


Blossburg FreeNet
A Blossburg V.I.B.E. Project
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Introduction

- What is Wi-Fi?
- Roles & Users
- Why Should Blossburg Network?
- Cost Estimates
- Map & Management
- Liability
- FAQ
- Request

What is Wi-Fi*?

- Wireless access to the Internet 
- Devices used:
 - Laptop or desktop PC
 - Cell phone
 - PDA (Blackberry, Palm)

* Term "Wi-Fi" is play on "Hi-Fi" – wireless fidelity

Our Network - Parts

- Meraki – equipment manufacturer
 - Specifically for community networks
 - MIT grad students and professors
- Node – unit connected to Internet
- Repeater – unit that rebroadcasts node signals

Our Network - Roles

- User – Uses the network for internet access
- Sponsor – Donates access to their high-speed internet
- Technician/administrator –
 - Installs nodes and repeaters
 - Uses software “dashboard”
 - Manages and oversees users and

Users

- Ages 18 – 40
- Professionals
- Students
- Tourists and visitors
- Collaborating groups

Why Network?

"...Wireless technology is breaking the link between location and connectivity...users expect to carry laptops with them on the road, at home and into meetings... to facilitate collaboration as well as to keep up with e-mail."

– computerworld.com

Why Network?

• "...property owners can also make their own properties (particularly rental locations) more attractive to potential tenants." – Wireless Hacking – SoCalFreeNet.org

- "Stickier" downtown
- Sponsor advertising

Why Network?

Benefits to businesses

- Additional incremental purchases
- Increase off-hour patronage
- Broadcast live events online

Why Network?

- Use existing sponsor resources
- More sponsors, nodes & repeaters = bigger, stronger network

Cost Estimates

- 3 outdoor Meraki units - \$100 each
- 2 indoor Meraki units - \$50 each
- Cabling & other equipment - \$200
- Total estimated cost for additional equipment: \$600
- V.I.B.E. purchased 2 outdoor units and 1 indoor unit.
- BIA donated \$600

Map of Nodes & Repeaters



- Blossburg Memorial Library
- Toddler University
- Angelina's
- Borough building?

Management

Technicians/administrators

- Volunteers: Josh Jones, Chris Reese, others
- Installation & maintenance
- Network monitoring & tweaking

Liability

- "Best effort"
- No "Service Level Agreement"
- Force agreement to "Terms of Service"
 - binding contract
 - rules and guidelines

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. If I am a sponsor, will my internal network be protected?

A. Yes.

FAQ (cont'd)

Q. What prevents users from using all of the bandwidth?

A. Software allows administrators to restrict usage.

FAQ (cont'd)

Q. What if a user is misusing the network?

A. Software allows "blacklisting" of specific computer.

FAQ (cont'd)

Q. Why be a sponsor?

A. "A rising tide lifts all boats"

- Contribute to the community
- Make network stronger
- Get more people into places of business
- Use resources more efficiently

Request for Borough Council

- Sponsorship (Node)
- Repeater on rooftop or 2nd floor
