What is a Wireless Survey?

A wireless survey is an investigative service carried out by the University Computing Service to optimise the performance of an institution’s wireless network deployment. It provides assessment of existing wireless signal propagation and helps identify areas for signal coverage improvement, or possible signal interference issues. Additionally, a survey is important to assess new areas with no existing coverage before access point installation, to ensure maximum signal propagation.

A survey will help identify weak areas in a current deployment and enable efficient expansion into areas with no current wireless provision. It allows the institution to determine where new access point infrastructure should best be sited, removing the hassle of ‘trial and error’ positioning. Additionally, a survey analysis can help with tracing faults in a current deployment.

Methods of surveying

There are two methods of surveying a given area and the choice will largely depend on what network infrastructure is currently in place. Firstly, an investigation can be carried out using the existing access point deployment. This is suitable for repositioning existing access points or extending coverage into areas with weak or no signal. Secondly, a survey can be carried out using a mobile access point. This is appropriate for surveying new sites or areas with no current wireless coverage. This can cover part or all of a site as needed.

After a meeting to discuss your requirements and review the building layout, we carry out a walkthrough survey with our measuring equipment. A medium-sized building will take approximately three to four days, or longer if no APs are in place. Following this, we interpret the results and collate detailed reports which we forward to you. We are also happy to discuss the results in person. We can also advise on the range of different APs available, in order to determine the best AP to use in a given area.

Access points can then be installed or moved as needed, and further survey work carried out if required.

http://www.ucs.cam.ac.uk/wireless
Charging

There is no fee for the initial consultation.

Survey time is charged at £50 per hour or £300 per day, to include the time for producing site coverage maps and reports. On average a site survey takes one hour per 200 square metres, with considerable variation depending on the site; open-plan areas are typically much quicker than individual offices or attic spaces.

For a post-survey spot check there is no charge for less than an hour; beyond that there is a minimum charge of 3 hours.

Further Information

Email: network-support@ucs.cam.ac.uk
Web: www.ucs.cam.ac.uk/wireless

Managed services for institutions

Calendar – Google calendar with Raven authentication and calendars of University dates
Desktop – central filestore, managed print, application delivery, personal and group web pages
Directory – web- and email-based online directory with delegated management of content
Email – spam and virus filtering, managed mail domains, institutional mailing lists
Hosting – networked rackspace in a secure environment with redundant power, cooling, fire suppression
Consultancy and support – reviews and strategic advice, recruitment, induction and appraisal of staff, institution support service
Network – end-to-end network connectivity: IPv4, IPv6 or raw fibre, installation services, wireless, DNS
Search – institutional control of quicklinks and filtered searches, for web and directory searching
Telephony – VoIP telephony with institutional call-logging and billing access
Training Facilities – training booking system for any course provider, bookable facilities, customised training courses
Video – recording, encoding, storing and streaming institutional video content
Videoconferencing – fully equipped central facility, equipment hire, consultancy on institutional facilities
Web – hosted web servers, Wikis and content management system

General contact for managed services: UCS Institution Liaison office
Phone: 34720/48477
Email: institution-liaison@ucs.cam.ac.uk
Web: http://www.ucsf.cam.ac.uk/linkpages/managed