

# ANTIQUATED INTERNET SPEED SPARKS MODERN SOLUTION

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IT RESOURCE TECHS CONDUCTED AN INTERNET-SPEED TEST ON [INDIANA GAMMA'S] EXISTING SYSTEM AND, TO NO SURPRISE, THE FINDINGS WERE UNACCEPTABLE: 11 MBPS FOR THE DOWNLOAD SPEED AND 10 MBPS FOR THE UPLOAD SPEED, WELL BELOW THE ACCEPTABLE STANDARD.

The SAE Financial & Housing Corporation board members knew they had to update their network. So they decided to partner with their trusted adviser, IT Resource, Inc., a well-established IT-consulting and professional-services firm based in western Michigan. IT Resource conducted a site visit to review and evaluate the claims of limited speed as it related to wireless connectivity within the chapter house.

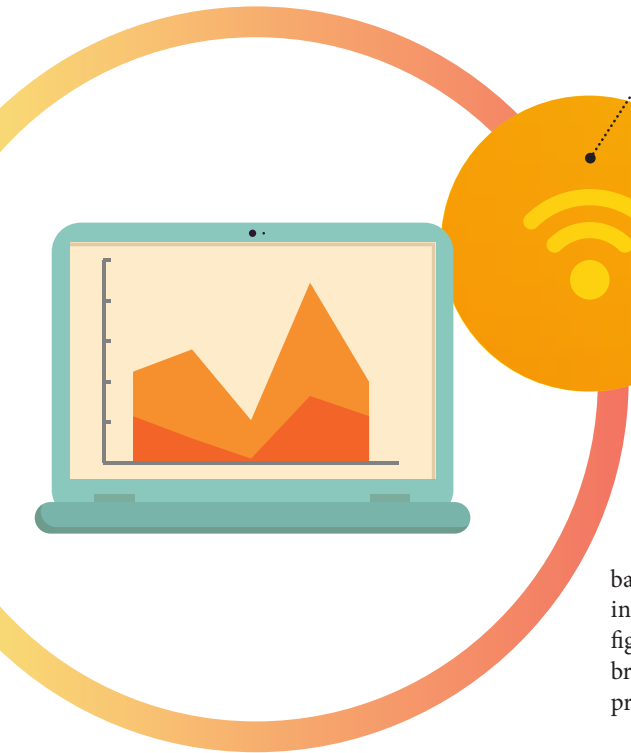
The existing system and equipment that was in place was incorrectly sized and not optimal. In addition, the wireless connectivity failed to perform as desired, so users had limited bandwidth. The existing system, a SonicWALL wireless infrastructure, was insufficient to provide download and upload speeds consistent with the Charter 100Mbps connection. IT Resource techs conducted an internet-speed test on the chapter's existing system and, to no surprise, the findings were unacceptable: 11 Mbps for the download speed and 10 Mbps for the upload speed, well below the acceptable standard.

IT Resource techs attempted to reconfigure the existing hardware but eventually determined it could not be done for several reasons. But, most of all, the connection was not the right choice for the environment in the first place.

IT Resource proposed a complete swap of all

The leadership for the SAE Financial & Housing Corporation had been receiving a common complaint from students living in the Indiana Gamma chapter house at Indiana University. Their internet speed was dragging and painfully slow. The sub-par bandwidth interfered with their ability to perform simple online tasks, like checking e-mail.

The inferior wireless connectivity caused headaches for members who were unable to complete online exams, participate in online group-discussion boards and submit homework online. "Our internet was very slow and often crashed during peak hours," says Mitchell Sassemann, an Indiana Gamma brother.



