Poster paper

New Zealand's Wi-Fi Cloud: Recent Survey Results

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1. INTRODUCTION

In a separate contributed paper, Houliston and Sarkar (2004) present key results from a survey of the deployment of Wi-Fi technology (IEEE 802.11b) by some of New Zealand's largest organisations. This poster highlights some further findings from the survey.

2. ADMINISTERING THE SURVEY

The target sample consisted of 80 large New Zealand organisations. A hardcopy of the four-page survey, a covering letter, and a reply-paid envelope was sent to each organisation in the target sample in July 2003. A mailout was chosen, rather than email or Internet based survey, due to the rash of viruses that was afflicting the Internet at the time. Over the course of six weeks, 34 responses were received. This represents a response rate of 42.5%. No follow-up letters were sent due to the limited time available for this research.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The responses have been analysed along the lines of the level of deployment, reasons for non-deployment, the scope of deployment, investment in deployment, problems encountered during deployment, and future plans.

The experience of New Zealand organisations differs somewhat from that of organisations in other countries. NZ organisations have not adopted Wi-Fi technology particularly early or quickly, with 26% of large NZ organisations currently using Wi-Fi and 6% planning to do so. This is approximately half the level of large US organisations. Of NZ organisations that have deployed Wi-Fi, 73% are mainly equipping mobile devices, suggesting that they are seeking potential productivity benefits of anywhere-anytime connection rather than simple cost reduction of fixed WLANs. This is a higher proportion than large US organisations. While NZ organisations express similar levels of concern about Wi-Fi security and performance as large overseas organisations, they have less trouble with establishing business value and rapidly evolving standards.

4. CONCLUSION

In this poster presentation we highlight recent survey results about Wi-Fi deployment in 80 large New Zealand organisations. Details are given on the level of Wi-Fi deployment, reasons for non-deployment, the scope of deployment, investment in Wi-Fi deployment, problems encountered during deployment, and future plans. NZ organisations have been slower to adopt Wi-Fi than large organisations overseas. Though NZ organisations seem to be aware of the potential benefits of the technology, they are also aware of the security issues. Many have chosen not to deploy Wi-Fi, or to deploy it on a small scale. We believe that our contribution in this paper may be a useful resource for both teachers and students interested in carrying out further research in the areas of wireless and mobile networking.

REFERENCES

Houliston, B. and Sarkar, N.I. (2004) "Land of the Long Wi-Fi Cloud? IEEE 802.11b Deployment in New Zealand". To be appeared in proceedings of the 17th NACCQ conference.