



The Client: RAF Cosford



RAF Cosford opened in 1938 as an aircraft maintenance, storage and technical training unit. It has remained training unit to this day.

THE LOCATION

RAF Cosford, West Midlands

THE REQUIREMENT

An outdoor wireless mesh network

THE TECHNOLOGY

- A5 ABG MESH

THE SILVERNET BENEFITS

- All weather wireless network
- Simple installation
- Central management
- Rugged design
- 2.4/5Ghz frequency band
- Rigorously tested

The Challenge

The RAF base had no internet access or phone lines in the barracks for RAF personnel to use.

The Solution

RAF Cosford's 3,000 residents (RAF personnel) needed to have internet access. SilverNet needed to supply and install a wireless 'mesh' network which would provide wireless coverage to the Barrack blocks which housed all 3,000 RAF personnel. Due to the scale of the RAF base, a system had to be installed in stages and commissioned and connected as it was installed.

There were a number of issues which had to be overcome in the design stages. These included the location(s) of the nearest BT exchange(s) and how to provide power to each radio mesh point. Once the system became operational it meant that the RAF personnel could access the internet from any of the Barrack blocks they were stationed in.

This was a huge advance on the previous, non-existent system.

The Technical Bit

The WiFi radio node allows users to gain access to the internet through a gateway on the 2.4GHz frequency. It then uses the 5Ghz frequency to connect to other nodes around the base, forming a mesh network. Each wireless node can self-configure and connect to the network, a network failure can be repaired automatically so that the overall performance and the usability is unaffected allowing continuous access.

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