensitive projects. Additionally, they wanted an independent guest wireless network for site visitors and the ability to manage their new wireless network with minimal effort or disruption to office performance.

Finally, Globecomm also wanted to reexamine their underlying data network, which was currently supported by outdated Cisco and Dell Ethernet switches, and to standardize their IP networks on a single architecture that would offer superior switch utilization visibility and maintenance capabilities.

SOLUTION

Installed Meru Networks wireless network infrastructure at multiple customer locations. Globecomm had already enjoyed good experiences with Meru Networks wireless solutions, impressed with the platform’s security and ease of central management. Carousel Industries recommended replacing their existing commercial grade wireless at the Hauppauge headquarters with a network based on Meru AP1020i access points and a centralized Meru MC1500 Wireless Controller. These solutions would not only be installed in Hauppauge, but also at a subsidiary location in Laurel, MD. As one of Meru’s strengths is the ability to manage large numbers of users with minimal broadcast hardware, full coverage at Hauppauge was achieved with only ten Meru access points.

Deployed guest wireless functionality with Meru Networks Captive Portal user authentication. High on Globecomm’s technology priorities was the implementation of a guest wireless network at Hauppauge, which would provide limited secure network access for site visitors. To achieve these goals, the Carousel team created a guest network utilizing WPA2-PSK authentication via Meru Networks’ Captive Portal application, designed to very effectively isolate temporary users based on a variety of session criteria. A similar guest wireless network was likewise implemented at the Laurel facility with strong success.

Achieved customer network management goals with Meru System Director controller platform. Among Meru’s many strengths as a network solution, Globecomm IT staff was impressed most with its reliability and capacity for central management. They wanted to extend those strengths with their new wireless networks, providing a smooth user experience for network managers and the ability to maintain the network with minimal intervention and high visibility into performance metrics. These functions would be provided by Meru’s System Director controller platform, a highly flexible and powerful management application for wireless maintenance. These systems were staged and configured at a Carousel Industries facility prior to delivery and deployment.

Replaced legacy Ethernet switches with new infrastructure based on Extreme Networks solutions. Globecomm’s Hauppauge headquarters relied on an underlying Ethernet data network that was aging and obsolete, threatening network stability and workforce efficiency. Globecomm management wanted to replace legacy Cisco and Dell switches with a single standardized Ethernet delivery platform that would enable greater network visibility, as well as the ability to push configuration changes through multiple switches simultaneously. The Carousel team recommended and deployed a new Ethernet network at Hauppauge based on Extreme Networks’ switch solutions, which would establish a higher standard for reliability and a far more manageable network for IT staff.