Dan had a problem.

As Director of Network Services at M State college, Dan Knudson had his hands full dealing with users flooding the help desk trying to get connected to the secure wireless. M State knew the importance of offering encrypted WPA2-Enterprise access to their students. But they struggled to deliver consistent, solid wireless across 4 campuses with their limited budget and the wide variety of devices that tried to get connected.

“Students coming to campus would have to visit the help desk and get help setting up and getting on secure wireless. They would literally have a table full of devices from students who had dropped them off to get configured. Our help-desk was always having to help users get connected,” Dan recalls.
But Dan is far from the only one who has had these problems. Universities everywhere deal with some of the most diverse and high volume BYOD environments. Even top of the line enterprise solutions will not hold up in an education system, where devices are constantly being added and resources are stretched thin.

Many help desks have relied on users being able to connect their own devices with instruction manuals. But even for simple networks it can still be a challenge for users. Imagine trying to rollout a large eduroam deployment across 7 campuses with multiple existing SSIDs, which was the problem facing Mark Curtin, the senior Technical officer at Limerick Institute of Technology in Ireland.

“There’s probably 14 or 15 different attributes you have to select to really configure the settings properly. Between typing in the RADIUS server correctly, selecting the correct certificate to validate, inputting username and passwords, check this box, uncheck that box. There’s potential for that to go wrong in so many places, and if they enter or accept something incorrectly, it just won’t work,” Curtin says.

A Better Way

Dan and Mark, like many others, ended up finding JoinNow as a solution to their networking woes. JoinNow is a simple, self-service software wizard that automatically configures and connects BYOD devices for secure wireless networks. With JoinNow, universities and schools everywhere have been able to streamline their networks dramatically, providing students, faculty, and guests with the quality of experience that users today expect.

For Dan, it was a revelation. JoinNow was delivered by the salespeople preconfigured for his network, even before the trial began. Deployment took no time at all; it was ready to go almost instantly, even with the tight academic calendar. And he could not have been more impressed with the results.

“It’s no good just saying: ‘the wireless network is there, this is how you connect’. You have to make it as easy as possible for your users or else they won’t be interested in using it”

Mark Curtin - Limerick Institute of Technology

JoinNow MultiOS

| Supported OSs               | Windows XP +  
|                            | Mac OS X 10.5 +  
|                            | Apple iOS 2.0 +  
|                            | Android 2.1 +  
|                            | Linux  
|                            | Kindle Fire  
|                            | ChromeOS  
| Supported EAPs             | EAP-TLS  
|                            | PEAP/MSCHAPv2  
|                            | PEAP/GTC  
|                            | EAP-TTLS/PAP  
|                            | EAP-TTLS/MSCHAPv2  
|                            | EAP-SIM  
| Deployment Options         | Internal Web Server  
|                            | SecureW2 Cloud  

JoinNow for EDU
Watch the video at securew2.com/improving-edu-wireless
What JoinNow Can Do

JoinNow's benefits go far beyond reducing helpdesk load. At its heart is a powerful set of WPA2-Enterprise automation tools, delivered to users in an intuitive, self-service package that runs on any device. Universities have relied on the JoinNow platform to solve a wide and growing range of 802.1X problems.

Eliminate MITM Attacks

Even WPA2-Enterprise is susceptible to Man-in-the-Middle attacks if server certificates are not configured properly. JoinNow can eliminate this risk by automating the install and configuration of the server certificate.

Reduce Password Fatigue

Devices can use certificates instead of user credentials to get connected, improving security and reducing password fatigue. Make password change policy easier to enforce and manage WPA2-Enterprise on a device-by-device basis.

Simple User Management

JoinNow can handle any number of SSIDs or user roles. Automatically assign users to their right profile upon configuration.

JoinNow also includes a standalone guest access solution that can provide encrypted access to self-enrolled or sponsored visitors. Give guests their own SSID or use an existing SSID without disrupting LDAP or AD stores.

What can be included in a JoinNow configuration?

There's much more than meets the eye in the lightweight and dissolvable JoinNow client.

**SETTINGS**
- SSID, RADIUS, EAP type, etc.

**SERVER CERTIFICATE**
- Compatible with all public and private CAs.

**Readiness ASSESSMENT**
- Check for problematic drivers and software.

**DEVICE REPORT**
- Device and connection status logged in the cloud.

**DEVICE CERTIFICATE**
- Connect to EAP-TLS and eliminate password change issues.

**SOFTWARE**
- Provide NAC, printer drivers, antivirus, etc. during configuration.
Further Exceeding Expectation

At Deakin University in Australia, they already had another onboarding solution in place. Deakin had tried providing users with instructions, but they would always return after several failed attempts at getting connected. So administrators found an onboarding solution and used it for many years.

But the software relied on Java- which was slow, didn’t provide a consistent experience across devices, and became increasingly uncommon. They were about to give up on onboarding altogether when they found JoinNow.

Even with years of experience with onboarding, they were blown away by JoinNow after some quick testing. Limerick had come to a similar conclusion when they compared JoinNow to open-source onboarding software that was not able to meet their needs in terms of user experience or support.

JoinNow for K-12

Love for JoinNow extends to school districts, where the demands of wireless are felt more than anywhere else. Administrators push for more technology in the classroom, but deal with tight budgets and scarce resources. And students already bring their own devices, looking for ways to get access to the internet.

At District 230 in Orland Park, IL they knew this problem well. Staff members already had their own wireless network protected by a password. But despite their best efforts, enterprising students always found ways to get unauthorized access or exploit security issues.

“We would change the password on a Friday, and the students would have it on Monday,” reminisces Marce Gonzalez, the Technology Operations Manager.

They made the decision to provide students with the wireless that they wanted, but needed to do it in a way that was safe for the students as well as secure. But the task of deploying WPA2-Enterprise with 802.1X was daunting; not only would it require new infrastructure, but students would need constant help getting connected and troubleshooting problems.

Marce ended up hearing about JoinNow and was able roll out WPA2-Enterprise network with virtually no cost in man hours. School districts rarely have the expertise to deploy 802.1X, but JoinNow is so straightforward that even 1-man-operation IT departments have been able to handle running multiple secure SSIDs.

Taking the Next Step

The demand growth for wireless will only be outpaced by the expectations users place on it. It has becomes more important than ever for educators to provide safe and secure wireless. Evaluating JoinNow is free, requires no additional hardware, and comes with complete setup and support. Find out why so many refuse to deploy 802.1X without it.

“What we couldn’t believe about JoinNow was that it came straight out-of-the-box as a working tool -- We deployed JoinNow with all the correct settings faster than I’ve seen with any product and we haven’t looked back since.”

-Wayne Goorden- Deakin University