



The University of Texas at Dallas, located at the convergence of Richardson, Plano and Dallas, in the heart of the complex of major multinational technology corporations known as the Telecom Corridor, enrolls more than 7,000 undergraduate and 5,000 graduate students. The university offers a broad assortment of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs.

Doug Jackson, the affable director of technology customer services, was looking for a way to cut cabling infrastructure costs in a new student apartment building known as Phase 8, a complex comprised of three buildings that house 530 freshman students.

“Although Ethernet wiring was an option, we decided to forego that in favor of installing a less costly wireless LAN,” said Jackson.

In addition to saving costs, UTD also was looking to increase its wireless network from its current 35 percent campus penetration. Said Jackson, “Having wireless access in every academic area is a necessity with today’s savvy students; during our annual student recruitment interviews, the vast majority is asking for it.”

Touting the convenience of a wireless LAN is one thing, but doing so with secure mobility is quite another.

“To be frank, our biggest concern with wireless LANs was 802.11’s lack of security. We had to secure the campus backbone from ‘war driving,’ our term for when 2-3 hackers use all kinds of tools to break into your network from the street. We needed to exclude all outsiders who had no business being on our network.

“We looked at a few security options but nothing was very satisfactory. RADIUS authentication was important, and some solutions involved too many pieces and parts. Nothing was as clean or straightforward as Bluesocket’s server. We liked Bluesocket because it gave us the ability to authenticate every user,” said Jackson.

When students register for classes, UTD automatically generates accounts for logins to the network. About 80 percent of students have PCs. At Phase 8, where the Bluesocket

server is deployed, as many as 200 simultaneous sessions have been supported, using a single Bluesocket Wireless Gateway and 25 access points.

Jackson concluded: “With Bluesocket’s server, you plop it down, define your configuration, and you’re in business.”

For additional information about UTD, please visit the university’s Web site at [www.utdallas.edu](http://www.utdallas.edu).