CASE STUDY

Aruba Secure Wireless Access

Design and Implementation for a Custom GSA Wireless Application

Customer Overview

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) leverages the buying power of the tax payer and it's federal customers to provides the government high quality and cost-effective products from commercial vendors. The Public Buildings Service is an office within the GSA that is tasked with providing workplaces for federal agencies as well as managing federal properties and historic sites throughout the country.

Mission

The GSA-PBS offices of Region 15 sought a way to provide secure wireless access to the locally based employees of the agency as well as visitors from other regions. This requirement originated from the need to provide increased mobility to the office workers in the event of meetings in conference rooms or other offices in the building as well as to facilitate workspace moves and authorized guest access without having to reconfigure their network on a situational basis.

Application Challenges

In order to ensure that new wireless networks are secure and to prevent unauthorized access to their networks, the GSA issued order CIO 2100.2 detailing the specific requirements a new wireless network must meet in order to be authorized for use by GSA employees. This order calls for stringent encryption and mutual authentication configurations of clients as well as back-end infrastructure. With an extensive background in the federal government's wireless security requirements LTI DataComm was able to design a solution that was fully compliant with the GSA mandate and that met all requirements set forward in the RFQ issued.

Solution

After award of the contract LTI deployed it's field implementation team to both sites and successfully completed the physical implementation & configuration of three Aruba wireless controllers and access points, Juniper Odyssey supplicants as well as Microsoft ISA radius servers. A Master-Local configuration was implemented which provided the GSA-PBS network administrators the ability to manage all configurations of the geographically separated wireless networks centrally including security & authentication aspects of the network. Additionally LTI devised a method for which guest access did not hinder local users bandwidth available by separating them via frequency channels and setting up bandwidth throttling to limit overall network usage by guests.

Conclusion

With the installation completed the GSA-PBS office was able to support authorized local users access to their network via wireless resulting in lower costs for workspace add/move/ changes as well as provide secured access to visiting agency staff without having to reconfigure their network.

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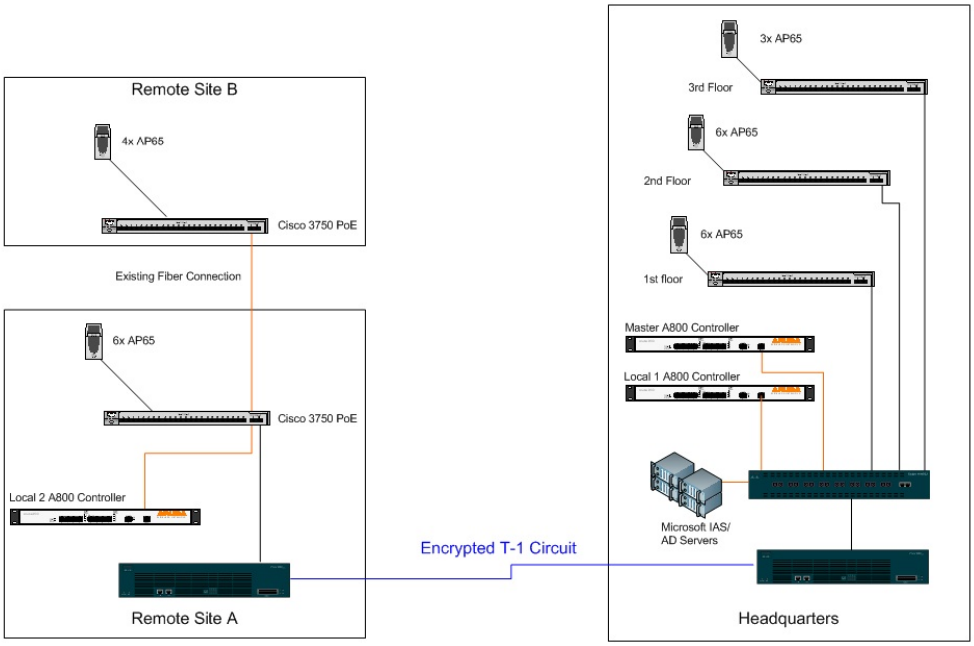
Symbolic Overview of Wireless Access System



LTI DataComm
23020 Eaglewood Ct. #100
Sterling, VA 20166
www.ltidata.com
800-677-5050

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