Wireless Pop Quiz: What Do You Know?

BILL BOOTHE

Wireless technology is fast becoming a required member amenity at many private clubs. Members expect to have Internet access through their mobile devices when they are in and around the club facilities. And not just access, but fast and reliable access.

Plus, clubs are increasingly using wireless POS devices in the dining areas, and wireless bridges to connect distant club facilities. Yet, many club managers know little or nothing about this important technology.

To test your own knowledge, here is a 10-question test we use at the conclusion of our wireless technology course for private club executives. Answer the questions and see how well you do…
Circle either true or false or choose the correct, or when required, incorrect answer.

1.   (True/False) Wireless is used to connect PCs and mobile devices where a wired connection is not practical or cost effective.
2.   Wi-Fi wireless access points:
   a. Can handle up to 32 devices.
   b. Can connect to devices up to a mile away.
   c. Are not affected by walls, ceilings or floors.
3.   (True/False) The club's private wireless network must always be separated from the public wireless network.
4.   The current 802.11n Wi-Fi standard:
   a. Is backward compatible with 802.11b and 802.11g devices.
   b. 802.11b devices can slow down an entire 802.11n network.
   c. It is best to only purchase 802.11n devices going forward.
   d. All of the above are correct.
5.   The public wireless trend in private clubs is to:
   a. Provide coverage only in selected member areas.
   b. Provide full coverage in all member usage areas.
   c. Provide coverage only in high-usage areas.
   d. Provide coverage only inside of buildings.
6.   A Wi-Fi network for your club:
   a. Can be installed by anyone with a little bit of computer knowledge.
   b. Can be purchased at a retail store near you.
   c. Is a relatively expensive investment compared to the member value it provides.
   d. Should use commercial grade equipment installed by qualified professionals.

7.   Which of the following is not required for Wi-Fi security?
   a. WPA2.
   b. User access passwords.
   c. Port-to-port security.
   d. Internet and SPAM filtering.
8.   Which answer below is *INCORRECT* for Laser (FSO) technology?
   a. It is used for distances of 200 - 2,000 yards.
   b. It must have clear line-of-sight.
   c. It can only support 2-3 users.
   d. It may be a better option than leased telephone lines or fiber optic cable.
9.   Which answer below is *INCORRECT* for Long-Haul RF?
   a. RF can transmit through thick trees and over hills.
   b. RF can transmit up to 30 miles.
   c. RF requires a radio license to operate.
   d. RF can use a relay station to overcome obstructions.
10. A Mobile Hot Spot:
   a. Provides very reliable high-speed cellular access.
   b. Essentially works the same as a traditional WAP.
   c. Is used to connect to the Internet when other WAPs are overloaded.
   d. Holds little promise in the future.

After taking this test you may be asking: "Do I really need to know wireless technology to this level of detail?" Our answer: *Absolutely yes.*

Gone are the days when club managers can completely delegate technology planning and decisions to someone else. Managers are expected to have a working knowledge of F&B operations, golf course management, retail operations, accounting, human resources and all of the other major functions of a private club. And now technology. No more free passes on this topic. Not knowing technology isn't just an inconvenience, it can be downright hazardous – to the club and to the manager's career. Take the time to learn the basics. You'll be glad you did! **BR**

(Quiz Answers: 1-True, 2-a, 3-True, 4-d, 5-b, 6-d, 7-b, 8-c, 9-a, 10-b.)

Bill Boothe is president of The Boothe Group, LLC, an independent consulting firm that helps clubs understand computer technology, make good decisions and receive the highest value from their technology investment. Bill can be reached at bboothe@boothegroup.com.