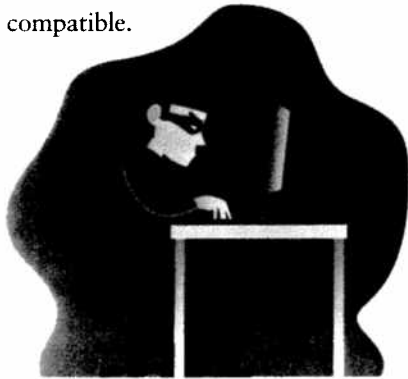


Wireless is More

By Daniel Brannigan

PROBLEM: We are a connected society. Everyone has a cell phone, BlackBerry or iPhone attached at the hip. Computers and Internet access are never too far behind. People want to check their e-mail as it comes in, get live updates of their favorite professional sports team or shop sales online how, when and wherever they may be. In response to the demand, associations are beginning to provide wireless Internet access for their members around common areas, at the clubhouse, in the recreation center and by the pool. It's an amenity that associations can easily provide to residents, but some challenges arise. Who will monitor and restrict access to inappropriate sites, if any one at all? How do you ensure that only members are accessing the wireless network? How do you ensure residents who live close enough to the network aren't using it all the time? The potential benefits and added amenity of wireless access for association residents seem to outweigh the logistical issues, but they need to be addressed nonetheless.

SOLUTION: When Lake Naomi Club in Pocono Pines, Pa., was planning and designing its new 48,000-square-foot community center in 2003, the board agreed that it needed to be wireless Internet-access compatible.



Lake Naomi's information technology expert worked with the local cable television and Internet supplier and developed a system that has not only been popular, but has also been relatively headache free since the new facility opened in May 2007.

Under Lake Naomi's system, any community member is permitted to connect to the wireless network at the community center after showing his or her association-distributed photo identification card and completing the sign-in sheet. A ticket is then generated by a special printer provided by the

wireless Internet service provider with a unique password to log on. Once a resident logs on, they have a four-hour time limit on their connection.

"Had we not required a password to access the system, vendors and others would have been able to sit in the parking lot and access the system," says Jeff Evans, PCAM, general manager of Lake Naomi. "Further, the houses in close proximity to the community center would have received the unintended benefit of free Internet service at their homes."

Inappropriate, offensive and X-rated sites are blocked by a firewall. The Internet service provider supplied a comprehensive list of websites and content to choose from.

The installation of the wireless network was seamless. Lake Naomi has contended with the occasional service outage, mostly caused by storms. And sometimes members have notebooks that aren't properly equipped to connect to the network or they don't know how to connect to it.

"It is rare to walk into the building and not find members on their computers," Evans says.

The wireless network's success and popularity at Lake Naomi led the asso-

The best thing about the T-Mobile G1 is the Google Android operating system, which integrates nicely with Google applications and gives you access to the Amazon MP3 Store, YouTube and all your favorite websites. It also includes a 3.2-megapixel camera, a full QWERTY keyboard, 3G support, Wi-Fi, GPS and Bluetooth. In addition to the touch screen, there's also a trackball for navigation. The G1 lacks Microsoft Exchange support and does not include a standard head-



phone jack or support for stereo Bluetooth. The phone is a little uncomfortable to hold and use. The GPS tracking is disappointing, and the speaker phone quality is a bit weak. As more applications become available, the G1 will become a more powerful smart phone for all types of users, including business folks.

—William F. Hession CMCA, AMS, PCAM

ciation board and manager to consider installing it at the community's combined clubhouse, sailing club and main beach facility. After all, who wouldn't want to lounge in a chair on the beach, immerse their feet in the sand and surf the web while the waves gently roll in and out? **CM**

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PROBLEMSOLVERS

Like cell phones, televisions and radios, a wireless network uses radio waves to transmit, receive and decode a signal. All you need is an Internet connection and a wireless router to make it happen. To keep your network private, you'll want to set up WiFi Protected Access (WPA), which involves signing in with a password. Firewalls are used to limit access to certain websites and increase security. Firewall filters can be added or removed based on IP addresses, domain names, protocols, ports or specific words and phrases. A firewall can be instructed to block any packet of information sent over the Internet with the word "X-rated," for example. The phrase has to be an exact match or it won't be blocked. However, you can add as many words, phrases or variations as necessary.