VIYU HELPS DALLAS CHILDREN'S AQUARIUM DESIGN A RELIABLE NETWORK

OVERVIEW

The Dallas Children's Aquarium located in Fair Park, Dallas, Texas, opened in 1936 as part of the Texas Centennial Exposition, becoming the first Public Aquarium in the state of Texas.

After having to shut down during the pandemic, the ZoOceanarium Group set out to revive and take over operations of the historic Children's Aquarium at Fair Park. ZoOceanarium (pronounced zoo-shen-air-e-um) Group is a consulting and management company whose goal is to create fun and educational experiences through a combination of components that revolve around interactivity and hands-on experiential learning.

With less than 2 months to get the project complete, ZoOceanarium reached out to Viyu Network Solutions to completely revamp their network, IT equipment, and internet service in time for their grand opening.

"We had a very short amount of time to get the facility up and running. It had been shut down for two years and from a network standpoint, it was never equipped with the functionality that we needed in order to provide the guest experience that was needed for an aquarium this size."

CHRIS DAVIS
Managing Director, ZoOceanarium Group

CHALLENGE

Since the Dallas Children's Aquarium is a historically protected building, any upgrades being made had to be dealt with cautiously. In addition, they have environmental systems running that help keep the fish alive. They needed to ensure these systems were constantly working properly so they can receive alerts, monitor, and control the temperature for all the fish tanks. In order to do this, they needed a rock solid network in place.

Along with this, all their IT equipment was outdated, they needed to upgrade their internet and voice provider, and needed to develop new systems to handle massive crowds. They also added outdoor exhibits that required WIFI, which had to be hidden.

On top of that, they needed POS systems, mobile ticket counters, as well as a fully cloud-based ticketing system, network security, and physical security. Lastly, they wanted the ability to manage all these needs through the cloud – all in less than 2 months.

SOLUTION

The Viyu team reviewed existing drawings, brought in a low voltage cabling partner (H2 Systems), surveyed the entire indoor and outdoor facilities and created Wi-Fi heat maps, using Ekahau. Viyu then interacted with the ZoOceanarium staff to help determine needs and to design a solid network including: internet provider, Cisco network security, Cisco network switches, Cisco wireless access points, RingCentral UCaaS voice system, and APC power protection. In addition to designing the fiber and CAT6 Ethernet cabling, H2 Systems integrated new and old Public Announcement and Audio Visual equipment to serve the needs of the organization.

Managed Services

Network Services

Professional Services

OUTCOME

Viyu helped ZoOceanarium and Dallas Children's Aquarium get their network ready just in time for a successful grand opening. With Cisco Meraki's dashboard they now have visibility into their network through a single pane of glass. They're able to manage all their network devices, easily troubleshoot, and access all the alerting tools they need. As crowds increased, they were able to easily make adjustments through the dashboard and other remote management methods to help them handle it.

Additionally, Children's Aquarium continues to utilize Viyu for IT support as their managed services provider.

> *"The Viyu project manager kept the project on track even during a period of time that no company was staying on track due to supply shortages and labor issues. The project was completed as promised and pricing was exactly as discussed before kickoff."*

CHRIS DAVIS
Managing Director, ZoOceanarium Group

Contact Viyu Network Solutions today to get started on your next IT project!

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