

# Wi-Fi Challenges in the Small Enterprise Market

**Jason D. Hintersteiner, CWNA, CWDP, CWAP**

President and Chief Technology Officer  
Imperial Network Solutions LLC

Twitter: @EmperorWiFi

Blog: <http://www.emperorwifi.com>

IT Professional Wi-Fi Trek 2015  
#wifitrek



# About the Presenter

## Jason D. Hintersteiner

- Founder, President & CTO: Imperial Network Solutions
  - Extensive experience in Wi-Fi design & deployment
  - Principal network architect and troubleshooter for several hundred SMB networks across numerous venues
  - Well versed with numerous enterprise access point, switch, router, firewall, and controller technologies
  - Private consultant for 1.5 years. Over 6 years as a WISP's Vice President of Technology

- Education
  - Bachelor of Science (BS) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
  - Master of Science (MS) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
  - Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Connecticut
  - CWNP and CompTIA certifications



# Agenda

- Market Definition
- Market Players
- Requirements and Constraints
- Challenges in Network Security
- Other Challenges
- Sample Projects

# Challenges of the Small Enterprise

## Who is the Small Enterprise Market?

### Residential

- Large private homes
- Apartment complexes
- Condominiums
- RV parks
- Student housing
- Military housing
- Assisted living
- Hotels  
(budget / mid-range / B&B / Resorts)

### Commercial / Industrial

- Cafés
- Restaurants
- Professional offices (doctor, dentist, lawyer)
- Small companies
- Retail
- Houses of Worship  
(churches / synagogues / mosques)
- Small private schools
- Parks
- Warehouses / Factories

# Challenges of the Small Enterprise

## What is the Size of this Market?

- 5.82 Million SMBs with 1-99 employees (as of 2008)\*
  - About 4 million SMBs of 5-25 employees\*
  - Worldwide SMB IT systems market: \$33 billion\*\*
  - 2012 SMB LAN switch market: \$4 billion\*\*\*

\* US Census Bureau Statistics about Business Size, 2008

\*\* Global SMB IT Spending Market 2014-2018

\*\*\* Cisco 2012 10Q



<http://cdn.caycon.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Market-Share.jpg>

***Large and growing market segment.  
Probably the largest growth sector in Wi-Fi***

# Challenges of the Small Enterprise

## Who Services this Market?

- Service is local / regional
  - Low voltage electricians
  - IT technicians
  - Self-installed
  - ISPs / WISPs
  - Telcos and cable companies
- Challenges with local network installers
  - Know virtually nothing about Wi-Fi
  - Know virtually nothing about network security



<http://cdn.alleywatch.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/service-people.jpg>

# Challenges of the Small Enterprise

## How is the Market Serviced?

- Service model 1: On Call
  - SMB or IT consultant advises on equipment
  - Charges standard rate to install
  - Disengages until “crisis”, charges hourly rate to fix
  - Motivation: Many repair calls
- Service Model 2: Managed Services
  - IT consultant resells specific vendor(s)
  - Recurring fee for online monitoring
  - Motivation: 0 repair calls



[http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-RmeUF3k7ypY/VREculFIMul/AAAAAAAAAE/Lyhaf2KLMhA/s1600/computer\\_repair\\_icon-770372.gif](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-RmeUF3k7ypY/VREculFIMul/AAAAAAAAAE/Lyhaf2KLMhA/s1600/computer_repair_icon-770372.gif)



# Challenges of the Small Enterprise

## Lack of Large Enterprise Vendor Suitability: Cost



[https://encrypted-tbn2.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:AND9GcTqNLyU3ajll3rDoj5wO4lrEw8\\_oDDXoE3ZnlmISwdRa6bZFc4E5g](https://encrypted-tbn2.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:AND9GcTqNLyU3ajll3rDoj5wO4lrEw8_oDDXoE3ZnlmISwdRa6bZFc4E5g)

### ■ Cost

- Why buy a \$1000 AP when a \$200 AP is adequate?
- Why buy a \$2000 switch when a \$350 switch is adequate?

### ■ Small Enterprise: Small Budgets

- Customers ALWAYS have a limited budget, and ALWAYS want more than they can afford
- Little understanding as to why more expensive options are “better”
- Value discussions establish realistic expectations regarding the options and tradeoffs in equipment and technologies



# Challenges of the Small Enterprise

## Lack of Large Enterprise Vendor Suitability: Complexity

### ■ Complexity

- Too many features
- Too many options
- Too little guidance and documentation

### ■ Practical Obstacles

- Why buy equipment that only a CWNE knows how to configure?
- Many vendors require VARs to be educated (certified) to be eligible for good equipment discounts: shuts out the smaller players



[http://www.eurasianet.org/sites/default/files/imagecache/galleria\\_thumb/060711\\_16\\_0.jpg](http://www.eurasianet.org/sites/default/files/imagecache/galleria_thumb/060711_16_0.jpg)

