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Technology/IT

SYSTIMAX® and In-Building Wireless Solutions

Microsoft Finds its **Perfect Technology Center Partner** in CommScope

SYSTIMAX 360™ and In-Building Wireless Solutions show customers the benefits of fast, reliable network connections

Summary: With an integrated portfolio of advanced network solutions from CommScope, Microsoft can demonstrate the potential of advanced wired and wireless infrastructure. At the same time, the iPatch® intelligent infrastructure solution makes managing and modifying its networks simpler and less time consuming.

Microsoft, the world leader in software, services and solutions, began its long-standing relationship with CommScope in the mid-1990s. Since then, CommScope network infrastructure has become an in-house standard for Microsoft and is also used in many Microsoft customer solutions. So, when the company wanted advanced fiber, copper and in-building wireless solutions for a major new project, it naturally turned to CommScope.

The project in question was a new MTC (Microsoft Technology Center) in Southfield, Michigan, near Detroit. As one of 21 MTCs around the world, the Southfield center provides an environment where Microsoft staff and customers can collaborate to create customized business solutions.

CommScope's comprehensive range of wired and wireless connectivity solutions offered the combination of industry-leading reliability and performance needed in MTC networks. Added to this, it could incorporate intelligence in the network physical layer to deliver a high level of visibility, manageability and security.

Seamless Integration

MTCs aim to show customers what the latest technology can deliver and, to do this, they must provide fast, reliable access to hardware and applications throughout their buildings. To provide this standard of access, the 17,000 square-foot Southfield facility has networks that integrate fiber, copper and wireless solutions in a single infrastructure.

The building's networks support applications including video, audio, Voice over IP, access control, telepresence and building control systems. For improved accessibility to certain applications, CommScope's In-Building Wireless Solutions deliver seamless WAN (Wide-Area-Network) RF (Radio Frequency) connections anywhere in the center.

The wireless connectivity is provided by a distributed antenna system from the Andrew portfolio of solutions. This includes Cell-Max™ antennas, located throughout the building, connected via HELIAX® coaxial cable for optimum end-to-end performance.

Installing an Andrew repeater as part of the wireless system strengthens RF signals from WANs outside the building. As a result, wireless access for devices not connected to the building's local area WiFi network is greatly improved.

All Round Solution

In the MTC data center, CommScope designed an infrastructure to suit Microsoft's specific needs. It incorporates some of the most advanced solutions from the SYSTIMAX 360 solutions platform including the iPatch® intelligent infrastructure solution and InstaPATCH® high density, pre-terminated fiber modules.

For connections within the data center, CommScope used its LazrSPEED® 300 multimode fiber solution to deliver performance that comfortably exceeds the OM3 fiber standard. These connections are monitored using the iPatch solution, giving network administrators real time knowledge of network connections to help manage changes and identify issues quickly.

Installation of this state-of-the-art solution was made quicker and easier by using the InstaPATCH solution to radically reduce the time taken to complete fiber connections. In total, 1,100 feet of LazrSPEED cabling was connected using this method as part of a complete installation that took less than two months.

Commenting on the project, Simon Cowley, VP Global Technical Support, Enterprise, CommScope said: "As a result of our success at Southfield, CommScope will be equipping the next new MTC in Minneapolis with a similar network infrastructure. And, following this, we will look to introduce our suite of copper, fiber, wireless and intelligent solutions into other existing, US-based MTCs"

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