Network Design and Evaluation for Bay Resort Hotels

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Unit: COMMUNICATIONS AND NETWORKING (COMP5071)

Executive Summary

This paper seeks to improve Bay Resort Hotels' network to enhance operations and guest experience. I created a secure Cisco Packet Tracer network that simulates connecting guest devices and front desk PCs. The paper describes how my network will handle check-ins, communicate with the corporate headquarters in London and their regional headquarters near Southampton, and provide strong Wi-Fi throughout the hotel.

I tried static and dynamic data routing and different VLAN configurations to test which suited speed and dependability better. I will also suggest features like premium Wi-Fi for faster connections and smart room keys.

Firewalls and WPA3 encryption ensure robust security. This design allows the hotel to quickly expand its network, saving money and providing excellent service to guests and staff.

Introduction

The goal is to design and evaluate a network infrastructure for Bay Resort Hotels. The system ensures strong connectivity, boosts operational efficiency, and meets guest and business needs.

The network design for a two-story hotel building measuring 200 meters by 100 meters focuses on public Wi-Fi coverage, wired and wireless check-in stations, safe guest and staff networks, and WAN connectivity to regional and head offices. Secure data protection, electronic room keys, and premium Wi-Fi are also important.

My network designs were simulated using Cisco Packet Tracer (CPT). These simulations test and analyze my logical and physical configurations, IP address allocation, VLAN implementation, and routing protocol performance to ensure the design meets Bay Resort Hotels' operational goals.

Business and Technical Requirements

Network Layout

The network must cover a 200m x 100m, two-floor building, ensuring complete connectivity for all areas of operation. The design should be scalable to support additional devices and future expansions.

Key Facilities

• Front Desk and Rapid Check-In Stations:

 Six manned check-in/out stations and four unmanned rapid check-in/out kiosks requiring reliable wired or wireless connections.

Public Areas:

o Seamless Wi-Fi coverage in the lobby, lounge, restaurant, café, and bar.

Boutique Pay Stations:

- At least two wired or wireless card/cash pay stations in the boutique.
- Support for customers to pick up and pay for online reservations.

• Guest Rooms:

Wi-Fi coverage in all rooms with optional paid upgrades for enhanced bandwidth.

• WAN Connectivity:

 Secure and stable connections to the regional HQ (30 miles away) and the company head office (in London) to facilitate centralized management and web services.

Security and Fault Management Needs

Security:

- Compliance with 802.11i standards for Wi-Fi security.
- Deployment of firewalls, virus scanners, access controls, port security, and WPA3 encryption.

Fault Management:

- Redundancy systems to prevent downtime and ensure reliability.
- Use of SNMP for centralized network management and real-time fault monitoring.
- o Inclusion of backup configurations and automatic failover mechanisms.

Justification of Identified Requirements

- **Scalability:** The design must handle future growth, including guest devices, IoT, and additional networked services.
- **Reliability and Availability:** Continuous operation is essential for guest satisfaction and business processes. Redundant systems will prevent disruptions.
- Cost-Efficiency: Using switches over excessive routers balances performance and cost while maintaining scalability.

- **Guest Experience:** Reliable Wi-Fi and optional premium upgrades cater to diverse guest needs, enhancing satisfaction.
- Security and Privacy: Robust security protocols protect guest data and the hotel's network infrastructure.
- WAN Connectivity: Centralized web services and seamless communication with HQ and regional offices ensure operational efficiency.

Network Design

Logical Design

IPv4 Scheme and VLAN Segmentation

The network architecture maximizes IP address allocation and VLAN segmentation for enhanced security and performance by means of a structured IPv4 addressing system with subnetting.

- VLAN Segmentation and Subnetting:
 - VLAN segmentation separates network traffic, guaranteeing security and performance.
 - Using CIDR and VLSM, each VLAN has its own subnet to maximize IP use.

Routing Protocol Considerations

The network uses OSPF (Open Shortest Path First) dynamic routing because it's better than static routing:

- **Scalability:** OSPF supports future growth by supporting new services and devices without major changes.
- Automatic Failover Systems: Ensures minimal downtime for operational services.
- Optimized Data Pathways: Dynamic routing reduces latency, improving user experience.
- Reduced Administrative Burden: Dynamic protocols eliminate manual upgrades.

Static routing is simple and resource-efficient but lacks adaptability and failover for dynamic environments like Bay Resort Hotels.

Physical Layout

Ground Floor

Five ground-floor rooms house network equipment with wire closets.

- The main wiring closet is the ground floor's network hub.
- Boutique: Network devices aid inventory control and POS.
- The front desk has wired PCs, kiosks, and other check-in/out devices.
- Rapid check-in is near the entrance with unmanned check-in/out tools.
- The manager's office has administrative tools and secure connections.

Access points are strategically placed to ensure flawless connectivity for computers, tablets, and smartphones in public and operational areas.

First Floor

The first-floor server room and single-wire closet serve purposes. This area houses critical network architecture like servers and switches. First-floor access points connect guest rooms and staff devices to the internet.

Southampton Regional Headquarters

Network design at regional headquarters near Southampton includes:

A router and PC for administrative tasks and connectivity.

London Headquarters

The London headquarters layout is similar:

 One router and one PC in the main wiring closet control centralized online services and connect regional sites.

Security and Fault Management

Managing Errors

These fault management techniques guarantee continuous service and fast resolution of problems:

Redundancy and Failover:

- Redundant systems reduce service disruptions during hardware or network breakdowns.
- Critical services have automatic failover.

