

The Clarion Hotel Cork, Ireland, Serves All Guests with Complimentary Wireless Internet Access Using 4ipnet Wall Jack Access Points and WHG Secure WLAN Controller

I. Case Overview

The 4 star Clarion Hotel Cork, the largest hotel in Cork, Ireland, is located in the heart of the city and features more than 190 luxury en-suite bedrooms and 6 meeting rooms. As a selected venue that has been hosting Yearly Macintosh Forum, the Clarion strives to maintain a high level of services and facilities, and planned to deploy a manageable wireless network throughout the entire hotel's 7 buildings, covering bedrooms, conference and event suites, and public areas.

With 4ipnet products, free but managed Wi-Fi Internet access is available to all guests. Mac users during the annual gala event are able to experience portable Internet surfing with convenience and quality.

II. Challenges

- Consistent and reliable wireless coverage throughout 7 buildings
- Aesthetically pleasing equipment to match interior décor
- Centralized AP management
- Custom-tailored login pages for different user groups during events
- Differentiated wireless access services for guests, staff, and visitors
- Internet access from various handheld devices

III. Network Solution

After an on-site test, 4ipnet EAP700 Wall Jack AP was selected for its unique low profile, lightweight design with built-in antenna. A total of 75 EAP700 APs have been deployed throughout hotel buildings and centrally managed by one 4ipnet WHG 401 Controller.

- **WHG401** – GbE Secure WLAN Controller, manages up to 200 indoor and outdoor 4ipnet Access Points
- **EAP700** – 500mW Wall Jack 802.11b/g Access Point with 4ipWES Press-n-Connect for WDS Easy Setup

A large-scale WLAN that covers entire hotel property with capability and flexibility to centrally manage all access points and services.

The WHG401 supports up to 200 units of 4ipnet Access Points by auto-discovery and -configuration during deployment. All configurable network specifics—custom login portal, billing and payment settings, Service Zones—can be done centrally.

Overview:

The Clarion Cork, the largest 4 star hotel in Cork City, Ireland, implements 4ipnet EA700 Wall Jack APs and WHG401 Secure WLAN Controller to provide differentiated wireless access services for guests, staff, and event attendees.

Challenges:

- Consistent and reliable wireless coverage throughout 7 buildings
- Aesthetically pleasing design to match interior décor
- Centralized management of all deployed access points
- Differentiated wireless access services for different user groups
- Internet access from various mobile devices

Solution & Features:

- **Centralized AP Management** – WLAN management of up to 200 access points via a single, integrated platform
- **Lightweight and Elegant Equipment Design**
- **Service Zones** – Provides differentiated network services such as complimentary or charged wireless access, and specific applications (e.g. VoIP)
- **On-Demand & AAA** – Provides instantaneous, chargeable accounts for visitors
- **4ipWES Press-n-Connect** – For temporary installations or quick wireless extension

Products Deployed:

- **WHG401** Secure WLAN Controller
- **EAP700** Wall Jack 802.11b/g AP

“ We are very happy with the equipments installed and the wireless works well at the hotel. ”

The Clarion Hotel Cork

Through the VLAN architecture—VLAN tagging and associated ESSIDs on EAP700, managing a wireless network is a breeze. With the WHG401's built-in Service Zone (VLAN) functionality, the Clarion IT staff can designate specific access control rules for each Zone, creating multiple access networks (VLANs) and providing varied pre-configured services at every corner of the hotel. For example, a Service Zone can be set to provide hotel guests with complimentary wireless access through a customized portal page. By setting another Service Zone, the hotel can easily and flexibly offer free or chargeable Internet service for visitors or event attendees who need temporary wireless access during a seminar or an event; the Zone can be configured to support specific applications (e.g. VoIP over Wi-Fi on iPhone) if required.

Lightweight, elegant equipment to fit the interior furnishings of the hotel.

The EAP700 Wall Jack AP with lightweight, elegant design has a smaller footprint than ever, gracefully blending into the hotel's interior furnishings as part of the décor. The embedded antenna hidden inside the equipment case eliminates the perception of wireless radio waves, helping relieve tension for hotel guests.

Instant on-demand account generation and simple billing plans for hotspot operation.

4ipnet's WHG401 packs with "on-demand" account generation and flexible billing capabilities; a visitor or event attendee may purchase Internet service at the front counter or any service desk in the hotel property.

The Clarion IT staff can pre-configure 10 customizable billing plans under time- or volume-based accounting policies; a hotel guest may purchase an Internet access account via online self-service and pay by credit card through popular payment portals (e.g. PayPal, WorldPay...).

The WHG401 is compliant with anti-terrorism laws as all user access and traffic information is monitored and logged for police authority inspection when requested.

4ipWES Press-n-Connect with one touch button to extend wireless coverage effortlessly.

With 4ipnet's patent-pending technology, 4ipWES Press-n-Connect, it is easy to extend the WLAN to the areas where cables cannot reach—with the simple touch of a button, the EAP700 automatically establishes an AES encrypted connection with its peer access point, effortlessly and securely expanding the network. Even the non-IT staff can handle the most complicated wireless WDS deployment in less than 10 seconds. This feature is especially handy when a fast network deployment and temporary Internet usage are required during events.



V. Benefits

Centralized Management of Access Points.

All deployed access points are remotely managed by the WHG401 via a single, integrated platform, providing a central point of administration and monitoring; each access point can be enabled or disabled for access by the network administrator.

Lightweight and Aesthetically Pleasing Equipment.

The EAP700 features a small equipment footprint with its built-in antenna and white color case, perfectly matching with the hotel environment.

Service Zones and Differentiated Network Services.

The Service Zone feature enables managed, differentiated services of all types, whether it be for complimentary Internet service for hotel guests, charged wireless access for temporary users, or specific applications that demand QoS (quality of service) such as VoIP over Wi-Fi on iPhone.

On-Demand & AAA

The WHG401's on-demand account generation capability provides instantaneous, chargeable accounts for visitors or event attendees. Its multiple, customizable billing plans fit the needs of different kinds of hotel guests.

Quick and Secure Wireless Extension

With 4ipWES Press-n-Connect, a quick wireless extension is possible through one-touch configuration and deployment.



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