

NETWORKING

Wireless expansion

Description: A Wireless Workgroup was established in January 2007 to provide ongoing guidance to IET in the prioritization of wireless deployments and to make recommendations to the Vice Provost-IET in two general areas: (1) physical deployment of wireless access points; and (2) centralized management components necessary to provide wireless access to all classrooms, public spaces, and administrative buildings by the end of FY 2007/08. The current task of the workgroup is to provide a recommendation on the prioritization of wireless deployments.

Action/recommendation: A recommendation from CCFIT is pending, awaiting a report from the CCFIT Wireless Workgroup. The report will be discussed at a CCFIT fall 2007 meeting.

Comments:

Library: All General Library buildings provide wireless access. Based on ASUCD comments regarding the need for more wireless coverage in the Shields Library, the General Library is working with IET to complete a wireless coverage survey of Shields library to improve wireless coverage and capacity in all areas of the building. The General Library will fund the addition of 70 new Aruba wireless access points which will allow for greater signal strength, improved overall coverage, and increased capacity for simultaneous users of the system. The upgrade of the wireless network is scheduled to be complete for the beginning of Fall Quarter. In addition to improving wireless coverage, in 2006-07 the General Library has funded and installed 90 additional electrical outlets in the Shields Library public areas to supply power to laptops utilizing the wireless network.

AdMAN: it is understood that many of the older campus buildings are constructed using materials that impact the ability to implement wireless access. Coverage across campus is a necessity.

Rob Kerner: This project can impact many on campus staff in doing their day to day business.

ASUCD: The Undergraduates believe that this wireless expansion should be on the fore-front of the IT expansion. An increasingly large amount of students have portable computers, wireless expansion will facilitate in increasing the learning atmosphere and decongest the computer labs. This combined with wireless expansion of printing is especially appealing. (Importance rating – 10)

GSA: Requests for more/better wireless access are some of the most common comments we receive from grad students. Even in the library, the access isn't 100% reliable. It is good to see this project underway, and be able to tell students that it's coming, even if it isn't here yet. Unfortunately, the demand for wireless will likely outstrip the supply for several years, given the pace of deployment. Thus, publicizing the plan to deployment will be key to keeping students happy with wireless expansion.

Graduate Studies: It seems that this project is receiving more attention than it deserves. Why focus on wireless access when many parts of the campus don't even have cell phone coverage?