# Challenges of the Small Enterprise

## Lack of Large Enterprise Vendor Suitability: Life Cycle

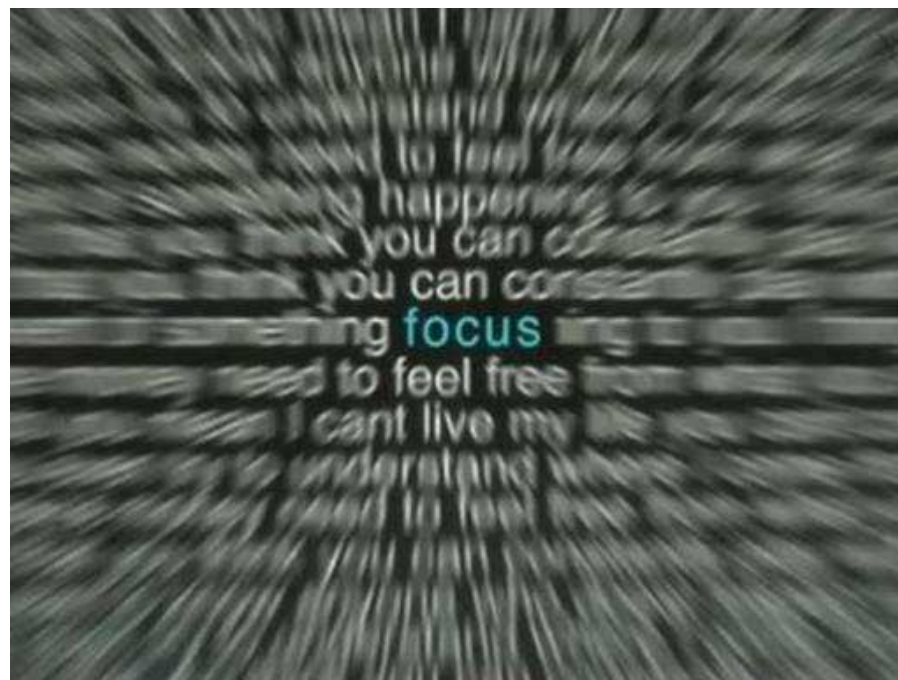
- Planned Obsolescence
  - Shrinking Wi-Fi product life cycle (clients and APs)
  - Customer expectations increase while install-base remains static
- SMB Network Life Cycle
  - Average network life is 5-7 years
  - Design for tomorrow, not today!
  - Today's latest and greatest APs → 2-3 generations old in 5 years
- Infrastructure is key
  - APs can be upgraded
  - Switches can be upgraded
  - Cabling is forever!



<http://sr.photos3.fotosearch.com/bthumb/CSP/CSP161/k1619289.jpg>

# Challenges of the Small Enterprise

## Lack of Large Enterprise Vendor Suitability: Focus



<http://yourservantinchristministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/focus-22.jpg>

# Challenges of the Small Enterprise

## Lack of Large Enterprise Vendor Suitability: Focus

- Consumer Market
  - Be first
  - Be cheap
- Large Enterprise Market
  - Leading edge features
  - Niche: best in class at particular applications
  - Large projects: large revenue opportunities (stadiums, malls, campuses, schools)
- Small Enterprise Market
  - Functional: not necessarily the most feature-rich
  - Cost-effective: not necessarily the cheapest
  - Small projects: efficient so can do many deployments
  - Trust: build relationships so success → future business

***Different Markets Require Different Strategies***

# Challenges of the Small Enterprise

## Lack of Large Enterprise Vendor Suitability: Focus

- Consumer and SMB product segments in larger companies are never given appropriate level of technology, marketing, or sales resources
- No AP vendor has ever successfully competed in multiple markets simultaneously, even via acquisition
  - HP and Colubris
  - Juniper and Trapeze
  - Cisco and Linksys
  - ...

# Challenges of the Small Enterprise

Who are the players in Wi-Fi for SMB?

## SMB AP Vendors

- EnGenius
- Ubiquiti
- Meraki (Cisco)
- Zyxel
- SonicWALL (Dell)
- Open Mesh
- MicroTik
- Luxul

## Consumer AP Vendors

- Belkin
- Linksys
- D-Link
- Asus
- TP-Link
- Netgear
- Amped Wireless
- Edimax

*...and the numerous managed service providers (MSPs) who utilize and deploy these products.*

*But do any of them get it right?*



# Requirements and Constraints

Requirements



<https://akinjidepetersdotcom.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/requirement.gif>



# Requirements and Constraints

## The Angst of the Small Enterprise Owner

- I must supply Wi-Fi to keep my customers happy
- My customers complain about the Wi-Fi (too slow, hard to use, frequent drops)
- I would love to leverage my Wi-Fi investment to enhance business operations
- All these new network gadgets are cool. Can I put them on the network?
- I don't really understand Wi-Fi
- What do you mean, I can't just plug it in and Wi-Fi works?
- I've been burned before using consumer gear
- I won't spend a lot of money on Wi-Fi



<https://psyknyheter.files.wordpress.com/2010/11/angst.jpg>

# Requirements and Constraints

## Definition of Requirements

- Requirements – What must the network do?
  - Standard Requirements: True for virtually all deployments in any SMB vertical market
  - Vertical Requirements: Dependent upon the specific, vertical market (e.g. hospitality, retail, residential, assisted living, etc.)
  - Customer-Specific Requirements: Dependent upon the specific needs of the individual customer

