

STRABAG

Executive Summary

Industry

Construction

Environment

- https://www.strabag.com
- · Group Headquarter in Vienna

Technology Needs

- · Lack of flexibility
- Interface complexity of previous WLAN equipment
- Solution heterogeneity across the network
- Inability to achieve both maximum simplicity and maximum security

Extreme Solution

ExtremeWireless[™]

Results

- High flexibility across all sites
- Central network administration and control
- Reduction of interfaces establishing a uniform standard worldwide
- Optimal security



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STRABAG SE Migrates to High-Performance WLAN to meet Global Digital Transformation Demands

The STRABAG Group, a leading European technology constructions services group with a turnover of ca. €16 billion and conducting around 12,000 projects annually, has construction sites across the world – from Brisbane and Santiago de Chile, to London and the United Arab Emirates. Its subsidiary, STRABAG SE, is a market leader across many construction sectors.

STRABAG BRVZ GmbH & Co. KG, is an internal business partner to the STRABAG Group with approximately 1,500 employees, and provides IT services, software development and other resources that facilitate operations and support the construction process. As an IT competency centre, STRABAG BRVZ supports the group's operating units and enables them to focus on the core business in order to deliver optimum services to their customers.

As part of its services, STRABAG BRVZ securely provides high-performance WLAN to the group, integrates construction sites on an ad hoc basis into their network and equips employees with mobile and digital work devices in an effort to meet the construction industry's growing digitisation efforts.

In order to further optimise its journey towards digital transformation, STRABAG BRVZ opted for Extreme Networks' solutions to meet these demands as well as to reduce the complexity of its previous WLAN equipment, while at the same time, improving security and flexibility. As a result of its implementation, Dr. Marco Xaver Bornschlegl, Head of IT Services Infrastructure and Corporate Information Security Officer at STRABAG BRVZ, has confirmed that the company is "completely satisfied" with how the project has gone.

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The Challenges

As the framework agreement with the previous provider had expired, STRABAG BRVZ launched a tender to update its WLAN and replace its existing outdated infrastructure in order to transform its digital capabilities. However, there were several challenges which had to be navigated alongside addressing the company's technology needs: the company had a large amount of hardware to manage, the licenses were not shareable, and device administration was decentralised.

For STRABAG BRVZ, flexibility was critical. As a global corporation, STRABAG SE employs more than 75,000 individuals and has traditionally had a heterogeneous IT infrastructure, including a WLAN based on multi-vendor products. This meant the new provider would have to carry out its design successively while dealing with the heterogeneity and integration of third-party products into its architecture without any issues. The new WLAN also had to be flexible enough to allow for local requirements, such as access to certain pages or routing.

The second major challenge involved eliminating the large number of solutions from various manufacturers and to switch completely to Extreme Networks to reduce the variety of interfaces and establish a uniform standard worldwide.

Furthermore, the new solution had to be innovative while offering end-users modern functionalities with optimal simplicity and security.

The company ultimately needed its old and new WLAN environments to be connected "on the fly".

The Solution

Thanks to Extreme Networks, STRABAG is now actively and progressively modernising its WLAN architecture. For example, the offices and construction sites in the United

Arab Emirates already run off Extreme Networks' solutions, and its employees in Slovakia have received an access point for an intensive test. Moreover, the network infrastructure at the new German corporate headquarters in Cologne has been completely migrated over to Extreme Networks, while STRABAG BRVZ is upgrading its network infrastructure floor-by-floor across the Stuttgart campus. "The biggest advantage is simply that these WLAN worlds work together without any problems," says Bornschlegl.

He further explains that even the group's large geographical expansion isn't affecting the quick roll-out of the new WLAN environment, adding: "We don't have an IT department in Brisbane, for instance. Across many locations, including Brisbane, we now rely on key users who are IT-savvy. We send them access points and routers that they can install themselves. Simple administration makes it all possible".

When it comes to updates and patch management, administrative maintenance continues to be quick and easy. A location is administered centrally and, as soon as it has been sent updates and patches, the remaining access points automatically receive the new configuration. This level of automation was impossible with the previous system and would have only worked manually.

"The biggest advantage is that old and new Wi-Fi worlds work well together."

Dr. Marco Xaver Bornschlegl
Head of IT Services Infrastructure and
Corporate Information Security Officer



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The Result

The new WLAN environment is now optimised to meet the needs of a dynamic global construction company. Thanks to Extreme Networks' advanced solutions, the challenge of connecting several offices at one location or across different floors or even construction containers, has been overcome. "Challenges like these are now a thing of the past for us. We have a central controller on-site who can hand over access points to our colleagues. All he or she has to do is connect them to the right network socket. That's all," highlights Bornschlegl.

As a result, there is no need for dedicated IT staff onsite anymore as the two controllers in the company's data centres allow the entire WLAN infrastructure to be managed centrally. This means the decentralised access points automatically organise themselves, and users can be administered centrally. So, regardless of location and time, individuals can now automatically use guest access without having to log in or make any configuration changes.



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The same applies to the country-specific configurations, from interference liability or local social media and website restrictions. In these cases, the straightforward functionalities of the new WLAN environment are helpful in managing these local subtleties, such as different terms and conditions, language settings or rights systems. The environment can now be centrally managed.

In addition to offering simplicity, Extreme Networks has given STRABAG SE maximum security via a central access key, which is automatically updated occasionally and is only available via the company's Intranet.

Finally, the excessive number of interfaces on the various networks have been dramatically reduced and will continue to decrease until the final expansion stage. And, now that the administrators only need to operate one console to manage the network, the demands on network administrators have been significantly reduced.

Overall, the solution, which has been implemented without dedicated WLAN controllers, has made setup and operations significantly faster, simpler and more convenient for STRABAG SE. Bornschlegl concludes, "We are on board and 100 percent satisfied".

"We are on board and 100 percent satisfied."

Dr. Marco Xaver Bornschlegi





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