The Challenge

Constructech’s 2011 IT research shows that 81 percent of construction professionals prefer smartphones to complete mobile tasks in the field. Mobile devices allow streamlined and efficient administration of construction projects. For example, a crew member with ready access to a tablet can enter an order for more building materials instead of waiting to be back at the office. For an international construction company like Skanska, saving time and expediting projects via mobile technology is critical. Skanska also needed a way to push apps to employee devices. Lastly, Skanska required Wi-Fi and roaming management to help manage their global device fleet. With smartphones and tablets moving into the work place, Skanska chose AirWatch® for enterprise mobility management to effectively and securely manage corporate assets.

The Client

With the emergence and popularity of the latest smartphones and tablets, Jeff Roman, senior enterprise engineer at Skanska, found a real need to secure and manage the devices that were requesting access to corporate resources. “Our challenge involved implementing a solution that would be widely adopted by our users. This meant an easy way for them to enroll with a ‘set it and forget it’ mentality,” explains Roman. After evaluating a number of other Mobile Device Management (MDM) providers, Skanska chose AirWatch due to the ease-of-use, security, data restrictions, Active Directory integration and professional support. Skanska also recognized the quick and easy enrollment from AirWatch.

AirWatch helps Skanska overcome specific mobility challenges for a massive fleet of 2,000 devices on multiple mobile operating systems. The ActiveSync enrollment URL allows only Skanska corporate owned devices to access company email. Additional security comes from the AirWatch remote wipe feature if a device is lost or stolen. AirWatch allows for an enterprise wipe, deleting all corporate
information from the device, or a complete wipe that clears everything from the phone back to the factory setting. The Secure Email Gateway (SEG) and certificate integration of profiles also create an added layer of security that is critical for Skanska. “In addition to security, the ability to deliver company developed apps via AirWatch’s ‘company store’ is a huge success and something we could not live without. This feature is used every day and allows our administrators to get the appropriate apps in the hands of the users,” explains Roman.

The Solution
Skanska sees increased productivity and more efficient workflow from employees who can work remotely. The company also saves money on cell phone usage and roaming fees due to the secure Wi-Fi integration. “We can now provide a way for our enrolled users to log onto our corporate wireless infrastructure at our offices and jobsites,” states Roman. “The management console also allows us to see which employees are out of the country and roaming. We can then change the user data plan and allow international roaming to avoid costly phone bills.” Roman is also pleased with the AirWatch professional support. “The AirWatch representatives are great, and they legitimately care about helping us and keeping us informed about new features,” says Roman. After the successful launch of AirWatch in the US, Skanska plans on expanding the deployment worldwide as their standard MDM solution.

“The ability to deliver company developed apps via AirWatch’s ‘company store’ is a huge success and something we could not live without. This feature is used every day and allows our administrators to get the appropriate apps in the hands of the users.”

– Jeff Roman
Sr. Enterprise Engineer, Skanska