

BLIP Elevates the Network



ePMP | elevate

OVERVIEW: BLIP Networks is a growing local ISP with a decade of service to residents and small businesses in rural coverage areas in southern Illinois.

Challenge:

BLIP's system could only handle about 25 subscribers for each Access Point on a tower. As the business grew, user density put pressure on the infrastructure. Their staff worked hard to ensure reliable service for existing customers, but their ability to subscribe new users in high-traffic areas suffered. Upgrading to an entirely new system wasn't feasible; deployment would be time consuming, expensive, and inconvenience customers.

Requirements:

BLIP's network had to meet high standards: not only to surpass the limitations of their networking equipment, but also to do so with minimal additions of auxiliary hardware, and as little service interruption, travel, and on-site work as possible. Co-owner Ian Ellison decided to test Cambium Networks' ePMP Elevate™ technology to evaluate the possible boost in performance.

Solution:

ePMP Elevate™ is a software solution that runs on OpenWRT hardware, interoperating with other companies' Access Points and incorporating the entire infrastructure into a more powerful amalgamated system that functions like Cambium Networks' ePMP platform. The beta test was run on a 800 user network across multiple towers, with easy installation: an operator only needs to install one ePMP Access Point and load their deployed subscriber modules with ePMP Elevate software. Ellison describes, "We added the ePMP AP's to existing locations, uploaded the beta firmware (ePMP Elevate™), and applied the necessary settings. We loaded the firmware on the first CPE (customer-premises equipment) and it connected. Then we reconfigured to our preferred settings, and it was working. Wash, rinse, repeat."

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- Ian Ellison,
Co-owner, BLIP
Networks

Results:

ePMP Elevate's ability to assimilate existing equipment enables affordable, efficient network expansion. Regardless of the make of the existing hardware, ePMP Access Points can be added to increase network capacity while protecting initial investments. Companies like BLIP Networks can reap the benefits of ePMP solutions without replacing equipment or traveling to work on individual subscriber modules. Simply installing ePMP Elevate™ enhances the entire network.

BLIP Networks' operators are relieved, and the ISP is running smoothly, says Ellison, "Customers who were on more heavily subscribed AP's notice much more stability in the connection as far as latency and consistent speed goes. And it allows us to have a larger subscriber base that performs the way it should. We have extremely predictable results now, and our channel planning is a breeze compared to what it used to be."

With the success of this trial, BLIP Networks looks forward to augmenting the rest of their network regions with ePMP Elevate™, and when asked what advice they have for other network operators, Ian Ellison responded "ePMP is the most affordable, functional GPS synchronized platform available in our industry. Give it a try!"