May 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*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/lib_postpres](http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/lib_postpres)

Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/lib_postpres)

Repository Citation  
[http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/lib_postpres/1](http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/lib_postpres/1)

This material is brought to you by eScholarship@UMMS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Posters and Presentations by an authorized administrator of eScholarship@UMMS. For more information, please contact [Lisa.Palmer@umassmed.edu](mailto:Lisa.Palmer@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
Time Usage

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