



TEGEL BUILDS STRONGER CONNECTIONS THROUGH COLLABORATIVE ENTERPRISE WIRELESS LAN

Tegel Foods Ltd, New Zealand's market-leading poultry producer since 1961, plays a vital role in the country's food industry. Specialising in breeding, hatching, processing, and distributing high-quality chicken and turkey products. Tegel caters to Kiwis' diverse culinary needs—from barbecues to family roasts.

Through a commitment to innovation and animal welfare, Tegel employs more than 2,300 skilled professionals, dedicated to delivering premium poultry products. Tegel brings the best of New Zealand's poultry to Kiwi homes and international markets, making it a cherished staple both locally and abroad.

With a legacy built on quality, innovation, and dedication, Tegel Foods is not just a brand; it is a cherished part of New Zealanders' lives, reflecting the nation's love for delicious, quality poultry products.

Overview

The Need

Tegel Foods Ltd, a leading New Zealand poultry producer, faced significant challenges due to an outdated and unreliable network infrastructure. With over 2,300 employees and operations running 24/7, the risk of network interruptions and potential disruptions to operations was escalating, threatening the continuity of service essential to their business. Tegel needed a modern, secure, and resilient network solution to support seamless connectivity, mitigate risks, and reduce recovery times in the event of network incidents.

The Solution

In response to these challenges, Tegel collaborated with Lexel to design and implement a comprehensive LAN solution leveraging the HPE Aruba ecosystem. Teams from both Tegel and Lexel worked closely together to conduct thorough site audits and data analysis, assessing the unique needs of Tegel's facilities. This collaborative approach ensured the creation of a robust, scalable network infrastructure that included upgraded hardware, improved security features, and streamlined management capabilities.

The partnership was driven by a shared understanding of Tegel's operational needs and the importance of future-proofing their network for long-term growth and sustainability.

The Result

Increased Network Resilience: Together, Tegel and Lexel worked to reduce the risk of network outages, significantly improving network reliability and providing peace of mind for Tegel's operations.

Enhanced Redundancy and Return to Service: Through the collaboration, the new network infrastructure includes processes for quick recovery, ensuring minimal downtime and disruption to production processes.

Simplified Network Management: Thanks to the combined expertise of Tegel's internal IT team and Lexel's specialists, managing the new network infrastructure has become faster and more efficient, allowing Tegel to focus on their core operations.

An outdated network infrastructure

Despite its success, Tegel faced a significant challenge: an aging network infrastructure that was out of support and increasingly unreliable. As a 24/7 producer of over 50% of New Zealand's poultry supply, the efficiency and security of Tegel's operations relied heavily on a robust network. However, the existing LAN assets were prone to failures and lacked the necessary resilience and redundancy to support Tegel's expanding business needs.

Recognising these vulnerabilities, Tegel sought a partner with the expertise to deliver a comprehensive, secure, and resilient network solution. Lexel, with their deep understanding of Tegel's requirements, was selected for their ability to not only procure hardware but also implement professional services tailored to Tegel's operational goals.

A collaborative approach with Lexel

From the outset, Tegel and Lexel's teams worked hand-in-hand to design and implement the best possible solution for Tegel's unique operational environment. What began as a hardware

procurement relationship quickly transformed into a true partnership. Together, the teams assessed Tegel's challenges, timelines, and deployment requirements. Lexel's technical experts joined forces with Tegel's internal IT team to design a network solution that would address not just the immediate needs but future-proof their operations.

The solution was centred on the HPE Aruba Networking ecosystem, which was selected for its advanced capabilities and reliability. Lexel's team and Tegel's internal resources were fully aligned throughout the process, ensuring that the implementation met Tegel's precise needs, including specific requirements like maintaining reliable wireless connectivity in refrigerated areas, essential for food safety and hygiene.

Selecting the perfect solution

At the heart of the solution was the **HPE Aruba Networking** ecosystem, renowned for its advanced capabilities and reliability. Lexel's experts meticulously documented the solution design, outlining the professional services necessary to pre-configure, deliver, provision, and install the new network infrastructure. This careful planning included specific considerations for Tegel's unique operational environment, such as the critical need for reliable wireless connectivity in refrigerated areas, essential for keeping food safety and hygiene.

By integrating HPE Aruba's high-performance LAN infrastructure, Tegel could look forward to transforming their connectivity landscape. This advanced solution bolstered their network resilience and reduced the risk of interruptions, supporting continuous operations and protecting Tegel's role in New Zealand's food supply chain. With Aruba's intuitive management tools, Tegel's internal IT staff could swiftly implement changes, turning network management into a streamlined process and enabling efficient resource allocation.

Transformation to next-level networking

The implementation of the new LAN solution was executed flawlessly, with teams from both Lexel and Tegel working together to deliver the



project ahead of schedule and within budget. This collaboration yielded transformative results.

With the new network infrastructure in place, Tegel experienced a marked reduction in network-related disruptions. Resilient connectivity empowered their production assets to function seamlessly, enhancing coordination and supporting continuous production across the organisation. Tegel could now confidently manage operations without the looming threat of network failures, focusing on their mission of providing high-quality poultry products to Kiwi families.

The integration of Aruba technology simplified network management and reduced operational complexity. Tegel's internal team gained the ability to handle network changes more efficiently, freeing up resources to tackle other critical initiatives. The redundancy built into the Aruba ecosystem further positioned Tegel for future growth, ensuring they could scale and adapt as business demands evolve without compromising on performance or security.

Measurable Business Benefits

The impact of the new LAN solution on Tegel's operations was significant:

- **Reduced Risk of Network Failure:** The risk of outages diminished dramatically, with Tegel gaining peace of mind knowing their network was resilient and reliable.

- **Enhanced Productivity:** With improved connectivity, Tegel's production processes became more efficient, directly supporting an increase in output without additional strain on resources
- **Streamlined Operations:** The new infrastructure simplified network management, allowing for quicker adjustments and maintenance without disrupting production.

Unique Challenges and Insights

In addressing the unique challenges faced by Tegel as a food producer, ensuring network reliability under varying environmental conditions was paramount. Maintaining consistent connectivity in crucial operational areas, especially those requiring controlled temperatures for food safety, was a critical requirement. The network infrastructure was strategically enhanced to support seamless operations in these critical zones, including areas involved in the snap-freezing process. This ensured that Tegel's stringent quality and safety standards were upheld throughout their production environment.

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Without Lexel's expertise and direction this network project would not have been the success that it has been. 2024 Christmas break was the least eventful in many years with zero issues on the internal network.

Jason Mathewson | GM - Information Systems | Tegel Foods Ltd

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A bright future ahead

Tegel Foods is now poised to continue its legacy as a leader in New Zealand's poultry industry, equipped with a modern network infrastructure that supports their operations and meets the demands of their customers.

Thanks to Lexel's expertise, and the power of Aruba technology, Tegel can confidently navigate the future, focusing on their mission to provide Kiwis with the highest quality chicken products while keeping the highest standards of animal welfare.

Lexel delivers a full spectrum of networking services and solutions, from assessment, network design, and architecture, through to network management. Contact us today.

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Lexel specialises in providing solution consulting, infrastructure design, implementation, project management, outsourcing, support services and procurement. To deliver this wide range of services, Lexel Systems has partnered with the main technology providers in NZ and has secured the highest level of certifications possible with each of these partners.