***Requirements are independent of each other. Bad design solution choices hamper your ability to satisfy all requirements simultaneously.***

# Requirements and Constraints

## Solicitation and Documentation

- Get the information up front
  - Who is using the network?
  - What types of devices need access?
  - What areas need to be covered?
  - Building structure / layout / materials?
  - Aesthetics?
  - Budget?
- Documentation
  - Validates everyone has the same understanding
  - Enables quick identification of scope creep
  - When managing multiple sites, a centralized documentation database is essential

# Requirements and Constraints Guest Networks

- Public / Semi-Public Access Network (resident, guest, patron, consumer, etc.)
- Controlled Access
  - Free (or paid / hybrid)
  - Client device isolation (within and between APs)
  - Content filtering
  - Bandwidth control and restrictions (SLA)
  - CALEA compliance



[https://encrypted-tbn1.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:AND9GcQZ-dhaUCjc3E-zbvzk4VCbBVowW4kZiZi9tKjAVGHb\\_Sb\\_s0E9S5g](https://encrypted-tbn1.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:AND9GcQZ-dhaUCjc3E-zbvzk4VCbBVowW4kZiZi9tKjAVGHb_Sb_s0E9S5g)

# Requirements and Constraints

## Guest Networks: Captive Portals

- Multiple login methods
  - Username & Password
  - Terms and Conditions
  - Email / Social Media
- Necessary evil
  - Display legalese to absolve provider of any liability
  - Nobody reads it
  - Often is technical mechanism used to identify individual users and control bandwidth



<http://dave.harris.uno/wp-content/files/2010%2F6%2FdoreDisclaimer.jpg>

- Usually implemented poorly
  - Not mobile-device friendly
  - Too many screens to click-through
  - Too many forms to fill out
  - Too long a process to actually get online

# Requirements and Constraints

## Guest Networks: Free or Paid?

- Why should the Wi-Fi be offered for free?  
TANSTAFL  
“There ain’t no such thing as a free (wireless) LAN”
- Ugly reality: Monetization doesn’t work
  - Too many competitors offer free service
  - Too difficult to build enough revenue to be profitable
  - FCC gets annoyed when you overcharge & block Mi-Fi devices
- With a hybrid approach, free service must be usable
  - Won’t pay extra if the free service is good enough
  - Too slow → customers complain
- Paid portion of hybrid service: marketing tool
  - Attract groups (e.g. conferences)
  - Placate angry customers
  - Incentivize rewards memberships



<http://wheelingout.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/free-wifi-cafe.jpg>



# Requirements and Constraints

## Staff Networks: Operations Infrastructure

- Day-to-day business operations
- Order taking / credit card transactions (PCI-DSS)
- Customer records (PCI-DSS, HIPAA, FINRA)
- Full access to facility resources  
(e.g. printers, shared drives, on-site servers)
- Integration with VPNs
- WPA2-AES Encryption  
(Personal is commonplace, Enterprise is rare)



<http://www.ccebuisnessportal.eu/documents/10180/470540/infrastructure.jpg/dff5560f-b789-4e00-b27b-4ec626b135e1?t=1412584233082>



# Requirements and Constraints

## Appliance Networks: The IoT (R)evolution

- High Bandwidth

- Video Surveillance
- Multimedia (i.e. SONOS, AppleTV)



<http://www.engeniustech.com/products/networked-surveillance-cameras/mini/eds1130.html>



<http://toucharcade.com/2015/07/31/its-a-day-that-ends-in-y-so-of-course-apple-tv-app-store-rumors-are-flying/>

- Low Bandwidth: Internet of Things (mostly 2.4 GHz only, often 802.11b only)

- Security & Access Control
- Temperature & HVAC control
- Lighting
- Kitchen Appliances
- Toys



<https://nest.com/thermostat/meet-nest-thermostat/>

***Fundamental disconnect between the Wi-Fi appliances emerging on the market and the latest Wi-Fi specs and capabilities.***

# Requirements and Constraints

## Client Devices: All About the BYOD

- New client devices emerging constantly
  - Client devices are “uncontrolled”
  - Consume more data
  - More devices (design for capacity vs. coverage)
  - More likely to have malware
- “New” ≠ “better” from Wi-Fi Perspective
  - Cheap wireless chipsets
  - Weak client transceivers
  - Inadequate wireless antennas
  - Roaming aggressiveness / stickiness
  - Only or preferential on 2.4 GHz
  - Dual-band: Support DFS?

