

## Skydive Dubai – Campus Wide 802.11n Ruckus Wireless Wi-Fi

### THE PROJECT



FOSS was requested to provide a temporary site-wide wireless 802.11n Wi-Fi network scaling to 4,000 concurrent users for the World Parachute Championship Mondial 2012 and 2013.

A key part of that operation is the need for seamless wireless access in all parts of Skydive Dubai's site for both visitors and staff. With numerous displays every day, up to 50% of the attendees could be expected to want to upload videos to YouTube or Facebook, as soon as possible.

### THE SOLUTION

The required solution was not, in itself difficult. A temporary wireless network with enough bandwidth, scalability and resilience to handle a potential 4,000 or more concurrent users. A smaller wireless network had been installed for the previous year's Parachute Championship Mondial, but it had only served 800 users. A better solution was essential, especially as the 2012 Championship coincided with the 41st UAE National Day. Large numbers of attendees were expected as well as an estimated 800 participants from around the world who competed in formation skydiving, canopy formations, accurate landing, canopy piloting, over water, freefall flying, freefall style and para skiing for the first time in the region.

After careful market evaluation, Samer Al Shemmari, Skydive Dubai's IT Manager, chose Ruckus Wireless, a global supplier of advanced wireless systems for the developing mobile Internet infrastructure market. In turn, Ruckus chose one of their preferred System Integrators, FOSS, to project manage and provide on-site support before and during the event, in order to guarantee 100% coverage of both outdoor and indoor areas of Skydive Dubai site.

### OVERVIEW

Located in the emirate of Dubai in the UAE, Skydive Dubai is a globally acclaimed skydiving facility.

Amongst other activities, Skydive Dubai hosts the Parachute Championship Mondial – the sport's premium competition that focuses the attention of parachute enthusiasts globally. With such an audience and to justify hosting the event every year, no part of the organisation or operation of the week-long championship can be allowed to fail.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Seamless connectivity with zero downtime during week-long event
- Optimisation of video uploads to internet by Media Department
- Short planning and implementation timeline

### SOLUTION

- Ruckus ZoneDirector ZD 1100 redundant Wi-Fi Controllers
- Ruckus ZoneFlex 7363 802.11n internal Access Points
- Ruckus ZoneFlex 7762 802.11n external Access Points
- On-site support during Championship

### BENEFITS

- Consistent, reliable coverage across whole of Skydive Dubai site, indoors and outdoors
- Bandwidth optimisation
- Scaling of access to more than 3,000 concurrent sessions
- Rapid deployment

*"If the deployment worked, Skydive Dubai would let me jump from a plane with a parachute; if it didn't, they'd make me jump without one!"*

Vikas Rana, Product Development and Support Manager

*"Excellent Job!"*

Samer Al Shemmari,  
Head of IT SkyDive Dubai

Vikas Rana, Product Development and Support Manager, headed up the FOSS team. "The project was really all about having the right design in place in



order to deliver 100% coverage for data, voice and video. We knew there would be a major demand on the network, partly because of the need by Skydive Dubai's Media Team to enable live video streaming throughout the event and partly because it was estimated that up to half of all attendees would be uploading images and videos to the Web at any stage. Of course, video uploads are more and more popular, so we prioritised that."

The final network consisted of 24 indoor and outdoor Aps: the Smart WLAN controller Zone Director ZD 1100 which can scale to up to 50 Aps, plus a selection of Zone Flex ZF 7363s and ZF 7762s. A team of four handled the installation, which was the first of its type to allow wireless connection of over 3,000 devices – such as iPads, Mac and Windows laptops and a selection of smart phones) to the Net, seamlessly and with no bandwidth or usage limitations.

This worked so well that Skydive Dubai invited the public to BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) and the Wi-Fi network infrastructure designed by FOSS and utilising Ruckus equipment successfully met all expectations and facilitated access to the network from thousands of devices. In short, seamless connectivity for wireless traffic was achieved during the event.

Did Rana and his team face any problems? "No telecommunication problems occurred for the whole duration of the championship; the support option was covered in our contract with FOSS and a total of 2 on-site engineers ensured high performance was not disturbed" – said Samer Al Shemmari Skydive Dubai IT Manager.

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