Internet on the Edge

Andrew Mundy

Engineering Laboratory Systems Administration (ELSA) Engineering Laboratory,

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

You are here



Your customer is over there



(no, not the deer)

Distance between here and there



Distance between here and there



Can this be done?

- Power
- Network
- Environment
- Schedule

 Network connection for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) robotics trials





<u>Them</u>

<u>Us</u>

- We need Internet access in Building 202.
- It has to be a Visitor Network connection.
- But we also need a wired Visitor Network for some hardware.

• Wired connection. How hard is that?

• Wireless Visitor Network.

 Workgroup Bridge to convert the wireless Visitor Network to a wired connection.

<u>Them</u>

- Can we get wireless across the street?
- How about down the street, across the pond, behind the trees?

<u>Us</u>

- Access point with an external directional antenna.
- We've never done that before.....

Plan A







Initial Testing

- Cisco 1240AG access point and external directional antenna
- Less than acceptable results (80 Kbps)
- Needed more power and increased directionality



© 2010 Google © 2010 Europa Technologies 39 07' 41.00" N, 77 12' 40.50" W

39°07'50.92" N 77°12'43.67" W elev 418 (t

East

Research Dr

South Dr

270





39°07'50.92" N 77°12'43.67" W elev 418 (t

Purchased

- (2) Cisco Aironet 1300 series outdoor access point/bridge devices
- (2) AIR-ANT 3338 parabolic dish antennas.





Configuration

- Rooftop
 - 1300 series in LWAPP Access Point role
 - WPA2-PSK with AES encryption
 - Connected to AIR-ANT 3338 dish antenna.
- DARPA trailer
 - 24 foot enclosed trailer with roof rack
 - 1300 series in autonomous Workgroup
 Bridge role
 - Connected to AIR-ANT 3338 dish antenna
 - Power

Configuration

- LR-2 power injector mounted indoors
- Converted Ethernet and power to dual coaxial RG-6 cables.
- Purchased additional 60 meters of RG-6 cable (maximum of 200 meters)



Safety First!

- Electrical grounding
- Roof access
- Tools



Ready to go



What now?



What now?

• Home improvement store shopping list:



What now?



• A little cutting here and reinforcing there...

 Don't forget to add sandbags













Keeping it Legal

- Power output regulated by FCC
- Effective Isotropic Radiated Power (EIRP)
- Not to exceed 30 dBm
- EIRP = AP power (dBm) + antenna gain (dBi) – cable loss (dB)

Lessons Learned

- You need a lot more sandbags than you think you do.
- Temporary solutions aren't always temporary.
- Be flexible ("Semper Gumby").

Questions