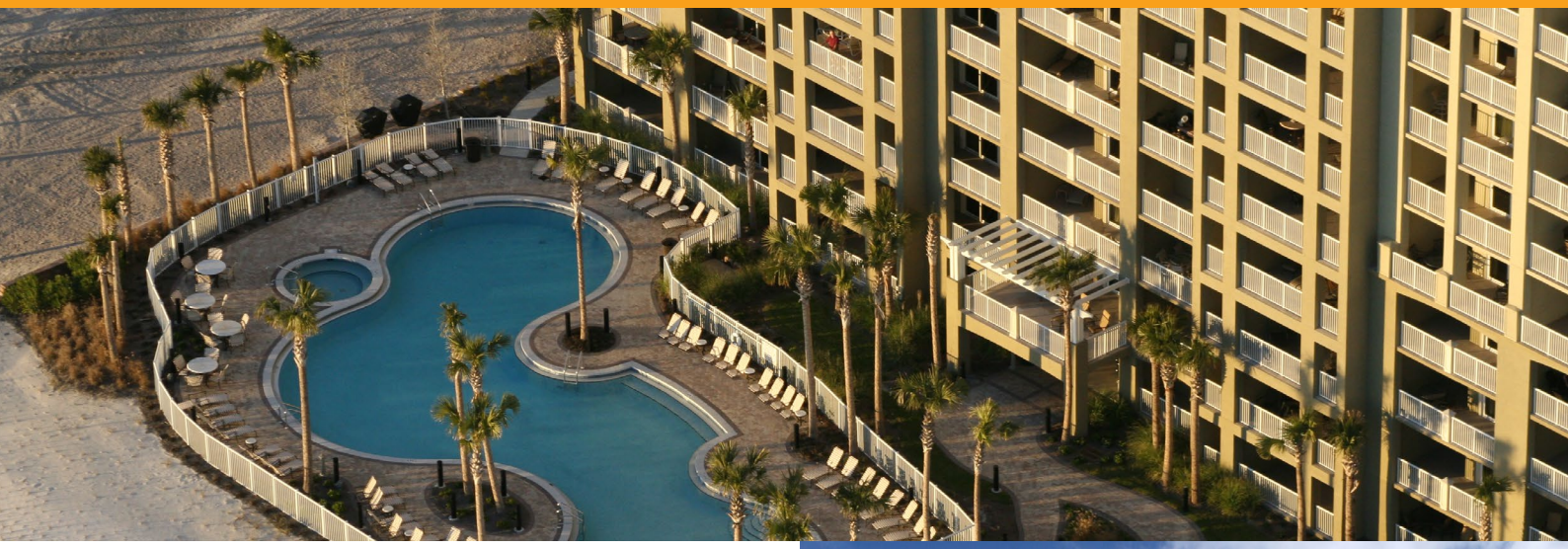
CASE STUDY: NFT 2ac & NFT 3ac

Grand Panama Beach Resort | Panama City Beach, Florida



Context

Grand Panama Beach Resort (Panama City Beach, Florida) hired Networx Solutions, a networking services provider in North America, to redesign its Wi-Fi network. The resort used it for providing Internet access to its guests and residents, but it became underpowered.

The Grand Panama Beach Resort is one of the most beautiful vacation rentals in Panama City Beach with around 300 luxury condos and 650 feet of beach on the Gulf of Mexico.

Problem

Networx Solutions faced several challenges in this project:

- The entire Wi-Fi network, extending over ~300 condos, had to be fully set up in just 30 days.
- Dense distribution of condos and concrete walls demanded careful network and channel planning so as to ensure good connectivity.
- The project required quality hardware as each access point was expected to connect anywhere from 4 to 20 end devices at once.
- Networx Solutions had to look for cost-efficient hardware and software in order to keep costs low for a project as large as this.
- Since the Grand Panama Beach Resort is a modern luxury hotel with its distinct look and feel, the access points needed to fit the interior and esthetic of the resort.

Solution

The Wi-Fi network was built using LigoWave's NFT series. A total of 297 NFT access points was deployed throughout the resort. Many of them were NFT 2ac models with a handful of NFT 3ac APs installed in locations that needed more power (such as penthouses).