***Have to actually design the Wi-Fi:  
AP / Antenna Type, Location, Channel, and Power!***



<http://www.apple.com/iphone/>

# Requirements and Constraints

## Unique Customer Requirements

- Some are to your advantage
  - Assisted living property operates their own emergency power backup plant – can keep network online during power outage without UPS
- Some are challenges
  - Demarc is unheated basement room, temperatures below -20°F
  - Equipment cabinet on west side of building with sun exposure, temperatures above 140°F
  - Support 22 HDTVs in one \$25M mansion (2 outdoor, 2 in master bathroom)
- Some are downright “unique”
  - Explosion-proof APs for hazardous waste treatment plant (IP68 not enough)
  - Mount cameras and PTP links on poles and not buildings – low-income property expecting residents to shoot out cameras, don’t want guns aimed at residential apartment units

# Requirements and Constraints

## Definition of Constraints

- Constraints – What do you have to work around?
  - Physical Constraints: Driven by the physical characteristics of the facility
  - Logical Constraints: Driven by the customer / organization owning the facility



[http://image.sportsmansguide.com/adimgs/1/1/112010\\_ts.jpg](http://image.sportsmansguide.com/adimgs/1/1/112010_ts.jpg)

# Requirements and Constraints

## Physical Constraints: Every Wi-Fi Network is Tailored

### Property Layout

- Areas of indoor coverage
- Areas of outdoor coverage
- Multiple buildings
- Cable paths / conduit?

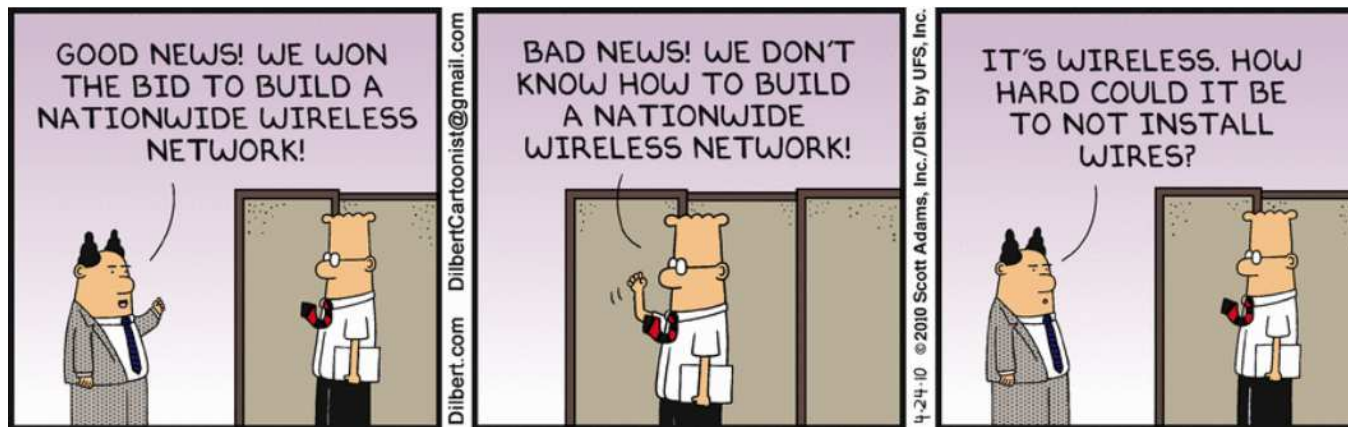
### Building Materials

- Drywall
- Concrete
- Brick
- Wire mesh stucco
- Plaster

***Drives the need for mass customization – a consistent underlying architecture with a unique implementation***

# Requirements and Constraints

## Physical Constraints: Low Voltage Cabling



<http://dilbert.com/strip/2010-4-24>

- Is there existing low-voltage cabling infrastructure?
- Is it possible to run cabling where it is needed?
- Do we need to run point-to-(multi)point? Mesh?
- Do you use CAT5e or future proof with CAT6a?
- Running cables is expensive...
  - “I love the design, but we can only cable the hallways.”
  - “Why can’t we do security cameras wirelessly?”

# Requirements and Constraints

## Logical Constraints

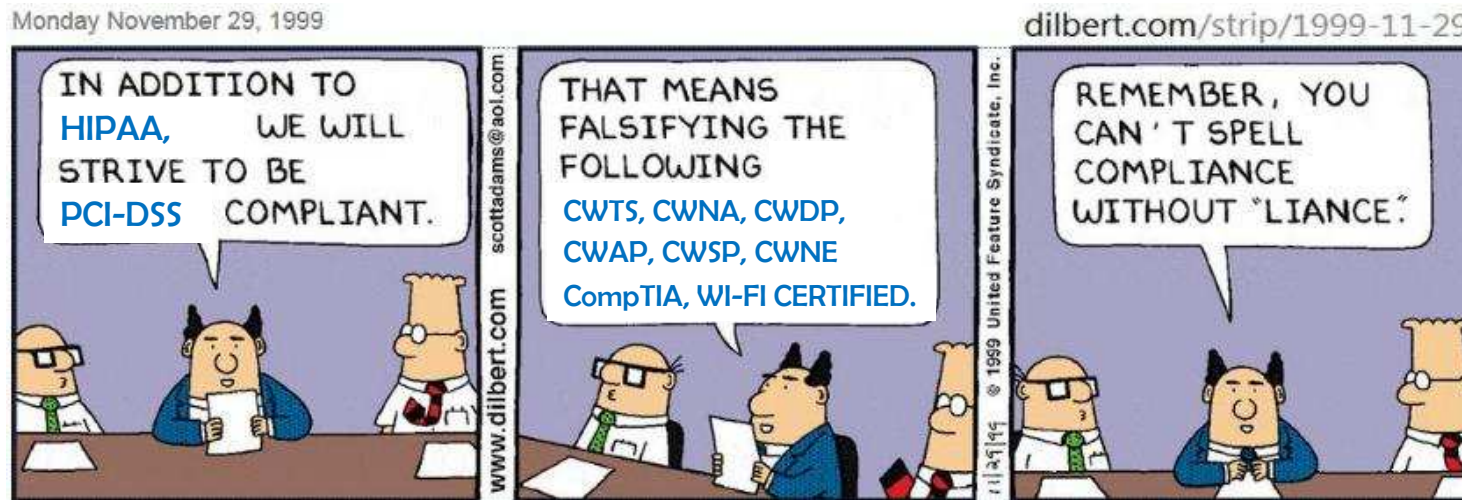
- Budget
- Aesthetics
- Integration with an existing wired and/or wireless network
  - Generally old AP locations won't meet new network requirements
  - Legacy clients may need upgrades as well
- Accessibility to AP locations / telco closets for maintenance