**WHEN THE MERAKI SOLUTION WAS CONFIGURED AND COMPLETE, IT RESOURCE PERFORMED A FINAL TEST: 67 MBPS FOR DOWNLOAD SPEED AND 22 MBPS FOR UPLOAD SPEED, A 463 PERCENT ENHANCEMENT.**

equipment and recommended a Cisco Meraki cloud-based management system in which all devices at each location could be managed from the cloud. This solution provides real-time visibility on the health of each device and can be monitored remotely by Sigma Alpha Epsilon staff using the Meraki Dashboard. In fact, the dashboard provides valuable information, such as peak usage times, peak users, peak websites and the ability to block websites. Additionally, the system can prioritize different types of internet traffic to allow student academic needs urgency over entertainment needs.

“The dashboard is extremely easy to manage and provides so much useful information with easy-to-read graphs and charts,” says Leo Reap, Senior Partner and Vice President of IT Resource. “It can be accessed anywhere from any device.”

Indiana Gamma at Indiana University served as the pilot test site to verify the value of the proposed cloud solution. Essentially, the members completed a Proof of Concept, trying out the Meraki solution before they purchased it. IT Resource delivered one Cisco Meraki Access Point (AP) to the Fraternity house, plugged it into the network and performed the configuration remotely. A second speed test was performed with the trial APs configured. And since increased

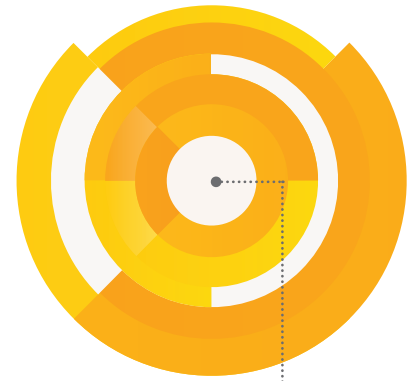
bandwidth and internet speed were evident during the trial run, IT Resource installed and configured the complete solution. “The savings in our brotherhood’s time and effort is well worth any price,” Sassemann says.

Kalvin Greer, a junior brother majoring in informatics, played an integral role in implementing the Meraki Solution. He worked alongside IT Resource and, in just one day, all of the old hardware was swapped, with the Meraki solution configured. “I’m very impressed with and proud of the improvement in our wireless network at Indiana Gamma,” he says. “The reliability and speed improvements have made life much better for us. It was also exciting to be an important part of the team’s success in setting up the system.”

Sassemann says he is also pleased with the new bandwidth. “Even when our entire chapter attempted to overload the system by turning on every electronic, internet-using device we own, the system worked smoothly,” he says. When the Meraki solution was configured and complete, IT Resource performed a final test: 67 Mbps for download speed and 22 Mbps for upload speed, a 463-percent enhancement.

Indiana Gamma members now are able to take full advantage of the internet bandwidth they have purchased from their internet service provider. And following the optimization and installation, neither IT Resource nor the SAE Financial & Housing Corporation leaders have received complaints. Furthermore, F&H is investing in the solution in many of the houses it operates.

“Our new system didn’t just bring us up to par in terms of internet speeds, it gave us the fastest internet on all of Indiana University’s campus,” Sassemann says. **END**



## ABOUT IT RESOURCE, INC.

In business since 2000, IT Resource, Inc. is an enterprise-level information-technology solution provider that offers IT consulting, project-based and long-term engineering services, on-site and remote help-desk support services as well as the resell of hardware and software.

IT Resource, Inc. supports businesses and organizations with many IT needs — creating disaster-recovery and business continuity plans and environments, implementing and upgrading Unified Communications platforms, Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) and VMware capacity planning, vCIO (virtual CIO services), Office 365 migrations, complex integrations and migrations of Microsoft Exchange and Active Directory, cloud services, network analysis and assessments, upgrades to WAN environments and software asset management.

IT Resource, Inc. is headquartered in Coopersville, Michigan, with customers located throughout the Midwest. The company was recognized by *Corp! Magazine* as one of Michigan’s Economic Bright Spots in 2010 and 2012. In addition, it has more than 30 vendor partnerships including primary partnerships with Cisco Systems, Datto (backup and disaster recovery), EMC, Hewlett Packard, Microsoft and VMware. All of the company employees are certified with these partners, including their sales team.

