



Blackpool's Historic Grand Theatre Upgrades its Network with Alta Labs

The Grand Theatre in Blackpool, England, is a Grade II* listed heritage theatre that opened in 1894. Designed by Victorian and Edwardian theatre architect Frank Matcham, its four-tier auditorium seats 1,053 people. The Grand is recognised as the best surviving example of the approximately 20 remaining Matcham theatres, from the 150 or so he designed or refurbished.

Time for an Upgrade

The Grand Theatre's IT network was based around dumb switches and a failing on-site server. WiFi provision included six separate wireless network names (SSIDs) serving employees, guests, visiting companies and other users. The team has a cloud-first aim and wanted to decommission the server and upgrade to smart switches and a managed network while building on a successful initial deployment of Alta Labs access points.

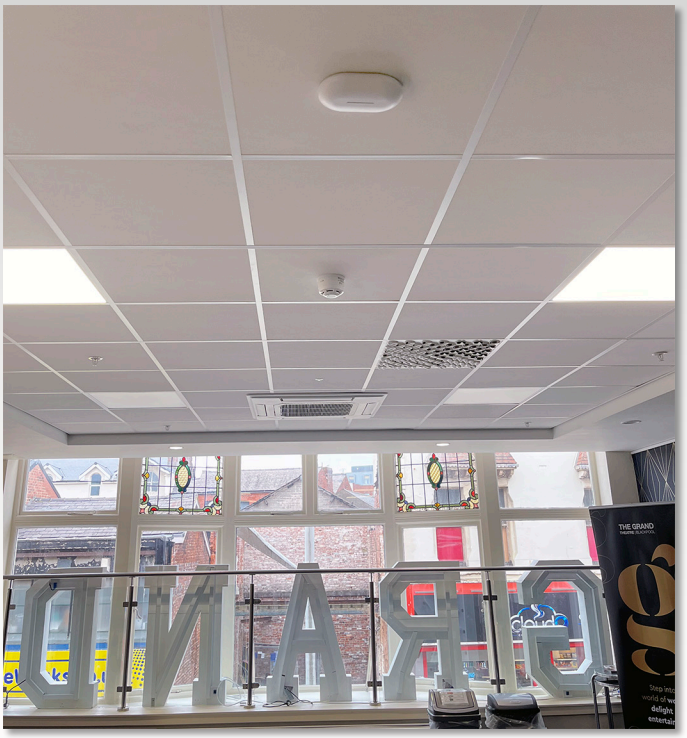


The Beautiful Stage at the Grand Theatre at Blackpool

Alta Labs Deemed Right for the Job

The performance of the initial access points gave the theatre team confidence to proceed with a full network upgrade powered by Alta Labs. Physical installation and configuration were straightforward, and the team reported excellent network performance. AltaPass™ was deployed to replace the six separate WiFi network names with a single SSID, using different passwords for employees, guests, visiting companies and other groups. The theatre team has been trained to use the Alta Labs portal to manage the network.





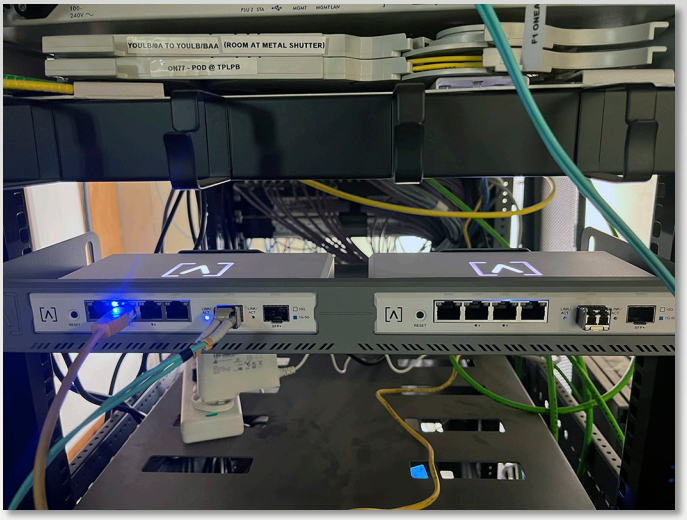
AP6-Pro Deployed In Venue Function Room

"Monitoring system usage and diagnosing and resolving any issues has been so simple using the portal. Earlier this year on holiday in the Canary Islands I was able to log on and identify an issue that the team on site were able to resolve."

