Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Curating Network Connectivity at an Australian Museum

HPE aruba networking

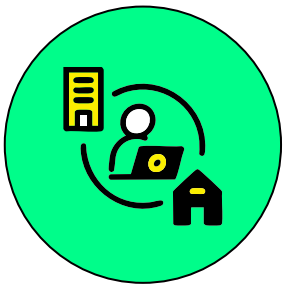
AT A GLANCE

Summary:
An Australian museum needed a secure, scalable wireless network to support its role as a major education and research hub. Affinity Blue modernised the museum's infrastructure with HPE Aruba Networking's ClearPass Policy Manager, enabling seamless Eduroam access, enhanced security, and future-ready connectivity.



The situation:

Aging network infrastructure and cumbersome device management were putting network security at risk



The solution:

A network refresh using HPE Aruba Networking ClearPass that streamlined device management, improved security and enabled seamless Eduroam integration



The results:

Secure, future-ready connectivity that made it easy for visitors and students to take full advantage of the museum's online resources

THE SITUATION

As one of Australia's largest natural and cultural history museums with around 15 million specimens, this Australian landmark plays a vital role in research and education through immersive learning experiences that attract students, researchers, and visitors – cementing its reputation as a leader in education and cultural storytelling.

As an education hub, reliable technology and wireless connectivity are essential to delivering engaging, interactive experiences. But the museum's outdated network infrastructure struggled to keep up with growing demands. This led to security vulnerabilities and network challenges as visitors were forced to jump through multiple hoops to access the museum's free WiFi. Another challenge was implementing Eduroam – a secure global roaming service for students and researchers – which needed a more robust and reliable network infrastructure.

To address these issues, the museum enlisted Affinity Blue to upgrade their network architecture and create a system that is secure and easy to scale, with enough bandwidth to support all visitor requirements.

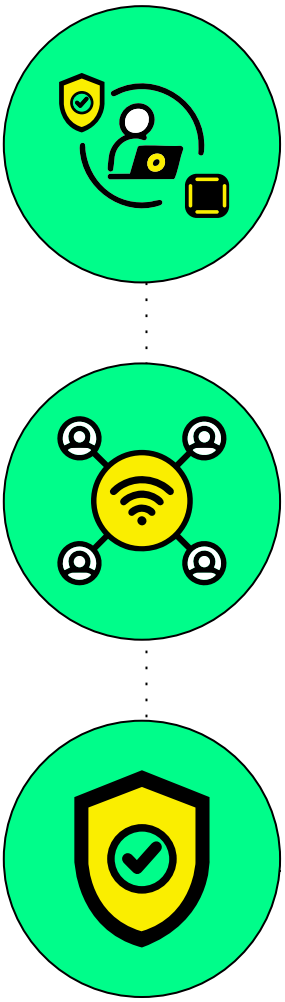


THE SOLUTION

Affinity Blue started by installing HPE Aruba Networking ClearPass Policy Manager to optimise WiFi and network management. This simplified guest access control, gave staff full visibility into the network, and significantly improved security. The upgrade also resolved a major challenge with managing student iPads used during school tours. Previously, staff had to manually wipe and re-authenticate each device using generic logins—posing both security and usability issues. But this policy manager automated this entire process.

HPE Aruba Networking ClearPass also played a critical role in installing Eduroam. Unlike other roaming services, Eduroam enables users to access the internet at education centers using their own university credentials, verified by their home institution. For users, it's as simple as logging into a portal with your student ID; but on the backend, the host institution must ensure that its network is not only capable of handling the additional load, but also able to maintain a secure connection for authentication. Affinity Blue worked with the museum's IT team to ensure that their network infrastructure was configured correctly, using HPE Aruba Networking ClearPass as the lynchpin to automate authentication requests and ensure secure communication between user devices and the network.

Beyond the initial network refresh, Affinity Blue has worked with the museum over recent years to consistently upgrade their infrastructure. "We initially came in during a transition between two generations of IT managers at the museum," said Neon Islam, Technical Director and co-founder of Affinity Blue. "The previous manager had focused on quick-fix solutions that worked at the time but led to long-term issues. We helped facilitate the handoff and streamline their architecture, ensuring the new manager had an efficient system that could scale with their needs."



THE RESULTS

Today, the museum runs on a secure, resilient wireless network that supports the millions of students, researchers, and visitors who engage with its exhibits each year. Working with Affinity Blue has enabled the museum to maintain a future-ready foundation—supporting expanded programs and delivering modern, seamless experiences to all visitors.

Looking ahead, the museum is exploring a shift to a managed services model with Affinity Blue, enabling proactive network monitoring and long-term stability.

“Upgrades like HPE Aruba Networking ClearPass have given the museum’s IT team full visibility of the network, improving daily operations and laying the foundation for future digital transformation,” said Islam. “It’s not just better WiFi—it’s about delivering secure, seamless experiences for everyone on site, whether it's a local school group or a visiting researcher using Eduroam. With a refreshed network in place, the museum now has the flexibility and confidence to support emerging technologies and grow its educational reach without limitation.”



“It’s not just better WiFi—it’s about delivering secure, seamless experiences for everyone on site, whether it's a local school group or a visiting researcher using Eduroam. With a refreshed network in place, the museum now has the flexibility and confidence to support emerging technologies and grow its educational reach without limitation.”

Neon Islam
Technical Lead

AFFINITY BLUE
ABOVE AND BEYOND

https://affinityblue.com.au/

Australia Head Office
Shop 1, 141 Camberwell Rd,
Hawthorn East VIC 3123

info@affinityblue.com.au
1300 22 33 46

Sydney Office
Level 10, 60 Martin Place,
Sydney, NSW 2000

Brisbane Regional Office
Level 1, 470 St Pauls Terrace,
Brisbane, QLD 4006

New Zealand Office
110 Carlton Gore Rd,
Newmarket Auckland 1023

info@affinityblue.co.nz
+64 0800 627 001