Networx Solutions chose LigoWave because it best fit the requirements and setting of the resort.

The lower price point allowed to set up more APs compared to the previous network. Since virtually every condo now had its own dedicated access point, this effectively solved issues caused by the building's walls and ensured excellent connectivity even if there are more than 20 end devices connected to one AP at once.

A key reason for why Networx Solutions chose the NFT series was that it also came with its own network management platform—the Infinity Controller. It sped up configuration with automated device onboarding, which reduced deployment time to meet the project deadline.

The Controller also allowed to plan channels effectively and to monitor the network remotely, if there is a need tweak some settings or do troubleshooting at a later time.

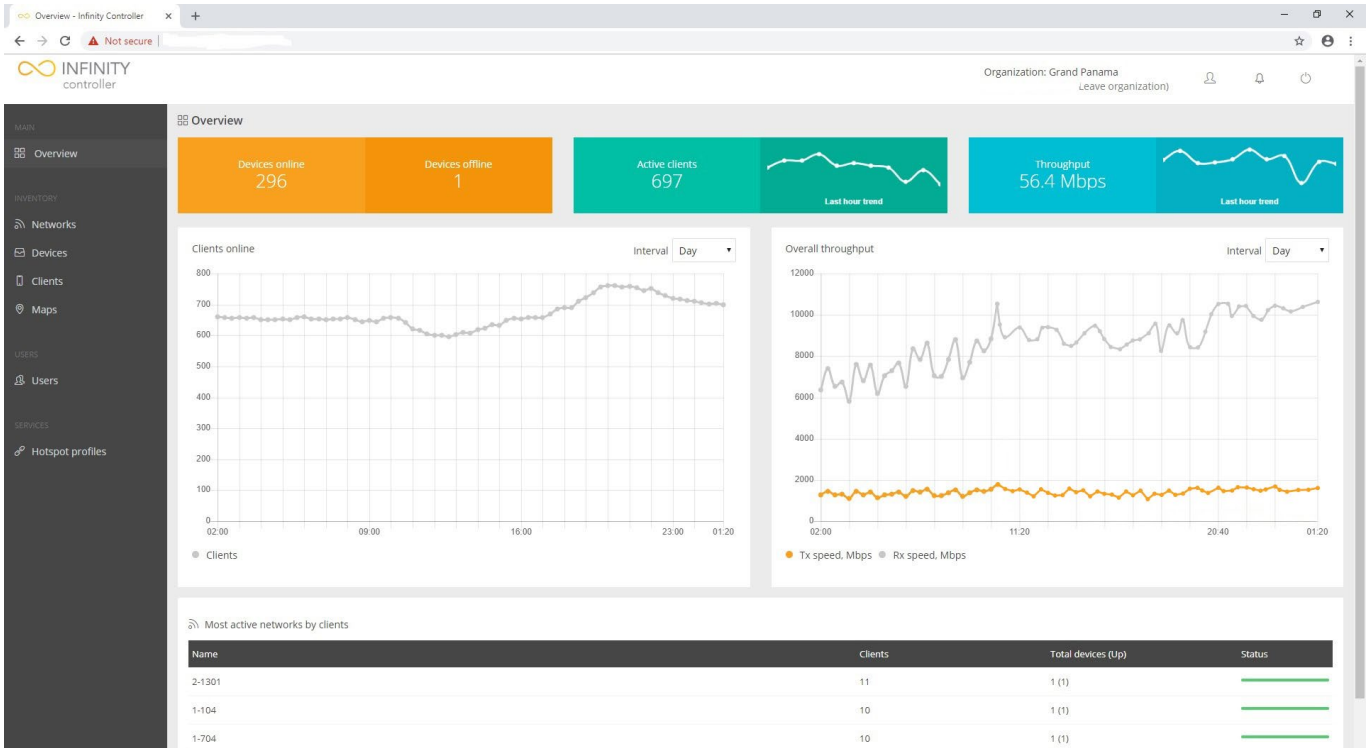
Stephen Durr of Networx Solutions explained "By choosing NFT 2ac, our budget allowed us to place an access point in each condo—and with such a large number of APs, network and channel planning is extremely important. We've implemented better switching, routing, and network design by using VLANs for each condominium unit, along with private SSIDs and WPA2 keys. The Infinity Controller gave us the flexibility for good channel management and was the prime reason that made this network a success, all of this inside our budget."

