



Making the Most of Limited Space and Bandwidth Demand at the University of Cincinnati

ADC's AirES® Technology and Patch Panels Solve Space Constraints

CASE STUDY

SITUATION

Update a network cabling infrastructure to ensure access and bandwidth on a campus that features older buildings with insufficient pathway and telecommunications space.

SOLUTION

ADC's AirES® technology for enhanced signal strength and minimal cable size and ADC patch panels for easy cable management in telecommunications spaces.

RESULTS

Reliable Category 6 performance throughout campus that enhances teaching and learning for a diverse student body of over 35,000 undergraduate and graduate students.



SITUATION

Founded in 1819, The University of Cincinnati (UC) is an urban, public research university located on 473 acres with over 100 buildings, including a medical center and research facilities. Designed to serve a diverse student body with a broad range of interests and goals, UC graduates 5,000 students each year.

Like many academic institutions, UC faces the challenges of inadequate sized equipment rooms and insufficient pathway space, ensuring constant network access and sufficient bandwidth, and funding IT upgrades with restricted budgets.

When the university received funding under a "Last Mile Project" to upgrade several buildings, they set out to select network infrastructure solutions specifically designed to help them meet the challenges head on.

SOLUTION

Many of UC's older buildings were built long before computer networks were a reality. To implement a horizontal network cabling solution in existing spaces, UC Information Technologies (UCit) turned to ADC's AirES® technology. The patented AirES technology uses air as part of the conductor insulation, which enhances signal speed and strength while minimizing cable size.

"With the smaller cable diameter of the AirES technology, we were able to improve the overall quality of our installations," says Bennie Lovette, RCDD, assistant director for infrastructure design and field operations, UCit Network and Telecommunications Services "It enabled us to upgrade technology without having to upgrade pathways."

UCit also deployed ADC's patch panels for easier maneuverability in telecommunications spaces. "With ADC's jack patch panels, it's much easier to terminate the jacks onto the cable and insert them into the panel versus punching down cable on the back of the panel," says Lovette. "These have been very helpful in areas where we have minimal space."



At UC, ADC's TrueNet Category 6 cabling delivers 100 Mbps to the desktop, and jack patch panels provide maneuverability in tight spaces.

To ensure a robust, high-performance network with plenty of bandwidth, UCit implemented a mix of both single mode and multimode fiber optic cabling throughout the campus backbone. ADC's TrueNet® Category 6 patch panels, patch cords, and cable were selected to form horizontal channels optimized to preserve signal amplitude and deliver zero bit-error performance.

Settling on a consistent ADC TrueNet solution has enabled UCit to successfully carry out technology installations and upgrades in the face of strict budget requirements. "Before we standardized on ADC, we had to stock a myriad of devices and components, and installations, upgrades, and troubleshooting were more cumbersome," says Lovette. "Strategic decisions have to be made as to where the money is best spent, but we're very attentive at considering and supporting our customers needs."



At UC, ADC Category 6 network connections enhance teaching and learning in the classroom.

RESULTS

With ADC's TrueNet Category 6 solutions, the University of Cincinnati is striving to continue upgrading older buildings. UCit is well aware that ADC's AirES technology, patch panels, and reliable performance are well suited to the challenges faced by today's academic institutions. They also know the value of ADC's technical support and service.

"Aligning ourselves with the right vendor has been imperative. We can't have network downtime for too long or it ends up as a headline in the local paper. Thankfully with ADC's cabling solutions, our network is robust, and downtime is an extremely rare occurrence," says Lovette. "UC is on a big push to attract and retain students, and we're utilizing quality technology solutions to do that."

CASE STUDY



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