

# The British School of Paris choses a high-performance WiFi solution



The British School of Paris



*Founded in 1954, the British School of Paris welcomes 850 students of fifty different nationalities supervised by more than one hundred teachers. This is one of the oldest and largest international British schools in the world.*

*From the Nursery (3 years old) to A Level (18 years old), the British School of Paris provides its students with a comprehensive education based on the British National Programme that does not stop at the lecture courses.*

## ➤ REQUIREMENTS

"In September 2012, we decided to increase the personalization of education by providing an iPad to each of our students and teachers. With this tool, we wanted everyone to be able to create, access, and especially share information quickly and easily.

To support this project, we needed a very efficient and secure WiFi network. The first challenge was to manage the concentration of a large number of users in a small space (about twenty students per classroom) and ensure their mobility through the campus without any loss of connection. In terms of security, it was extremely important for us to know and decide who can connect to the network, at what time of the day, while filtering content. In addition, we needed a fast and fluid network, capable of holding the connection load at all times." Matthew Goblet, IT Manager, BSP

- › 1000 iPad connected daily
- › 30 XIRRUS multi-radio WiFi stations
- › Redundant UCOPIA authentication servers
- › 5 independent networks: primary and secondary students, teachers, administrative staff and visitors.
- › 1 Gbps Internet Link
- › Double Web filtering (UCOPIA and Smoothwall)

## ➤ IMPLEMENTED SOLUTION

**Thirty Xirus WiFi stations were deployed.** Each station concentrate up to 8 radio antennas, which can connect up to 400 active users — this is 4 to 8 times more efficient than the competitive products. The WiFi school network has been sized to provide a high broadband to 1000 iPads simultaneously. These high performances limit the number of equipment, simplify deployments and allow the installation of antennas in the hallways, not in the classrooms.

This choice of architecture allows to associate performance and reliability while optimizing investment capital and operating costs. **Two redundant UCOPIA authentication servers manage network access according to the profile of each user** (students, teachers, administrative staff or visitors), and then assign specific permissions: bandwidth and connection time, allowed applications and content.

**The Internet access for students is filtered to avoid connections to inappropriate websites or with no educational value.** Moreover, the UCOPIA solution integrates very simply with the existing network architecture, and in the case of the British

School of Paris, UCOPIA authenticates students directly from the school directory to give access to the Internet and other services.



**This architecture greatly facilitates managing the network:** indeed, when a student is declared in the school directory, it can access the Internet using the login and password defined in this directory.

## ➤ SECURITY

- › Access Control Lists
- › Differentiated management of WiFi networks
- › Content Filtering
- › Connection Tracking (12 months)

## ➤ SUPPORTED ENVIRONMENTS

- › iOS
- › Microsoft Windows
- › Android
- › Blackberry

## ➤ RESULTS

**The assessment made by students is very positive.** If there was a little hesitation at first and some felt the need to be guided, they quickly realized the benefits that the tablets and WiFi network bring. Wherever they are in school, students can instantly search for the latest Internet resources and access them. They no longer need to carry their books and notebooks as much, because they are just a click away from their teachers, their class notes and homework.

In the end, they realize that it helps them prepare for the future by taking advantage of the best technology. Some even wonder how they worked before!

**The overall cost of the WiFi network is less than 150 euros per user, and was partially covered by the savings of prints (cut in half) and the digitization of some textbooks.**