Challenge

THE CARNIVAL IN SALVADOR, BAHIA, BRAZIL, WITH 2.5 MILLION PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE, is one of the largest street festivals in the world! The event organizers were looking to replace their legacy Zebra (Motorola) AP7181 access points with a next generation WiFi access point that can handle today’s high density demands, while offering broad and reliable coverage.

The goal was to provide reliable WiFi connectivity all across two pavilions, with no “shadow zones” anywhere. The “Camarote Planeta Band” in Othon Palace hotel handles up to 5,000 people spread across 8,000 square meters, while the “Camarote Salvador” hosts another 6,000. Both facilities were to be fully covered, and given the nature of the event, high client density per AP was expected.

Supporting 450 clients at one stage

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Solution

THE SOLUTION WAS TO USE CAMBIUM’S cnPilot™ E400 access points indoors, ePMP 1000 Hotspots outdoors, and to manage all the APs using Cambium’s cutting edge management solution, cnMaestro. The event managers were initially concerned because the cnPilot E400 is physically smaller than the older equipment it was replacing, but by the end of the first day when the install was completed and the coverage and client density tested, they realized the cnPilot E400 packs quite a punch in a small box.

They had excellent coverage and more throughput than before, and the APs blended in well with the ceilings and support stanchions.

Results

THE REAL TEST CAME DURING THE event when the system was loaded with users. At the Camarote Planeta Band pavilion, the system supported more than 450 simultaneous users, and at the Camarote Salvador there were 380 simultaneous users. The entire WiFi network ran flawlessly, delivering video streaming traffic and ensuring all those selfies made their way upstream to social media posts. The event managers were pleased with the reliable service, the high throughputs, the small form factor, and low power consumption module, and now plan to continue to use the E400 in the hotel and for future events as well!