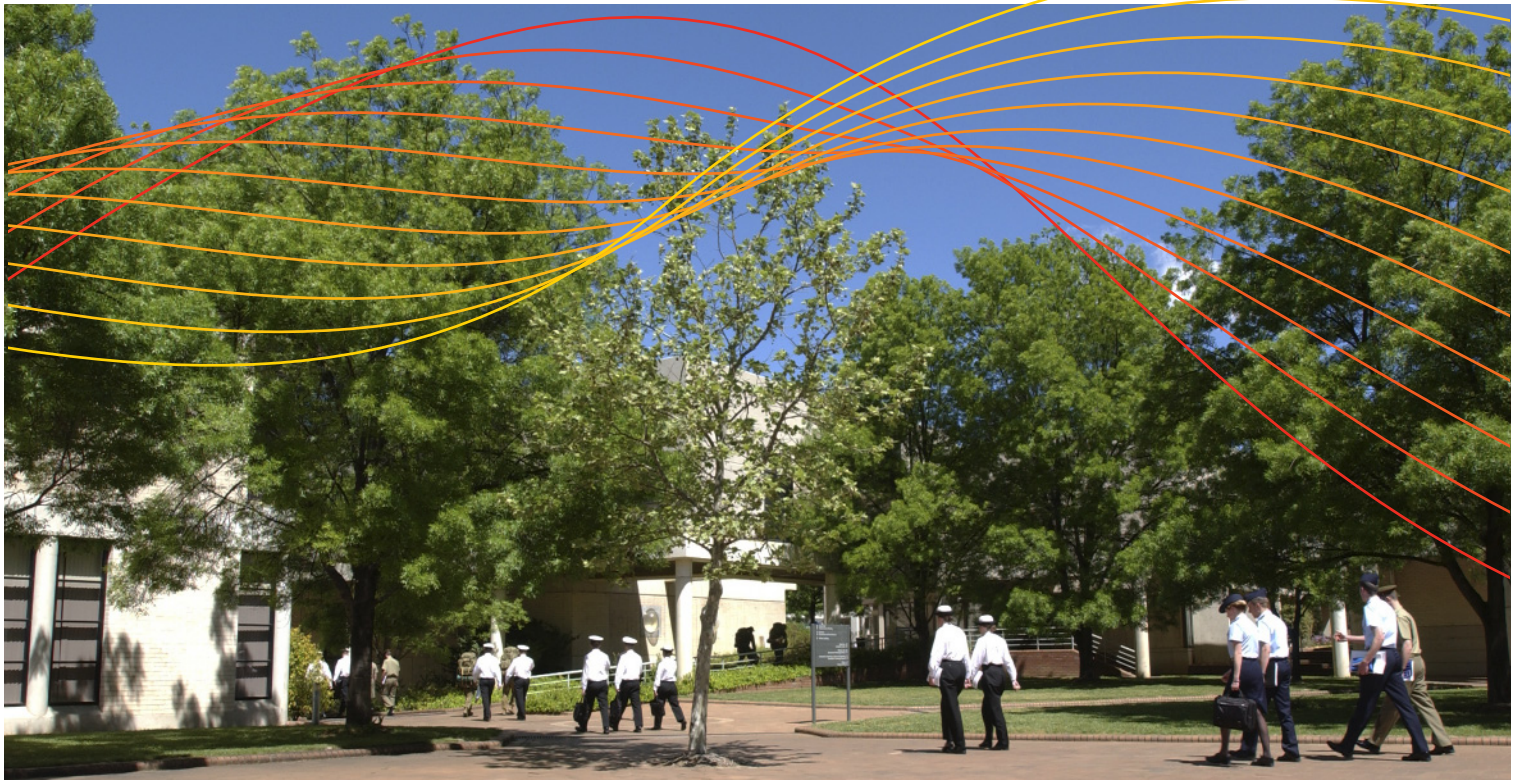


ProCurve Networking by HP
UNSW@ADFA



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Nenad Stefanovic
Manager of IT Services
UNSW at the Australian Defence Force Academy

Abstract

The University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy (UNSW@ADFA) plays a central role in ensuring Australia's security by training the nation's future military leaders. When its existing network infrastructure started causing lengthy delays and became too expensive to run, UNSW@ADFA sought a new solution. UNSW@ADFA considered options from its existing vendor, but selected a ProCurve 5412zl Switch-based solution that was recommended by its value-added reseller, Commander. The purchase price of the new solution was 50% lower, and there were no maintenance costs. It was also a significant advance on the previous set-up; providing built-in redundancy, easier network management and zero failures, as well as halving the time required for network back-ups.

