



Resort Condominium Wi-Fi 6 Upgrade, Omada SDN

Omada Helps Streamline MSP Operations,
Reducing Deployment Time by 30%

Project Scope:

Upgrade 14K
Condominium Units and
Indoor/Outdoor common
areas to Wi-Fi 6

Access Points Selected:

- EAP615-Wall
- EAP610
- EAP660 HD
- EAP610-Outdoor

Controllers:

Omada Software Controller
(on-premises)

► Wi-Fi 6 Upgrades for 14K Resort Condominiums

For 16 years, IPacket Networks has installed and managed both wired and wireless networks in resort condominium buildings, with nearly 14,000 individual condo units currently under contract. Located on the white sand beaches of Florida's Gulf Coast, the popular vacation spot is home to thousands of resort rentals with competing amenities. Along with ocean views and full-service beach fronts, high-speed Wi-Fi access in condos, common areas and on the beach is a required amenity.

To keep up with residents' and guests' growing technology needs, IPacket Networks prepared to upgrade each property and thousands of individual condominium units to Wi-Fi 6. Phase one of the planned upgrade would replace the existing access points with dual-band Wi-Fi 6 access points. Looking to their existing Wi-Fi vendors for products to support the upgrade, IPacket Networks found they had a problem.

"Both my other vendors were actually very depleted in stock, and they didn't have Wi-Fi 6, so those were the first big drivers on what got me looking at TP-Link again," stated Luis Santos, vice president of engineering at IPacket Networks."

IPacket Networks planned the upgrade to new Wi-Fi 6 technology for improved performance and faster speeds. Wi-Fi 6 improves network operations by more efficiently handling simultaneously connected devices. Additionally, the new technology better supports the increased user demand for video and streaming and features greater access speeds and enhancements over older technology.



➤ Challenge: Product Availability

"We had looked at you [TP-Link] in the past, but the price point wasn't there," said Santos. "The real driver this time around was threefold; there was price, the fact that you have a Wi-Fi 6 product and readily available inventory."

IPacket Networks evaluated Omada Wi-Fi 6 Access Point (AP) models and chose a few upgrade options. "We have one building that we deployed with EAP615-wall units. Now we're settled on the EAP610 for the rest of our upgrades. I will be looking at the EAP660 because we're starting to see demand, at least from a pricing standpoint, on 2.5 Gigabit, both optical and Ethernet-based service," remarked Santos.

➤ Biggest Feature Surprise - Mesh Wireless Reduces Costly Truck Rolls



"The one feature - I can't say I selected the product because of - but we are really enjoying the meshing capabilities. We didn't have this option with our previous product. The Omada Mesh was nice because these are beachfront resorts, and we're in closets where wiring gets exposed to sea air, which results in copper corrosion. When we encounter an AP that goes off the air because the wire became corroded [and] is no longer passing data, it's great to go to the switch, turn off the port, and mesh that AP with a neighboring AP, all without a truck roll. So that's becoming a highly convenient feature to have."

➤ Challenge: IoT Devices per Access Point - Residents Love Remotely Controlled IoT

The popularity of in-home IoT devices makes remotely managing rental units much easier for condo owners. While beneficial to some, these always-on devices posed a unique challenge when it came to managing them.

As a solution, IPacket creates custom private networks for condo owners to help meet their individual needs. Residents can easily attach network IoT devices to their custom in-unit Wi-Fi network without receiving a security warning or requiring a call to support for help with individual device setup.



"We're installing the APs inside privately owned condominiums that may or may not get rented weekly," said Santos. "We've had many challenges because most of these units, especially rental ones, have many IoT devices. Owners are adding remote monitored and controlled IoT devices into their condominiums - door locks, light sensors, thermostats, you name it. On average, it's easy to see any given AP with 15-20 devices concurrently connected all the time."

"IPacket is very flexible in that we allow owners of individual condos to set up a SOHO (small office/home office) environment for their personal use. Then we can also create another property-wide SSID for guests and renters," explained Santos.

The property-wide SSID allows residents and guests to maintain secure access to the wireless network as they move throughout the property and even the beach front, with the EAP610-Outdoor, while maintaining speedy connections.

"We had been managing our 14,000 APs with various provisioning and management systems. Now that we're using one controller for those functions. Our operations team is much happier - it streamlined the way they work."

➤ Omada Boosts Operations and Deployment Efficiency for Network Operations Team

When IPacket began their search for Wi-Fi 6 access points, they found what they were looking for and more with TP-Link. "Once I began looking at TP-Link again, the Omada Controller capabilities absolutely sold me. The controller is just great to have," said Santos. "We had been managing our 14,000 APs with various provisioning and management systems. Now that we're using one controller for those functions, our operations team is much happier - it streamlined the way they work."

"Our office is tied to a VPN cloud that gives employees direct access to each network component at every location. If they're remote and don't have access to the VPN, they'll use the cloud controller to access the individual controllers." IPacket utilizes the free Omada Software Controller, "We do have all our software controllers registered with the cloud, so our operations team can log in directly if they are home."

"Omada has just been a great thing from an operations standpoint. AP installation is much more efficient because the controllers are preconfigured. Once the APs are plugged in, they instantly show up. We adopt them, assign a Wi-Fi profile, and voila, they're done! The controller has easily sped up our deployment time by 20 or 30 percent."

➤ About IPacket Networks

IPacket Networks provides expertly engineered, fully supported, Managed IP Services that are customized to each customer's unique challenges and needs. Founded in 2006, IPacket Networks was born from a group of engineers who spent their careers architecting the telecommunications landscape, which now serves as the bedrock of today's next-generation networks.

IPacket serves the following markets: commercial, enterprise, hospitality, residential and multi-family. The experienced team creates highly secure Wi-Fi networks that protect businesses and customers, attract new guests, and open new revenue streams while adding amenities and a user-friendly experience.



➤ Related Recommended Products



EAP660 HD

AX3600 Wireless Dual-Band Multi-Gig Ceiling Mount Access Point



EAP610

AX1800 Ceiling Mount Wi-Fi 6 Access Point



EAP615-Wall

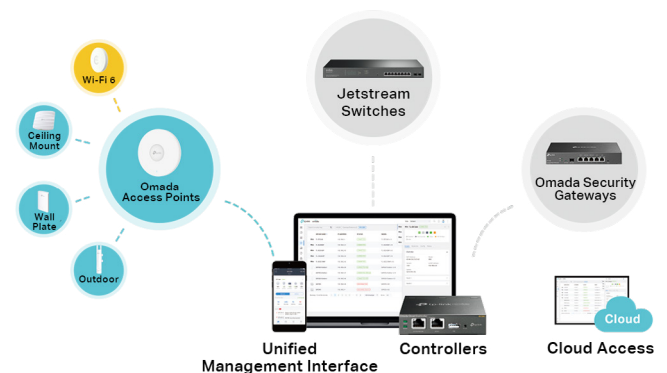
AX1800 Wall Plate Wi-Fi 6 Access Point



EAP610-Outdoor

AX1800 Indoor/Outdoor WiFi 6 Access Point

➤ Omada Software Controller



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For additional information on the TP-Link Omada SDN Solution, please visit <https://www.tp-link.com/us/business-networking/> or contact us at B2BSales.USA@tp-link.com