

Tek-Hut and DragonWave Advancing Education with State-of-the-Art Broadband Network

Case Study

BACKGROUND

Customer:

- Idaho school districts

DragonWave Partner:

- Tek-Hut

Application:

- High capacity site connectivity for 27 Idaho K-12 school districts.

DragonWave Products:

- Horizon Compact+
- Horizon Quantum



BACKGROUND

The Idaho Education Network (IEN), founded in 2008, once offered the promise of high capacity broadband service for all rural school districts across the state. Unfortunately, an illegal contract award resulted in a stop of federal government funding under the E-rate program, and the subsequent collapse of the IEN. Without government support, the state's school districts either had to take over payments of the costly fiber leased line services or find an alternative broadband solution before the network went dark.

CHALLENGE

After the fallout of the IEN, several Idaho school districts were under intense pressure to find an alternative solution to offer high capacity internet access and a host of new educational tools and applications including distance learning, video conferencing and voice. This required a highly scalable and robust network; compromising on an inferior solution was not an option.

Looking for a partner who could provide a turnkey solution, many of Idaho's K-12 school districts, including the Boise Independent School district, turned to Tek-Hut, a trusted partner and provider of technology and services for education.

The goal of replacing a fiber-based service in a matter of a few months, while providing equal or better capacity and reliability was a tall order, but Tek-Hut exceeded expectations by deploying a carrier-grade, multi-gigabit wireless solution from DragonWave. By adopting the latest in wireless backhaul technology, Tek-Hut was able to simultaneously increase existing capacity while dramatically reducing recurring costs.

“Leading with a DragonWave solution, Tek-Hut took us from a low capacity mixed media (fiber & wireless) WAN network to a high speed, wireless microwave network in less than 2 months on budget and ahead of schedule. We realized bandwidth increases up to 6600% and an amazing cost savings of 57%. While we get more bandwidth and increased reliability between our sites, we also get the best customer service you could ask for with fast, thorough and friendly technicians. Choosing Tek-Hut and DragonWave is one of the best business decisions I have ever made.”

- Ken Loftus, Director of Technology, Emmett School District

“Because of the extremely tight timelines, we needed a technology solution that could be deployed quickly yet provide all the capacity to support current and future applications. DragonWave’s packet microwave solution has allowed us to offer 70% more capacity than existing leased lines services at a fraction of the cost, resulting in the best possible outcome for the school districts, the state and most importantly, the students.”

- Nate Bondelid, Owner, Tek-Hut

SOLUTION

Tek-Hut replaced 90% of the leased fiber services with DragonWave’s Horizon Compact+ and Horizon Quantum packet microwave systems, delivering multi-gigabit capacity to the schools.

The new broadband network offers several key advantages:

Rapid Deployment

- The entire network, connecting 27 school districts, was deployed in 90 days.

Multi-Gigabit Capacity

- Up to 4 Gbps capacity per site, enabling new high bandwidth learning applications
- Future “zero-touch” scalability with Bandwidth Accelerator payload compression

High Reliability

- DragonWave’s packet microwave systems can be engineered to deliver 99.999% availability

Lowest total cost of ownership

- The DragonWave solution drove a \$50,000 per month reduction in service cost, while providing 70% more capacity.

SUCCESS STORY

Tek-Hut successfully connected 27 rural School Districts, including the Boise Independent School District, second largest K-12 school system in Idaho, with a fully managed, high performance private network. The DragonWave solution deployed by Tek-Hut has resulted in \$50,000 in monthly savings while offering 70% more capacity than leased services.

Tek-Hut, now the largest provider of internet service provider for education in Idaho, continues to expand the network and boost capacity to meet the surging bandwidth demand across the school districts.



HORIZON COMPACT+

The Horizon Compact+ and Horizon Quantum are the most advanced licensed packet microwave systems in the industry, offering unmatched capacity, reliability and deployment flexibility. Simple installation and operations, combined with all-outdoor deployment options, ensure the lowest total cost of ownership.



HORIZON QUANTUM

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