Wireless Networks

Summary/Purpose: In an effort to provide highly reliable, secure, and reasonably performing wireless network service to all campus constituents, the University of Mississippi (UM) has established a wireless network approval process by which new implementations are proposed and then reviewed for technical merit and general suitability. This policy describes the process for gaining approval to set up and operate departmental wireless networks.

OBJECTIVES

- To assist departments desiring to implement wireless technologies with the planning process, e.g., to choose wireless networking equipment that is compatible with the established campus network, to properly size the wireless subnet for consistent coverage, and to plan for ongoing support.
- To deliver a uniform and high-level quality of service to all campus users, especially those who participate in wireless networking from more than one location on campus.
- To coordinate the support to end users of wireless technologies, especially between the IT Helpdesk, the IT Technical Services division and the organization implementing the wireless subnet.
- To ensure that all components of the campus wireless infrastructure comply with centrally-managed security protocols including user account management, i.e., to reduce the possibility of having sensitive data compromised through inherently insecure wireless networks.
- To ensure that additions to the campus wireless infrastructure employ hardware and software that is approved by the Office of Information Technology for proper function of the campus-wide network, to coordinate procurement, and to manage frequencies and coverage in a way that promotes effective shared use and reduces unwanted interference.
- To prioritize potential uses of wireless technologies, giving favor to those that best support overall institutional goals and objectives, e.g., to enhance learning.

PROCESS

The Office of Information Technology (IT) is charged with providing a stable and secure campus network to support the mission of the University and therefore has the authority and responsibility to specify technical requirements for devices connecting to it. This includes providing leadership in the management of shared network resources, such as setting security standards and disconnecting noncompliant wireless subnets when they have the potential for interfering with the proper operation of the campus-wide network.

Before embarking on the implementation of wireless technologies, departments must submit a completed proposal form (next) to the Chief Information Officer. A committee with representation from the Provost's Office and IT will review the proposal and approve or deny the request. Limited funding for wireless projects may be available for use in academic areas based on the priority assigned by the Provost's Office.

The University of Mississippi

WIRELESS NETWORK PROPOSAL FORM

This proposal is being submitted by:_____ (individual)

Requesting Department:_____

Today's Date: _____

Purpose and Anticipated Benefits:

What part of campus will be covered by this implementation, who will benefit and in what way, why is wireless a good choice?

Timeframe for Implementation:

Please provide a high-level project plan that includes the procurement phase, installation, and target go live date.

Technical Plan:

Please include number and placement of access points (with ratio of users to access points) and equipment standards. Where applicable, name the IT analyst(s) that you worked with to develop this plan.

Security Plan:

Please confirm that this deployment complies with all published security policies and describe how this implementation satisfies those policy requirements.

Local Support Contact:

How will end users receive local support if they encounter problems?