



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
HUMANITIES

OFFICE OF INFORMATION
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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Letter of Recommendation

Date: April 25, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities (MITH) at the University of Maryland co-sponsored a summit meeting at NEH headquarters in Washington, D.C., on April 12-13, 2007. The meeting, part of NEH's Digital Humanities Initiative, was to plan the start up of a national coalition of digital humanities centers. Along with the directors of major digital humanities centers, representatives from government, industry, and the private sector attended, including those from the Mellon Foundation, Google, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Science Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the J. Paul Getty Trust, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation, Internet2, and the Library of Congress.

Plans were to provide the attendees with wireless Internet access and, in preparation, the Information Technology staff at NEH evaluated the situation and determined that basic networking access points would not suffice. Clay Vaughan (an IT Staffer) had attended an IT Security conference in December 2006 where he had observed a Wi-Fi solution supplied by New Energy Technologies and, since the company was known to be expert in this specialized area, NEH decided to get in touch with them.

NEH contacted Lester Boring, a Founding Partner of New Energy Technologies, and he and Dave Kimberling, Chief Technology Officer, came to the Old Post Office building equipped with a Bel Air 100 carrier grade wireless access point for a site survey. The conference rooms housing the meetings are connected but, because the building was built of a steel frame and solid granite in the 1890's, the walls are very thick and pose a significant problem for wireless signals. Mr. Kimberling took the time to explain the Bel Air 100 features, to set up a wireless network, and to demonstrate the capabilities of the device. Mr. Kimberling also walked around the conference rooms monitoring the signal, after which he presented his thoughts on what would be needed for the meeting. When asked if NEH could do the same with basic access points, he explained the issues and concerns he saw providing cogent arguments for his proposed solution. Mr. Boring and Mr. Kimberling went a step further and, with staff permission, performed other tests in the building to increase their knowledge should NEH wish to obtain a wireless solution throughout all office areas in the future.

Mr. Boring and Mr. Kimberling came the day before the meeting and set up, tested, and explained the equipment they were leasing to NEH for the meeting. The configuration was exactly as NEH had requested: a private network to which attendees could connect easily. The wireless network performed flawlessly: a total of 28 attendees were able to connect to the wireless network using information provided in their meeting agenda. Attendees could also move about the conference rooms and adjacent areas and maintained excellent connectivity. Throughout the two day meeting, Clay Vaughan monitored the Linksys switch and noted 100% availability. After the meeting many attendees and staffers commented on how well the network performed and that the wireless network enabled dynamic interactions, such as creating a wiki on the fly.

Should the NEH require future assistance with wireless setups, the IT Staff will have no hesitation in contacting New Energy Technologies for their professional presentation, expertise, and service.

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