



## Case Study

# HUNTERDON COUNTY



### Hunterdon County, Improves Network Operations and Employee Productivity Using BridgeWave's Gigabit Ethernet Wireless Links



Hunterdon County, New Jersey, established in March 1714, is part of the New York Metropolitan Area and home to many commuters who work in New York City and Philadelphia. With a population of approximately 129,000, Hunterdon County has more than 650 active county employees who work within 40 departments, divisions and agencies.

To maintain operations, Hunterdon County runs disaster recovery resilience to protect vital records essential to local government agencies on their network. However, Hunterdon County needed to improve the network's performance for transporting county-wide services and applications.

*"It was necessary to find a cost-effective way to increase bandwidth capacity, improve network efficiency and gain control over our network to maintain operations. We successfully deployed a high-capacity wireless ring using BridgeWave's AR60 and AR80X links and anticipate saving \$3,000 to \$5,000 a month just by replacing the leased lines with the BridgeWave links."*

Mike Rasimowicz  
Manager  
Hunterdon County Information  
Technology

In particular, many of the county offices needed more bandwidth to run imaging applications for open and public records documentation. For instance, the county's tax board and accounting clerk were on two separate networks, and they would input information about deeds and other pertinent documents onto their own separate network. While data was unnecessarily duplicated, it was imperative for both departments to access the data – a feat that would be difficult to accomplish with the T1 line that Hunterdon County was using.

### THE CHALLENGE

Improving network performance to transport county-wide services and support application traffic was a top priority for Hunterdon County. Therefore, it was essential to find a solution that would connect several government facilities including the RT12 complex, Justice Center, RT31 complex (Human Services), Public Safety (which includes the county-wide 911 center), Sheriff's office, and Administration complex.

Mike Rasimowicz, information technology manager for Hunterdon County, looked for a reliable solution that would address the following issues:

- Provide enough bandwidth that would support the consolidation of separate file servers at every facility
- Support data-intensive applications and services while providing network visibility to better manage the network
- Withstand weather conditions to remain reliable and ensure employees are productive even during inclement weather



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## THE SOLUTION

After receiving a Public Archives and Records Infrastructure Support (PARIS) Grant – the nation's leading program for upgrading the security, integrity and efficiency of local government records administrations – Hunterdon County began the network upgrade to improve the ability to share and disseminate information. As a result of the project, Hunterdon County received an award for excellence from the PARIS Grant for its achievements in creating a comprehensive county network “hub” to further increase shared and managed electronic services across municipalities and local law enforcement agencies.

Hunterdon County first looked at T1 and fiber as possible options. Yet, fiber was quickly eliminated as it would require the county to run 16 miles of fiber to create the necessary ring topology.

Working with New Jersey Business Systems (NJBS), an end-to-end systems integrator specializing in designing and installing reliable network solutions, Hunterdon County evaluated alternative options and found gigabit wireless to be the best decision. NJBS chose BridgeWave's AR60 and AR80X links for their ability to provide 'five-nines' reliability throughout the network. The wireless links allow Hunterdon County full-rate gigabit backbone capacity to support the data-intensive applications and services while providing the end-to-end network visibility to better manage the network.

*“The reason I recommended BridgeWave's links was for their ability to achieve 'five-nines' reliability for the ring. Given the data-intensive nature of the traffic and the added benefit of BridgeWave's AdaptRate technology, I felt confident that the links would offer the performance needed to support Hunterdon County's network.”*

*Paul Lobecker  
Sr. Account Manager  
New Jersey Business Systems*

One of the features that caught the eye of Hunterdon County was BridgeWave's AdaptRate technology. During inclement weather, this exclusive capability momentarily switches from GigE to 100 Mbps transmission rates to provide continuous operation.

*“What really stood out with BridgeWave was the AdaptRate feature and its ability to support the distances we needed with GigE speeds,” said Rasimowicz. “The BridgeWave links have been very reliable and we have yet to experience any weather-related problems. You wouldn't even know that we changed the circuits except that the network runs much faster.”*

To get the project underway, the county installed two links that replaced the ISDN connections that were previously in place, spanning a short distance. Additional links were added at a later date as a 220 foot tower and a 130 foot monopole had to be installed before the deployment was complete. Once the pole and tower were in place, radios were installed to build a ring around the county creating a redundant environment. After installing the links, Hunterdon County began passing data between the four connected county buildings across the links and migrating different networks onto the new wireless ring network.



**BridgeWave**  
COMMUNICATIONS

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## BENEFITS

The BridgeWave links provide full gigabit Ethernet capacity to support disaster recovery resilience that will protect vital records needed to restore government services essential to maintaining operations for Hunterdon County government agencies.

This deployment allowed the county to consolidate its servers, better manage the entire network and increase the speed of the WAN, which was noticed by clients who have to work on the network on a daily basis. Additionally, the cost savings with the BridgeWave links is a remarkable \$3,000 - \$5,000 a month in operating costs by replacing the leased lines with these gigabit wireless links.

Through the deployment of BridgeWave links, the county recognizes it hasn't realized all of the advantages to date. They note the wish list of county projects is increasing instead of decreasing as would be expected in the current economic climate.

The links have proven to be reliable from the first installation to the completion of the entire ring surrounding the county. More importantly, the network's performance has improved which benefits the productivity of Hunterdon County's employees.

CASE STUDY



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**CUSTOMER:** Hunterdon County, NJ, <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/>

**INDUSTRY:** Government

**CHALLENGES:**

- Insufficient network bandwidth required for the county's multiple agencies to efficiently share information
- Meet thresholds for cost-effectiveness, reliability and ease of deployment
- Adaptable to future application requirements

**SOLUTION:** BridgeWave AR60 and AR80X point-to-point wireless links with AdaptRate

**BENEFITS:**

- Resilient gigabit wireless infrastructure yields future proof capacity
- AdaptRate technology provides flawless performance during periods of inclement weather
- Consolidated SANS, Windows Update Server
- Saving \$3,000 - \$5,000 per month compared to leased-line solutions
- Increased employee productivity
- Improved network visibility and management

**SYSTEM INTEGRATOR:** New Jersey Business Systems (NJBS), an end-to-end systems integrator specializing in a full range of networking, communications, computer services, customer service and support, aided Hunterdon County in finding a reliable and less costly wireless option. To learn more about NJBS, visit the company's Web site at <http://www.njbs.com/>.

Additionally, the network upgrade was made possible through the Public Archives and Records Infrastructure Support (PARIS) Grants Program, the nation's leading program for upgrading the security, integrity and efficiency of local government records administration.



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