Posters and Presentations

5-1-2000

Laptops: No Dragon Wires with Wireless Technology

Deborah Sibley
Thomas Jefferson University, deborah.sibley@jefferson.edu

Mary E. Piorun
University of Massachusetts Medical School, mary.piorun@umassmed.edu

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
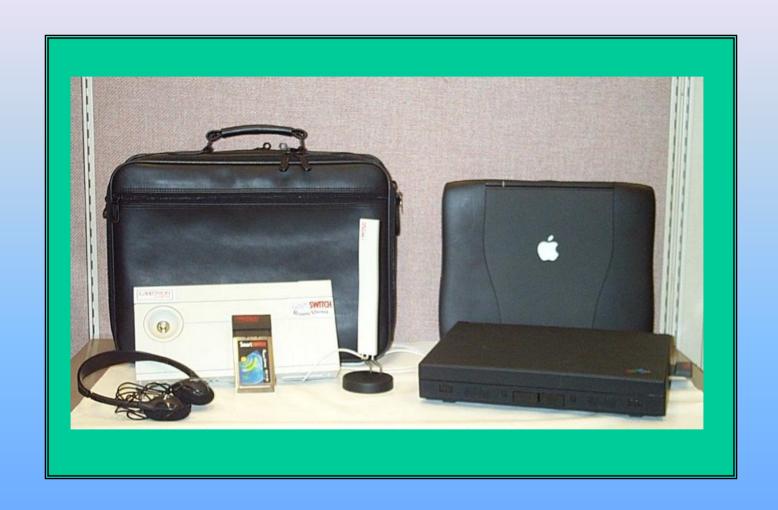- Storage Cabinets Ordered & Received

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**
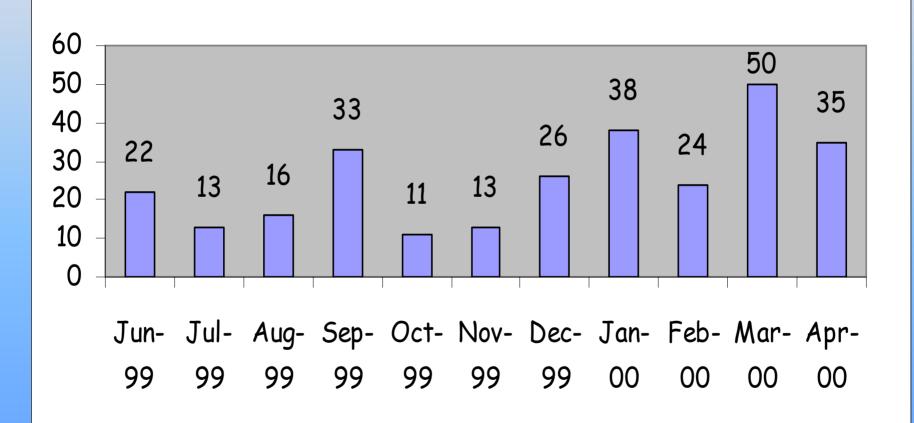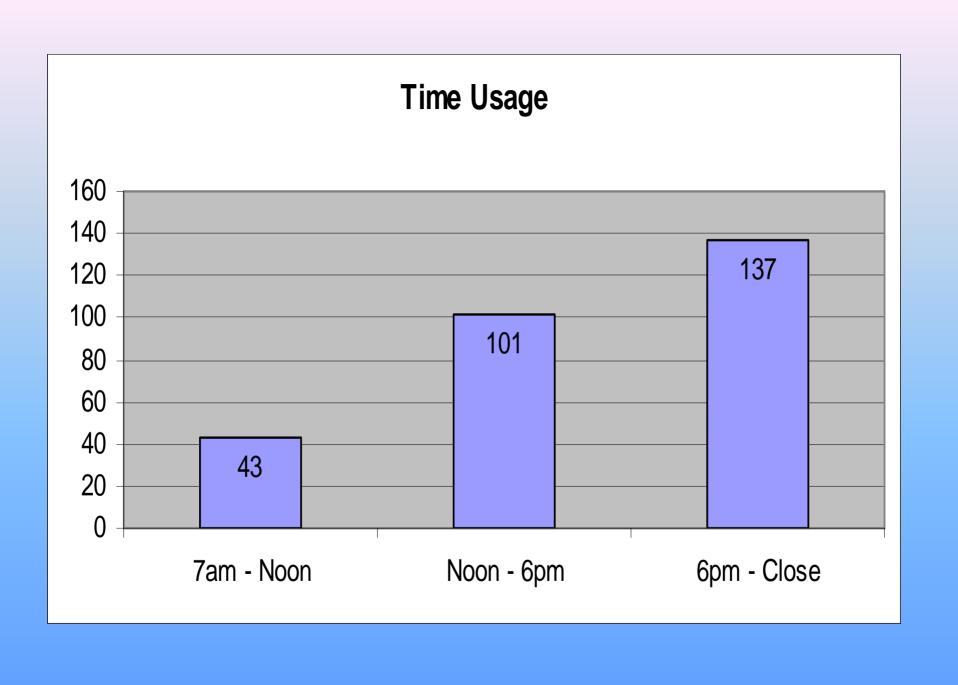 - Circulation Policy
  - Overview of Machines.

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

Additional Information

- mary.piorun@umassmed.edu
- maryann.slocomb@umassmed.edu
- deborah.sibley@umassmed.edu

http://library.umassmed.edu/~mpiorun/mla2000.html
PowerPoint Slides and Laptop Policy