Network Monitoring:

- Centralized monitoring of network performance and defect detection is accomplished via SNMP.
- Alerts instantly warn managers of possible problems.

• Backup Configuration:

 Frequent updates of backup configurations guarantee quick recovery from unexpected events.

• Fault Isolation:

- VLANs segment traffic to prevent local problems from affecting the entire system.
- OSPF dynamic routing reroutes traffic across link failures, improving fault tolerance.

Safety Protocols

• Wi-Fi Security:

- Following 802.11i Wi-Fi security guidelines.
- WPA3 encryption applied in public areas and guest room Wi-Fi.

Firewalls:

 Deployed at strategic points, firewalls filter harmful traffic and stop unauthorized access.

Access Control:

- Role-based access controls ensure devices only have necessary resource access.
- Port security prevents rogue device connections.

• Intrusion Prevention Systems:

IPS identifies and stops dubious actions or assaults.

• Encryption and Secure Transactions:

All sensitive information exchanges use encrypted communication methods.

Ideas for Network Improvements

The following ideas will future-proof the network and keep Bay Resort Hotels ahead in technology:

Integration of IoT Devices:

- Install smart thermostats, lighting, and voice-activated assistants in guest rooms.
- Centralized monitoring by IoT devices allows predictive maintenance for vital equipment.

Scalability:

- IPv6 migration ensures the network can handle more devices and connections.
- IPv6 includes IPsec for data transit security.

• Increased WAN Optimization:

MPLS provides reliable WAN connectivity.

Edge Computing for Low-Latency Applications:

 For real-time IoT analytics and video monitoring, edge computing handles data locally.

- Using SDN:
 - SDN simplifies network administration and optimizes resource allocation.

Evaluation of Design Decisions

- Future Growth and Scalability:
 - The proposed design is scalable with VLAN segmentation, OSPF, and a structured IPv4 system.
 - IPv6 migration strengthens future readiness.
- Performance Improvement:
 - Dynamic routing reduces latency and increases reliability.
- Economic Efficiency:
 - VLANs and switches are cheaper alternatives to expensive routing gear.
- Safety:
 - o Firewalls, VLAN separation, and WPA3 encryption secure the network.
- Guests' Experience:
 - The design emphasizes fast, reliable Wi-Fi and premium options for diverse needs.

Conclusion and Recommendations

A detailed network architecture for Bay Resort Hotels' operational and commercial needs is presented. Dynamic routing, structured VLAN segmentation, and strong security ensure reliability and scalability.

Simulations demonstrate how the network reduces downtime and improves visitor experience.

Recommendations

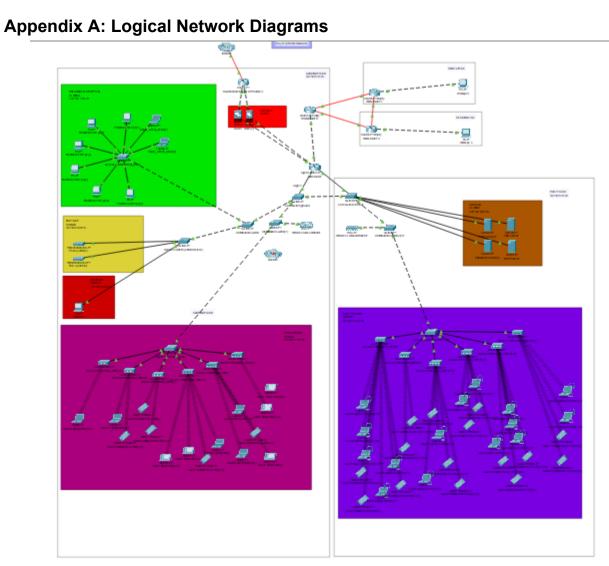
- Switch to IPv6 for future-proofing.
- Use IoT solutions to improve operations.
- Conduct frequent security audits.
- Train staff on the new network architecture.
- Investigate edge computing and SDN for future use.

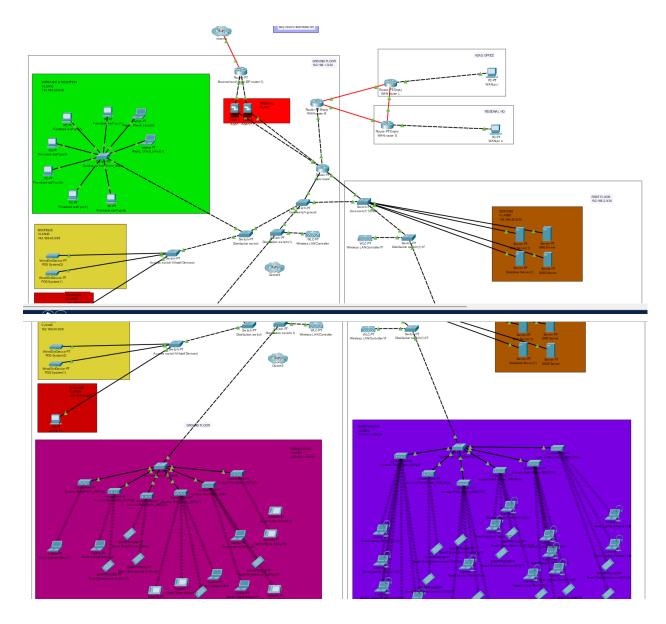
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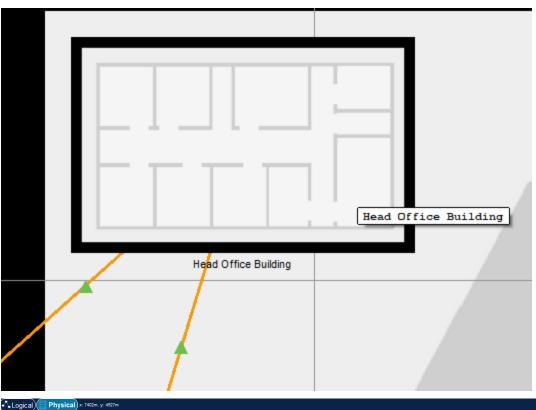
Appendices

