University Extends Network to Connect with Other Institutions

Eötvös Loránd University transforms connected learning and academic collaboration in Hungary

Customer Name:	**Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE)**
Industry:	**Higher Education**
Location:	**Hungary**
Company Size:	**35,000 students and 5000 teaching and support staff**

Business Impact

- Education and research projects completed more efficiently
- Better control of networking and telephony costs
- Improved access to education resources and learning tools

Business Challenge

Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) is the largest and oldest higher education institution in Hungary, with 35,000 students, 5000 staff, and eight teaching faculties.

The university offers full- or part-time degree programs at undergraduate (BA/BSc), graduate (MA/MSC), and post-graduate (PhD) levels, with options in English and other foreign languages.

For more than 20 years, ELTE has been working closely with Cisco to continually advance connected learning. The foundation for this capability is a Cisco® campus network that links together the faculties which are spread across 22 sites, enabling the efficient and effective sharing of ideas, information, and learning to both the staff and students.

Increasingly, the university has needed to extend this education network to support the wider development of Hungary's information society. This expansion involves inter-connection with other European universities and academic platforms, such as CERN, the world's largest particle physics laboratory. The challenge of supporting joint education and research projects has placed new demands on the network. In particular, high availability and ultra-fast data exchange have both become critical requirements.

Solution and Results

The first step, within a sustained program of investment in Cisco solutions, was to replace the core infrastructure with a fully redundant Ethernet backbone. Capable of supporting 10 Gigabit links, the new IP network allows terabyte-size systems to communicate faster and more efficiently with each other. Extending the network has created other new collaborative opportunities, including international events, accreditation of courses, and student and lecturer exchange programs.

ELTE has taken advantage of this converged platform to consolidate five separate legacy voice systems into one IP telephony solution. With the ability to route calls more cost-effectively over the campus network, the university has also created extra savings as a result of centralized management. There are plans to increase the number of Cisco IP phones from 600 to 4500.

Students, teachers, and administration staff have also benefited from "Gigabit to the desktop" connection speeds, which provide improved access to learning tools and resources. To improve productivity further, ELTE is considering using the Cisco network as a platform to support global video conferencing and secure wireless access across the campus.

"Such huge developments can be implemented only when we combine our experience gathered during the many years of the organic development of the network with the opportunities, scalability, and reliable operation provided by Cisco solutions."

David Ritter
Head of IT Directorate, ELTE

To discover how Cisco is helping educators around the world to create a Connected Learning environment please **click here**