

Case Study

Bush-Cheney Presidential Transition Network Infrastructure

Network Designs, Inc. (NDI)—the computer networking support contractor for the General Services Administration (GSA), Federal Supply Service (FSS)—quickly delivered a fully

operational network infrastructure and provided information technology (IT) support for the Bush-Cheney Presidential Transition Team (PTT) from November 2000 – March 2001.

Challenges

This high visibility project, involving the top levels of GSA, FSS, and PTT management, required that NDI provide strong project management; close collaboration with all parties; and clear communication with key management concerning project schedule and resources. GSA required a fully operational network infrastructure for 500 PTT users; a secure network for the PTT separate from the GSA network; and Web servers, network servers, and remote access capability during the presidential transition.

Solutions

NDI designed, developed, and implemented a state-of-the-art, secure, and encrypted wireless network solution to provide Internet and e-mail access to PTT users. NDI successfully installed wireless antennas on the rooftops of both the GSA building on 17th Street and the GSA space for the Transition Team on 1800 G Street. The wireless antennas provided point-to-point transmission between the two buildings, quickly creating a flexible, cost-effective networking solution for the Transition Team.

While NDI also installed a wired T-1 solution for network redundancy, the wireless network proved to be more reliable than the wired network. As a complement to the outside wireless solution, NDI used Cisco Aironet 340 series LAN products to provide high-speed, wireless networking for both in-building and building-to-building wireless LAN applications.

Customer Satisfaction

On February 14, 2001, NDI was formally recognized in a ceremony at the GSA for providing technical support to the Bush-Cheney presidential transition. June V. Huber, Director, Presidential Transition Support, recognized each NDI employee who worked on the PTT project, handing each person a certificate of appreciation. Dave Riggs, Deputy, Presidential Transition Support, commended Network Designs for excellent work and follow-through. NDI's work was technically sound, cost effective, timely, and ensured a smooth implementation.



Solution Highlights

- ▶ Designed, developed, and implemented a state-of-the-art, secure, and encrypted wireless network solution to provide Internet and email access for over 500 network drops
- ▶ Pulled UTP enhanced category 5 (ECAT5) cable and installed ECAT5 jacks on two floors for 500 voice and data drops
- ▶ Pulled coax cable for and connected 50 Direct TV drops
- ▶ Rolled out and brought down 440 PCs and 30 network printers in a 9-week period
- ▶ Provided 12/6 help desk support with over a 90-call-a-week peak
- ▶ Ensured cost savings to the client; immediate installation and uptime; and bandwidth of 11 MB/sec (equal to 7 T-1 lines)