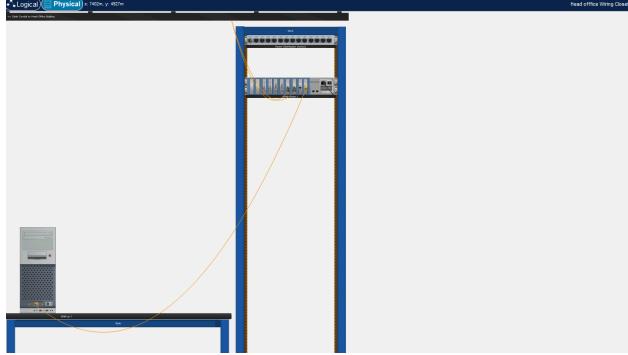


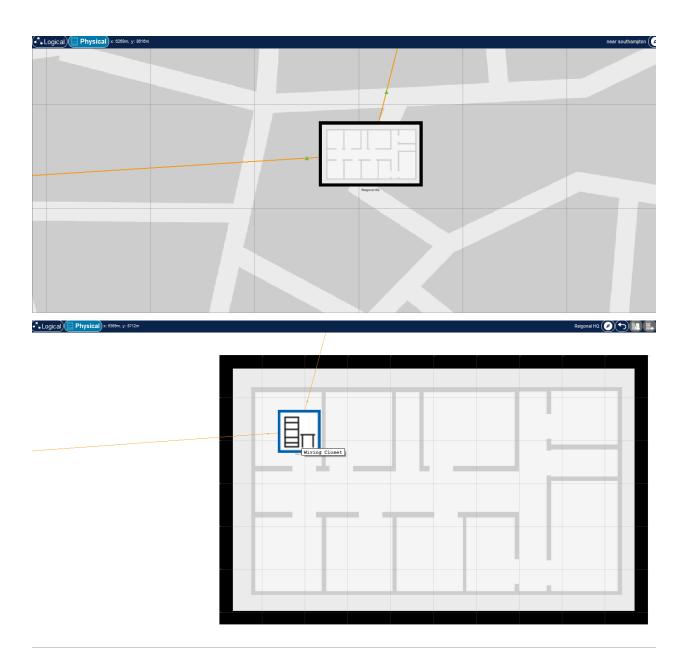


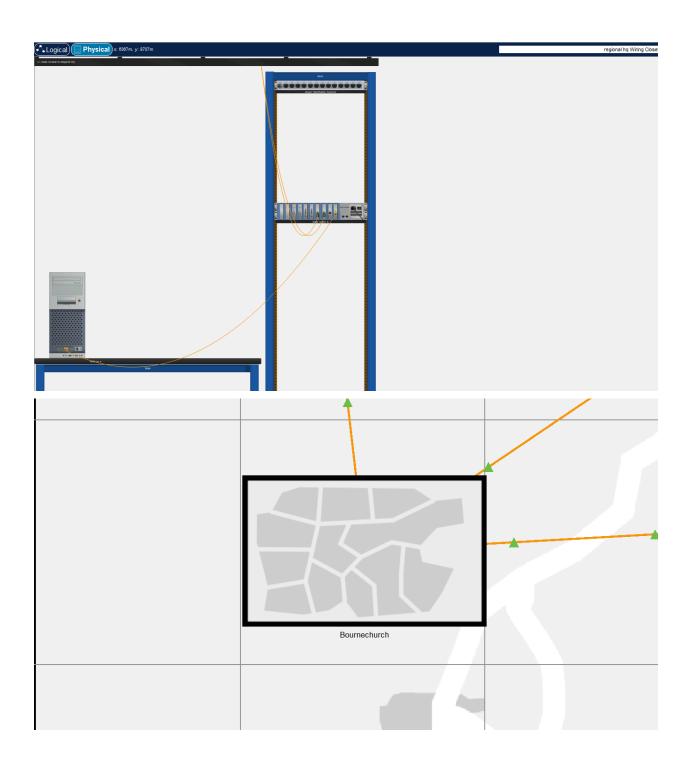
Appendix B: Physical Network Diagram



