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CASE STUDY:

Providing Students with Superfast Wi-Fi

Challenges

Jody Botham, Network Architect at ASK4, is part of the team that develop ASK4's wireless design best practices and methodologies. Last year one of ASK4's flagship clients approached them with a requirement to upgrade a 1,500 bed, 33 storey student accommodation block with a 200Mbps wireless service.

They also requested that the network delivered 200Mbps no matter where the students were in the building; bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens and other common areas.

SUMMARY

ASK4 started supplying managed internet services for multi-tenant buildings back in 2000. From 2010 onwards customers were increasingly asking for wireless services, and ASK4 made the jump into wireless shortly afterwards.

Fast-forward to 2017 and ASK4 have now developed a wireless design methodology with Ekahau at the core, with over 150,000 students relying upon their high-speed wireless networks across the UK.



“The majority of our engineers used other design software previously and they found Ekahau considerably easier to use. In fact a lot of our engineers switched to Ekahau before we had even finished the roll-out!”

*Jody Botham,
Network Architect*

The Solution

ASK4 firstly calculated the desired network parameters including the signal-to-noise ratio and channel overlap before entering them into the network specification fields within Ekahau Planner.

Next they visited the site to configure Ekahau Planner by checking that real world attenuation values matched those predicted. Jody and his colleague then used Ekahau Planner to create predictive plans for all 33 floors in the building, which in turn were used by the contractors for cabling positions.

After the cabling contractors had finished ASK4 then went back to site and conducted a post-installation survey with Ekahau Site Survey.

The client was so pleased with the results that they commissioned ASK4 to roll out the service to their other two sites in London.

ASK4 have subsequently adopted their new methodology across the board, so all of their wireless designs are done to the same best practice guidelines.

About ASK4:

ASK4 is an award-winning provider of high speed internet solutions and managed data services for multi-tenant accommodation. ASK4 partners with universities, private sector student accommodation providers, residential apartment developers and businesses. ASK4 currently serve over 150,000 customers across hundreds of sites in the UK and Europe.

www.ask4.com

“This was the first time we had tested our new guidelines at scale and thanks to Ekahau we probably delivered the best wireless network we had ever done. It appears to be giving us considerably more performance and less snagging and rectification issues once a site has gone live.”

Wi-Fi performance in the accommodation block is a great marketing tool for our clients. If they have wireless that can do 200Mbps they can rent rooms more easily.”

*Jody Botham,
Network Architect*