



HRLC Technology Committee Open House
July 26, 2007 at Parsippany-Troy Hills Public Library
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Why wireless?

- a *Why not? If places like Panera and Starbucks offer this for free, why can't we?*
 - F *Offering wireless access attracts positive attention. It shows that the library is embracing technology.*
- a *Wireless allows library users to work anywhere in the library (or even outside it).*
 - F *It frees up public computers for other users. You can even connect some of your public computers to this network, without using cabling.*
- a *If your community has Cablevision, you can get the cable connection free! You'll just need to purchase an inexpensive wireless router.*
- a *A small wireless network is simple to maintain. Most problems can be solved just by unplugging the wireless router for a minute.*

Concerned about wireless?

- a *Do you (or your board) have security concerns?*
 - F *Protect yourself by posting a sign warning users that your wireless network is not secure. Most people who use wireless devices in public places are aware that this is the case.*
 - F *Don't attach staff computers to the same network as your wireless network.*
- a *Are you worried about what your users might be doing?*
 - F *It's their own computer, so as long as they are not disturbing others, live and let live.*
 - F *Worried about CIPA? If the laptop is owned by the library, you may need to have protection (such as filtering) in place, but almost certainly not if the laptop is owned by a library user.*
- a *What kind of tech support will you need to provide?*
 - F *Most wireless laptop owners, just by the fact that they own laptops, are savvy enough to figure out how to make the connection on their own.*

- F *You can also post signs telling people that library staff can only confirm whether the wireless connection is working; but they can't set up or help troubleshoot laptops.*

Make it easy on yourself!

- a *The entire library doesn't have to be wireless! Start small.*
 - F *You can expand the wireless network (with repeaters) if the service is popular or users complain frequently of "dead zones."*
- a *Keep security and policies as simple as possible.*
 - F *Blocking access to people who don't have a library card or to people sitting in the parking lot is too much work!*
 - F *If you are lucky enough to have your wireless network become so popular that people can't log in (more than 25 simultaneous users, with a Cablevision connection), then you can explore this option.*

Promote It!

- a Send press releases to the local papers.
- a Post signs on your library doors and all around the library. (Need a sign template? Check the HRLC Technology Committee web page!)
- a Don't forget to post notices on your library's web site!
- a You will be surprised at how fast the service catches on and how much good will it will generate for the library!



For More Information:

HRLC libraries who offer wireless: www.hrlc.org/technology/wireless_access.htm
Feel free to contact anyone on the list to find out how they did it!

WebJunction: www.webjunction.org

A great site that has lots of good information about dealing with technology in libraries. Search for the keyword *wireless* to view their articles about wireless networking, on topics such as how to get started, security concerns, library wireless policies, & more!

Power To Learn: www.powertolearn.com – the Cablevision service that offers free cable Internet connectivities to qualifying schools and libraries. Contact Ellen Adler, eadler@cablevision.com, 201-651-4012 to find out if your library qualifies.