

ON THE MOVE

With the City of Aurora, Colorado

“How do I manage bandwidth? Actually, NetMotion Wireless’ Policy Management does it for me.”

*Deann Robertson, Public Safety Systems Coordinator
Aurora, Colorado Information Technology Department*

“When we were first looking at the new cellular platforms—GPRS and CDMA—they were charging by bandwidth for how much data was sent across each card.”

Robertson: It was important to manage the bandwidth by restricting access to the Internet. With AT&T and T-Mobile we have unlimited packages; with Sprint we’re charged for the data. We’d been using Mobility 4.0 for a little over a year when we upgraded to version 5.0 with the Policy Management module.

“Working with Policy Management isn’t difficult”

Robertson: The Policy Management module included sample policies that were really helpful. We just looked at the sample rules and modified them to meet our needs.

In our case, we created a policy to allow certain IP addresses when connected to a high speed network and we ruled out the general use of the Internet Explorer



browser. Using this policy, officers can go to specifically assigned Internet or intranet addresses, but only from Wi-Fi hotspots.

“The police run four different applications over wireless from the patrol car.”

Robertson: Another policy we created is to disconnect NetBios except when in a high-speed Wi-Fi network. I can push software upgrades and virus definitions out to the mobiles and Policy Management ensures that it will only go over Wi-Fi instead of cellular, because with cellular bandwidth it could take much longer to download these large files. We couldn’t run these applications effectively without using Policy Management.

Mobility’s Policy Management module provides centralized, flexible management tools that allow IT managers to manage bandwidth usage and costs by preventing mobile workers from using certain applications or downloading large files based on:

- ▶ The network to which a user is connected.
- ▶ The type or speed of a network interface.
- ▶ Detailed rules that block or allow data traffic based on application name, port or IP address.

MEET THE MOVERS

With nearly 300,000 residents and growing fast, the city of Aurora is the third-largest city in Colorado. Aurora is nationally recognized for excellent government, particularly in the areas of community policing and parks. And with rapid growth on the horizon, the city’s Information Technology team was looking for ways to enhance information provided to the mobile users.

Planning for burgeoning growth and the elimination of CDPD, Aurora IT experts worked to set up a new mobile data communications network that could be used by police and fire vehicles. They chose to provide Wi-Fi (802.11) access at the one place the entire mobile fleet would go—refueling stations.

Aurora’s IT staff knew that wireless could present unique communication challenges and wanted to find a way to provide mobile users with greater reliability and security.

Aurora’s many mobile users also include hazmat officers who need access to specialized, federal hazardous materials databases. In order to avoid network overloads, permissions have to be established to better monitor and manage mobile data traffic.

Mobility’s Policy Management module provides the ability to control access to sensitive information based on the user, mobile device, or even the network being used.