

Carl Bulger presided.

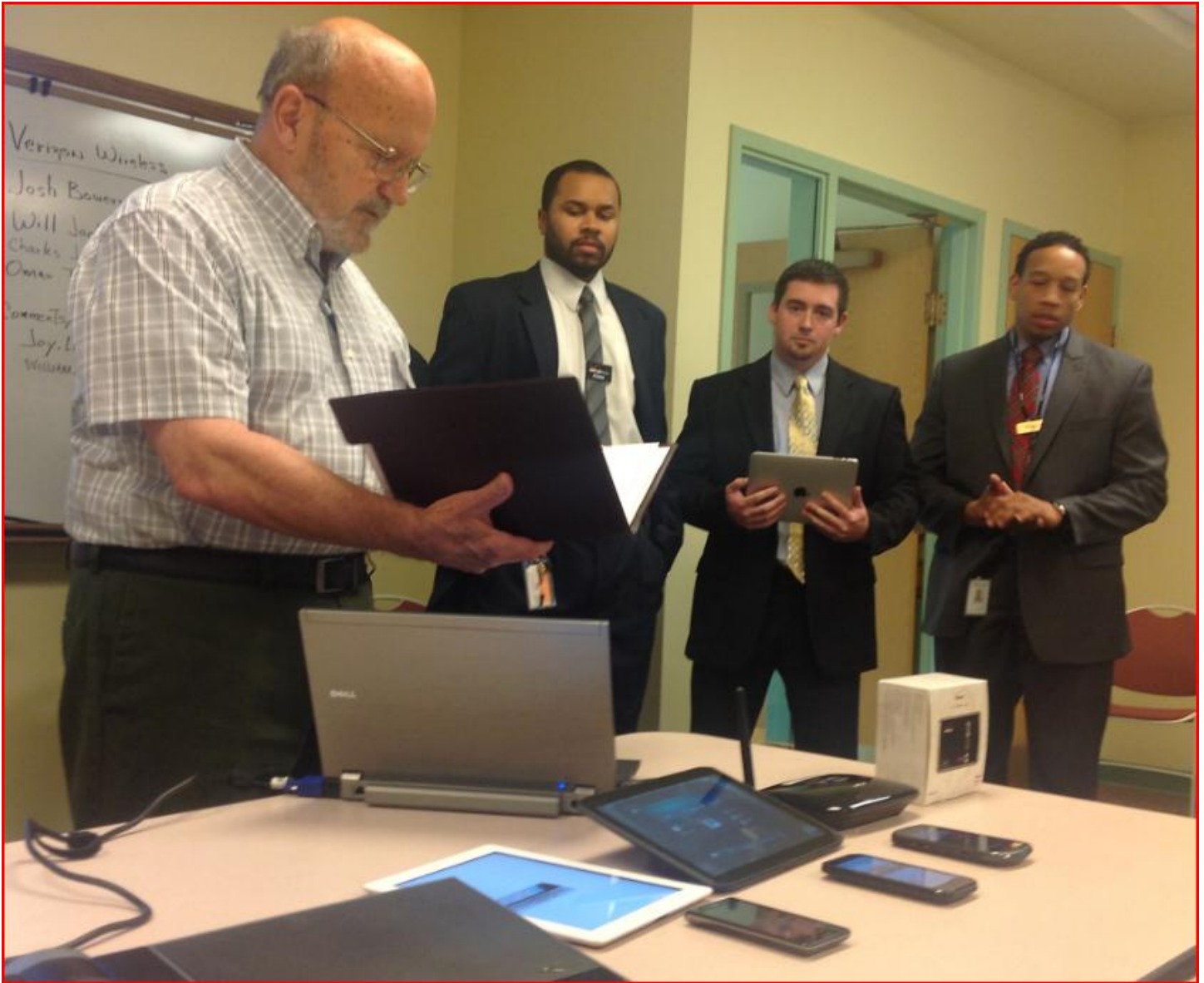


Photo taken by Dick Henthorn with Vic Kiviat's iPad Pictured (left to right): Carl Bulger, representatives of Verizon Wireless: Will Jackson, Josh Bowers, and Charles Jones

Josh Bowers, Data Sales Consultant for this area

Will Jackson, Asst. Store Manager of the Bowie Store at 16542 Emerald Way

Charles Jones and Omar Torres, Bowie Store salesmen.

