

networking

FIXED & WIRELESS NETWORKS FOR THE ENTERPRISE



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UK's 'largest wireless LAN' to be built in Cardiff

Cardiff University is deploying what is claimed to be the UK's largest LAN. When it's completed by the end of the year, the wireless network will cover 66 buildings across three square miles and will include over 1,300 access points.

Cardiff University is one of the UK's leading teaching and research universities. With 30,000 students and 5,500 staff, its academic community has been described as the size of a small town.

The University says that it has to help realise the goals of the Modern Working Environment project that is at the heart of its Information Services Strategy for the future. Its IT department now hopes to ensure maximum wireless coverage by expanding the existing wireless capability across the whole campus and outlying sites.

The £630,000 contract to build the network has been awarded to Abingdon-based company RM which specialises in

providing ICT to the UK education market. It is deploying Trapeze Networks' *SmartMobile* enterprise Wireless LAN product range and *RingMaster* management system. US wireless security specialist AirDefense (which has UK offices in Basingstoke) is working on protecting the network.

The need to plan for full capacity at times when the campus is densely populated and empty at others, as well as maintaining a high QoS by tailoring the network response to application requirements, means that RM has to deploy a centrally managed management platform that does not take up too much time for the University's IT staff. RM's brief is therefore to build a stable, reliable and secure wireless multi-campus-wide solution for staff and students alike. Ease of use and management are key factors as are seamless integration in the existing wired network and the ability to



With 30,000 students and 5,500 staff, Cardiff University's academic community has been described as "the size of a small town". Its new wireless LAN network will be built by RM

extend the coverage without major upgrade procedures.

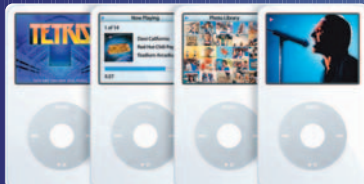
"We want to enhance the wireless networking service as much as possible, to improve the users' experience, and to ensure the service is as robust, resilient as possible with the least amount of effort for ongoing management," says IT manager, Anthony Cope.

To deliver "reliable" Wi-Fi services for large numbers of users, and to support 802.11a, 802.11b and 802.11g, RM has used 1,300 *MP-372 Mobility Point* access

points, together with 11 Trapeze *MX-400* and one *MX-8 Mobility Exchanges*. Trapeze's *RingMaster Planning* and *RingMaster* management tool suite are also being used.

RM's internet and network product marketing manager, Brian Andrews, says: "The complexity of the site means we have to develop and build a wireless network for buildings of diverse design and structure. It has to be world class, fully scalable and has to provide networking services to wireless devices of varying types".

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Research 'proves' link between late IT projects and lost profits

There is a clear link between slower delivery of IT projects and services and lower business profitability, a newly published report argues.

The study, 'Technology at the Speed of Business', was conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) on behalf of HP.

It claims that in nearly half of companies surveyed, 25 per cent or more of IT projects are delivered late. In 57 per cent, no more than one-in-two IT initiatives produces positive business outcomes.

According to the authors, such hold-ups mean late product launches, loss of anticipated revenues and delays to

planned cost savings: "It is cause for alarm then that so many of those surveyed deliver IT projects late," says EIU director of global technology research, Denis McCauley. "Companies that succeed in accelerating IT project and service delivery have a significant advantage, while those that do not may suffer at the hand of the competition."

The report also says that where 75 per cent or more of IT initiatives in the past three years have had a positive business outcome, improvement in the speed of service delivery is considerably higher than the average.

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