A tier 1 operator was deploying a SpiderCloud small cells network in a warehouse for a leading American retailer. We joined them onsite with our mobile app, iBwave Mobile Planner, giving the operator an opportunity to see how they could significantly reduce the amount of manual work required on a site survey, and complete a full design on-site. They were very happy with the results.

-4 HRS organizing & renaming documents
0 visits required post-survey
-10 HRS overall design & planning phase
THE CHALLENGES WE SOLVED

Conducting a site survey can be a timely and manually intensive task. Often times the field technician carries paper floorplans, taking notes and pictures as they go. Afterwards, hours can be spent renaming the pictures and organizing the documentation to be used by an RF engineer during the design. Almost always, additional visits after the survey are required to physically validate the design. Documentation is often an issue as well, with various versions saved in various places, making coordination amongst team members frustrating and difficult.

Here are the challenges iBwave Mobile Planner solved

1. The manual work to process documentation after a survey is complete
2. Additional visits to the site after the survey to validate the design
3. Lack of coordination between team members

THE RESULTS

Less Manual Work

With the building floorplan already uploaded onto iBwave Mobile Planner the field technician didn’t need to carry the paper floorplans during the site survey. This also meant that they could capture notes, pictures, videos, and voice memos using the tablet - and pin them directly onto the floorplan. And since everything was geo-located, all pictures and notes were automatically saved with relevant names. All of this eliminated the need to reorganize the documentation after the survey and saved the field technician hours of manual work post-survey.

Design Completed On-Site

Previously, the design of a network required an RF engineer to do the work, using the documentation collected during a site survey. With iBwave Mobile Planner, a simple network design can be completed by a technician during the site survey.

In this case, as we walked around with the technician, we selected small cells from our vendor neutral database of 17,000+ components and placed them onto the floorplan in order to determine the best installation locations. But even more
exciting to the field technician was the ability to predict and visualize the signal strength and data throughput of each small cell we placed. This essentially enabled them to complete the design of their small cells network right there on the spot, as we went. This meant hours of design work typically spent by an RF engineer back at the office, being saved. It also meant they didn’t have to return to the site for a pre-construction validation walk because they validated as they surveyed.

**Better Coordination**

On any network design project, the documentation from a site survey is usually gathered by one person and then used and referenced by other project members. Often, the documentation isn’t stored and accessible in a single location and coordination frustrations quickly arise. Information goes missing, multiple versions of the design and documentation exist and time is lost trying to figure it all out. With iBwave Mobile Planner, all site survey documentation is centrally organized and can be quickly accessed by all project team members from the iBwave Cloud.

**THE FUTURE**

In the end, the operator estimated iBwave Mobile Planner saved them about 10 hours of planning and design work. And they were so confident in the design completed on-site they indicated they wouldn’t have to return.

The field technicians using iBwave Mobile Planner were very happy with the time it saved them and were excited to use it again.
About iBwave

iBwave, the global in-building standard, offers a comprehensive software suite and hands-on certification programs that help deliver optimum wireless network coverage and capacity inside various building environments. The company, which now serves over 700 leading operators, system integrators and equipment vendors worldwide, has developed award-winning technologies to tackle network planning and deployment challenges for both enterprises and public venues. Its portfolio includes mobile applications that enable customers to streamline pre and post installation processes, perform Wi-Fi and Small Cell designs directly on-site, and facilitate information sharing in the iBwave format. For more information, please visit www.ibwave.com