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Choosing the Right Managed WiFi Solution for Your Business

Everyone is going wireless

Today, it seems that everywhere you go it is possible to access a WiFi service with your smartphone, digital tablet, or laptop. And interest in providing wireless access within offices and other facilities is growing fast among organizations of all types and sizes.

This interest reflects business needs and trends, such as:

• Enhancing productivity with mobile devices that can access the business network from anywhere; these devices may be company-owned or an employee's personal device that is permitted under a "bring your own device" (BYOD) program

• Providing a WiFi hotspot for Internet access by guest workers, customers, and visitors

• Reducing network installation and support burden on facility and IT staff

• Minimizing network cabling in a new or remodeled facility

To serve these needs, businesses are evaluating wireless LAN (WLAN). Yet deploying new services—and getting the greatest business value from them—means more than just installing a few access points. It requires enterprise-class equipment, carrier-grade circuits for connecting to the corporate network and Internet, expert planning and support, as well as ongoing management for network performance, security, and compliance.

For many businesses, it is not practical to do all of this in-house. Instead, businesses are looking to outsource their wireless LAN deployment to a services provider, one that eliminates the operational headaches while delivering a reliable WiFi service at a reasonable price.

WHAT SHOULD A MANAGED WIFI SERVICE OFFER?

A Managed WiFi (Wireless LAN) service can be an ideal solution for these deployment scenarios:

• Allowing users to access the corporate network and the Internet with a mobile device as a tool for performing work-related tasks

• Combining a public WiFi hotspot service with a private wireless LAN from a single services provider, especially over an MPLS network so mission-critical applications can receive priority over Internet traffic generated by hotspot users

• Implementing a new, or upgrading an existing, wireless network

• Guest employees/users

• Public WiFi hotspot to attract patrons and promote customer loyalty

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INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC BENEFITS

Although managed wireless services are useful in any business setting, they bring particular benefits to the certain industries.

HEALTHCARE: Provide secure access to medical images, electronic medical records, and remote medical systems from a mobile device within a clinic, care center, or other healthcare facililty.

RETAIL AND RESTAURANTS: Enable private wireless access from any wireless device—including handheld point-of-sale terminals—to all of your LAN and WAN resources; get a competitive edge by providing a public WiFi hotspot service to your customers.

EDUCATION: Enable student access to mobile learning resources, teacher and staff access to administrative systems and communications tools, and a wireless LAN alternative to wired network access.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE: Provide robust security, guest access, and control over users, devices and applications.

BUSINESS BENEFIT: SECURITY

Look for security features that protect network management data streams. Consider Managed WiFi service providers that implement industry-best security practices.

Fusion Connect Managed WiFi out-of-band control plane separates network management data from user data. Data such as configuration, statistics, and monitoring is transmitted over a secure Internet connection between wireless access points and the Fusion Connect cloud, thereby preventing unauthorized alteration. User data such as web browsing and internal applications, on the other hand, does not flow through the cloud, but rather travels directly to its destination on the LAN or across the WAN.

Fusion Connect's rich security feature set helps customers build and maintain a secure network, maintain a vulnerability management program, implement strong access control measures, and monitor network security. To further safeguard your Wireless LAN, Fusion Connect will implement security best practices for visibility, control, and optimal protection.

WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR IN A PROVIDER?

Evaluate the offerings and capabilities of potential Managed WiFi service providers.

Selection Criteria	Fusion Connect	WiFi Provider #1	WiFi Provider #2
Private WAN Services	✓		
Prioritize WLAN Traffic over Hotspot Traffic1	✓		
Separate VLANs to Segregate POS and other Private Traffic from Hotspot Traffic	✓		
Fully-redundant backup access service for existing T1, DSL or cable connections2	✓		
Multiple Wireless Providers for Complete Nationwide Coverage [1]Requires purchase of both WLAN and hotspot service from Fusion Connect [2]Requires purchase of MegaPath site-to-site MPLS VPN service	✓		
Public WiFi Hotspot Service	✓		
Options for SSI Broadcast or Privacy	✓		
Branded Welcome Page and Optional URL Redirect	✓		
Ability to Restrict Bandwidth Usage	✓		
Optional Content Filtering	✓		
Multiple Authentication Options	✓		
(open access, user name/password, security code)	✓		
Comprehensive Security Features	✓		
WPA Key Access	✓		
Optional RADIUS Login Credentials	✓		
Firewall, Intrusion Prevention, Application Control, Content Filtering	✓		
Professional Services	✓		
Wireless Coverage Planning	✓		
Project Management	✓		
Installation for Equipment, Cabling, and Circuits	✓		
Centralized Management and Support	✓		
Wireless Usage and Service Reports	✓		

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FUSION CONNECT ADVANTAGES

Fusion Connect offers managed services for a wireless LAN in your facilities (including WiFi hotspots).

The Fusion Connect Managed Wireless LAN service enables private access to all of your LAN and WAN resources from any wireless device.

Managed WiFi hotspots give you a competitive edge with public Internet access for your customers. With the Fusion Connect service, you can create separate virtual LANs for the hotspots in order to segregate and prioritize your uplinked point-of-sale and other private traffic over user activity.

Your WiFi service can include a user welcome page that displays your company brand and standard terms and conditions, with an option for a URL redirect upon user acceptance.

Additional features include support for family-friendly content filtering and QoS to provide bandwidth for mission-critical traffic.

Fusion Connect is a leading cloud communications company that empowers businesses to easily and securely communicate between their headquarters, employees and business partners. The company offers a comprehensive portfolio of voice, unified communications, hosted IT, Internet connectivity, and secure data networking services that increase productivity and customer satisfaction, while lowering costs.

THE FUSION CONNECT ADVANTAGE

ENABLING THE CONNECTED ENTERPRISE
Optimize your business communications, costs, and continued collaboration from any place or device, with crystal-clear quality. Securely connect your business locations and remote workers.

LEADING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY
Fusion Connect's optimized platforms leverage leading technologies, meaning seamless integration of solutions across your virtual and fixed technology platforms.

DEDICATED SUPPORT TEAM
Our 100% U.S.-based expert tech support is available 24/7 to keep your business online and available regardless of the situation.

Visit **www.fusionconnect.com** to learn more.

Or, contact a Fusion Connect Business Consultant today at **888-301-1721**.

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