Laptops: No Dragon Wires with Wireless Technology

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Laptops: No Dragon Wires with Wireless Technology

MLA/CHLA 2000
Vancouver, B.C.

The Lamar Soutter Library
University of Massachusetts Medical School
Why Wireless?

- Wireless: Inexpensive, Easy to Install, Easy to Maintain.
- Exceeded the Number of Physical Network Ports Available
- Needed to Increase the Number of Network Connections in the Library
Implementation Time Line

January 1999

• Discussions with IS
• Identified Equipment Needs
• Identified Vendors
February 1999
- Wireless Quotes Received
- Wireless Vendor Selected
- Laptops Ordered

March 1999
- Network Specifications Received
- Wireless Equipment Ordered
April 1999

- Laptop Use Policy Written & Approved
- Discussions with Students Held
- Layout of Network Mapped
  - Additional Work Needed
    - Power & Cabling to Power Access Point
- Storage Cabinets Ordered & Received
May 1999
• Laptops Arrive and are Imaged
• Training Program Developed
  - Staff & Students
• Network Layout Finalized
• Accessories Purchased

June 1999
• Rollout
• Student Training
What We Have

• 5 Access Points with Antenna
  - 2 Installed
• 30 Network Cards
• 29 Laptops
  - 25 IBM 770X Think Pads
  - 4 Power Book Macs
• 29 Carry Cases
• 58 Power Cords
• 2 Storage Cabinets
Network: $18,000
Laptops: $112,000
Total Cost: $130,000
Selecting Hardware

• Cabletron Wireless Solutions
  - IS Department Made Recommendation
  - School uses 100% Cabletron Network Products
  - Functionality
  - Committed to being Standards Compliant
  - Competitive Pricing

• 2 MB Network Cards
  - New Product: 10 MB.
Setting Up Hardware

• Installation of Access Points
  - Network Connection
  - Network Card
  - Antenna
  - Electrical Connection
• Placement for Optimal Coverage
How it Works

The wireless network is integrated into the regular school network. The access point is a node on the physical network, all devices connect to it via 2Mbits wireless connections. Traffic is passed to the single 10Mb connection at the access point.
Policy Highlights

- Must be a Student of UMass - Medical School
- 3 Hour Circulation, 1 Renewal
- User Sign a Use Agreement Form
- User is Responsible for any Damage or Theft
- Laptops Can Not Leave the Library
- Fines
Training

• Circulation Staff
  - Circulation Policy & Procedures
  - Over View of Machines
    • Checkout and Storage.
Training

- **Reference Staff**
  - Circulation Policy
  - Overview of Machines
  - First Line of User Assistance.

- **Students**
  - Circulation Policy
  - Overview of Machines.
Rollout

• Presented the Project Policies at a Student Council Meeting
• Advertised via Posters and E-Mail
• Offered Training Classes
Statistics

- Gathered from the Use Agreement Form
- Stored in an Access Database
- Gauge success of Program
Circulations to Date: 281
Changes to Program

• Increased Circulation time from 2 hours to 3 hours
• Able to Circulate Mac Laptop on the Wireless Network
Unexpected Benefits

• Laptops are Fastest Machines in the Library
• High Student use During Exam Time
• Laptops are not “Locked Down”
• Expanded to a Faculty Loan Program
• Staff Usage
  - Training Sessions, Demos, Meetings
Future Plans

• Expand the Coverage Area
• Upgrade Software for Access Points and Drivers
• Upgrade to 10MB Cards
• Continue Promoting the Program
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PowerPoint Slides and Laptop Policy