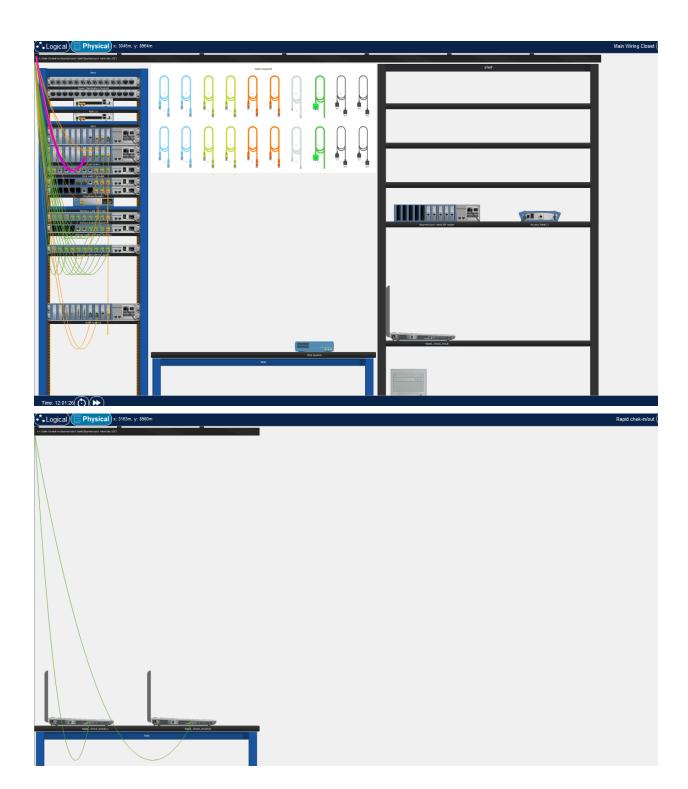


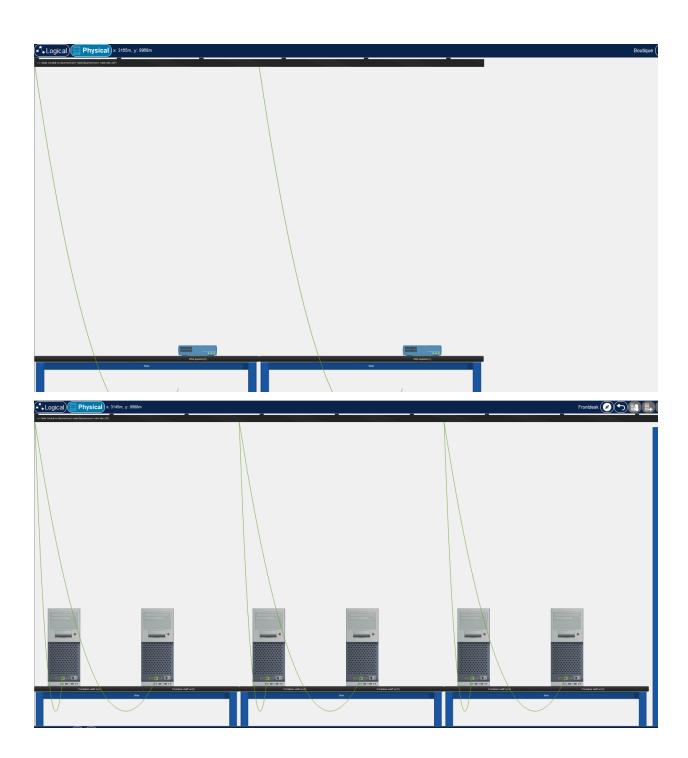






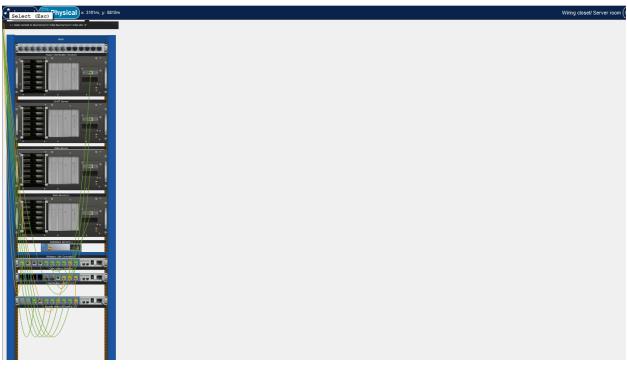




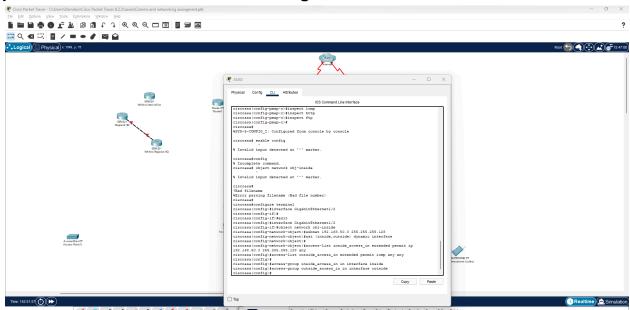


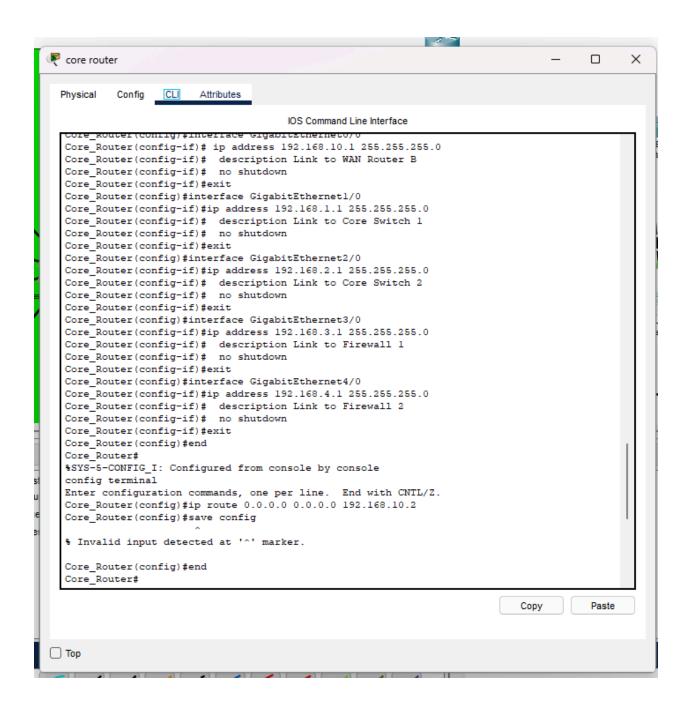


