

CASE STUDY

State & Local Government



Police Department Moves to Secure Wireless Communications

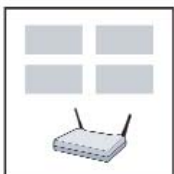
When public safety is at stake, law enforcement requires access to the latest crime prevention tools, many of which use multimedia images and require high-bandwidth network access. Wireless networking can help get these tools into the hands of police officers without having to pull personnel out of the field. However, wireless networks open doors to the possibility of intrusions, network vulnerabilities and an overall lack of privacy. Given the sensitive nature of law enforcement work, the lack of physical boundaries, and known vulnerabilities of wireless, security concerns can inhibit deployment.

Law Enforcement Demands Access to High Bandwidth Application

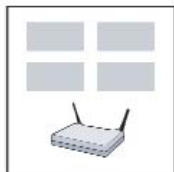
The Syracuse Police Department is a metropolitan police department composed of 486 sworn officers and 88 civilian employees. The department serves a population of 164,000 city residents in 62 square miles.

The S.P.D.'s evolving communication needs require secure communication between ruggedized Wi-Fi enabled PCs mounted in patrol cars and a distribution of high bandwidth hotspots at their main station and substations. Extreme care must be given to the privacy of any network used to transmit information related to investigating criminal activity. This includes the need not only to secure data distributed across wireless local area networks but also to control who can access these networks. The Syracuse Police Department has selected the Fortress family of products to protect both the wireless hotspots at its main station and substation as well as its wireless communications at headquarters.

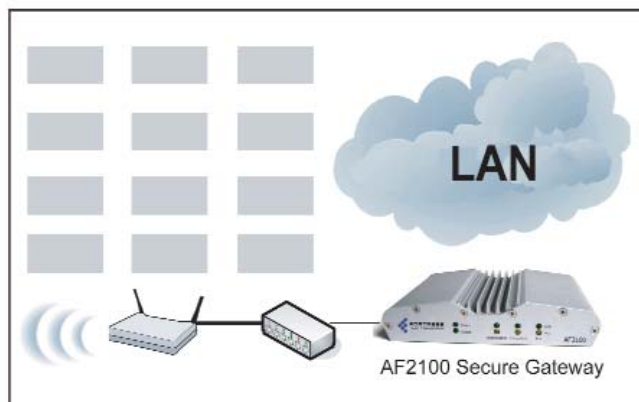
Police Substation



Police Substation



Police Headquarters



Challenges

- Provide strong security for sensitive law enforcement communications
- Support high-bandwidth multimedia applications
- Accommodate a mixed multi-vendor environment
- Solution must be easy for field personnel to operate

Solution

- Rugged Wi-Fi enabled PCs in patrol cars
- Commercially available wireless access points at private hotspots
- Fortress Security Gateways
- Fortress Secure Clients

Results

- Fortress's overlay security model integrates with all existing technologies and equipment
- Strong FIPS validated security in place for wireless network
- All applications are supported
- Transparent operation for users
- Officers spend more time on the street and less time at desk



For more information about the Fortress product suite for State & Local Government:

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