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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.

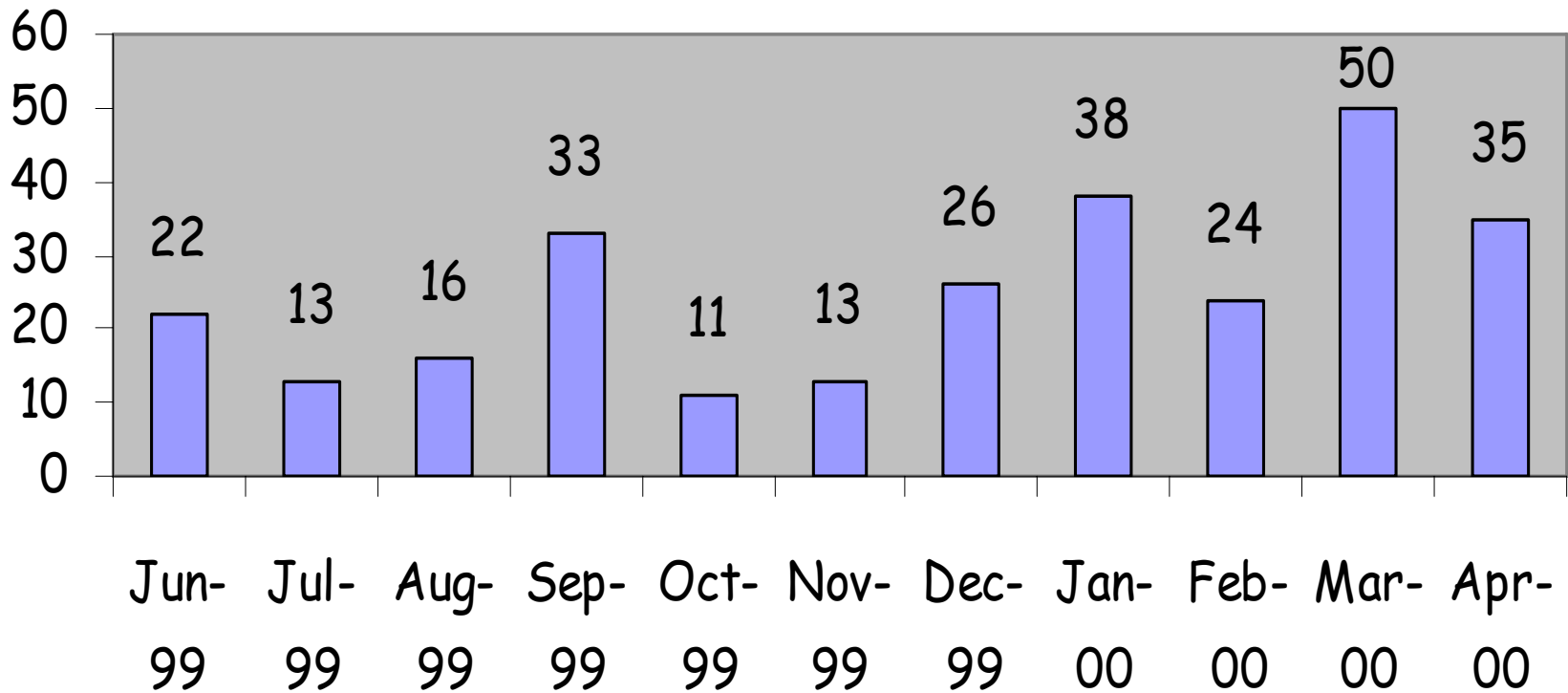
Rollout

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

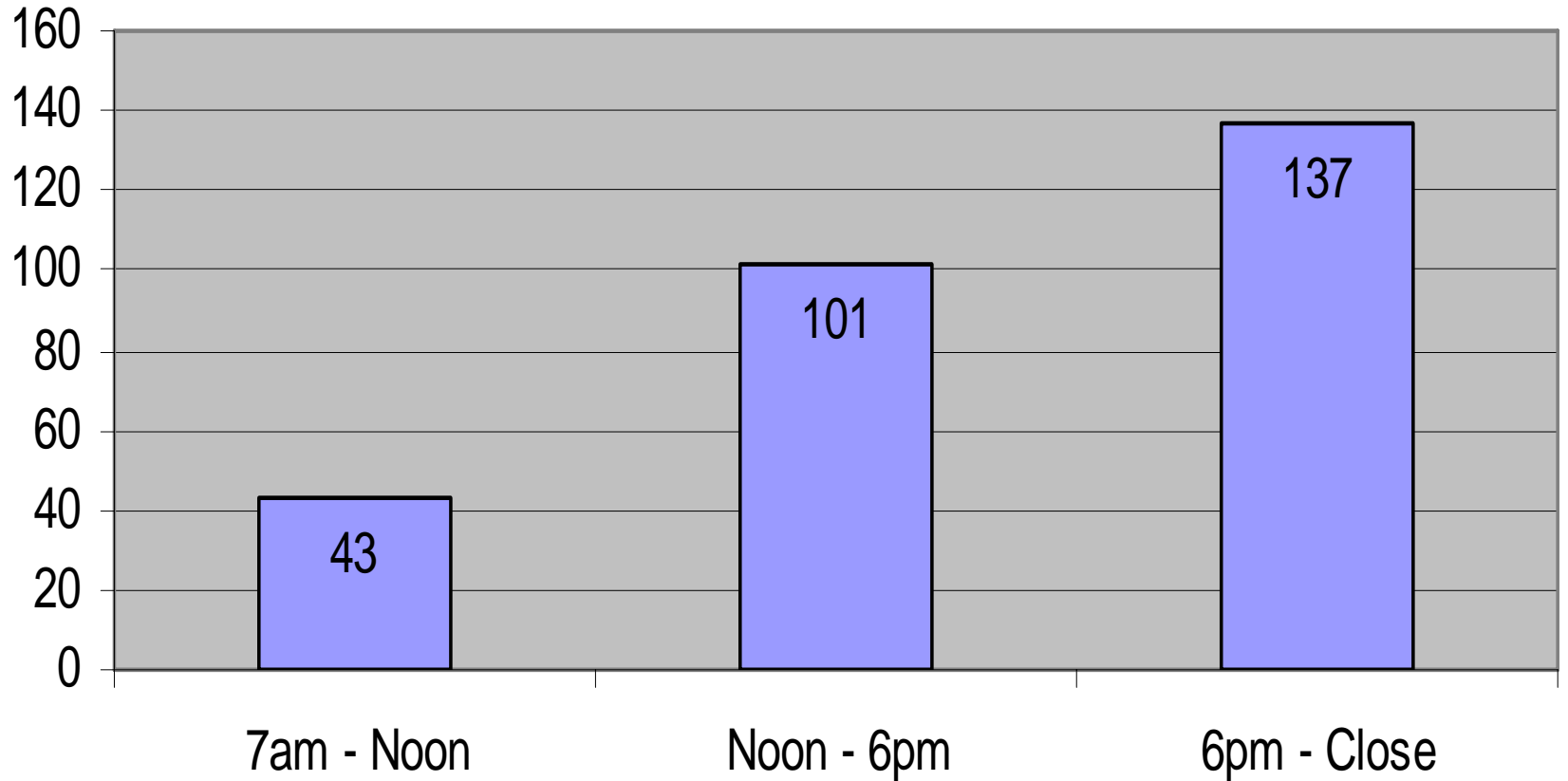
Statistics

- Gathered from the Use Agreement Form
- Stored in an Access Database
- Gauge success of Program

Circulations to Date : 281



Time Usage



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