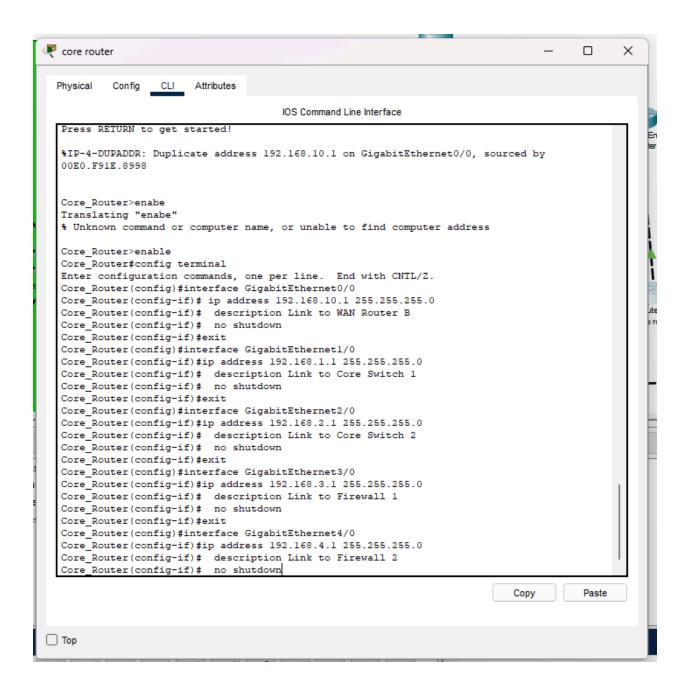


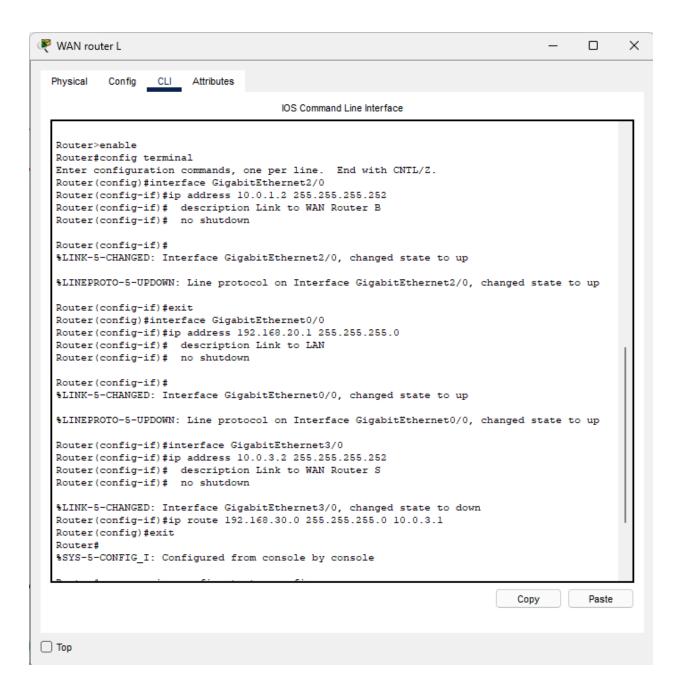


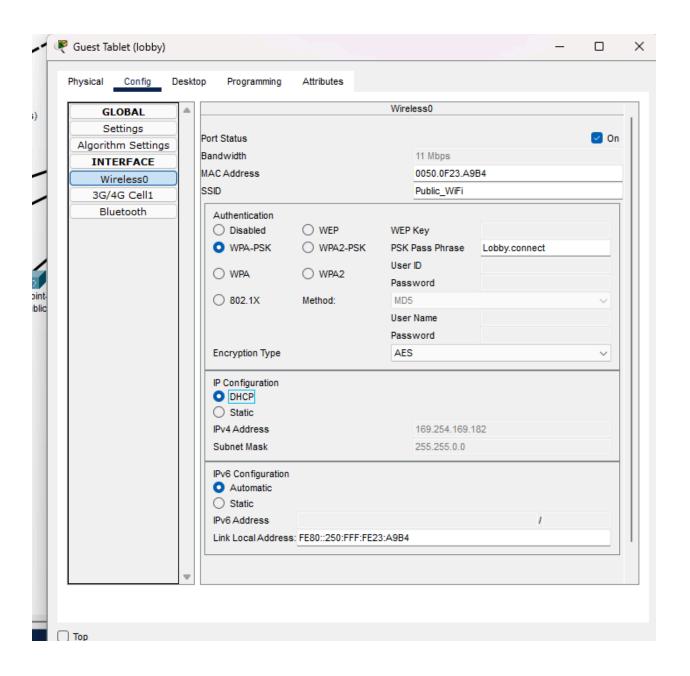
Appendix C: Cisco Packet Tracer Configurations

