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Laptops: No Dragon Wires with Wireless Technology

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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
Time Usage

- 7am - Noon: 43
- Noon - 6pm: 101
- 6pm - Close: 137

7am - Noon, Noon - 6pm, 6pm - Close
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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http://library.umassmed.edu/~mpiorun/mla2000.html
PowerPoint Slides and Laptop Policy