***Drives the types of APs, placement, limitations in coverage, and overall network capabilities***



# Requirements and Constraints

## Regulatory and Legal Compliance



# Requirements and Constraints

## Regulatory and Legal Compliance: PCI-DSS



[https://digitalguardian.com/sites/default/files/credibility\\_pci-logo.png](https://digitalguardian.com/sites/default/files/credibility_pci-logo.png)

- Payment Card Industry – Data Security Standard
- Detailed specification for computers and computer networks handling, transporting, and storing credit card data
- Spec is periodically reviewed and amended with new technology development
- Latest version: PCI-DSS 3.1  
[https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/security\\_standards/pcidss\\_agreement.php?association=pcidss](https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/security_standards/pcidss_agreement.php?association=pcidss)
- Key requirements
  - Install firewall
  - Do not use default passwords / SNMP
  - Protect stored cardholder data
  - Encrypt transmission across networks (wired and wirelessly – requires 802.11i)
  - Use anti-virus software
  - Develop and maintain secure systems
  - Restrict access to data (virtual & physical)
  - Assign unique user IDs and monitor / track
  - Test security regularly (periodic assessment)
  - Maintain security policies

# Requirements and Constraints

## Regulatory and Legal Compliance: PCI-DSS

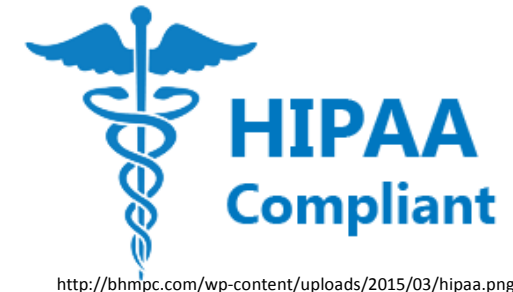


[https://digitalguardian.com/sites/default/files/credibility\\_pci-logo.png](https://digitalguardian.com/sites/default/files/credibility_pci-logo.png)

- Not strictly required in many SMB environments
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> party payment vendors (e.g. Square, Harbortouch)
  - Isolated systems that work over phone line or dedicated Internet connection
  - Many SMBs do not want to wrestle with PCI-DSS requirements
- Where needed
  - Tablet-based order-taking / payment processing
  - Multi-station (e.g. multiple cash registers)

# Requirements and Constraints

## Regulatory and Legal Compliance: HIPAA



- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act - Title II
  - Privacy Rule: Regulates use and disclosure of protected health information (PHI)
  - Security Rule: Administrative, Physical, and Technical
- HITECH Act
  - Reporting rules in case of data breach
- More info:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Health\\_Insurance\\_Portability\\_and\\_Accountability\\_Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Health_Insurance_Portability_and_Accountability_Act)
- Key requirements
  - Administrative safeguards
  - Physical safeguards (control physical access to data)
  - Technical safeguards (control access to computer systems and networks)
- For Wi-Fi, functionally similar to PCI-DSS (PCI-DSS has more detailed requirements)
  - Isolated VLANs
  - WPA2-AES encryption (personal ok)
  - Firewalls

# Requirements and Constraints

## Regulatory and Legal Compliance: FINRA



- Financial Industry Regulatory Authority
  - Oversight of financial firms / securities industry
  - Regulation of brokers / dealers and financial markets in conjunction with SEC
  - Non-profit organization authorized by US Congress
  - Enforcement of investor protections
- More info: <http://www.finra.org/>
- Key IT requirements
  - Generate reports and audit trails for compliance
  - Configuration / User Privileges Enforcement
  - Network Security
  - Device Security / Applications
- For Wi-Fi, functionally similar to PCI-DSS (PCI-DSS has more detailed requirements)
  - Isolated VLANs
  - WPA2-AES encryption (personal ok)
  - Firewalls

# Requirements and Constraints

## Regulatory and Legal Compliance: CALEA



<http://www.andoverks.com/images/pages/N411/CALEAGoldStandard.png>

- Law enforcement agency can require property manager / ISP to track specific user's online activities
  - Electronic surveillance (originally intended for VoIP, expanded in 2004 for Internet data traffic)
  - Requires valid warrant for some (headers) or all (full data) traffic
- Problems
  - Based on client MAC address (easy to spoof or use disposable Wi-Fi dongle)
  - Internet traffic generally encrypted via SSL (headers tell you "who" but not content)
  - Consumer devices, and many SMB devices, do not have capability (network owner subject to large fines if they are not compliant)
- More info: <http://www.calea.org/>