Submitted by Barry Hammond



Photo by Dennis Edgington (left to right) Omar Torres, Will Jackson, Josh Bowers

One of the surprise facts revealed during this presentation was that Verizon Wireless, the biggest **mobile** phone corporations in the U.S., is 45% owned by Vodafone, the biggest wireless mobile phone corporation in Europe. Some have speculated that Verizon Wireless would prefer to leave Verizon and Verizon FiOS and merge with Vodafone.

Don't be confused about the wireless modem/routers supplied by Verizon FiOS and those supplied by Verizon Wireless. The wireless routers that Verizon FiOS installed in homes and businesses transmit the signal brought into the home or business via glass fiber a short distance wirelessly in the home or building from the box on the side of the house or building to telephones, televisions, and computers. Verizon Wireless' modem/routers receive their signals wirelessly from cell phone towers.

In the U.S., Verizon Wireless owns the largest, most reliable, 3G (third generation) mobile phone network using CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) radio communication technology. It also owns the fastest 4G LTE (fourth generation – Long Term Evolution) network. Verizon has been transitioning to transmitting only digital

data over the 4G LTE network and voice over the 3G network. Eventually, they may phase out the 3G network because it is less efficient than the 4G network. Their 4G network is in only major metropolitan areas now <http://network4g.verizonwireless.com/> On their coverage map, 3G network coverage is in red and the 4G sites are in green.

3G network:

Requires more towers

Base stations are the size of a refrigerator, contain a lot of copper, and run hot, requiring large air conditioners, and large backup generators.

300 million customers

4G network:

Requires less than half as many towers because transmission is better.

Base stations are the size of a microwave oven and require no cooling.

228 million customers

Since Verizon subsidizes smartphones they want you to sign a one or two year contract. The smartphone is also blocked from using any other carrier. Before you travel overseas, Verizon will unblock your phone for free so you can use it with foreign carriers. You must buy a SIM (Subscriber Identification Module) card from the foreign carrier which you insert in place of the Verizon SIM card.

Verizon also teams with Apple to provide Wi-Fi for their iPhones, iPads, and iPods. They also provide Wi-Fi for most brands of tablets, but not Kindles. Dennis Edgington recommends www.wirefly.com to check on prices and deals for smart phones from most telecoms.

JetPack is Verizon Wireless' mini-router that provides a mobile hot spot for up to five wireless devices. You can take it with you and plug it in to a hotel or host's internet connection. Josh Bowers warned us that cell phone calls from cruise ships can run up hefty charges from the cruise lines. This may also be true at some hotels and other hotspots.

For computers without WiFi, they sell small WiFi transmitter/receivers to plug into one of the computer's USB ports.

Submitted by Barry Hammond

Many telephone users are switching from landline phones to mobile phones. Verizon Wireless will arrange to transfer your landline telephone number to your mobile phone and supply you with a Wireless Home Phone Connector, which is a modem/router that can be plugged into your present home phone system. If you have a cordless phone system within the house, you can connect the base unit to the Home Phone Connector and have the choice of picking up one of your cordless phones or your cell phone to answer or make a call.

Verizon Wireless' Bowie office is located in the Bowie Town Center at 15642 Emerald Way (301) 809-5400. (I wonder whether they receive their telephone signal via FiOS or from a cell phone tower?) Since everyone's telephone, internet, and television wants and needs are different, Verizon Wireless would love to have you visit their store and discuss your wants and needs with them so they can suggest suitable subscriber plans, phones, other hardware and connections.

Our thanks to Joy.Liggon@Verizonwireless.com for scheduling this presentation. The Bowie Store Manager, who did not attend the presentation, is Nicholas Lambright.