

Anixter's Enterprise Cabling and Security Labs

At Anixter, making sure our customers have the most current and accurate information to select the right products for their specific applications is paramount to us. We own and operate two labs, the UL[®]-certified Enterprise Cabling Lab and the Security Lab, specifically to evaluate and test a wide range of emerging new products and technologies being developed and marketed. Our labs give our customers the ability to preview how their new products will actually perform before purchasing them.

Enterprise Cabling Lab Testing:

- Random performance testing of Anixter inventory to ensure quality of standards compliance
- Network throughput and interoperability testing
- Copper and fiber cabling compliance verification (TIA/EIA, ISO/IEC, IEEE)
- Customer proof of concept
- Power over Ethernet (PoE)
- Application testing

Security Lab Testing:

- Video over IP, video quality and bandwidth utilization
- Power over Ethernet (PoE) capability verification
- Digital compression image quality vs. analog technology testing
- Evaluation of analog and IP cameras, video management software evaluation, DVR, NDVR and NVR products

Business Drivers Affecting the Purchase of Enterprise Cabling Products:

- New applications
- Higher bandwidth requirements
- Convergence
- Maintain competitive edge
- Cost of moves, adds, and changes (MACs)
- Business process efficiencies

Business Drivers Affecting the Purchase Security Products:

- Convergence of IT and security
- Analog to digital technology shift
- Loss prevention
- Systems integration
- Preventative security precautions
- Asset protection

Anixter's Enterprise Cabling and Security Labs In Action

Problem: Leading Pennsylvania University Explores Campus-wide Rewiring Project

Anixter Enterprise Cabling Lab Solution: The Anixter Enterprise Cabling Lab was called upon to help this university determine which copper cabling system would best meet their current and future information technology needs.

The university had a variety of different copper cabling products installed in their network infrastructure — Category 3, Category 5 and some Category 5e. The Anixter Enterprise Cabling Lab deployed computer applications that the university typically carried over their cabling infrastructure including Lotus Notes, SAP and streaming video. Testing found that their current infrastructure was consistently dropping information causing the network to operate slowly and inefficiently. This same traffic was sent over a Category 6 infrastructure with no degradation to the data. Armed with testing from the Anixter Enterprise Cabling Lab, university IT professionals wrote cabling infrastructure specifications around a higher performing Category 6 system that better met the university's network performance needs.

Problem: Major Railway Company Needs Video Surveillance To Monitor Switchyard

Anixter Security Lab Solution: This railroad wanted to use video surveillance to monitor yards as they assembled unit trains, but had a big cabling challenge in front of them. Installing traditional cabling in the switchyard would have entailed major disruptions and expense for the customer. The Anixter Security Lab recommended a sophisticated wireless internet video surveillance system that did not require cabling. Anixter was able to simulate the wireless internet video surveillance solution in the Security Lab for the customer. The Security Lab also provided this customer with test results illustrating how much bandwidth the video solution would absorb on the customer's network as well as the video quality the customer could expect from the recommended system.

Problem: National Insurance Company with Data Center Cabling Choice

Anixter Enterprise Cabling Lab Solution: The Anixter Enterprise Cabling Lab assessed backbone cabling requirements based on the current and future bandwidth needs for this insurance provider. The Anixter Enterprise Cabling Lab ran representative network traffic over 62.5, 50-micron and laser-optimized 50-micron fiber (LOMF) to ascertain which would best meet their needs. These tests were key in determining that the LOMF was the customer's best choice.

Anixter's 10 Gig Ethernet Cabling Testing

Anixter Enterprise Cabling Lab is the only UL-certified lab to conduct rigorous, independent third party testing of the emerging 10 Gig cabling solutions. Anixter's 10 Gig cabling testing examines electrical characteristics such as insertion loss, return loss, and crosstalk, but also looks at alien crosstalk (which is part of the Augmented Cat 6 draft spec.) To ensure that the 10 Gig cabling solutions we sell meet the highest levels of performance and reliability for our customers, the Anixter Enterprise Cabling Lab tests the toughest performance parameter, alien crosstalk, in the "worst case" scenario. You can rest assured that the cabling solutions Anixter sells will provide the network performance you require.

