Collaboration in Motion: Enable Connected Learning and More Efficient Administration

How can you attract students who have grown up with wireless connectivity, interactivity, and video? One way is to provide the same untethered experience on campus that they enjoy at home.

Cisco Collaboration in Motion is an approach to enabling students, faculty, and administrators to connect with each other and information from any location:

- Faculty can make the curriculum come alive by administering instant polls and surveys that students answer on wireless laptops or Wi-Fi-enabled smartphones.
- Journalism students can send real-time blog updates from event venues.
- Campus safety personnel in motion can view video surveillance feeds from anywhere on campus.
- Faculty can extend a classroom session to remote students, who join a Cisco WebEx voice, video, and web session from a Wi-Fi-enabled laptop or smartphone.

“The goal of Cisco Collaboration in Motion is to provide the same experience and tools whether someone connects over the campus wired network, wireless network, or the cellular network,” says Chris Kozup, senior manager for mobility solutions, Cisco.

Devices: Look for Reliability and Manageability
Each year, the entering class brings a new collection of wireless laptops and PDAs, resulting in a high volume of support calls for IT help desks. To save time for IT departments that are already stretched thin, choose devices certified as Cisco Compatible, which are easy to support and take advantage of all the innovations in Cisco wireless networks. For example, a Cisco Compatible smartphone will support uninterrupted Wi-Fi connectivity while a facilities manager roams anywhere on campus.

Wireless Infrastructure: Extend the University Network to Faculty Homes
The wireless platform includes a controller and management software at the university and wireless access points in the workspace, whether that’s home, a conference in another state, or a remote office.

Controllers using the new 802.11n standard, such as the Cisco 5500 Series Wireless Controller, provide at least nine times the bandwidth previously available in most higher education networks. That means that wireless voice conversations and video are smoother, not sputtering or jerky.

You can extend the college network to any location with a network connection in minutes using Cisco OfficeExtend, which includes a wireless access point and optional IP phone. Just connect the wireless access point (already provisioned by the IT department) to your router and you can immediately begin accessing the same voice, video, and data services available in the administration offices. The wireless access point is actually part of the college network, so IT personnel can remotely perform configuration, troubleshooting, and upgrades.

Applications: Voice, Video, and Data
A high-quality wireless platform supports more than voice calls and database access. You can also wirelessly access innovative applications like video and location-based services, available from third parties or developed by university staff or students. Sample applications include:

- Finding the location of buddies carrying a Wi-Fi smartphone
- Finding the location or high-value scientific equipment affixed with an active RFID tag
- Finding an available washing machine
- Accessing real-time information about bus arrival time
- Monitoring the bus lane from a Wi-Fi-enabled smartphone
- Finding a lost or missing student laptop
Connected learning inspires new connections: between students, with faculty, within the campus, and with the wider community. Colleges or universities can thrive by embracing the Collaboration in Motion approach to create connected, on-demand learning environments.

To read more about Cisco Collaboration in Motion, visit: www.cisco.com/go/motion