



## University of Nevada, Las Vegas

### Enterasys Network Supports a Growing Student Population

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas is among the nation's fastest growing universities, located in one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas. Recognized nationally as a comprehensive teaching and research university that provides students an excellent education at a reasonable cost, UNLV is becoming one of the premier urban universities in the United States.

**Industry:**

Education

**Challenge:**

Building a network infrastructure for an evolving environment

**Solution:**

Enterasys solution provides a high-speed, switched network

**Benefits:**

- Expanded network connectivity meets the demands of technology savvy students—and their parents
- Increased bandwidth delivers faster data flow and enhanced performance
- University can take advantage of advanced technology and the latest applications
- VLANs allow network segmentation without impacting performance

With over 21,000 students, more than 600 faculty members, and nearly 150 undergraduate, masters, and doctoral degree programs, UNLV is committed to offering the highest quality educational experience, excellent research programs and facilities, and selected professional programs.

**The Challenge:****Building a Network Infrastructure for an Evolving Environment**

Las Vegas has grown from approximately 500,000 residents 10 years ago to more than one million today. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas has experienced an increase in enrollments as well. "We've experienced incredible growth in the student population in a relatively short history," said Dr. Don Diener, director of Campus Computing Services at UNLV.

In order to continue offering superior education to its growing student population, UNLV has been adding new facilities and academic programs. In 1998, UNLV expanded its graduate program by opening the William S. Boyd School of Law, the only law school in the state of Nevada. The university is currently constructing many new buildings, including the Bennett Professional Center, the International Gaming Institute, the Beam Music Building, new buildings for the William S. Boyd School of

Law, and the \$53 million Lied Library.

In addition to new facilities and programs, UNLV is employing computing technology to provide advanced teaching methods and improve efficiency. "Technology is critical," said Dr. Lori Temple, associate provost for Information Technology. "We want to be service oriented and make sure that we communicate and collaborate more effectively. Technology will enable us to do this."

One aspect of utilizing technology required the selection of a network infrastructure that could handle the university's computing requirements. Because the network would inevitably grow in both size and complexity, UNLV looked not only for speed and capacity, but also for the tools to control network traffic. The university found the solution they were looking for: a network from Enterasys for high-performance switching, network management, and virtual local area networks.

**The Solution:****Enterasys Solution Provides a High-Speed, Switched Network**

UNLV's network had evolved over the years from Broadband, to Arcnet, to shared Ethernet. To accommodate recent growth, the university selected Enterasys solutions to migrate to a high-speed switched network. "Computing on campus grew up in pockets, but now we're much more unified with one network," said Mark Holman, network services manager at UNLV.

The university selected SmartSwitch 9000s with multiple connections between switches for load sharing and redundancy, preserving network uptime and increasing bandwidth. In addition, UNLV selected Aprisma's award-winning SPECTRUM enterprise management platform to monitor and manage the entire campus network. SPECTRUM has helped UNLV to consolidate computing by managing the entire network on one platform. "By using SPECTRUM, we can keep up with the growing campus with a limited number of personnel," said Holman. "Basically, you can do more with less."

And, Enterasys' SmartSwitches allow the university to set up Virtual Local Area Networks (VLANs), which control network broadcasts by containing the broadcasts in logical workgroups, improving bandwidth allocation and increasing efficiency. Changes to these workgroups can be easily accomplished with NetSight™ VLAN Manager.

With the new network in place, UNLV transferred the bulk of its paperwork, including forms such as those for admissions and financial aid, from paper to an on-line format. In addition, work orders for daily university functions are now transferred online. Forms can be received, completed and processed more conveniently over the network, resulting in increased operational efficiency.

From an educational standpoint, students benefit from using e-mail to communicate with faculty and other students, stimulating discussion outside of the classroom. Students also utilize the network for on-line research using the Internet as well as on-line library resources. And the use of networked computer classrooms offers students the latest educational tools for classroom learning.

UNLV is also using networking technology to partner with local organizations. The university's School of Education offers courses to teachers in Las Vegas' Clark County School District through video conferencing, allowing local K-12 teachers to broaden their skills from the comfort of their classrooms. Also, the UNLV College of Business teaches courses to employees at Nevada Power Company via video conferencing, allowing them to earn an MBA without having to leave their corporate facility.

As the university's new buildings are completed and the campus continues to grow, UNLV can add users at its own pace utilizing the unlimited scalability of a network from Enterasys. Plus, SPECTRUM will scale along with the network, to provide continuous network monitoring and troubleshooting while preserving network uptime. UNLV can rest assured that its Enterasys network will continue to meet its needs, well into the future.

## Contact Us

For more information, call Enterasys Networks toll free at [1-877-801-7082](tel:1-877-801-7082),  
or +1-978-684-1000 and visit us on the Web at [enterasys.com](http://enterasys.com)