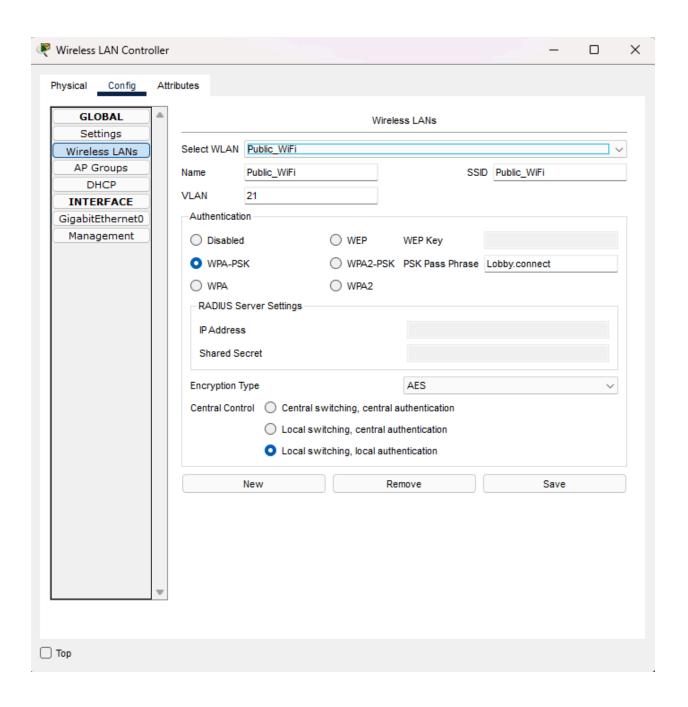


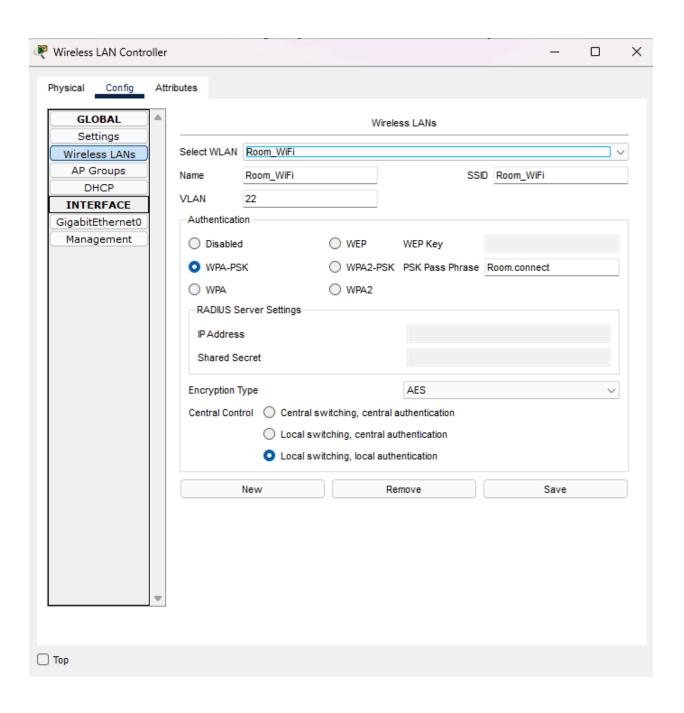


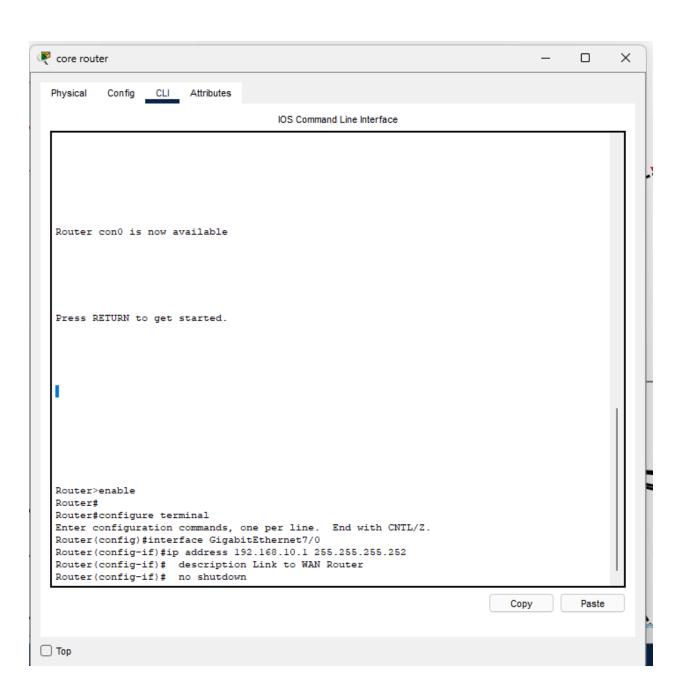


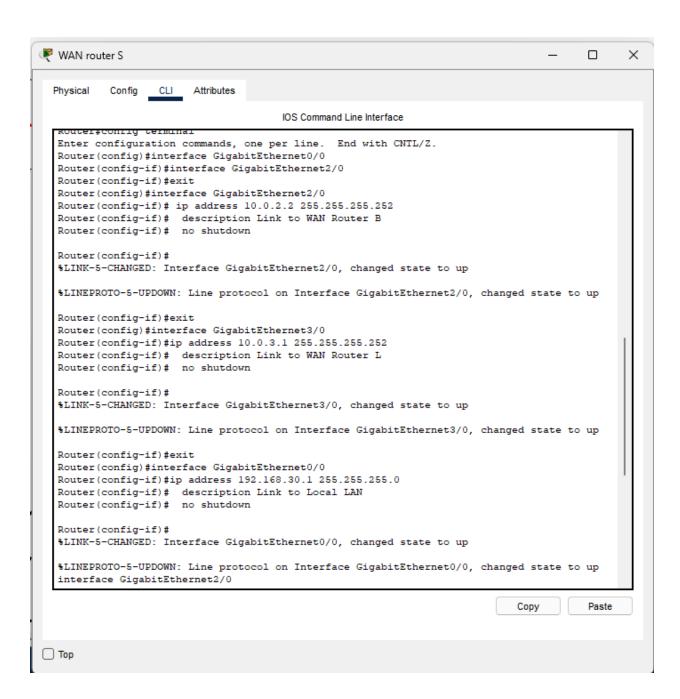


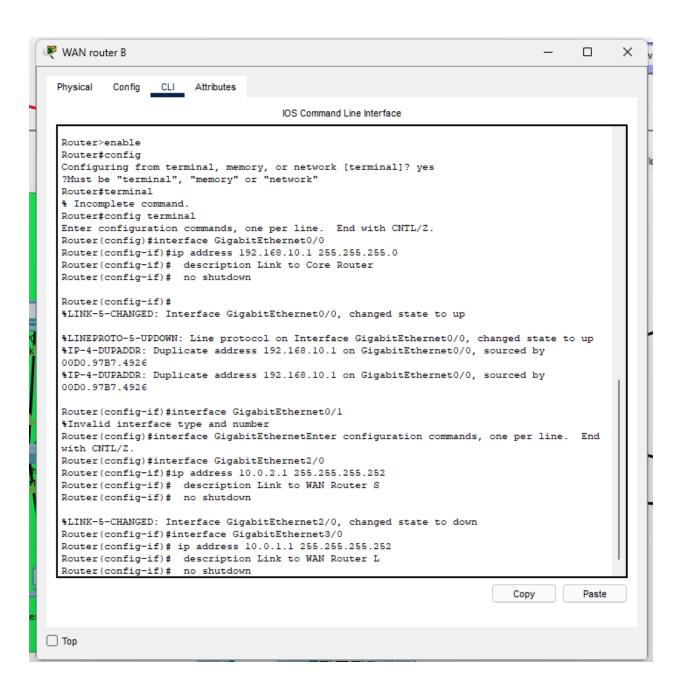


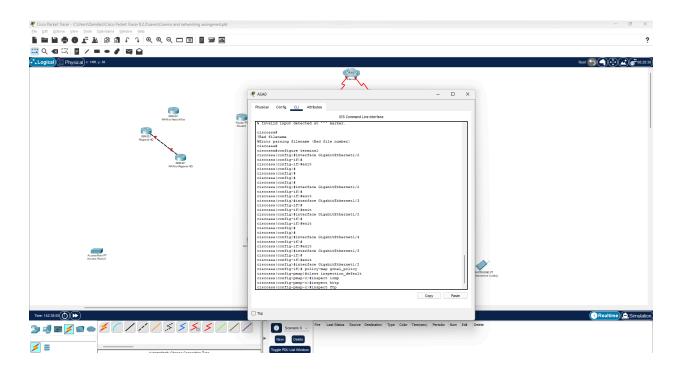


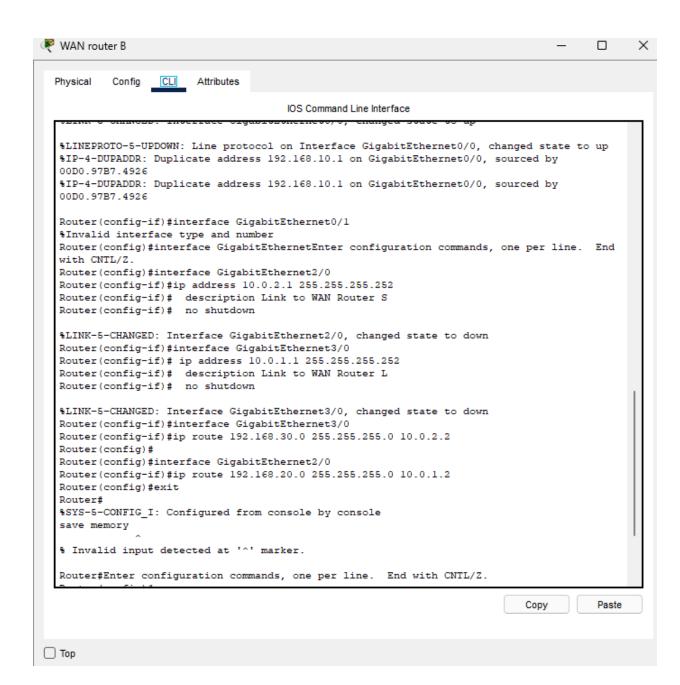


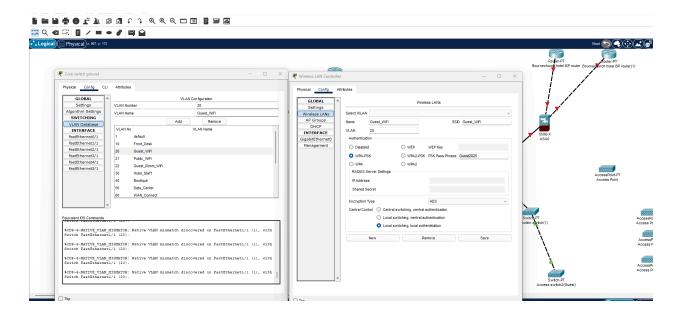












Appendix E: VLAN and Subnet Allocation Details

VLAN allocation Table

VLAN	VLAN Name	Subnet ID	Subnet Mask	Purpose	Devices Included	Key Security	WPA-PSK
ID						Measures	
				Customer			
			255.255.255.2	check-in/out			
10	Front Desk	192.168.2.64/29	48	operations	Wired PCs, Kiosks	ACLs, Firewall rules	FrontDesk123
			255.255.255.1		Lobby, Restaurant	VLAN Isolation,	
21	Public Areas Wi-Fi	192.168.1.128/25	28	Public Wi-Fi	APs	QoS Policies	Lobby.connect
						WPA3, VLAN ACLs,	
			255.255.255.1	Private Guest	Guest Room APs,	Enhanced QoS	
22	Guest Room Wi-Fi	192.168.1.192/26	92	Room Wi-Fi	Smart Devices	Policies	Room.connect
			255.255.255.1	Retail payment &	POS Systems,	Encrypted	
40	Retail Boutique	192.168.40.0/26	92	inventory	Inventory Devices	Transactions	Shop.connect
			255.255.255.1	Critical	DHCP, DNS, Web	Strict Access	
50	Data Center	192.168.50.0/25	28	infrastructure	Servers	Controls	
			255.255.255.2	Point-to-point	WAN Routers, VPN		
60	WAN Connectivity	192.168.70.0/30	52	WAN	Gateways	VPN Encryption	
			255.255.255.2	Network	Admin PCs,	RBAC, Restricted	
