University of **Reading**

Project name: Halls WiFi

Quick facts	
Project value	£1,500,000
Client name	UPP
Work start date	07/07/2014
Completion date	07/11/2014
UoR project manager	David Young ☎Ext 6635 ⌨ d.g.r.young@reading.ac.uk
Wren no., Building name, building no.	1463405

Project stakeholders

Client :- UPP

Contractors : SSE Contracting

Consultants :- Ridge and Partners (CDM-C)

For the University :- David Young

Project brief: There is a high student demand for WiFi services on campus, and increasingly within Halls of Residences. A concurrent Campus WiFi Installation is nearing completion and as a result of a trial in the Cholsey Block of Mackinder, the need for 1100 Wireless Access Points was highlighted. This would enable a seamless transition from campus to Halls WiFi (via eduroam,) providing speeds between 10-25mbps, comparable to other Higher Education institutions and top-tier home broadband.

Project benefits: Most devices nowadays do not feature an Ethernet port, making WiFi the only viable option in providing high-speed video streaming, downloading and Skype video calling. Having a blanket network across the whole campus, including the Halls enhances the student experience and adheres to one of the 6 priorities outlined by the Technology Enhanced Learning Group for opening up new ways to deliver teaching and learning. It keeps the University at the forefront of providing high quality teaching and learning facilities, as well as letting students have access to the internet on any device, anywhere on campus.

Progress/work schedule: The project was fuelled by customer demand for cutting edge internet services across the University. UPP acknowledged this and ideally wanted the work to be completed over the summer period, and before the students returned for the start of the new term. A provisional date of the 18th September 2014 was put forward. Despite difficulties in agreeing the brief as well as difficulties with the works dovetailing with other UPP planned summer works, the project is well underway, estimated to be complete by the 7th November 2014.

Did you know: The Wireless Access Point device, an Aruba 110 Series uses ClientMatch technology. This is a system that continuously gathers session performance data from mobile technology, and if it senses a device is moving out of range of an access point (AP,) or if RF interference impedes performance, it is smart enough to steer the device to a better AP.