

20th Century LEEDS Buildings Move to a Modern-Day IP Platform

CASE STUDY

Vermont Law School leverages its historic architecture and infrastructure with the NVT Phybridge switch innovation.

Executive Summary

Vermont Law School
Industry: Education
Location: South Royalton, Vermont

CHALLENGE

- Migrate over 400 users to VoIP in 19 buildings, some over 100 years old.
- Centralize its call control management.
- Infrastructure overall could be costly and time-consuming given the age of some of the buildings.
- Upgrades should not disrupt the schools operations.

SOLUTION

- Mitel solution powered by NVT Phybridge Long Reach Ethernet switches.

RESULTS

- All barriers eliminated.
- Leveraging existing infrastructure eliminated all disruptions and risks.
- Secure network with a separate physical path for voice.
- Overall improvement in the ability to manage call control.

PRODUCT LIST

NVT Phybridge Switch Series

Vermont Law School is one of the leading environmental law schools in the United States with an annual student body of more than 600 strong. Located in a rural community in Central Vermont, the school has 19 buildings on campus. Each of the buildings is unique and range from twentieth-century LEEDS (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified designs to historic, architectural wonders dating back to the late 1800's.

Challenge

The combination of old and new architecture presented real challenges for Vermont Law School in maintaining a reliable IT infrastructure that allowed employees and students in each of the 19 buildings to stay connected. It was not uncommon for the school to experience power outages that lasted anywhere from 3 hours to 3 days. With so many students on campus at any given time, concern was growing that increased power outages combined with an IT infrastructure that couldn't communicate well between buildings, was not acceptable. Even 911 dispatch capabilities were not available across all the phones or building locations.

To add to the complexity, the historic buildings were equipped with copper wiring and knocking down walls to re-cable these heritage facilities was not an option.

Vermont Law was looking for a local area network (LAN) topology that could support the migration to IP Telephony in an economically-viable manner. They were looking for a solution that would allow for the easy migration given the multiple buildings and unique features in a campus environment.

Solution

Vermont Law School's Director of Technology, Jeanne Eicks, was introduced to the NVT Phybridge solution and immediately related to the value proposition. NVT Phybridge provides the only data network switch to deliver Ethernet and Power over Ethernet over a single pair of telephone grade wire with 4 times the reach of traditional data switches. She was able to consolidate all the switches in a single location to support the end-points in all buildings, greatly reducing cost, risk and disruption.

"NVT Phybridge allowed us to adopt a modern technology in a situation in which we wouldn't have been able to otherwise," says Jeanne. "NVT Phybridge proved to be the only solution on the market that could allow us to meet our objectives."

Results

With its signature ease of deployment, the NVT Phybridge solution was up and running in just five hours, connecting all the phones on campus through the central switch located in the school's communications room. The resulting centralized power provides sustainability to the previously unreliable system. Vermont Law School used the NVT Phybridge solution to easily migrate to IP Telephony and Unified Communications.

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Jeanne Eicks
Director of Technology
Vermont Law School

The School's mandate is “to educate students in a diverse community that fosters personal growth and enables them to attain outstanding professional skills and high ethical values with which to serve as lawyers and other professionals in an increasingly technological and interdependent global society”. With the NVT Phybridge solution, Vermont Law School is fulfilling that mandate by becoming a more technologically-advanced campus.

Campus environments typically have connectivity between buildings, supporting their current telephony solution. NVT Phybridge provides solutions with the ability to transform existing infrastructure into an ideal platform for IP Telephony greatly reduces cost, risk and complexity. The standard topology across all buildings allowed for a repeatable, predictable, and scalable experience, regardless of the number of end-points. Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication.