



SYSTIMAX® and Uniprise® Solutions

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Marvin Goldman
Chief Executive Officer
Wills Memorial Hospital

Network Infrastructure Solutions from CommScope Help Wills Memorial Hospital Bring Big Hospital Health Care to Smaller Facilities

SYSTIMAX® and Uniprise® solutions move information faster to make specialist expertise and equipment more accessible

Summary, working with Georgia Health Sciences Health System, the clinical arm of Georgia Health Sciences University (GHSU), Wills Memorial Hospital has developed services and techniques that are a model for hospitals of all sizes. At the heart of its administrative and medical systems is an upgraded network infrastructure with copper and fiber solutions from CommScope's world-leading range.

With 66 beds and 170 staff, Wills Memorial Hospital in Washington, Georgia, is a small, rural health care facility. But, size is no limit on the quality of services at the hospital following a cooperative project with Georgia Health Sciences Medical Center.

As well as sharing information, procedures and medical staff, with the health system, management at Wills wanted to mirror its world-class technology. Central to the systems at the larger establishment is a high performance network built using infrastructure solutions from CommScope.

“We knew we had to upgrade our technology to provide the best possible health care environment for the area we serve,” explained Marvin Goldman, Chief Executive Officer at Wills Memorial Hospital. “Technology - in particular networked systems - is crucial in health care today – it plays a key part in improving medical outcomes and the patients’ experience.”

Increasing data transmission speeds over the hospital’s local and wide area networks was a priority. To do this, the management team at Wills took a lead from their partners at GHSU. They chose copper and fiber infrastructure solutions from CommScope to increase network bandwidth by a factor of ten.

Brian Anderson, Director, Network Infrastructure and Telecommunications at Georgia Health Sciences Health System, suggested combining LazrSPEED® 300 and UltraMedia® cabling. The LazrSPEED multimode fiber solution delivers 10Gb/s performance over distances up to 300 meters without need for expensive electronics. This enabled a tenfold increase in data transmission speeds over the hospital’s network backbone.

The UltraMedia 7504 copper solution was chosen for horizontal connections from servers and communications rooms to equipment and workstations. This unshielded, twisted pair cabling gives performance beyond the Category 6 standard, supporting Gigabit Ethernet with bandwidth to spare.

NetPlanner Systems, a CommScope Prestige BusinessPartner based in Norcross, GA., was selected to complete the network design. Working closely with the hospital team, the company designed the upgraded infrastructure without disrupting patient care.

The upgraded cabling is part of a new network architecture that combines higher performance with improved reliability and resilience. New switching technology and redundant links in key parts of the network allow seamless failover in the event that a connection is broken.

In addition to administrative and patient record systems, the network connects advanced body scanning and radiology equipment. With the new, high bandwidth infrastructure, x-rays and scanner images are delivered to medical staff throughout the hospital in a fraction of the time previously needed.

Upgraded wide-area network connections allow similar time savings when sharing radiology information and images with Georgia Health Sciences Medical Center. The round trip speed has now been reduced from 30ms to 10ms, and increased bandwidth triples the maximum throughput.

Before the carefully coordinated change from the old wide area connections to the new ones, cabling infrastructure at Wills was tested and certified by CommScope engineers. The end-to-end performance of all the connections was then given CommScope's industry-leading, 20-year warranty and applications assurances.

Commenting, Marvin Goldman said: "Everyone at the hospital is grateful for the hard work put in by CommScope, GHSU and NetPlanner Systems, alongside our own team, to make this a successful project. It is a great example of what can be accomplished by dedicated individuals working together toward a common goal.

"Congratulations to one and all. Not only will our respective organizations benefit but, more importantly, our patients and their families will receive even better service."

It is expected that the finished infrastructure will be a model for networks in other healthcare facilities in Georgia and other states. By giving faster access to medical expertise and essential equipment, it can deliver both cost and quality of care benefits in hospitals of all types.

"A high performance network maximizes value from major investments in medical equipment and leverages scarce knowledge resources," said Laurie Oswald, Vice President, North America Field Sales, CommScope. "The Wills Memorial Hospital project is a good illustration of this. It also highlights how vital it is to have the right solutions and people to do the job.

"With excellent planning and exceptional teamwork, we were able to deliver results that will benefit both patients and staff with minimal disruption."



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