A new Information Age is coming. Will your organization be ready?

According to many technology experts, the 21st century will see the dawn of a second Information Age in which many technologies, and their benefits, will be accessible to everyone, anywhere, anytime. And linking it all together? An absence of wires. Wireless technology has not only matured, but it also has the potential to transform business like no other technology.

The next decade will see the majority of the world convert to wireless communication. There is abundant evidence that this conversion is well under way. As a result, wireless communication will become truly ubiquitous and transparent to the user, making a flexible, high-capacity, standards-based wireless infrastructure even more crucial.

About the program
Learn how your organization can safely and profitably tap into this pervasive wireless world at Penn State's Wireless Systems Workshop Series—a suite of four courses designed to guide your organization through the process of entering the wireless realm. The dual approach to the program is designed to (1) arm executives with the basic knowledge needed for making decisions about wireless technologies and (2) provide technical personnel with the training they need to install and maintain wireless networks.

Organizations like yours are already benefiting from wireless systems:
- health care—patient records are updated from the bedside
- eateries—“hot spots” pull in customers with laptops and PDAs
- retail—inventory is completed quickly and accurately
- hotels—rooms fill with wireless-hungry business travelers
- warehouse/distribution—shipments are tracked with a quick scan
- education—students connect from anywhere on campus
Courses in the series

1. Wireless Systems Introduction and Overview
This half-day survey course, designed for nontechnical personnel, provides a limited but essential overview of wireless networks for companies that want to evaluate the pros and cons of deploying 802.11 LANs, VLANs, or related services. Basic technologies, and system components and their use are explained in terms that enable nontechnical personnel to make informed decisions regarding the purchase and/or deployment of WLLNs.

Course objectives:
- identify the major trends in wireless technology
- identify the components required for a wireless LAN implementation and their use
- determine the economic feasibility of a wireless LAN in a particular environment

2. Facility Analysis
This unique course, designed for technical personnel, provides an essential overview of wireless networks in companies deploying 802.11 LANs, VLANs, or related services. The course is ideally suited for systems analysts and network technicians in organizations that design 802.11 LANs, VLANs, or associated wireless network services.

Course objectives:
- identify the major trends in wireless technology
- prioritize the tasks required for a wireless LAN implementation
- describe the components of a wireless LAN
- discuss the steps required to complete a site survey
- evaluate the various implementation methods, tools, hardware, and software required for a wireless LAN implementation

3. Security: Methods for Ensuring the Privacy of Data
This unique course provides detailed, hands-on instruction in the detection, assessment, and security of 802.11 wireless networks. During the course, a range of tools and techniques are introduced to enhance wireless LAN/VLAN security. The course is most appropriate for systems analysts or security compliance officers.

Course objectives:
- conduct a thorough security survey of their existing wireless LAN
- create a coherent, complete security policy
- plan for implementation of a security system on a wireless LAN
- develop worst-case plans for implementation in the face of a wireless LAN attack
- discuss the major movements in security as it is related to wireless LANs

4. Installation and Maintenance: Hands-on Training for Network Technicians
This course provides a general understanding of how wireless systems work and detailed instruction on how to plan, install, and troubleshoot wireless networks. Designed for network technicians, the course includes a full day of laboratory simulation exercises to provide hands-on experience with wireless systems and system components. The course builds confidence in the ability to professionally design and install a wireless network.

Course objectives:
- plan a Wireless LAN implementation
- test and troubleshoot a wireless LAN implementation
- design a structured network topology, including wireless LAN elements
- construct a wireless LAN site plan
- develop and maintain support structures for supporting an existing or new implementation of a wireless LAN
- identify the major trends in wireless technology
- identify the components required for a wireless LAN implementation and their use
- determine the economic feasibility of a wireless LAN in a particular environment

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