- Colin Johnston, Deputy CEO, Blackpool Grand Theatre

Alta Labs Products Deployed in the Grand Theatre

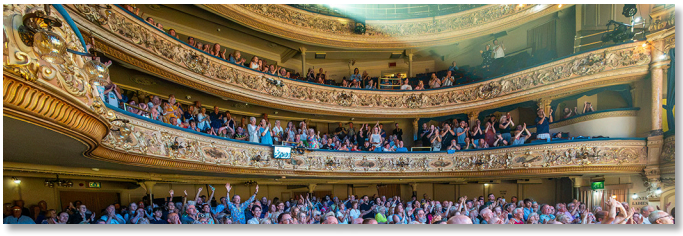
Product	Product Type	Qty
AP6-Pro	WiFi 6 Enterprise Access Points	20
S48-APOE	48-Port Enterprise Switch with Full PoE	6
S16-POE	16-Port Managed Enterprise Switch	1
S8-POE	8-Port Managed Enterprise Switch	1
Route10	10 Gbps High Performance Router	2



A Pair of Route10 Routers Mounted in RK-RSC Accessory

A Successful Deployment

- **Simplified WiFi Access:** Six separate network names were consolidated into one using Alta Labs' patented AltaPass technology. Unique passwords were created as needed for different user groups with different access privileges.
- **Straightforward Deployment:** Both the physical installation and network configuration were reported to be easy.
- **Managed Network:** The Grand Theatre is using the Alta Control cloud-based management portal to view every aspect of the network and connected devices. The data has been compelling, and identifying, and solving issues remotely has saved time and money.
- **Positive Performance:** The staff at the Grand Theatre have reported excellent performance following the upgrade.

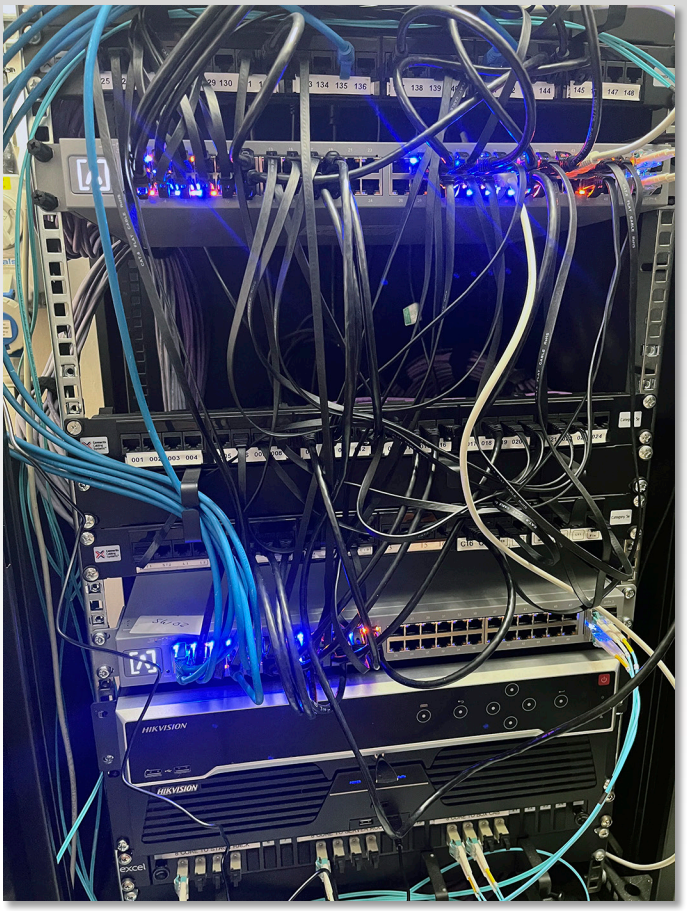


The Audience Enjoying a Show at the Grand Theatre



CASE STUDY

THE GRAND THEATRE BLACKPOOL



Two S48-APOE Switches in the Main Comms Rack



Access Point Deployed Just Outside Auditorium

Going Forward

The Grand has installed a second 1 Gbps bearer providing Fiber to the Premises (FTTP) connectivity. It intends to offer its 130,000 annual theatre-goers access to its WiFi network through Alta Labs access points in the auditorium and main public areas.

The theatre also plans to implement AltaBoost to enable carrier offloading, building on the completed network upgrade.

Special Thanks

Grand Theatre Photography by Sean Conboy:
www.seanconboy.com

For More Information

Visit the Grand Theatre website at:
www.blackpoolgrand.co.uk

Additional Alta Labs Case Studies:
www.alta.inc/case-studies

192 N. Old Highway 91 Unit 1
Hurricane, UT 84737
www.alta.inc

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