

CASE STUDY: ZOL



Belgian Healthcare Provider ZOL Reduces Costs and Complexity

Challenges

- Simplified management for small IT team of four responsible for four campuses and thousands of APs, switches, and endpoints
- Increased mobility, efficiency, and security of network to keep up with rapidly evolving healthcare industry
- Lower costs and reduce complexity for 24/7 operating hospital and network
- Network segmentation abilities to maintain security

Extreme Solutions

- ExtremeWireless™
- ExtremeSwitching™
- Extreme Fabric Connect

“What ZOL was looking for was more simplicity, ease of use, security, and cost-efficiency, and that’s exactly what we delivered for this project. We compared different technologies to see which of them would be the best fit for the needs of ZOL. Eventually, the Extreme Fabric Connect solution came out on top.”

Bart Manteleers,
Head of Business Development,
Orange Cyberdefense Belgium

“From the very beginning we were able to use Fabric Connect to easily design and build the segments for virtual boardrooms, have that kind of equipment nicely isolated and quickly onboarded. And I can say that despite COVID, if we take everything into account, we are ahead of schedule with our migration.”

Kurt Gielen, IT Manager,
Ziekenhuis Oost-Limburg

Ziekenhuis Oost-Limburg (ZOL) is a major healthcare provider in eastern Belgium that provides more than 1000 hospital beds to the local community. In addition to its regional healthcare provider functions, ZOL fulfills a number of expert and specialty functions, including housing a training center for physicians across various disciplines.

Like most healthcare environments, many of ZOL’s critical operations and digitalization efforts depended on having a stable and scalable network in place. The IT organization was driven to deliver the best possible care with as little risk as possible. ZOL’s small IT team needed to meet evolving mobility, efficiency, and security requirements to bring that vision to life.

In partnership with Extreme Networks and Orange Cyberdefense, ZOL built a secure, resilient, fabric-based network that provides mobility and flexibility across its multiple campuses. The deployment of Extreme Fabric Connect helped ZOL move towards lower costs and reduced complexity thanks to segmentation technology and the scalability of the solution. Now, with greater control and visibility into network health and performance, ZOL can refocus valuable time and resources on delivering better patient experiences and care.

“Extreme Fabric Connect enabled us to easily assign them an island within our network and let them have the complete management of their own environment, without interfering in any possible way with the hospital’s operations. And that functionality is infinitely scalable – we can accommodate virtually any number of such implementations. Having a ready solution for every possible question in place is a very comfortable position to be in.”

Kurt Gielen, IT Manager, Ziekenhuis Oost-Limburg

Results

- Simplified, structured implementation of network segmenting for medical devices, building control systems, communications, and more
- Additional accommodation for bandwidth hungry patient and visitor personal devices
- Enhanced security measures further protect patient records and sensitive data
- Fabric infrastructure enabled hospital merger and proactive measures to address technological challenges resulting from COVID

“When you make a decision as an IT manager, you’re not always 100% sure it will be the right one, because the only way to know is just to see how it works. With the Extreme Fabric Connect solution delivered by Orange Cyberdefense, those kind of surprises were really limited to an absolute minimum and I’m pretty sure that if we had chosen another technology, that wouldn’t have been the case. Taking all this into account leads me to strongly believe we made the best possible choice.”

Kurt Gielen, IT Manager, Ziekenhuis Oost-Limburg