



TEC Partnership: Saving time and money in education

Embracing the digital age

As one of England's largest providers of further and higher education, TEC Partnership (TEC-P) boasts a rich history of delivering state-of-the-art training and education for the community. A collection of dynamic and innovative colleges and training providers, that is driven by a commitment to enriching lives through excellent education, community, and collaboration.

In an effort to modernise their network and take a leap into the future, TEC-P became one of the early adopters of Cisco Meraki technology, envisioning an infrastructure that was reliable, easy to use, and efficient. This project wasn't without its challenges. With their campuses spread far and wide, each with its own unique requirements and at differing stages of modernisation. A complex and non-standardised network infrastructure also acted as a major hurdle to deliver seamless teaching, and learning experiences through a reliable wireless service.

"We've been working with Cisco Meraki since 2011. In fact, we were one of the first adopters of Meraki in the country in Higher Education! The ease of management, automated patching and updates they provide is fantastic.

Since 2018, we have been working with CAE. This has allowed us to glean even more value from Meraki through API integrated applications. This allows us to turn off our infrastructure overnight – helping towards our sustainability targets.

Network Intelligence gives us in-depth insights on our install base across every site and we are also using Assure that provides us with peace of mind and security in the event of data loss on the Cisco Meraki platform.

We couldn't be happier and it's refreshing to work with our partner CAE, who are prepared to give something back; that not only helps the environment but also saves us money."

Rob Morton
Group Executive Director of ICT
TEC Partnership

Get in touch

T: 08456 430 033

E: hello@thisiscae.com

thisiscae.com

POWERED BY
CAE LABS

Working in partnership

Together with TEC-P, we have enabled the multi-site education provider to achieve a standardised, energy efficient network, that is reliable and easy to use, with our CAE Labs WisserWatts solution.

To provide TEC-P with a single value-driven dashboard that supported ongoing operational insights, **Network Intelligence (NI)** powered by CAE Labs, was activated. With 20 sites and over 10,000 students, NI provided TEC-P with a continuous and up to date view of its extensive network, maintaining the quality of its services with confidence.

Network Intelligence was the solution to the need for a single source of truth, and provides continuous visibility across the entire network. Alongside Network Intelligence, CAE has used this insightful data to provide TEC-P with a consultative engagement and a 5 Year Forward View Report.

This document highlights the equipment that will be going end of life / end of support each year, along with estimated budgetary pricing for the replacement Meraki Switches and Wireless Access Points, ideal for forward planning, budgets and removing risk from the TEC-P Campus infrastructure.

As part of the TEC-P backup and disaster recovery strategy, there was a need to ensure the operation data (of all Cisco Meraki devices and networks) was safely and securely stored off-cloud. CAE plugged that gap of data protection, by rapidly activating our Assure service.

CAE Labs Assure provides the right service to solve this need, and ensures a continuous immutable backup of the Meraki estate is taken every 10 seconds after a change has been made.

Assure provides TEC-P with 24/7/365 service assurance. Should the worst happen, either accidentally or maliciously, network operations will recover in minutes rather than days. Assure significantly reduces network downtime to a minimum so that the delivery of education is uninterrupted.

With CAE Labs WisserWatts, the TEC Partnership group currently have 280 Wireless Access Points connected to Meraki Switches. Using automated port schedules through WisserWatts, the organisation are now able to power down these Wireless Access Points when not required out of hours.

WisserWatts helps address the need for sustainable networking that can enable carbon emission reductions and cost savings for TEC-P, with the current per annum estimate of:

- > 6,384 kWh
- > £3,264
- > 1,728 kgCO2e carbon emissions

An efficient IT and education future

In conclusion, our collaborative & innovative approach through CAE Labs has empowered and elevated technology within TEC Partnership and provided them with a robust and efficient IT infrastructure. It has not only improved their operational efficiency but also enhanced the learning experience for students, truly embodying TEC-P's mission of providing inclusive education that inspires, equips, and empowers.

Intelligent energy saving for a sustainable future

Cut energy use, reduce operating costs and minimise your carbon impact WisserWatts.

[Click here to get your FREE demo with us today and get started >](#)

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