

Universidad Alfonso X El Sabio (UAX): Simplifying network connectivity for next generation higher learning

Solution

- C-130 tri-radio Wave 2 802.11ac access points
- Arista Cognitive WiFi™

Benefits

- Seamless Wi-Fi experience for more than 10,000 students and 1,000 faculty members who depend on high-performance Wi-Fi.
- Easy to use cloud-based management plane saves team time, scales with the university's growing network demand, and presents information in a graphical format easily consumed by multiple stakeholders across the organization.
- Industry leading security
- Increased ability to roll out more wireless services than ever before.

Founded in 1994 in Madrid, Universidad Alfonso X El Sabio (UAX) is one of Spain's largest private universities. The university system has eight facilities, including clinical buildings, a university hospital, a veterinarian hospital, and classrooms where Healthcare Science, Engineering, and Social Science curriculums are delivered to over 10,000 students by 1,000 faculty members



“The analytics the Arista solution offers plays a key role in our ability to provide all our users with great quality of service. Our students are happier, and we are now in the position to offer more WiFi based services than ever before.

This new management platform brings great value to our organization, and is exactly what we were looking for. We made a strategic choice to implement a cloud-based management platform that would enable our organization to be agile and evolve with the growing needs of our users.”

– Santiago Portela, Director of IT
Universidad Alfonso X El Sabio



The Challenge

Today’s higher education learning environments are evolving and growing at a rapid pace with more students and faculty accessing and utilizing online content than ever before. For universities, this becomes a challenging environment, trying to meet the growing demand for bandwidth with fixed budgets and IT staffing levels. At UAX, an estimated 84% of students and faculty access the network every day and the network often supports over 2,000 concurrent users at any given time. With demand for bandwidth growing 35% annually and over half of all users complaining about the speed of the network, UAX needed to find a new WiFi solution. That solution needed to be able to scale with their growth, be easy to deploy and manage, and align with their budget constraints.

Cloud as a critical enabler

UAX sought out a cloud managed solution in order to ensure agility and could easily evolve without requiring burdensome on-premises investment. UAX reviewed numerous cloud-based WiFi solutions including Meraki, Aerohive, Fortinet/Meru and Arista Networks. After a thorough evaluation, UAX selected Arista Networks for its Cognitive WiFi solution, providing reliability, scalability, and advanced troubleshooting at one low cost. Cognitive WiFi, combined with iron-clad security, made Arista the obvious choice.

Each year network demands continue to increase at UAX, but complaints about WiFi access challenges have all but disappeared with Arista Cognitive Wifi. Now the UAX IT team is able to dedicate more of their time supporting strategic initiatives.

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