

# RUGBY SCHOOL THAILAND

Tapping on Seamless Connectivity for an International Education



## CASE STUDY



### OVERVIEW

As one of Thailand's newest international schools, Rugby School Thailand currently boasts an international community of 500 students, with the aim of educating youth that can navigate the changing workplace of the future. Rugby School Thailand features an 80-acre campus that sits in the countryside of Thailand's eastern seaboard near Pattaya, Chonburi. Rugby School Thailand is part of the Rugby School network, founded by the Rugby School in the UK.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Scalable wired and wireless infrastructure, able to meet the needs of both current and future student and faculty populations
- Reliable and high-performance Wi-Fi connectivity across an 80-acre campus
- A campus network that is both easy to deploy and maintain by a lean IT team

### SOLUTION

- High-performance, seamless, and reliable connectivity
- Deployed Ruckus' indoor and access points (APs) across the campus
- ICX switches to simplify network setup and management, as well as to cater for future network growth

### BENEFITS

- High-performance Wi-Fi for full-board students and faculty
- Easy and fast access to online resources for both students and teaching staff
- A network that can scale to grow alongside the student population

## RUCKUS NETWORKS TECHNOLOGY PROVIDES SEAMLESS CONNECTIVITY FOR AN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION THAT GOES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The world today is more connected than ever before, there is a great need for a well-rounded education that goes beyond mere academic excellence. In order for Rugby School to adequately live up to the ethos of "The whole person, the whole point" for their body of international students, there was a need to ensure seamless and pervasive community across the entire campus grounds in order to enable the latest in smart learning and teaching methodologies, through the use of technology both in and outside of the classroom.

### CONNECTING 80 ACRES OF CAMPUS

Riding on the original Rugby School's 451 years of history in the UK, the newly-founded Rugby School Thailand were looking to ensure that their student and faculty bodies are equipped with the best infrastructure support possible. In today's digital age, that means that the campus needs to be equipped with seamless and reliable connectivity across the entire 80-acre area of the school grounds and able to support denser areas like digital classrooms and boarding rooms.

Founded in 2017, Rugby School Thailand now accommodates over 500 students that are all on-site for most of the week, including day-boarders, weekly boarders, as well as full-board students. Network users also include the teaching staff who also reside on-campus. Whether student or faculty, the school network is heavily relied on to enable an optimal teaching and learning experience using Google Classroom, not to mention for students' leisure use, or for study and research, in boarding houses after school hours. Equally important was that the network needed to be able to handle numerous concurrent connections, given that both students and faculty typically utilized multiple devices throughout their day.

Last but not least, visiting guests needed to be considered as well. For example, student sporting events might see external visitors in excess of 1000 individuals or more in publicly-accessible areas like the sports hall. All this pointed to the need for a high-performance and reliable network for Rugby School Thailand.



“We’ve been impressed with Ruckus since the school started operating in 2017, and as we make progress on our plans to grow the campus and student body further, we’re looking forward to continue tapping on Ruckus’ technology leadership as we grow Rugby School Thailand.”

### ERIC HO

Director of ICT, Rugby School Thailand

## A WORLD-CLASS NETWORK FOR AN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Key factors that played into Rugby School Thailand’s decision to go with Ruckus solutions for their campus network included the ability to deliver a high-performance network that was not only easy to manage, but didn’t cost the proverbial arm or a leg, and yet could still scale for the future needs of the school as the student population grows.

As part of the initial roll-out, Rugby School Thailand’s IT administrators relied on a combination of indoor and outdoor APs powered by Ruckus-patented ChannelFly™ and BeamFlex+™ Adaptive Antenna Technologies respectively to cover the day-to-day use across campus, running on ICX switches which simplified network set-up and management greatly for an IT team consisting of just 6 employees. All in all, 150 APs and 100 switches were deployed, with administrators looking to add on another 80 APs in the near term.

“Our teaching staff make frequent use of digital learning and online video as part of the daily curriculum. With 53 classrooms currently, and between 16-18 iPads per classroom, that’s a lot of concurrent connections, especially if video streaming is involved. Our students and faculty are happy that the network remains fast, and we are impressed that the network is easily able to manage that kind of load with absolutely no problem at all,” said Eric Ho, Director of ICT, Rugby School Thailand. Teaching staff also frequently use resources which require significant bandwidth, such as YouTube, to supplement their lessons. Mr. Ho also adds, “Better yet, as each AP is easily capable of handling over 100 connected devices concurrently, we were able to optimize the overall project cost significantly, reducing the number of APs required had we gone with a competing brand.”

## LOOKING AHEAD

Further expansion of the campus facilities is already in the works. From 14 buildings currently, school administrators have at least 5 more buildings planned in the current phase of expansion, which include additional staff accommodations, a senior boarding hall, and an additional science building. In addition, there are plans to grow the student and faculty population from over 500 individuals, to a whopping 850 in the coming year, at which point Rugby School Thailand expects to be operating at optimal capacity. School administrators are confident in the ability of the Ruckus-powered networks to meet the needs of their students now, and in the future.

“We’ve been very impressed with Ruckus since the school started operating in 2017, as well as with their partner, Optimus, who were on hand to guide us every step of the way, both before, during, and after the new network had been put in place. As we make progress on our plans to grow the campus and student body further, we’re looking forward to continuing tapping on Ruckus’ technology leadership as we grow Rugby School Thailand,” said Mr. Ho.