



Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust



Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust is a large NHS trust based in Sutton. The hospital trust delivers patient care to approximately 420,000 people living in the southwest London & north east Surrey.

The trust encompasses 2 large sites - St Helier & Epsom Hospital and a number of smaller sites - Leatherhead, Nelson, Kingston, Manorgate House, Ewell cottage & West Park Hospital. Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust has been a long standing customer, having had a relationship with Rapier Systems since 2003.

In the early days of the relationship Rapier introduced the Alcatel range of network hardware to the Trust and a long standing strategic partnership was born. In 2003, the entire network was migrated across to an Alcatel switching & routing platform with multiple forms of resilience & redundancy.

The Trust required a Wi-Fi solution to suit all its current & foreseeable needs in regards to staff, consultants & patient access without compromising security. The system was to be implemented across both major sites & selected satellite sites with a requirement to be secure while allowing patients free access to the Internet and staff and consultants access to trust network infrastructure while also allowing for VoIP handsets and RFID in the future.

The system as also to be used for clinical systems such as patient records, blood/glucose scanners and any other emerging devices that could be connected to centralise records and improve patient care.

Rapier embarked on a Wireless mapping of all sites required for best placement of the AP's for operational purposes. This was no small matter – as the size of the trust buildings & internal configuration required exact expert planning or the number of APs could be significantly increased for the required coverage. Once mapped, we started on the implementation phase installing the large central controller with all required security policies & WLANs implemented ready for deployment.

After the first phase of AP installation the system was tested by both Rapier/NHS IT staff and external consultants with specific emphasis on the secure nature of the system. Once approved the rollout started in earnest and the deployment has now reached well over 500 AP's across 4 sites

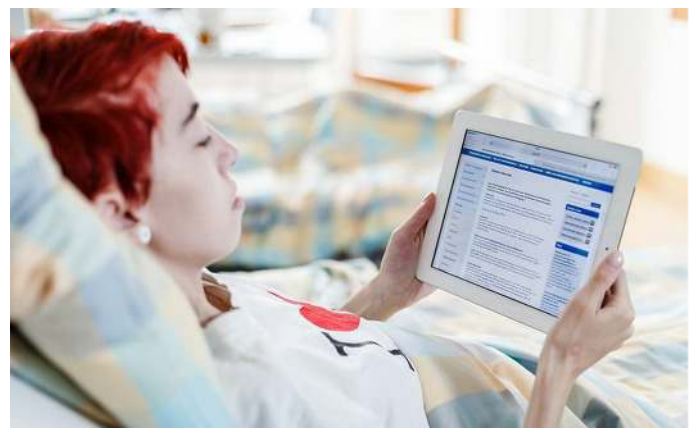
and is still growing. With the nature of the planned installation & configuration of the system, the customer was able to install the AP's when they were ready – allowing the system to grow into area's when the IT dept was ready for the deployment.

Rapier trained the core staff in management & administration of the Wi-Fi system to allow the trust to deploy the required WLANs only in the area they were required and only when they were ready.

The Trust now has an IT system capable of delivering the advanced features required in a modern NHS trust estate environment, allowing consultants & staff to access patient records & treatments at the bedside knowing that they are up to date with the benefit of the patient history to hand without large amounts of paper files.

The trust is also testing a VoIP handset solution and has plans to implement RFID to track & locate major resources within the trust such as Crash carts, mobile dialysis machines and key personnel.

Another major benefit is for the patients, who can now bring their own tablet/PC or Wi-Fi (a term now referred to as bring your own device or BYOD) enabled devices to the hospital while receiving treatment and stay connected to the world outside.



“Our requirement for a Trust wide, secure Wi-Fi network that would be fit for purpose for years to come has been designed and planned across all estate buildings by Rapier. The forward thinking approach has allowed the system to be implemented and configured in the critical area's from day one and allowing for future deployment of AP's in the designated areas when we are ready”

Malcolm Flier, Head of IT

About Rapier Systems

Formed in 2003 Rapier has unrivalled expertise in the design, delivery and support of wireless (including WiFi) networks and systems; the company is a value added integrator of best-in-class wireless products.

Whether within or between buildings, upgrading or replacing existing networks, or designing and installing new wireless systems, Rapier's experience in environmental analysis and network design ensures complete coverage and optimal performance.

Rapier works with world leading wireless system vendors, including Ruckus, Alvarion, Airtight, Cambium/Motorola, Ceragon, SAF Technika and several more. The company has reached the highest level of accreditation with each of its partners and understands which vendor and product is best suited for each environment.

Rapier has grown dramatically on the back of a surge in demand for wireless networks, which it has designed and installed in a wide variety of challenging environments from colleges and oil rigs to business parks and theatres.

Rapier maintains Scotland's largest Wireless Network, covering Dundee City, Angus and Perth & Kinross Councils, which comprises around 250 sites.

The company has designed and delivered some of the most innovative wireless solutions in the UK, including the largest metropolitan area wireless network in Scotland and one of the largest county-wide wireless networks in England. Rapier delivered the 1st fully licensed Gigabit wireless link in the UK.

The company's headquarters is located in Fife, Scotland and it has offices in St Neots, Cambridgeshire, England.

Rapier has a UK wide customer base in sectors that include Local Government; Transport, Renewables, Oil and Gas, Retail and Leisure.

For further information please visit www.rapiersystems.com

