Sodexo places its trust in Habeum SAS
and deploys Aerohive solutions worldwide to unify its WiFi network and develop new services

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— Guy Jacquet
Infrastructure Manager
Sodexo

About Sodexo

Sodexo has chosen Aerohive to deploy its next-generation WiFi networks on a global scale. Sodexo is the world leader in Quality of Life Services. With locations in 80 countries and 420,000 employees, Sodexo Group is the 18th largest employer in the world. The company handles the management and implementation of services including food service – it provides 70 million meals a day at 35,000 sites around the world – as well as BtoB services, benefits and rewards (restaurant tickets, gift cards, restaurant cards, etc.), and individual and in-home services that improve Quality of Life.

A Need to Combine Network Security and Comfort

Sodexo's IT services were looking to improve the quality of their wireless networks, both in terms of security and in terms of ease of use, particularly for the group's biggest travelers who make frequent trips to visit subsidiaries. Previously, each local office chose its own suppliers and level of security, which could therefore vary widely from one country to another. Sodexo decided to resolve this disparity by implementing a WiFi solution that is standardized at the global level.

A Global Project

Given the scale of the project, the IT department was looking for an effective, flexible, and durable solution. While testing Aerohive's solutions, in addition to meeting traditional technical needs such as 802.11ac and PoE (Power over Ethernet), Sodexo's IT department was especially drawn to Aerohive's terminal autonomy and lack of need for a wireless controller, which is not an option at certain sensitive sites such as hospitals.

Guy Jacquet, Sodexo's Infrastructure Manager, explains: "The autonomy of Aerohive access points enables terminals to communicate with one another, to automatically take over if another terminal ever stops working, and they are not dependent on Internet access in the event of an outage. It's an undeniable advantage. Aerohive has been able to reinvent a modern WiFi solution tailored to the needs of businesses today."

Encryption, which is integrated directly into the terminal, also set Aerohive apart. Another important criterion was the cost of the solution, because not all countries have the same IT budget. For this project, Sodexo enlisted the help of a systems integrator, HABEUM SAS, to implement and manage these networks internationally.

Simple Deployment

The new system is being implemented country by country, based on what equipment each country already has or does not have in place, and its compatibility with Aerohive's solutions. Under this approach, Aerohive solutions have already been implemented in Portugal, Sweden, and France. The other countries will be equipped over time.

According to Guy Jacquet, Sodexo's Infrastructure Manager, "Deployment went very smoothly, within one or two days. It was almost Plug and Play!"

BYOD Management

The wireless network architecture was designed to accommodate BYOD. Sodexo therefore uses a MDM (Mobile Device Management) solution to manage personal mobile devices with a network (SSID) dedicated to these devices. A second SSID is dedicated to business computers with Radius authentication, and a guest network was set up for users external to the company.

New Services Thanks to Beacons

Sodexo had initially planned to deploy the Aerohive solutions internally, and only for IT services. It later realized the possibilities that next-generation WiFi networks offered for its services, particularly with Beacon technology.

This project, with the help of Aerohive's network solutions, will enable Sodexo to combine quality, comfort of use, administration, and security for its wireless networks on a global scale.

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