



## Sunlight Service Group

The wireless mesh has more than enough bandwidth for Sunlight's centralized computing architecture which uses central Citrix Terminal Servers to service remote Windows Terminals via the corporate managed WAN.

### Bringing the Installation Home

Siracom, Firetide's UK distributor, trained Sunlight engineers to install their own wireless mesh systems. The in-house engineering staff has been trained to configure the systems and been given sufficient back grounding in RF to enable them to correctly position the mesh nodes and antennae.

"We have fairly standard configurations and usually the only changes required are site IDs and IP addresses. Since the company operates large facilities with little wireless traffic in the vicinity, all the devices at a site can operate on a single channel and complex site surveys aren't required," Roberts said.

Firetide mesh networks are quickly deployed. They are self-healing in addition to self-forming. The four Ethernet ports on each node can also be used for a variety of other devices, including video surveillance cameras and Wi-Fi access points. Firetide's proprietary network protocol automatically discovers and adds new nodes to the mesh network. The system also allows for an instant redirection of data should a link become disabled or if an obstruction suddenly blocks line-of-sight. Redundant paths keep data traffic flowing between nodes despite any issues with a particular link.

### Managing the Future

Sunlight supports its Datacentre, ServiceDesk and network operations from corporate headquarters in Basingstoke (to the west of London). Engineers use Firetide's HotView Pro software to enable central management of all the meshes at the various sites and to ensure wireless signal strength and quality are within tolerance.

Sunlight knows the laundry business well, and the company has had ample opportunity to improve it during the last century. Today it has embraced another new technology — wireless mesh networking — helping it to remain efficient and competitive as it enters its second hundred years.



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