Highlights

Until recently, a single switch sat at the centre of UNSW@ADFA's star topology network. Fibre-optic cable ran from the switch to each of the student accommodation blocks as well as to all learning facilities. All network services - from internet, file and print sharing right through to the teaching and administration systems - relied on this network. All were dependent on just one switch.

This lack of redundancy left UNSW@ADFA vulnerable to network disruptions. Twice, the switch failed, shutting off all network services to all parts of the academy. Although there was a support contract, the vendor was slow to respond and on two occasions the network was idle for 12 hours.

"It was painful. No internet connectivity. No email connectivity. No financial modifications," said Nenad Stefanovic, Manager of IT Services, UNSW@ADFA.

Eventually, the switch reached the end of its useful life. It was growing old, and it could no longer provide additional capacity for the growing network. "We don't like keeping equipment for extended periods of time, simply because maintenance fees go up to ridiculous points. It becomes more expensive to keep them than it is to buy them new," said Mr Stefanovic. For these reasons, UNSW@ADFA went to market seeking a new device or devices to form the backbone of its network.

The first quote that UNSW@ADFA received was from the company that had provided the switch that was being replaced. According to Mr Stefanovic, the vendor "offered us a price that was totally unacceptable, and a maintenance fee that was exorbitant."

UNSW@ADFA examined what a second vendor had to offer, but that company too fell short of the mark. UNSW@ADFA finally selected a ProCurve solution that was recommended by Commander, its IT partner.

The Commander solution was designed around two ProCurve 5412zl Switches, which Mr Stefanovic described as "fantastic". One of these now services the students in their accommodation blocks. The rest of the university's traffic is channelled through the other. Mr Stefanovic said this solution allowed UNSW@ADFA to balance network loads much more effectively. It also provides built-in redundancy, as all traffic can be swapped over to one switch in the event of a disruption with the other. The two switches run off three power supplies, providing additional layers of redundancy. The irony is that all these layers of redundancy can almost seem redundant, as the ProCurve equipment has operated continuously since it was installed.

Customer at a Glance

The University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy (UNSW@ADFA) provides Australian Navy Midshipmen and Army and Air Force Officer Cadets with military training and university education through the University of New South Wales. Over the last few years, it has also won several contracts with the Department of Defence to operate other programs, such as the Australian Command and Staff College and defence procurement's Training Support Wing.

At any one time, there are about 2,000 students studying with UNSW@ADFA. The vast majority live on-site in accommodation blocks that are scattered across the base.

After Commander assisted with the requirements and design, UNSW@ADFA stepped in to manage the installation. HP offered to provide any technical assistance that was required, but "we haven't had to contact them," Mr Stefanovic said. "It's so easy to use; it's wonderful."

With the new ProCurve solution in place, UNSW@ADFA is now simply counting the benefits.

First, there was the upfront saving. The purchase price of the two ProCurve switches combined was less than fifty percent of the price of one new switch from the previous provider. "Basically, the payback period was the time it took to arrange the purchase order," said Mr Stefanovic, adding that the management was very pleased with the buy.

From that point on, the savings just continued to grow. "There is no maintenance fee because the ProCurve equipment comes with a lifetime warranty," said Mr Stefanovic. "To us, this is huge, because previously we were paying thirty thousand dollars a year in support for just one switch."

UNSW@ADFA even saves money on the software. Whenever HP is on site, it always updates the ProCurve Manager suite to the latest version free of charge. "It's something that pays for itself - and we're very pleased with it," said Mr Stefanovic, who had paid for all software upgrades with his previous vendor.

But the new network is not just less expensive to buy and own - it's smarter and faster as well.

It's smarter, because the devices are controlled by ProCurve Manager, which allows UNSW@ADFA's IT department to

quickly find and disable any unauthorised devices attached to the network.

It's faster because UNSW@ADFA can now plug its servers directly into the switch at 4Gbps. According to Mr Stefanovic, back-ups that used to take twelve hours are now completed in six.

"The fact was, ProCurve came to the party, and they came up with a solution that actually helped us," said Mr Stefanovic. "The other companies weren't happy to help us achieve that goal; they just wanted to sell a box. Kudos to ProCurve for actually listening."

ProCurve Networking by HP

The ProCurve Networking business unit of HP is a supplier of enterprise networking solutions comprising wired and wireless networking products, services and solutions - including WAN routers, Ethernet switches, routing switches, wireless access points and network management applications - which allow customers to build networks based on open standards that meet current and future needs for security, performance and reliability.

