

Grace Brethren Church and Schools

Grace Brethren is a community of diverse professionals that is committed to bringing the glory of God in everything. They run a church and a school in Simi Valley, CA, where they provide internet delivered education services to their community. With over 300 individuals attending sermons, lectures and other community events at any given time, Grace Brethren experiences large swings in Wi-Fi bandwidth consumption. The church also has a large school on campus that goes through 12th grade. For the school, they had an initiative underway to digitize the campus that would include issuing iPads. With just 1.5 full time IT professionals on their staff, their challenge was to deploy a strong Wi-Fi environment that allow connectivity for all faculty and staff throughout the campus. A major undertaking for them with the amount of coverage they were going to need.

On their existing Wi-Fi network, to ensure certain users don't hog bandwidth, they had statically configured bandwidth limits by user, device and application. This proved to be time consuming, highly iterative and resulted in counter productive efforts. They also had issues with Apple iPhones, where sticky iOS IP settings grabbed addresses from a pool set aside for VoIP. Being outside of the Wi-Fi assigned IP pool, this had led to severe VoIP packet loss, affecting their day-to-day operations. To overcome this challenge, they statically blocked these IOS devices, forcing the release of IP addresses and reattempt connection. The outcome was IT and end user frustration, as more and more such devices joined the network. Finally, they were managing all streaming services to client devices from behind a firewall, causing poor quality of experience.

“KodaCloud was an interesting concept since it was fully managed and auto optimized. Since the IT department is a staff of 1½ FTEs, the idea of not having to worry about managing WiFi on campus was intriguing.”

Then, they reached out to Telworx, an MSP for help and were immediately introduced to the KodaCloud Cloud Service Wi-Fi solution. Within days, the KodaCloud Proactive NOC helped set up 25 APs, conducting a full assessment of cabling, switch settings and pre-configuring AP profiles for easy deployment. They were relieved that KodaCloud's AI & expert NOC will automatically adjust settings to ensure nearly 1500 devices can seamlessly connect to the Wi-Fi network, during peak and off peak hours. And that KodaCloud's NOC we will be watching over their network on a 24/7 basis, and alert them only when a critical action is needed. A true managed service!

Ultimately, KodaCloud provided them an affordable solution to enable Wi-Fi across the campus without any issues. They are now prepared to meet their goal of being ready for the new school year, and allow any time any where connectivity to their staff and students.

