

CLPCCD Wireless Project Plan

Mission: Provide CLPCCD students and employees easy, anywhere, anytime access to information technology resources to ensure that all students continue to have an equal opportunity to pursue and achieve their educational goals.

WLAN Project Organization

To track the overall progress and to identify deliverables, this project is organized into four phases:

- a) Planning
- b) Architecture and Detailed Design
- c) Implementation
- d) Operations and Maintenance

Planning

As in any large scale network project, planning is a critical step. A technology plan includes the following:

- a) Understand the technology to ensure ITS and college computer staff are familiar with WLAN technology
- b) Understand and document user requirements through District-wide working groups, committees, focus groups, and surveys
- c) Establish and document policies and procedures
- d) Establish and document support model
- e) Research WLAN vendor and product portfolios
- f) Evaluate vendor product offerings
- g) Select vendors and products
- h) Figure out cost and funding models
- i) Identify support staff and user training
- j) Marketing and communications

Note that Planning and Architecture and Design phases are not mutually exclusive. It is important that while in the planning phase, rudimentary architecture and design are created based on current WLAN technologies, product offerings, user requirements, and policies. The next step creates a more defined and structured architecture; i.e., it's where the rubber meets the road.

Architecture and Design

The next step is architecture and design. Usually, the overall architecture is initially formulated. Based upon the architecture, a detailed design is then constructed. It is critical that the vendors and products selected integrate with the existing infrastructure and that the architecture meets user requirements and policies set forth during the planning stage. Things to consider are as follows:

- a) Determine WLAN architecture
- b) WLAN integration into existing infrastructure
- c) Security (authentication, authorization, accounting, single sign-on, etc.)
- d) Network capacity and provisioning
- e) Identify network management and monitoring tools
- f) Site surveys and areas of coverage
- g) Network device detailed configurations
- h) IP addressing
- i) Pilot selected sites and document lessons learned
- j) Re-assess and backtrack to planning phase, if necessary

Piloting selected sites is crucial to ensure WLAN vendor product portfolios meet architecture, design, security, and policy requirements.

Implementation

Based on the architecture and detailed design, the next step is implementation. In this phase, the following should be considered:

- a) Create prioritized schedule for implementation
- b) Determine additional infrastructure requirements (wiring, electrical)
- c) Purchase WLAN base stations, NIC cards, support servers and switches
- d) Solicit bids for vendor installation based on scope of work
- e) Train support staff and users
- f) Install and configure WLAN**
- g) Testing

Operations and Maintenance

At this point, WLAN has been deployed at CLPCCD. Things to consider are:

- a) Finalize support and maintenance model
- b) On-going user training and communications
- c) Ensure adequate spares