Collaboration in Motion: Learn or Work from Anywhere

How can you engage students who have grown up with wireless connectivity, interactivity, and video? One way is to liberate them from their desks to provide the same untethered experience in the classroom that they enjoy at home.

Cisco Collaboration in Motion is a new approach that enables students, teachers, and administrators to connect with each other and information from any location:

• Students collaborating on a research project during class time can settle in any quiet corner of the classroom with their laptops.
• Teachers can make the curriculum come alive by administering instant polls and surveys that students answer on wireless laptops or Wi-Fi-enabled smartphones.
• An aspiring sports broadcaster can send real-time blog updates from the football field.
• School safety officers can view video surveillance feeds from anywhere on campus, while in motion.
• Teachers 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 collaboration is to provide the same experience and tools whether someone connects over the school’s wired network, a wireless network, or the cellular network,” says Chris Kozup, senior manager for mobility solutions, Cisco.

Devices: Look for Reliability and Manageability
Schools can choose from a variety of wireless devices, including laptops for students and Wi-Fi-enabled smartphones or PDAs for teachers and staff. To save time for IT departments that are already stretched thin, choose devices certified as Cisco Compatible, which are easy to troubleshoot 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 School Network to Teachers’ Homes
The wireless platform includes a controller and management software at the school and wireless access points in the workspace, whether that’s home, a conference center, a portable classroom, or the graduation site.

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 school networks. That means that wireless voice conversations and video are smoother, not sputtering or jerky.

You can extend the school 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 school office. The wireless access point is actually part of the district 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. Examples include:

• Finding the location of a person carrying a Wi-Fi-enabled smartphone
• Locating a missing projector affixed with an active RFID tag
• Monitoring the bus lane from a Wi-Fi-enabled PDA
• Finding a lost or missing student laptop
Twenty-first century schools face new challenges and extraordinary opportunities. Cisco Collaboration in Motion is an innovative way to engage students who grew up in a connected world, impart the skills they’ll need to succeed in the 21st century workforce, and empower administrators and staff to work productively from anywhere.

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