

Wireless LAN Infrastructure – Magic Quadrant

by Karen Connaghan, TechSETS Director

www.techsets.org

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In a changing demographic landscape, education technology leaders frequently find themselves confronted with a student and faculty population that expect wireless access everywhere, every day—both at home and at school. Over the past several years demand for access to wired connectivity has fallen while access to wireless is expected, even demanded. A variety of needs, demands, and expectations fuel the idea of everywhere connectivity. In this Gartner Research report published February 2010, Tim Zimmerman and Michael J. King report that demand to 802.11n access will continue to grow throughout the next decade.

As the need and marketplace for future wireless access by consumers continues to grow and develop, vendors continue to develop wireless solutions that are easier to implement, secure, optimize, and manage. In essence, vendors continue to lower the bar for adoption, maintenance, and integration further fueling the growth of wireless connectivity. The ultimate vision continues to be single access layer connectivity strategy.

Along with increased WLAN connectivity, a number of network services such as role provisioning, network management integrated with system management, WLAN forensics, and policy and resource management will continue to grow as well. Gartner Research believes that as the WLAN market matures these network services options will become a differentiating functionality for vendors.

This Gartner research article provides an overview of the Wireless LAN market, critical components, and vendor evaluation analysis including: execution ability and vision. The Wireless LAN market leaders, challengers, visionaries, and niche players are identified along with strengths and cautions for each.

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Zimmerman, T, & King, M. (2010, February 12). Magic Quadrant for Wireless LAN Infrastructure (Global). *Gartner Research, G00172502*, 1-21.