

INFRASTRUCTURE PRACTICE

Infrastructure Practice

A small community college was in the construction phase for a new building. The college wanted to provide public wireless access for the student to access the Internet and e-mail. They also wanted to provide secured wireless access to the campus backbone for faculty and administrative personnel.

The Goal: A small community college decided it wanted to provide network access to its new building via 802.11b wireless. The college contacted ACR and we went in for the initial visit to review what the requirements were. In the meeting the college provided us with a few goals. The first goal was to make the new building a wireless “hot spot” for students to access the Internet and to get their e-mail. The second goal was to provide full 11Mbps coverage throughout the building with a minimum of “dead spots”. The third requirement was to provide access to the campus backbone for faculty and administrative personnel. Access to this network had to be secured so only users with the appropriate logins can access the network.

To achieve the first two goals the college purchased a site survey. We conducted the survey at both 802.11b and 802.11a. Working off the college provided AutoCad drawings imported into Visio we came up with a coverage map showing access point locations and made recommendations for wireless channels, power levels, and the type of antennas. The wireless installation would be designed around Cisco 1200 access points and Cushcraft antennas. A power patch panel was also recommended to power the Access points. The customer was provided a full report of the survey.

To achieve the third goal we proposed using a Blue Socket wireless gateway. This device is a security appliance that can do “roll based access”. Depending on who logs into the wireless gateway permissions are granted or denied to access network resources.

The Challenge:

- Provide wireless Internet/e-mail network access to a new college building.
- Provide full 11 Mbps coverage throughout the building with a minimum of “dead spots”
- Provide secured campus backbone access to faculty and administrative personnel.

The Solution:

- Provide Cisco 1200 access points.
- Provide the appropriate antennas position in the strategic locations.
- Provide a Blue Socket wireless gateway to secure the wireless network.

The Benefit:

The benefit to the college is we can meet all goals outlined and to provide a reliable and effective solution while staying within their budget.

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