

Tuusula Hospital – Personnel Safety System

“With the Ekahau RTLS we managed to avoid considerable additional costs and the installation of a separate location infrastructure for our nurse safety system”

Hellevi Norema
CFO, Tuusula hospital



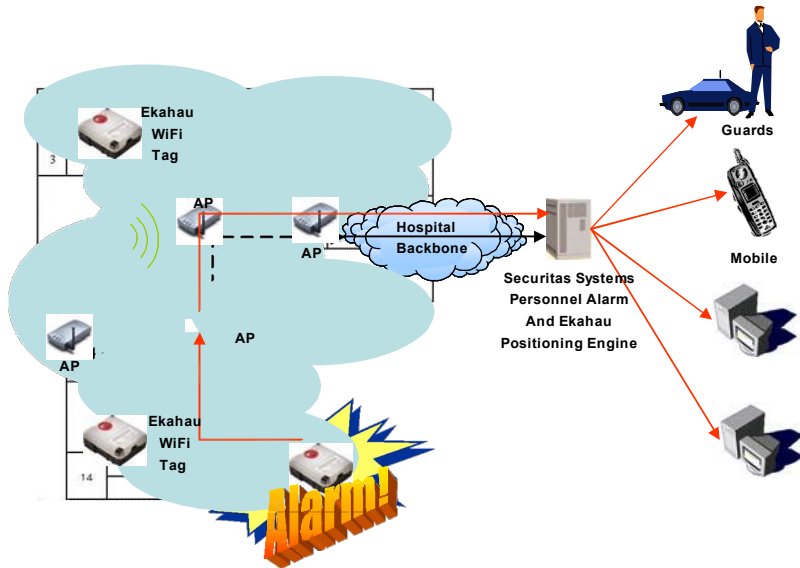
Challenge

Tuusula’s healthcare services are provided by the municipality’s own health centers. Their aim is to offer high-quality services within a reasonable waiting time, while enhancing the personnel’s well-being. An important factor improving the personnel’s well-being is safety, which came up as a result of a risk survey, and some dangerous situations that have occurred. In order to find an appropriate personnel safety system, Tuusula evaluated different location-based options. The main requirements for the system were cost-efficiency and reliability, and the possibility to manage the entire system from one desk. The several entrances to the hospital building presented additional challenges for monitoring the premises. An important factor was also the option to be able to expand the system to other uses later on.

Solution

Ekahau Real Time Location System (RTLS) fitted Tuusula hospital’s needs best. The system was implemented to the emergency unit and the in-patients’ ward, where it improves safety by locating the personnel with an accuracy of up to two meters. Ekahau Wi-Fi Tags are placed in several locations, which means that an employee can take a device from the charger at any time. This way, the person wearing the tag is able to push its alarm button to summon help. The alarm signal is transmitted to the security personnel’s monitors in the form of a pop-up message, and to their mobile phones via an SMS text message. Versatile alarm routing with real-time location information enables quick reaction to unexpected situations.





Solution Benefits

- Reliable and easy to use
- No additional infrastructure investments
- Possibility to expand the system to other uses
- Cost-effective

Description of the integrated system provided by Ekahau and Securitas Systems

Value

Ekahau RTLS improves personnel safety and makes the internal operations in Tuusula hospital more effective. The solution integrates seamlessly with the existing Wi-Fi network, which is primarily used for data. The network infrastructure makes it possible to connect other hospital premises in different locations to the location tracking system, which means savings in server, software and maintenance costs. "The safety of our staff and patients has always been the number one priority for us", says Hellevi Norema, CFO at Tuusula hospital. "With the Ekahau RTLS we managed to avoid considerable additional costs and the installation of a separate location infrastructure for our nurse safety system." In addition to personnel tracking, the system also enables the developing and adding of other applications, such as patient and equipment tracking, which will be taken into use in Tuusula hospital in the future.

Applications

The complete solution consists of the Ekahau T201 Tags, the Ekahau Positioning Engine (EPE) 3.1 software, the Ekahau Manager, which is a platform for creating positioning models of the area and for analyzing accuracy, the Ekahau Client and the Personal Alarm, an end-user application. The EPE 3.1 software uses the received signal strengths from the Wi-Fi access points to determine the position of the user without using network capacity. Location information is transferred from the tags via the EPE to the Personal Alarm application, which triggers an alarm.

Partners

The Real Time Location System was provided by Ekahau, the network extension was carried out by D-Link, and system building was completed by Securitas Systems Oy.



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