



Bild: Burchard Führer GmbH

Burchard Führer GmbH

Digitization with Responsibility – Secure Infrastructure for Modern Care

With Cisco Meraki, we have taken transparency and security to a new level.

Vincent Renken, Authorized Signatory at Burchard Führer GmbH

Burchard Führer GmbH, headquartered in Dessau-Roßlau, is one of the larger private operators of residential care facilities in Germany. With 3,500 employees, the company is represented nationwide at over more than 40 locations and carries a high level of responsibility for residents, relatives, and staff.

Ongoing digitization in the care sector posed new challenges for the group: increasing demands for data protection and IT security, a growing need for stable WLAN infrastructures in the facilities as well as reliable networking of all locations. At the same time, IT had to be centrally manageable, economically scalable, and future-proof to also cover innovative care applications.

As part of their strategic development, Burchard Führer Gruppe, together with Deutsche Telekom AG, decided to modernize its network and security architecture based on Cisco Meraki. The goal was to create a unified, cloud-based infrastructure that meets the highest security standards while reducing administrative effort.

Care Facilities Rely on Cisco Meraki

No sooner said than done: In a nationwide project, 44 residential care facilities were migrated to the cloud-based Cisco Meraki network solution. For a company that has been growing continuously since 1991 and now employs over 3,500 people, this step marks a strategic investment in the future: stable and secure communication between central and decentralized areas ensures efficient processes and increases the organization's digital sovereignty.

Ultimately, both care personnel and residents benefit from the reliable and future-proof infrastructure—a prime example of technological foresight in an industry undergoing change.

challenge: The strong growth of Burchard Führer GmbH led to a heterogeneous IT landscape and made central management difficult. The digital infrastructure was fragmented, hindering efficient collaboration and future digitization.

solution: By introducing the cloud-based Cisco Meraki network solution in 44 residential care facilities, a centralized, secure, and flexible IT infrastructure was created. The technical implementation was modular, enabling location-independent administration and automation.

customer benefit: The harmonization of systems increased efficiency, IT security, and digital sovereignty. Employees were relieved, processes optimized, and the quality of care as well as access to digital offerings for residents sustainably improved.



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Modern Care Needs Digitization

Digitization in the care sector is long past being just about efficiency—it's a central component of modern quality of care. For Burchard Führer Gruppe, this meant consistently developing its IT infrastructure and adapting to growing requirements.

With 44 locations nationwide, securely networking all buildings posed a particular challenge. Different building structures, evolved networks, and increasing regulatory demands in data protection and IT security made a fundamental modernization necessary.

Together with Deutsche Telekom, a holistic infrastructure concept was developed. The core of the solution is a cloud-based network architecture based on Cisco Meraki. In addition, a powerful MPLS network provided by Telekom ensures highly available and secure site networking. It connects the decentralized facilities securely with the data center and creates a stable basis for reliable, cross-site communication.

With Cisco Meraki, a platform was chosen that meets both the high security requirements and the flexibility needed for nationwide operation. The technology allows central management of all networks, with administration of all locations via an intuitive dashboard. Network components such as switches, access points, and security appliances can be configured, monitored, and updated across all sites.

Caregivers, administration, and IT all benefit equally: Communication between facilities and headquarters is stable and fast, data and applications are protected, and updates and maintenance are automated.

Managing Complexity – Creating Security

Special focus was placed on security. Care facilities process highly sensitive personal data. Accordingly, the requirements for data protection, access control, and network security are high. The implemented Meraki security solutions offer integrated firewalls, automatic security updates, content filters, as well as intrusion detection and prevention mechanisms. Security policies can be defined and rolled out centrally—a crucial advantage with many locations.

Standardizing infrastructure significantly accelerated rollout processes. New facilities can be connected efficiently, and existing locations can be modernized in a structured way. Central monitoring ensures full transparency over network status, load, and potential risks.

There are also tangible improvements for staff and residents. Stable WLAN, reliable digital documentation systems, and secure communication channels support daily care and provide the foundation for further digital applications.



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Powerful, Scalable IT Landscape

Collaboration with Deutsche Telekom proved to be a strategic success factor. In addition to technical expertise, Telekom brought extensive experience in managing complex multi-site infrastructures. Planning, implementation, and operations were closely aligned and tailored to the specific needs of the care company.

The result is a powerful, secure, and scalable IT landscape that sustainably supports the Burchard Führer Gruppe's digital transformation process. The new infrastructure not only creates operational efficiency but also strengthens the company's future viability in an increasingly digitalized healthcare market.

Strategic Partnership

“We were able to take our IT infrastructure to a new level—this relieves our employees and provides significantly more security,” emphasizes Vincent Renken. The solution combines simple administration with state-of-the-art security technology and makes the organization independent of local technical prerequisites. For residents, this means: stable digital offerings and a reliable environment in which modern care is possible.

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Name Burchard Führer Gruppe
Founded 1991
Headquarters Dessau
Industry Care and senior homes
Employees approx. 3,500
Website <https://www.fuehrergruppe.de/>



Contact:
Personal Customer Advisor
freecall 0800 33 5700
www.telekom.de/mittelstand

Editor:
Deutsche Telekom Geschäftskunden
GmbH
Landgrabenweg 149
53227 Bonn



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