Franciscan Health System

Franciscan Health System, based in Tacoma, Washington, is a comprehensive healthcare organization offering patients access through a number of highly advanced medical facilities that offer state-of-the-art patient care.

Franciscan Health System
Advanced Medicine, Trusted Care

Franciscan has more than 7,200 employees in six separate facilities and proudly serves thousands of patients throughout the South Puget Sound area. Franciscan's IT department strives to provide the latest cost-effective technologies that assist in delivering high-quality patient care. Given the sensitive nature of transmitting patient information including medical records, Picture Archiving and Communication Systems (PACS), Voice-over-IP (VoIP), and other mission critical applications, Franciscan requires the highest level of network security and reliability, including compliance to HIPAA regulations.

Franciscan's network infrastructure was built using a variety of leased line services and licensed microwave radio systems. Network connectivity between Franciscan's Service Center and St. Joseph Hospital was comprised of two parallel licensed 100 Mbps microwave radios providing a 200 Mbps link between locations. One of the radio links failed, negatively affecting the performance of the network. Failure of the second 100 Mbps link forced Franciscan to look for alternative solutions as the radios were too old to repair.

Moonblink Communications, a value-added distributor with a targeted focus on wireless systems, was tasked with recommending a network solution. After a thorough analysis, Moonblink Communications recommended using BridgeWave's GE60 and AR60X gigabit wireless products.

CHALLENGES:
- Rapidly re-establish network connectivity between St. Joseph's Hospital and Franciscan Health System's Service Center
- Needed high bandwidth low-latency connectivity to support PACS, VoIP, data
- Required reliable, HIPAA-compliant security equivalent to a LAN data connection

BRIDGEWAVE SOLUTION:
- GE60 and AR60X, 60 GHz AdaptRate links

BENEFITS:
- Fiber-equivalent performance without the cost associated with leasing fiber
- End-to-end network visibility and control
- Secure, reliable transfer of mission-critical applications, including patient information

"We place a high demand on our network solutions here at Franciscan. With PACS, VoIP, and literally hundreds of other mission critical applications riding our network, availability, reliability, security, and performance are critical to the success of the business."

- Ryan Drovdah,
Network Supervisor
Franciscan Health System

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