70	Network Management	192.168.80.0/27	24	monitoring	Monitoring Tools	Internet Access	Manager@2025
			255.255.255.2	Centralized	Firewall	Encrypted Traffic,	
80	Firewall	192.168.90.0/28	40	security	Appliances	VLAN ACLs	admin123

IPv4 Address Allocation Table

Subnet Name	Subnet ID	Subnet Mask	Usable IP Range	Broadcast	Purpose	Devices Included
				Address		
					Customer check-in/out	
Front Desk	192.168.2.64/29	255.255.258	192.168.2.65-70	192.168.2.71	operations	Wired PCs, Check-in Kiosks
Public Areas	192.168.1.128/25	255.255.255.128	192.168.1.129-254	192.168.1.255	Public area Wi-Fi	Lobby, Restaurant APs
Guest Rooms	192.168.1.192/26	255.255.255.192	192.168.1.193-254	192.168.1.255	Private Guest Room Wi-Fi	Guest Room APs, Smart Devices
Retail Boutique	192.168.40.0/26	255.255.255.192	192.168.40.1-62	192.168.40.63	Retail payment & inventory	POS Systems, Inventory Devices
Data Center	192.168.50.0/25	255.255.255.128	192.168.50.1-126	192.168.50.127	Critical infrastructure	DHCP, DNS, Web Servers
WAN						WAN Routers, VPN
Connectivity	192.168.70.0/30	255.255.255.252	192.168.70.1-2	192.168.70.3	Point-to-point WAN	Gateways
						Admin PCs, Monitoring
Network Mgmt	192.168.80.0/27	255.255.255.224	192.168.80.1-30	192.168.80.31	Network monitoring	Tools
					Centralized network	
Firewall	192.168.90.0/28	255.255.255.240	192.168.90.1-14	192.168.90.15	security	Firewall Appliances

Appendix C: Device lists

Please note that the devices listed below are represented by the ones seen in my design