Networx Solutions currently manage around 1,000 NFT access points across 10 locations using the Infinity Controller. Without the possibility to automatically apply settings and to control devices remotely, deploying and configuring hundreds of access points at a time would be near impossible.

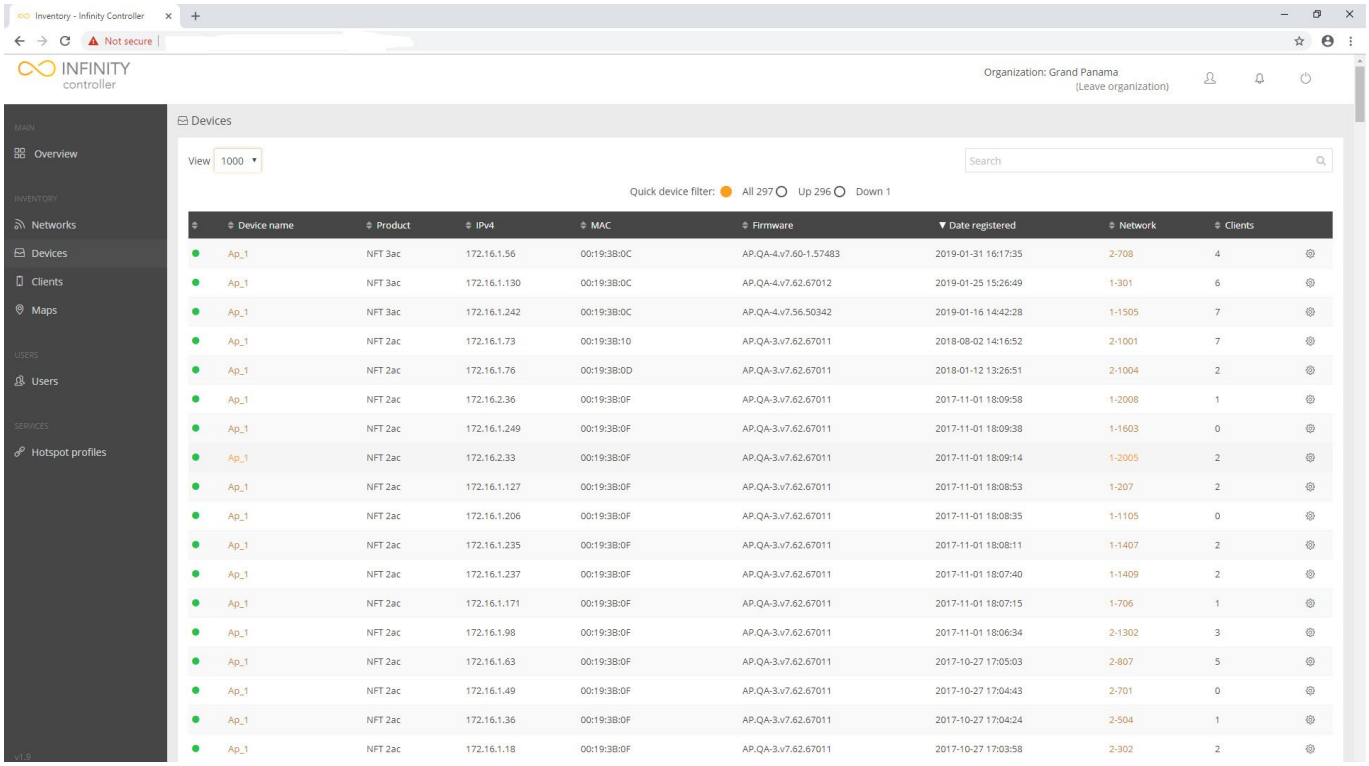
Lastly, the resort's management were very pleased with the design of the NFT series. The 2ac and 3ac access points did not feel out of place, despite many of the condo having different interiors.

