



Connexin Deliver Wi-Fi for over 125,000 people at the Manchester International Festival



Manchester International Festival (MIF) is the world's first festival of original, new work and special events. The Festival is staged every two years in Manchester, attracting more than 125,000 visitors over an eighteen day period at venues all over the city.

Connexin was challenged to deliver, within three weeks, ubiquitous Smart Wi-Fi across venues all over the city to support over 125,000 visitors, staff, exhibitors and broadcasters.

Connexin deployed wireless links and fibre optics to the necessary sites and teamed up with Cisco to deploy a high capacity wireless mesh network using their Meraki hardware.

Connexin's unique ability to design, build and deploy high speed network infrastructure along side leading Cisco Meraki hardware meant Connexin were able to deliver above what MIF requested.

Commenting on the value of the WiFi and accompanying analytics at the festival, John McGrath, MIF's Artistic Director and CEO, said: "Delivering connectivity to visitors whilst collecting so much data in real-time will be a huge benefit for us. In the past, we've struggled to find a non-intrusive way of gathering information and contact details about the people who actually attend MIF events, especially those at our free performances, other than via traditional online ticket purchases and on the ground data capture. Even if we manage to collect data about 10% of the people who visit Festival Square and the ToGather event it will be fantastic."

With strategically placed wireless access points, Connexin were able to build a fast, cost effective, self-healing Wi-Fi network, in under 4 weeks, with the access points continuously and automatically monitoring their surroundings to maximize WI-FI performance.

Furqan Alamgir, Founder & CEO of Connexin mentions:

"Connexin are delighted to be working with The Manchester International Festival, Purple and Cisco. As a leading UK ISP and smart city operator, building wireless networks is in our DNA. This event required some real expertise and I am very proud of all the hard work the teams involved put into delivering such an innovative solution in such a short space of time. In the first 24 hours of deployment, the Wi-Fi network transmitted over 90 Gb of traffic with around 3500 Mb being transmitted per hour."

To simplify guest access while gaining additional user demographics and behaviour, Connexin and MIF teamed up with Purple Wi-Fi, to provide an intuitive portal enabling visitors to log in to the network using their social media accounts such as Twitter, Facebook or Instagram.



Commenting on the partnership with MIF and Connexin, Gavin Wheeldon, CEO of Purple, said: "It's always a real pleasure to get involved with projects taking place in the City as Purple has been established in Greater Manchester since day one. The Manchester International Festival is a fantastic event that attracts thousands of people from around the world so we're delighted to have the opportunity to work with Cisco, Connexin and MIF to make the visitor experience more connected, interactive, informative and engaging."

The network delivered on average download speeds of 160.22Mbps and upload speeds 109.38Mbps.

Will Kebbell, Connexin head of network mentions about the successful installation "By utilising our ability to leverage our national infrastructure we were able to provide MIF with leased line quality connectivity in under a week whereas traditionally these dedicated high capacity services take at least 2 months to deliver.

We worked simultaneously to install connectivity and Cisco Meraki wireless access points on the event sites. Choosing to use cloud based solutions allowed us to install only what was needed on site and ensured the network was centrally managed."

About Connexin

Connexin is an innovative and disruptive technology company specialising in award winning Hybrid Smart City Infrastructure to support the Internet of Things.

Founded in 2006, Connexin has successfully built multiple carrier grade metropolitan networks.

Connexin use next generation wireless, Fibre Optic and applications to bring 21st century connectivity and services to residential, business and enterprise customers worldwide.

For more information –
Website – Smartcities.connexin.co.uk
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