

LASERS FOR CLEAN AND GREEN VALUES

Case Study



Craig Whalley, IT Manager for the Shire

The background

Upgrading computer networks between buildings often leads to the high cost of digging up streets to roll out fiber cables. However, one Melbourne council is taking full advantage of laser technology to keep its offices working to their full capacity.

Nestled on Melbourne's eastern fringe, the Shire of Yarra Ranges is home to a mixture of suburbs, townships and rural communities. Craig Whalley, IT Manager for the Shire, says the need arose to improve a connection between their main office and a remote site with a minimum of disruption. 'Our remote site has approximately 80 staff who use the link for data sharing applications. After an upgrade to our corporate systems, we found the increase in data traffic was creating severe bottlenecks in the existing Network link to the remote site' says Whalley.

The network's main function was to connect separate LANs in the two offices half a kilometer apart. Both sites were running 100 Mbps Fast Ethernet connected via a 10 Mbps connection. 'We asked WaveRider Communication Australia for help with the problems we were having with our network connection' says Whalley.

The Solution

WaveRider Communication Australia was able to have a new MRV 100 Mbps laser link installed and running within two days.

'Our staff are now using more graphical and resource hungry applications. It creates a huge increase in the amount of data traffic on the network, and we had to be able to cope with that' he says. Traditionally, installing a high speed network between buildings meant for high costs and time delays. However, with the help of the Optical Access TereScope™ products installed by WaveRider Communication Australia the council now has a reliable building-to-building broadband data connection at full network speed.

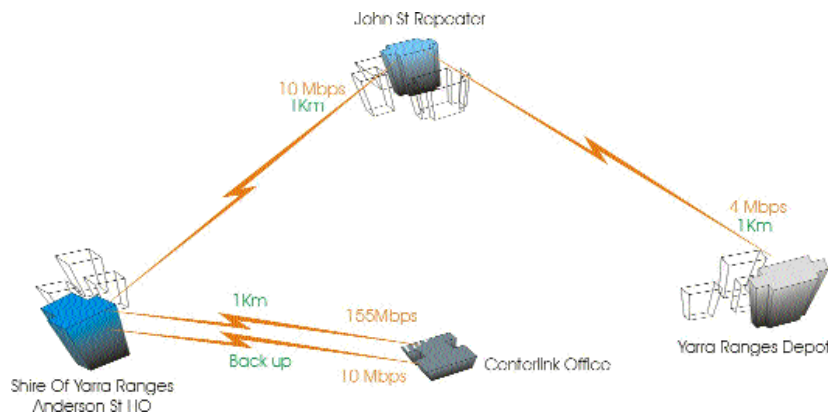
'With the speed we're now getting out of the network at the remote site, the staff down there feel as if they are back up in the main office' says Whalley. Including such areas as the picturesque Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges, the Shire has a commitment towards protecting its natural environment. With MRV proven laser technology, the Shire was spared the costly alternative of having to lay underground cables.

As the lasers simply require a line of sight between each site to operate, they can be mounted on rooftops, the sides of buildings, or even from behind glass windows. Once mounted, they are easily aligned and can be online in just hours.

Whalley believes the scalability and portability of the laser combine to make it the best investment for the Shire's needs now and into the future. *'This was easily the most cost-effective option going'* says Whalley. *'As the satellite office is currently in a leased building, we're not forced into committing to permanent infrastructure. If we ever have to relocate, all we have to do is simply pick it up and take it with us when we leave.'*

Being protocol independent and capable of going up to a throughput of 155 Mbps, the TereScope 1000x gives the Shire the flexibility to adapt with their network as it develops. *'We've been using wireless links for some time, so we're confident in what they can do. We started out with a 4 Mbps link which went up to 10 Mbps as the system grew. As well as this new link, we now have three other wireless links operating (1 x 4 Mbps and 2 x 11 Mbps)'* says Whalley.

WaveRider Communication provides broadband wireless solutions for customers where their existing copper or ISDN last-mile infrastructure is providing inadequate bandwidth. *'We have been with WaveRider Communication for a number of years now, and our wireless network has never missed a beat. It does not matter how bad the weather's been, we've never had a disruption to the signal'* he says. *'The level of service we receive has been great. From the initial installation, to the ongoing maintenance of the system, the response time has always been excellent'* he says.



About MRV

MRV Communications is a world-class provider of high-bandwidth, low-cost Ethernet access solutions. These solutions include last-mile Ethernet, Ethernet over VDSL, Free-Space Optics (FSO), Media Conversion and Wave Division Multiplexing. MRV markets its products in more than 50 countries to existing and emerging service providers, as well as to enterprises requiring service aware broadband networks. As a leader in optical technology, with years of field proven success, MRV projects division is fully committed to 24x7 direct support and response to all projects needs and to taking care of special adaptation of its products to fit the Utilities Broadband Networks requirements in order to optimize the network utilization, support the whole spectrum of services and help the operator gain more revenue by providing more services to more customers more quickly.

For more information, visit www.mrv.com.