# Security Challenges

## What We Like to Think We Have



Source: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/leaked-us-security-documents-reveal-how-to-spot-a-terrorist-trying-to-board-a-plane-10145842.html>



# Security Challenges

## What We Actually Have



<http://www.imperialnetsolutionis.com/>

# Security Challenges

## The Ugly Truth

- Consumer-grade and/or poorly implemented SMB equipment
  - No VLANs
  - No segregation of guest, staff, security, and appliance networks
  - Firewall: Limited to NAT
  - No wired or wireless client isolation
- No protection from disgruntled current or former employees
  - WPA2 Passphrase not changed when employees leave
  - Untraceable access to resources

# Security Challenges

## Guest Networks: Encryption

- Open Authentication
  - Want users to get online easily
- Why not use WPA2 Personal: actually decreases value
  - Requires customers to ask staff for the passphrase – adds unnecessary staff overhead and customer aggravation
  - Signs with passphrase prominently displayed

- Ludicrously weak passphrases
  - Most common: “password”
  - Next most common: establishment name
- WPA2 Personal is Insecure
  - If you know the passphrase and capture the 4 way handshake, you can decrypt someone else’s traffic (Sources: CWSP, CompTIA Security+)
- Usually no client isolation on wired part of network – requires switch ACL rules



[http://noupe.com/img/ror/make\\_use\\_of\\_auth.jpg](http://noupe.com/img/ror/make_use_of_auth.jpg)

***WPA2 on a guest network isn't actually secure! It is only annoying!***

# Security Challenges

## Guest Networks: Client Isolation

- Client isolation must be throughout network
  - Within an AP: Most APs have the ability to block clients within an AP
  - Between APs: Some APs provide filtering functionality to block traffic between APs
  - Wired clients (e.g. hotels/dorms):  
Generally not covered by Wi-Fi vendor solutions. Must be handled via switch and router ACL rules
- Blog: <http://www.emperorwifi.com/2015/07/enhancing-wi-fi-security-with-switch.html>



<http://jmmphotoblog.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/bw-ecopyof-the-old-prison-in-deer-lodge-049.jpg>

# Security Challenges

## Staff Networks: Wi-Fi Sense(less) (1)

- Microsoft Windows 10 stores and shares your SSID & passphrase
  - Shares with all of your Facebook, Skype, & Outlook contacts
  - When a friend connects automatically, information is shared with all of their Facebook, Skype, & Outlook contacts
  - Decision to share is up to the user, not the network administrator
  - Network admin can only prevent by adding “\_optout” to the SSID



<http://cdn.wccftech.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Windows-10.png>

# Security Challenges

## Staff Networks: Wi-Fi Sense(less) (2)

- Designed for home networks, impacts SMB networks relying on WPA2 Personal
  - Passphrase not directly shared
  - But allowing automatic connection compromises staff network security
  - Say goodbye to PCI-DSS and HIPAA compliance
- Client isolation by Windows Firewall
  - Windows 10 “friend” cannot be seen from network, but can see rest of your network
- Blog: <http://www.emperorwifi.com/2015/06/wi-fi-sense-how-microsoft-has.html>



<http://cdn.wccftech.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Windows-10.png>

# Security Challenges

## Staff Networks: Why Not Use Enterprise Security?

### ■ WPA2 Enterprise

- Most small businesses do not have the equipment, knowledge or manpower
- A lot of overhead to build/maintain RADIUS database and get devices to work
- Rare to see WPA2 Enterprise used in practice in SMB

### ■ Private Pre-Shared Key

- Most enterprise AP vendors still don't offer it (though with Windows 10 maybe that changes)
- Still have to maintain a user / device database
- May be appropriate for staff networks, but impractical for guest and appliance / IoT networks



<http://www.cloudsoftwareprogram.org/rs/371-e9c4455d-a317-4f4c-9f70-108d736bae98/b4f/filename/cloud-security.jpg>



# Other Challenges

## What You'll NEVER See in Small Enterprise (1)

### ■ Wi-Fi Alliance Certification

- Irrelevant in this space: Installers and users either not aware or don't care
- Nobody willing to pay the price premium for the certification
- Most consumer and IoT appliances won't support anyway

### ■ Hotspot 2.0 / Passpoint

- Not a priority for cellular carriers: Individual networks are too small and fragmented for the cellular carriers to care about this market
- Not a priority feature for SMB vendors (who are solely focused in this space)

