COMMSCOPE®

RUCKUS®

Asia Airfreight Terminal

CommScope future-proofs wireless and wired networks for operational efficiency.

CUSTOMER

Asia Airfreight Terminal Co., Ltd

COUNTRY / REGION

Hong Kong

CHALLENGES

- Replace Wi-Fi network for Material Handling System (MHS)
- Consolidate separate networks for CCTV and office systems
- Save the cost of ownership of the network architecture

SOLUTIONS

- RUCKUS R320 indoor access points
- RUCKUS T310 outdoor access points with Mesh technology
- RUCKUS ICX 7150 switches
- RUCKUS ICX 7650 switches

RESULTS

- Faster and stable Wi-Fi Network
- A single network that can handle CCTV, Wi-Fi, and office network loads
- Offered better control and more transparency with a single pane of glass management
- Analytics and intelligent learning features to enable proactive management

Overview

Efficiency drives success at Asia Airfreight Terminal (AAT). Based out of Hong Kong International Airport, it handles the cargo from the world's leading airlines. From physical cargo handling to documentation processing, the company prides itself on having state-of-the-art facilities and IT capabilities.

Wi-Fi, for AAT, is mission-critical. They depend on it for the functioning of an automated Material Handling System (MHS) within the warehouse. Interferences or lost signals can directly impact their operational efficiency. So, when AAT wanted to improve its Wi-Fi, it knew it needed a solution provider that offered the right blend of technology solutions and expertise.

AAT also had other separate networks that were growing. Different networks for their office and CCTV cameras made the job of their data center challenging. The company searched for a Wi-Fi network configuration that streamlined their networks and reduced its network management workload.

AAT was already running on equipment from a competing vendor. The new solution needed to provide its worth in scalability and reliability.

"Wi-Fi network stability, operational efficiency, and technical support for our daily operations are very important. We hope to provide customers with more efficient services through the new system," said an AAT representative.

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They found these benefits with CommScope and its RUCKUS family of solutions.

Proving a point with reliable access points

From the onset, CommScope knew that this was a competitive bid; they had to convince the entire company, not just the IT team. But they were confident that their products were a better fit for AAT's business needs.

To demonstrate their use case, CommScope set up a six-month proof of concept (POC) using three RUCKUS T310 outdoor access points (APs) with Mesh technology. All the RUCKUS APs provided patented BeamFlex adaptive antenna technology. BeamFlex enables the AP's antenna system to continually sense and optimize for its environment.

The Mesh technology offered a reliable configuration that overcame the cabling difficulties for the environment. Network traffic within a Mesh travels through wireless links to other APs until it reaches one directly connected to the wired network. The setup minimized interference and noise while optimizing network performance. The increase in operational reliability and elimination of unplanned stoppages because of network outages or interference convinced that CommScope was the right partner moving forward.

Impressed with the new POC, AAT deployed RUCKUS indoor and outdoor APs for their Material Handling System (MHS). They included both the current RUCKUS T310 outdoor access points and RUCKUS R320 indoor access points. Replacing the competing APs with RUCKUS allowed the company to reinforce its promise with its customers on efficiency. It is looking to add the more advanced RUCKUS R550, R610, and R750 models for dense environments and feature embedded IoT.

One network to rule them all

The POC's success allowed CommScope to demonstrate its capabilities in other networking areas, such as the office network and the CCTV system.

The AAT representative noted that the CCTV system had to be real-time and stream clear images 24 hours a day. It was initially kept separate to not impact the Material Handling System (MHS) and office networks, "especially during the busy hours every morning," he said.

CommScope showed that the current Wi-Fi Mesh configuration could handle CCTV system real-time feed without challenges. For AAT, it meant better control using a single network for both mission-critical feeds.

The solution provider also installed RUCKUS ICX 7150 switches to handle the office network traffic. The ICX 7150 switches combine enterprise-class switching features with high performance at entry-level prices. So, AAT deployed the switches for their office network and lowered their cost of ownership.

They were backed by RUCKUS ICX 7650 high-performance switches with 100 GbE support. The ICX series of fixed form-factor switches worked with the APs to ease network setup and management, enhance security, minimize troubleshooting, and simplify potential future upgrades to the network.

One main concern for AAT was network management. While it had its own data center, it did not want to increase the workload. CommScope offered a single pane of glass approach to managing, allowing the data center team to transparently view the entire network architecture.

Lowering the cost of ownership without compromising features

The benefits of the RUCKUS Wi-Fi architecture were immediate.

AAT saw dramatic improvements in network performance and was able to handle peak loads easily. CommScope's carefully-planned configuration ensured no interference, giving the company peace of mind regarding its 24/7 operations. A 24-hour dedicated line gave the AAT's IT team a critical lifeline to address support issues.

"During the six months of using RUCKUS, the Wi-Fi network system has been operating steadily, technical support services have responded quickly, and the establishment of a 24-hour dedicated line has improved the overall operating performance. Colleagues are all satisfied," said AAT representative.

RUCKUS APs can cope with future system upgrades and has a high performance to cost ratio. As a result, "the company will consider increasing the use of RUCKUS Wi-Fi network system as well as switching, cloud and analytics platform in the future," added AAT representative. These will speed up troubleshooting and enable proactive management.

CommScope pushes the boundaries of communications technology with game-changing ideas and ground-breaking discoveries that spark profound human achievement. We collaborate with our customers and partners to design, create and build the world's most advanced networks. It is our passion and commitment to identify the next opportunity and realize a better tomorrow. Discover more at commscope.com.

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