

Service boxes

Background

Up until now, extended stay guests of the TALIMOS apartment buildings in Stuttgart, most of whom are business travellers, could access the Internet only via a 56k modem. Too slow for working for a longer period of time or for connections via VPN.

Challenge

An inexpensive Internet solution which will be made available to the guests free of charge. However: the connection should not just be fast and reliable, but most importantly, secured from unwanted access.

Solution

With the help of dLAN® adapters by devolo, a network connection could be realised via the existing coaxial cables without costly construction measures. The data are transmitted via cables and not wirelessly, which guarantees a high level of security for the guests.

Advantages

- Using dLAN® by devolo, TALIMOS GmbH offers its guests an additional service in its apartment buildings.
- Apartment guests have free Internet access.
- The business clients of TALIMOS GmbH can be sure that their business data is really secure.
- TALIMOS GmbH was able to save costs since no construction measures were required and everyday operation was not impaired.
- Due to the custom-made housing, the guest will only see a simple, small box – no tangled cable mess.

A secure network for managers on every floor

The 54 apartments for business executives in two buildings in Stuttgart, Germany, managed by TALIMOS GmbH are unnoticeably and reliably connected to the Internet via devolo dLAN® – thus guaranteeing the highest level of data security for business travellers.

Many hotel guests are likely to forgive minor inconveniences during a short stay of a few days or weeks. Someone staying for several weeks, months or even years most likely will not. TALIMOS GmbH is aware of this and offers its extended-stay clients, who are mostly business travellers, two apartment buildings in Stuttgart's city centre. One has 40 residential units, the other 14. Since August 2008, all apartments have Internet access as standard. dLAN® adapters by devolo connect the individual apartments to the DSL connection via the existing coaxial cables. The result: no additional, inconvenient construction measures, no escalating costs, and the highest business data security for apartment guests.



From the beginning, Stuttgart-based TALIMOS GmbH has continuously adapted all of the 54 residential units of its two apartment buildings to the high standards of the guests. For the housing association, these are not unplanned efforts, but an obvious investment. The objective for 2008 was to take everything that had not kept up with the technological advances of the last few years and bring it up to speed. Specifically, this meant speed of access to the World Wide Web. Previously, only a 56 Kbps modem Internet connection was available to apartment guests upon request. This data transmission technology is (barely) adequate for quick searches or plain text e-mails, but is much too slow for working for a longer period of time using the multimedia applications of today's Web 2.0.

In addition, many companies integrate external staff, for example via VPN, into the corporate network via the Internet so that they have access to all files and folders. The prerequisite for this is a reliable, fast, and above all, secure network environment and Internet connection. Therefore, wireless LAN was eliminated as an option from the beginning: wireless transmission is too susceptible to interception and interference for the important and confidential business data of the apartment guests. Wiring the 54 residential units for LAN cables was also not an option, especially since the intent was to avoid not only unwanted construction measures, but also high costs.

"The installation itself, i.e. attaching the housing and connecting the dLAN adapters, in all 54 apartments took just under two days,"

remembers Thomas Jelčić, whose service company is also a partner of Internet service provider Arcor.



"The Managing Director of TALIMOS GmbH was already familiar with devolo products and technology – at least from Internet research. After all, Mr Egon Talmon-Gros found my contact information via the devolo partner network at www.devolo.de. Obviously, I did not have to work very hard to convince him of the advantages of the dLAN® technology," explains Thomas Jelčić, owner of the computer consultancy company that bears his name and a certified devolo partner. Since the data is transmitted via dLAN® adapters over the existing coaxial cables in the two buildings, all construction measures such as drilling, chasing out walls and routing cables become unnecessary. The technical realisation is the same for both apartment buildings: the

DSL signal is connected to the telephone jack in the basement of the building. The devolo dsl+ 1100 duo high-speed router with integrated DSL modem connected there is also connected to the dLAN® 200 AVpro 2 adapter, which is used as the master. A dLAN® 200 AVpro 2 is used as the slave in each apartment, which converts the signal again and provides a connection at transmission rates of up to 200 megabits per second. To protect the devolo devices from tampering and stow cables, the dLAN® adapters are permanently installed in a housing that has been custom-made for this purpose

"I determined the dimensions for the housings onsite and then commissioned the manufacturing. The roughly six weeks for production and delivery of the



housings was the part that took the longest in this entire project. The installation itself, i.e. attaching the housing and connecting the dLAN® adapters, in all 54 apartments took just under two days," remembers Thomas Jelcic, whose service company is also a partner of Internet service provider Arcor. "The partnerships with devolo and Arcor enabled me to offer TALIMOS GmbH everything from a single source. Thanks to the support from Uwe März, Business Partner Sales Manager at Arcor, setting up the new Internet connection also flowed smoothly." Since then, TALIMOS guests in Stuttgart surf the World Wide Web at 6,000 or 16,000 kilobits per second depending on the building they stay at. Pretty fast, but more importantly, very secure. "dLAN® by devolo could meet our most important

basic requirement; essentially, that the data of our business clients are absolutely secure and cannot be intercepted by third parties," says Egon Talmon-Gros, Managing Director of TALIMOS GmbH, summarising the project.

By upgrading to devolo dLAN® and Arcor DSL, TALIMOS has adapted the Internet connection in its buildings to the high standard of the apartments. Now, all wishes of the business clients can be fulfilled – even digital ones. "To our astonishment, we have had neither questions nor criticism from our guests. This shows that the technology works and anyone can use it," concludes TALIMOS' Managing Director: "No news is good news – in our opinion, this is clearly a good sign."

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In detail: This is how devolo dLAN® works in the apartment buildings of TALIMOS GmbH

Fast, reliable, and most importantly, secure: the two apartment buildings of TALIMOS GmbH are at great locations in Stuttgart's city centre and belong to the high-end segment of the hotel industry. The total of 54 residential units have been connected to the Internet via dLAN® 200 AVpro 2 adapters since August 2008.

The existing coaxial cables in both apartment buildings, which were previously only used for TV and radio signals, are also suitable for data transmission. A devolo dsl+ 1100 duo router with integrated DSL modem is installed on the DSL connection in the basement of each building. From there, a dLAN 200 AVpro 2 switched as master transmits the data via the coaxial cables to the hubs. The hubs have also been equipped with diplexers and high-pass fil-

ters to reliably separate the signals from one another. The data is sent from the hubs to the dLAN 200 AVpro 2 devices which are switched as slaves and installed in each residential unit. For protection against tampering and to make operation as simple as possible for the user, the devolo adapters are installed in custom-made housings. The apartment guest will see only an available network jack that the computer can be connected to.

Table

Number of networked apartments	Total of 54
Cost savings through devolo dLAN® in comparison with WLAN	Approx. 50 percent
Infrastructure used instead	Existing coaxial wiring
dLAN® adapters used	54 dLAN® 200 AVpro 2 devices as slaves 2 dLAN® 200 AVpro 2 devices as masters
Intended purpose	Reliable and secure Internet connection with consistently high transmission rates for apartment guests
Additional special feature	A custom-made housing is used as a visual cover and protects the dLAN® adapters against tampering

Schematic design of the networking solution