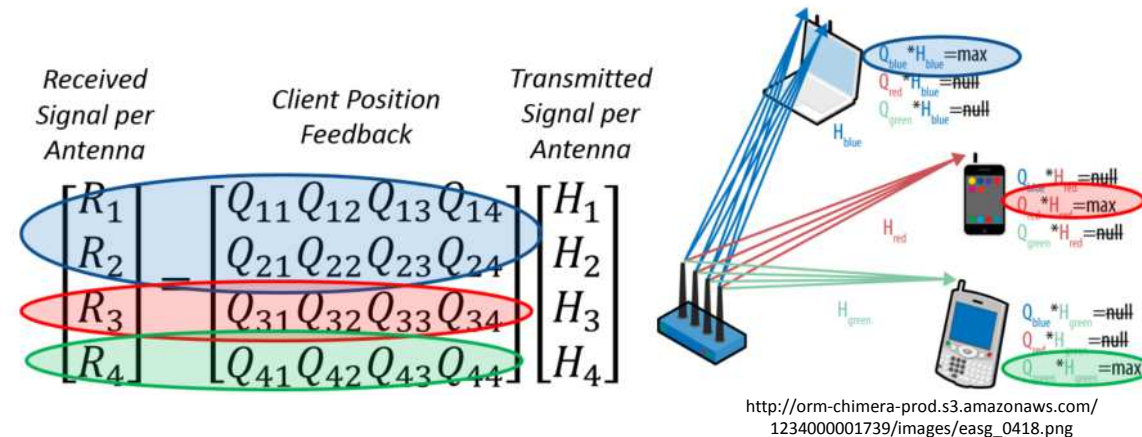


# Other Challenges

## What You'll NEVER See in Small Enterprise (2)

### ■ Multi-User MIMO (MU-MIMO)

- Only useful for very dense client environments
  - Clients must be  $\geq$  802.11ac wave 2
  - Clients must be spatially separated
  - Clients must be at similar connection speeds (MCS)
- Blog post: <http://www.emperorwifi.com/2015/06/the-elephant-in-room-will-mu-mimo-work.html>



# Other Challenges

## What You'll NEVER See in Small Enterprise (3)

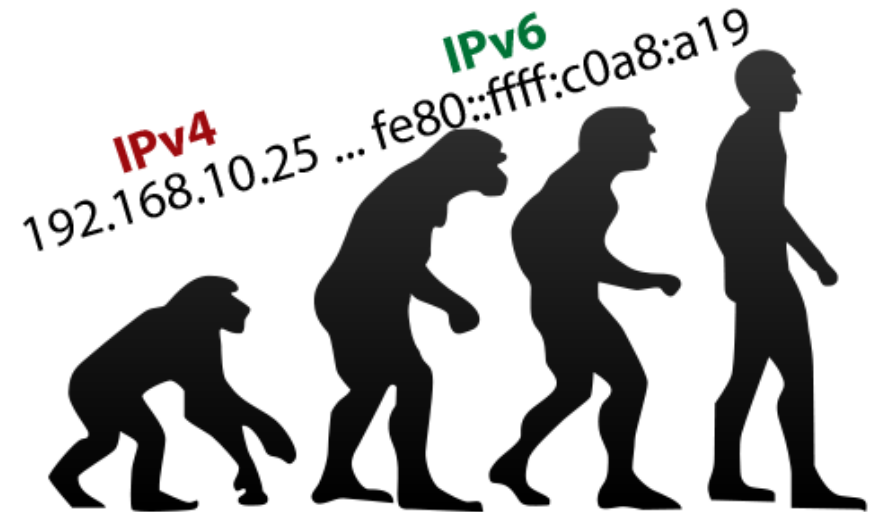
### ■ IPv6

- Installers and users don't understand it
- Not needed for private networks
- At most, you'll eventually see on WAN side (IPv4 to IPv6 encapsulation by router / modem)

### ■ WIPS / WIDS

- Too expensive
- Too complex - basic security sufficient (though often lacking)

### ■ Mobile Device Management (MDM)



<https://dougvitale.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/ipv6-evolution.png?w=700>

# Other Challenges

## What You'll NEVER See in Small Enterprise (4)

- Site Surveys
  - CWNAs and CWDPs know the value
  - Nobody else in the Small Enterprise wants to pay for them up front
- Site Walkthrough
  - Focused on cabling paths
  - Little to no RF measurements
  - Small deployments: Not done; figured out on the fly
- Predictive modeling
  - Good news: Number of requested models increasing
  - Bad news: Customer expects the heat maps and design for free from the installer or AP vendor.
  - Ugly news: Never verified with a site survey, unless there are major problems

***Customers never want to pay for up-front design services.***

# Other Challenges

## What You WILL See in Small Enterprise

- Bad-Fi:
  - <http://www.bad-fi.com> by @heyeddie
- 40 MHz Channels on 2.4 GHz
- Auto-channel and auto-power
  - Your own APs are your greatest source of interference and performance problems
  - Blog: <http://www.emperorwifi.com/2015/08/an-explanation-of-channel-and-transmit.html>
- Poor security and lack of VLAN isolation
  - Blog: <http://www.emperorwifi.com/2015/05/how-operators-can-make-hotspots-and.html>



<http://www.imperialnetsolutions.com>

# Other Challenges

## Technical Opportunities

- Most interference is internal, not external
  - Most co-channel interference (CCI) comes from your own APs
  - Don't have other people operating Wi-Fi networks in your immediate space
  - Controlled with static channel planning (both bands)
- Don't need latest technology
  - Most clients are smartphones / tablets (1x1:1 or 2x2:2)
  - 802.11ac 2x2:2 is quite adequate for most small enterprises
- 802.11ac: 80 MHz Channels on 5 GHz works well!
  - Few high density areas, so few dense AP deployments (still more about coverage vs. capacity)
  - Using DFS channels generally ok
  - 5-6 channels to work with (80 MHz operational sweet spot)
- Point-to-(multi)point in high demand
  - Easy and cheap to interconnect buildings
  - High use in security / surveillance applications