Conclusion

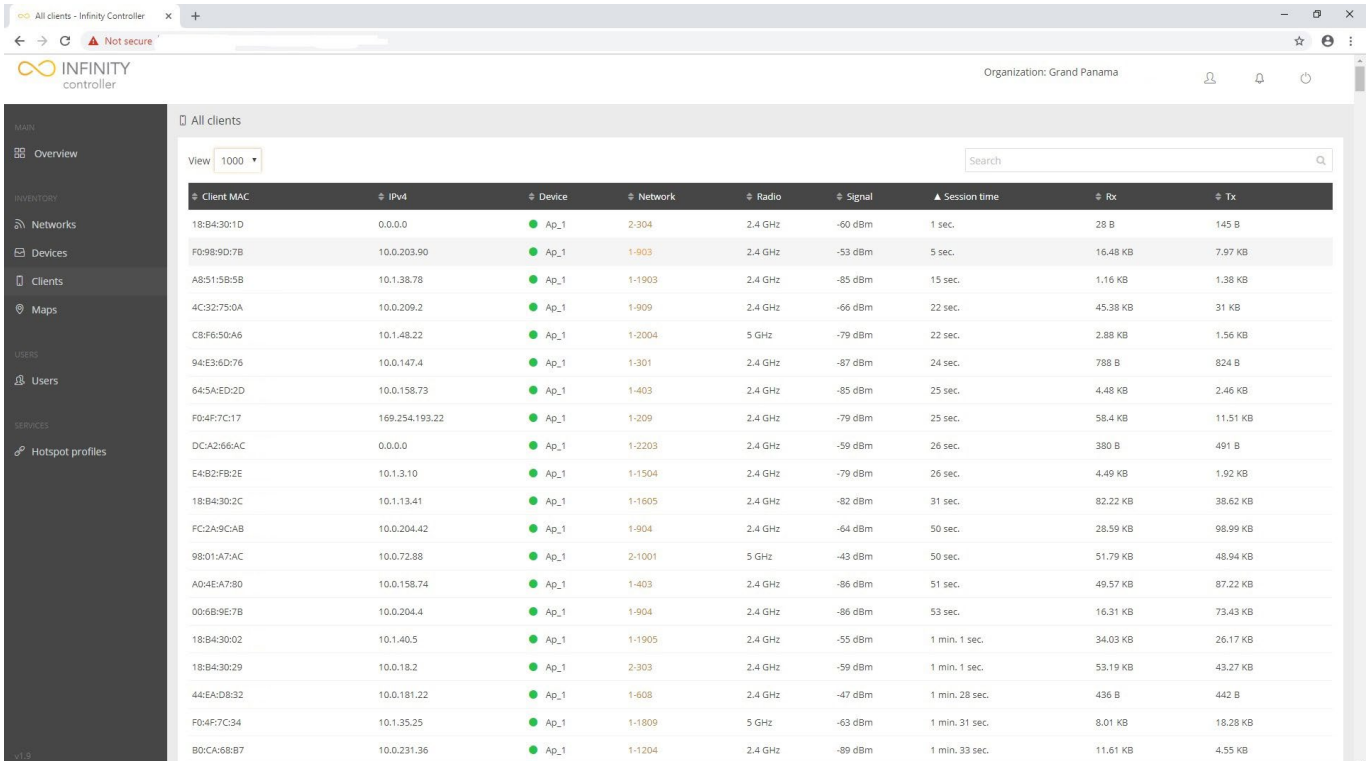
Wi-Fi has become a significant factor in choosing a place to stay—so significant, in fact, that failing to meet expectations may leave a hotel with a bad review and without a return customer. The Grand Panama Beach Resort was very pleased with the results, as it not only avoided potential bad reviews and lost clientele, but were also left surprised with how fast the network was deployed and how effectively it works now.



The Grand Panama Beach Resort network is quite busy with almost 800 clients connected and receiving over 10Gbps of aggregated throughput collectively.



A total of 297 NFT 2ac/3ac devices were deployed, each connecting up to 7 end devices at the moment of the screenshot.



The Infinity Controller lists all of the end devices and provides detailed statistics for analytics purposes.