10 – Home and Mobile Connectivity

Action Item Template Response

General Action Item Information

Lead Division/Office: Networks
Action Item Number: 10
Action Item Short Name: Home and Mobile Connectivity
Dependencies with other EP Action Items: 6, 40
Implementation leader (name & email): Matt Davy (mpd@iu.edu)

I. DESCRIBE YOUR PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS ACTION.

A. Home Connectivity

1. Negotiate contracts with local broadband providers to provide discounts to IU users.

2. Negotiate peering agreements with local broadband providers to provide low-latency, high-bandwidth connectivity between local broadband users and Indiana University.

B. Mobile Connectivity

1. Investigate options to provide IU users with access to one or more large networks of Wi-Fi hotspots. There are companies known as "hot-spot aggregators" that sell access to tens of thousands of hot spots around the world. IU should investigate options such as a university-wide contracts and/or discounts with one or more of these Wi-Fi Hotspot aggregators to provide IU users with Internet access at locations such as airports, hotels, and restaurants.

2. Investigate options for providing cellular data access to faculty and staff in a more cost-effective manner. This could take the form of a cellular data card checkout system for faculty and staff and/or a university discount on cellular data service to provide faculty and staff with a lower-cost option for mobile connectivity when they are traveling.

3. Pursue opportunities to provide free or low-cost Wi-Fi access to IU users in areas local to IU campuses. This could involve negotiations with local telecommunications companies and hot-spot providers as well as collaborations with local municipalities that are considering municipal Wi-Fi projects. UITS is already collaborating with the City of Bloomington to investigate the possibility of common Wi-Fi network that spans the IU campus and outdoor areas around downtown.

II. WHAT ARE THE POLICY AND PRACTICE IMPLICATIONS OF YOUR PLANS?

Practical implications include the possibility of an increase in support contacts from remote users accessing IU resources, especially after-hours contacts, the need for a greater focus on security for
remote users, and the possibility of a significant increase in Internet bandwidth utilization and VPN utilization.

III. IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS.

- UITS Networks
- UITS Enterprise Infrastructure
- UITS Support
- IU Purchasing
- Local Support Providers