# Imperial Initiatives: EnGenius Certification and Pre-Sales Services



- Vendor Certification Program
  - 1-2 day on-site training course for installers, resellers, and dealers
  - Deep dive into Wi-Fi design and best practices
  - Detailed review of network setup, monitoring, and troubleshooting of EnGenius equipment
  - Hands-on training with point-to-point links, switches, and access points (both provisioning and troubleshooting)



- Pre-Sales Design Services
  - Predictive modeling
  - Point-to-(multi)point design
  - Work with dealer and end customer to define
    - Bill of Materials (BoM)
    - AP models / locations
    - Switch infrastructure
    - Critical settings (channel / power)



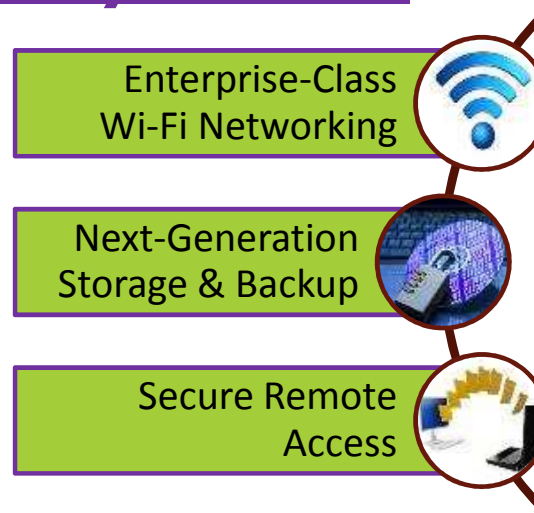


# Imperial Initiatives: Little Devices

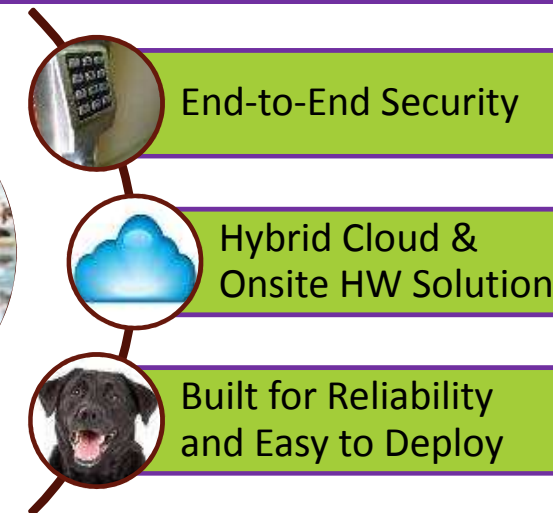
## Startup: Purpose-Built IT for Small Business

### Key Services

- Simple, Integrated SMB IT
  - Designed from ground-up for small business market
  - Fully integrated: Not disparate hardware and cloud services
- Automated Best Practices
  - No IT expertise required to deploy or maintain
  - Seamlessly coordinated networking and security
  - Next-generation storage and backup
  - Guided installation / diagnostics
- Product Launch: Q1-2016



### Core Platform Tenets



**Worry about your business. Not your IT.**

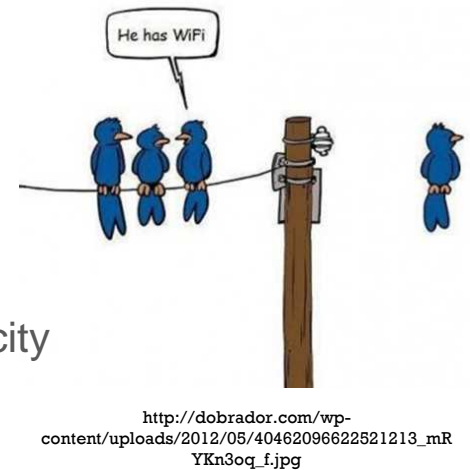
Sold & supported exclusively by local SMB IT partners. No up-front hardware costs.

# Challenges of the Small Enterprise

## Conclusions

- The small enterprise market
  - Large and growing segment
  - Some unique and some non-unique technical challenges
  - Challenges and opportunities
- Most of the enterprise solutions are not geared to this market
  - Cost
  - Complexity
  - Focus

- Few high capacity areas
  - Still more coverage vs. capacity
  - 80 MHz channels viable
- Success requires understanding and focusing on the requirements and constraints of this market
  - Separate networks for guests, staff, and devices / IoT
  - Regulation and compliance
  - Security
  - Budget
  - Skill level of installers and customers



# Challenges of the Small Enterprise

Jason D. Hintersteiner, CWNA, CWDP, CWAP  
President and Chief Technology Officer  
Imperial Network Solutions, LLC

Twitter: @EmperorWiFi

Blog: <http://www.emperorwifi.com>