

by Jay Buckner
Tangent Computer, Inc.

Portable Access to Technology

WITH A SINGLE MOBILE, WIRELESS LAB 10 — OR MORE — CLASSROOMS CAN BE TECHNOLOGY-READY.

UNTIL NOW EDUCATORS HAD A choice that was often less than satisfactory: either install computers in each classroom, or move students from each classroom to the technology lab. One option is costly and the other often disruptive.

Fortunately, schools have an affordable, attractive alternative that is rapidly gaining acceptance throughout the country. Schools can bring the benefits and advantages of technology to more students with a mobile, wireless classroom, one lab capable of serving 10 or more classrooms. It's a solution that solves many of the budgetary and technology challenges educators face.

The typical package consists of a rolling cart that stores and recharges notebook computers. The cart is lockable and also houses a networking station as well as wireless access point(s) to enable communication with the notebooks. The access point functions as transmitter, receiver, and router. Cart and notebook communicate through Network Interface Cards (NICs) installed at both access point and notebook. The cart, plugged into the school's network/Internet, also functions as a hub and 10/100 print server.

Wireless notebook computers complete the picture. NICs located in the notebook can be either add-on cards or integrated. Integrated NICs offer added security as students cannot remove them.

In addition to the obvious benefits of bringing the lab to the students in a number of classrooms, the wireless solution can offer substantial savings over the usual costs associated with

hard wiring the infrastructure in a school environment. It's less expensive and can be quickly operational. Once the Internet or other communications WAN is brought into a school's LAN via cable, fiber optic, or even satellite connection, wireless access points can then distribute the transmission throughout the school.

Tangent Computer, Inc. has been providing wireless environments to schools across the country with enthusiastic response. According to Ray Jones, technology director of Franklyn Community Schools in Indiana, "We have used Tangent laptops for our administrators and have over 210+ Tangent laptops being used in a wireless LAN, WAN environment at the elementary, middle, and high school environments. We have been well satisfied ..."

Tangent, an early advocate of mobile wireless solutions, offers rolling labs with capacities to serve up to 16, 24, or 36 students. The company remains intent on advancing leading edge technology into the educational sector with innovative products, services, and programs.

Founded in 1989, Tangent is the largest computer manufacturer selling directly and exclusively to educational institutions and state and local governments, including over 350 universities/colleges, 2,490 schools and school districts, and 430 state agencies. The company is an approved vendor on numerous state contracts coast to coast.

In addition to mobile, wireless classrooms, Tangent provides hardware, customized service and support, and network installation and consulting.

High-performance products and services include thin client networks, desktops, notebooks, servers, Network Alert™ remote management, Windows XP/2000 migration, and peripherals.

These products have earned numerous honors including Editor's Choice awards from *PC Magazine*, Recommended Product awards from *Windows Magazine* and Best Buy awards from *PC World*. As recently as November 2001, the company's systems were featured in *PC World's* Top Ten categories for both Power PCs and Value PCs, with a Tangent Valera™ PC selected as the choice for Best Buy honors.

Special programs developed for educators include: software pre-loading; custom hard drive imaging; site LAN analysis; on-site installation and service; and lifetime technical support. Links on Tangent's public Web site enable customers to take advantage of online technical support information. And Tangent also designs and hosts dedicated, customer-specific Web sites.

With the flexibility of a mobile, wireless lab, which can be moved from classroom to classroom, more students have access to the Internet and the benefits of technology.

For more information contact Tangent directly at 800/342-9388 or on the Web at www.tangent.com. ☺

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