The Italian Army Foreign Language School Adopts AirWatch to Enable Mobile Learning

The Client

The Italian Army Foreign Language School (Scuola Lingue Estere dell'Esercito italiano, or SLEE) was founded in 1963 by the Italian Army General Staff and reports to the School of Application (Comando per la Formazione e Scuola di Applicazione). The school, with headquarters in Perugia and a detachment in Rome, employs more than 100 people consisting of military and civilian personnel, including several native speaker teachers from around the world. A center of excellence in military education, the school offers courses ranging from basic levels to professional and technical training, in remote learning and on-site mode, in compliance with NATO teaching standards.

The Challenge

In recent years, SLEE pursued innovations for its education processes. Through its recent "Classroom 3.0" program, the school provides teachers and students with iPads and digitises most of the school's training program.

To expand its program further, the school wanted a way to centrally manage all devices and structure a management hierarchy. The institute initially used Apple Configurator for its iPads, but there were several limitations, such as the need to physically connect all devices to a Mac. The school also wanted to distribute and manage a series of educational apps in various languages on the devices for both institute locations.

In the military school environment, it was therefore necessary to have a platform for centralised management and security that is versatile, quick to deploy and capable of supporting the various operating systems available on the market. Teachers and students, sometimes joining the courses for very short periods, needed to be given access to the learning devices quickly and easily, without compromising the security of the organisation's IT systems.

Solution Overview

- Client: Scuola Lingue Estere dell'Esercito italiano
- Industry: Education/Defense
- Geography: Italy
- Features: MDM, MAM
- Infrastructure Integrations: Apple Configurator, Apple TV, Apple VPP
- Devices: >200

The Solution

After careful research on the major EMM solutions available on the market, SLEE chose AirWatch® Enterprise Mobility Management. The AirWatch solution fully met the requirements of safety*, reliability and adaptability required by the institute, including the ability to fully support multiple platforms and operating systems.

SLEE uses AirWatch solutions to manage approximately 200 iOS devices, including iPad minis for students and iPad Airs for teachers, to allow administrators to centrally manage the entire mobile fleet. A key feature for SLEE is the easy administration of enrolled devices and assignment of restrictions based on different user profiles. Thanks to AirWatch, SLEE can now deliver interactive lessons using HDMI projection or via Airplay - Apple TV on LCD screens. AirWatch-managed student devices receive shared profiles and are configured with Apple Configurator.

SLEE also adopted AirWatch® Mobile Application Management to centrally manage free apps available on the Apple App Store and those available via the Apple Volume Purchase Program (VPP). The solution allows to manage numerous apps in multiple languages and locations, with a centralised application management system. With AirWatch, IT administrators are now fully capable of remotely handling equipment and deploying apps without interacting directly with the devices.

Up Next

SLEE is planning to extend its mobility solution to Windows PCs that are used in classrooms. The institute is also exploring AirWatch® Teacher Tools to further optimise digital teaching and learning.

Note: there is no connection with the existing military info structure