The ProCurve Networking Adaptive EDGE Architecture™ is a unique design strategy that creates a secure, mobile, multi-service network by placing intelligence at the edge - where users connect and policies are enforced. This innovative approach creates a dynamic network infrastructure designed to keep up with advancing technology and user needs while protecting business investments.

Business Results

- 50% saving on purchase price
- No maintenance fees
- No software upgrade fees
- 100% reliability
- Three layers of redundancy
- Smarter network management
- 100% speed increase on network backups

What makes it work

Hardware

- ProCurve 5412zl Switches

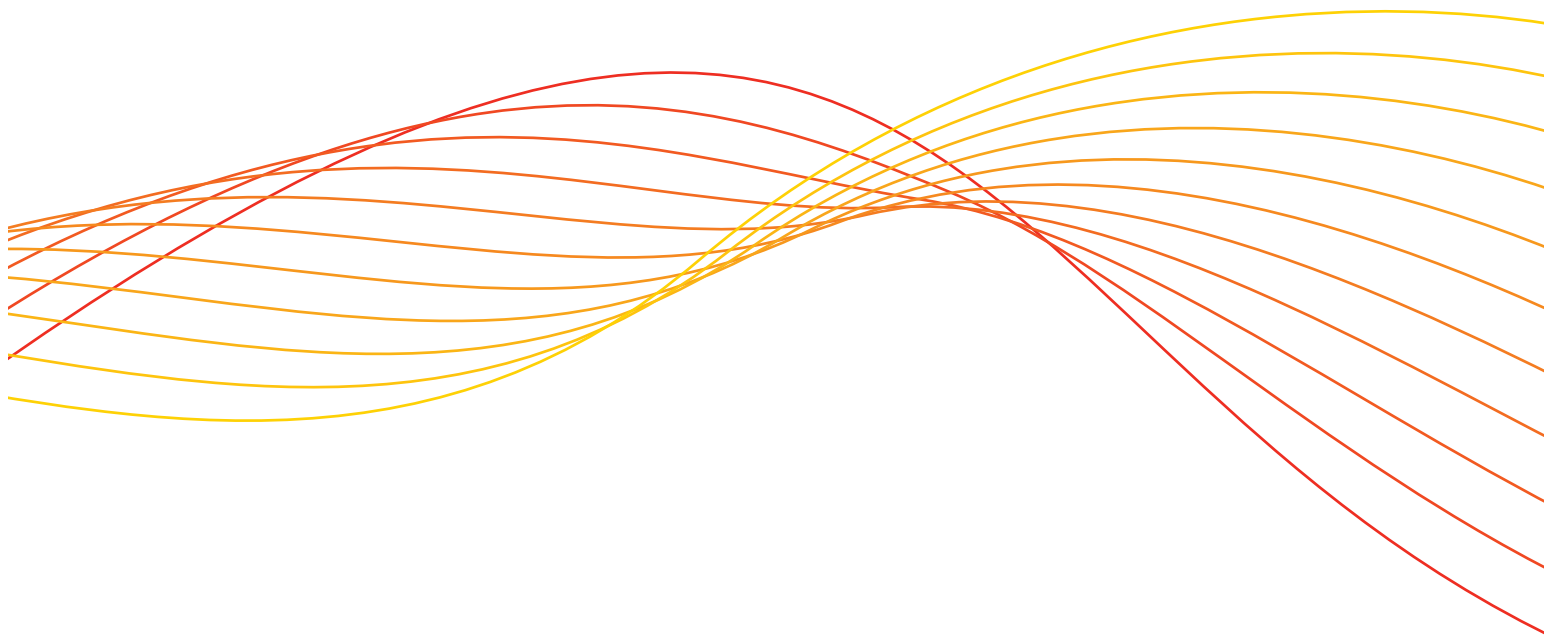
Software, Services & Support

- Lifetime product warranty on most products*
- Software updates, telephone and email technical support**
- Comprehensive network design and configuration services**

Further information on ProCurve networking solutions and products is available at www.procurve.com.

*For as long as you own the product, with next-business-day advance replacement (available in most countries). For details, refer to the ProCurve Software License, Warranty and Support booklet at <http://www.hp.com/rnd/support/warranty/index.htm>. The ProCurve Routing Switch 9300m, ProCurve Routing Switch 9408sl, ProCurve Switch 8100fl and ProCurve Secure Access 745wl have a one-year warranty with extensions available.

**For the most up-to-date information, go to www.procurve.com.



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