

CASE STUDY

BIG Wireless supports Pope visit to Philadelphia



Access points mounted to Jumbotrons during the Papal visit to Philadelphia.

PROJECT LEADS

- Tom Felty
- Roger Hayes



Access points being assembled by the BIG Wireless team in York, PA



Access points loaded and ready for transport to Philadelphia, PA for installation.

Xfinity

Philadelphia, PA

When most people were anticipating the Labor Day holiday with picnics and fireworks, BIG's wireless network engineers were brainstorming. The week before Labor Day BIG Wireless was contacted by one of the country's largest internet service providers, Xfinity. Xfinity was requesting BIG Wireless's support on an outdoor Wi-Fi Initiative for the Papal visit in Philadelphia.

CHALLENGE

The request was to provide a solution for wireless connectivity for thousands of people coming to Philadelphia to visit the pope. The result was 248 access points and 31 Ethernet switches mounted to 31 Jumbotrons which would give visitors free Wi-Fi capability to tweet, text and post selfies of the historical event.. The timeline for the equipment to be designed, assembled and delivered to Philadelphia was 7 days.

SOLUTION

The day after Labor Day design and construction began. BIG Wireless strategically broke into 3 teams to tackle the project and meet the dead line. Team 1 was tasked with designing the solution and identifying components needed for assembly. Team 2 was tasked with finding resources to provide the components within 24 hours to begin assembly. Team 3 began preparations with materials on hand. All three teams executed flawlessly which allowed the assembly line production to begin, ending one week later with custom built skids to haul the 5' wireless access point to Philadelphia.

OUTCOME

BIG Wireless delivered on time to the project site. Once on site in Philadelphia the BIG Wireless engineering team assisted Xfinity with antenna placement, cabling solutions and switch installation which took 6 days, 10 team members and 600 hours. Monday September 28th, 2015 BIG engineers confidently headed back to Philadelphia to tear down and uninstall the access points knowing the solution exceeded expectations.



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