

Connecting Classrooms:

CTL Empowers School District to Roll Out LTE Connectivity for Students

In partnership with the City of Tukwila, the Tukwila School District, and Federated Wireless, CTL Chromebooks provisioned with 48 CBRS private LTE connectivity enabled students to access online learning at home



CTL recently provided a set of specially provisioned Chromebooks to the Tukwila School District in Washington State to enable students without home internet to access web-based learning from home. Funded by a city grant, the launch also included an innovative Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) private LTE network provided by shared spectrum connectivity leader Federated Wireless.

The Challenge: Bridging the Digital Divide

The Tukwila School District was seeking to bridge the digital divide for students who did not have at-home internet access. The Mayor of Tukwila, Allan Ekberg, described it this way:

"Many families could not afford basic internet services at home. As a result, students camped outside the local King County Foster Library, tapping into the free Wi-Fi to complete online homework assignments. 'Internet for All' was needed."

The city decided that creating an LTE network to provide connectivity beyond the school walls would help solve this problem.

The Solution: Launch a Private LTE Network for the School District

Funded by a \$1.4M grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce and administered through the Washington State Broadband office, the school district worked with several partners to create their private LTE network, including Federated Wireless. Eight outdoor 4G Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) radios were installed at five different sites throughout the district.



Next, the group required Chromebooks that could access the network and settled on CTL's NL72CT-LTE B48 (B41-48)-ready Cat 12 Chromebook due to its seamless integration with the newest LTE networks. CTL's Chromebooks are pre-provisioned with 48 CBRS Private LTE to ensure fast, reliable mobile internet access from almost any wireless carrier.

CTL worked side-by-side with Joel Bush, the city's chief technology officer to connect the Chromebooks into the new system.

"We were so pleased to deploy the Chromebooks provided by CTL. Their reputation for quality and service for educators is unmatched in the industry. We appreciated their expertise and responsiveness in working with us to configure a program within a tight timeframe. We look forward to our ongoing relationship of service and support from CTL."

~Joel Bush, CTO, City of Tukwila



The Result:

A Seamless, Integrated Chromebook and Private LTE Network Launch

To celebrate the launch of the new network, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in Tukwila and the first set of Chromebooks were handed out to a group of students. With the Tukwila School District superintendent, several school district council members, and city dignitaries on hand, the Chromebooks were opened and automatically linked up for the first time, to the delight of the students. Dr. Concie Pedroza, Tukwila School District Superintendent, summarized:

“Today’s ribbon-cutting symbolizes breaking barriers, opening doors, and fostering a future where every student can succeed.”

City Mayor Allan Eckberg thanked the partners, “Our Technology and Innovation Services management worked

to bridge Tukwila’s digital divide. This new network and Chromebooks will support the educational enrichment of our students, and we thank our partners for joining us in this wonderful endeavor.”

CTL was on hand to participate in the festivities. Erik Stromquist, CEO of CTL, commented:

“As one the world’s leading Chromebook OEMs to support CBRS, we are thrilled to be extending these devices to hundreds of students in Washington. The NL72-L series Chromebooks are enabled to support both carrier and CBRS networks to ensure every student can access online learning with fast, consistent connectivity. Tukwila’s program is an excellent example for other cities and school districts to follow in deploying best-in-class student connectivity solutions.”

~Erik Stromquist, CEO, CTL



The Innovative Future for 1:1 Chromebook Deployments

City and school district partnerships provide one innovative solution for schools to obtain refreshed 1:1 device funding in the post-pandemic era. To solve the issue of digital equity for lower economic bracket students, creating private LTE networks with CBRS technology is also an increasingly deployed innovative solution. CTL remains committed to working in partnership with customers and industry partners to help school districts provide equal access to online learning for all students.



Empower Success with ChromeOS

Power up your classrooms and deliver digital equity with proven Chromebook and ChromeOS solutions manufactured by CTL. As your education technology partner, CTL sits side-by-side with you to deliver customized programs that offer unprecedented computing power for students, teachers, and staff, all delivered with the flexible purchasing options and whole life cycle sustainability services you require.



About CTL's LTE-Enabled Chromebooks

With the LTE-enabled CTL Chromebook NL72-L Series, stay productive and connected from anywhere. Enjoy all-day battery life, sharp visuals, an ultra-thin design, and up to 12 hours of continuous use battery life. Combine with a data plan (sold separately) to access data securely. Get the perfect companion for remote work and learning today — the CTL Chromebook NL72-L Series.



Integrated LTE capabilities (requires a separate data plan from your carrier) to empower remote work without needing Wi-Fi or a hot spot.



The IP41-rated design to endure drops and resist spills.



Intel processor, 4 GB of memory, and 64 GB of storage.



180-degree lay-flat hinge ensures less breaking when opened or closed.



Wi-Fi 6 delivers lightning-fast internet connectivity



Unique 360-degree rotating camera enables for creative video recording and collaboration.



A built-in carry handle minimizes the chances of drops.



Two USB-C power delivery ports on both sides offer redundant charging options.



Power on with up to 12.35 hours of battery run time.



June 2021 Automatic Update (AU) - giving you years of Google support.



Customized, service-focused experience that eliminates the time and cost of a third-party servicer.



OEM-quality services including best practice guidance, program implementation, ongoing maintenance, and whole life cycle management.