Ground Floor devices

Category	Model	Active	Backup	Purpose
		Devices	Devices	
ISP Router	Cisco 5105	1	1	WAN routing and external connectivity for Head Office
Firewall	Cisco ASA 5506-X	2	1	Network Security (High)
WAN Router	Cisco Catalyst 9600	1	0	Core routing for WAN
Core Switch	Cisco Catalyst 9500	1	1	Core routing for Ground Floor
Distribution Switch	Cisco Catalyst 9300	2	1	VLAN segmentation for Ground Floor
Wireless LAN Controller	Cisco Catalyst 9800	1	0	Wireless AP management for Ground Floor
Access Switch	Cisco Catalyst 9300	2	1	Wired device connections
Access Point	Cisco Catalyst 9100	6	0	Wi-Fi connectivity for public areas
Admin PC	Dell OptiPlex 5090	1	0	Administrative management
Wired POS System	Verifone VX 520	2	0	Point of Sale for hotel boutique

Front Desk PC	HP EliteDesk 800	6	0	Front desk operations
Rapid Check-In PC	HP All-in-One 24	2	0	Self-service check-in/out

1st Floor devices

Category	Model	Active	Backup	Purpose
		Devices	Devices	
	Cisco Catalyst			
Core Switch	9500	1	1	Core routing for First Floor
	Cisco Catalyst			
Wireless LAN Controller	9800	1	0	Wireless AP management for First Floor
	Cisco Catalyst			
Distribution Switch	9300	1	1	VLAN segmentation for First Floor
	Cisco Catalyst			
Access Switch	9300	1	1	Wired device connections
	Cisco Aironet			
Access Point	1850	6	0	Wi-Fi connectivity for guest rooms and public areas
	Dell PowerEdge			
Server	R740	4	0	Application, web, and database hosting