Washington WiFi

Sunshine State Library Leadership Institute Project

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The Problem

- Lack of infrastructure within Washington County for reliable internet
- Cost prohibitive internet in areas where available
- Low socioeconomic patron base
- More people needing internet to do everyday tasks
  - Fill out job applications
  - Do homework
  - Apply for e-government services

The Project

Providing wifi hotspots to library patrons with no access or limited access to internet throughout Washington County.

Preparing for problems

Rules

- Each library location receives a certain number of hotspots for circulation
- Wifi hotspot comes preloaded with 1GB of data
- Checkout time is 21 days

Regulations

- Must be a Washington County resident
- Must have had your library card for 1 year
- Asked to fill out a survey after returning

Providing the Solution

- Bought Straight Talk wifi hotspots from local Wal-Mart
  - Price- $99.00 each
- Bought 1GB data cards from local Wal-Mart
  - Price- $15.00 each
- Bought plastic sandwich containers from Dollar Tree
  - Price- $1.00 each
- Called and activated devices
  - Time- approximately 15 minutes each
- Cataloged devices
  - Time- approximately 1 hour
  - Cost- sweet tea from McDonald's for cataloger

Possibilities from the Project

- Loaning out equipment only and allowing patrons to provide their preferred level of data
- Utilizing hotspots for library outreach events
- Providing hotspots for teachers to use
- Providing hotspots for government entities for outreach or travel