Emilio DiLorenzo, Moderator

Summary of the Wireless roundtable session.

There were about 20 people that attended. The session started out with an overview of where wireless (Wi-Fi) stood today in the industry and more importantly in higher education. The overview covered things like:

1. Technology direction of wireless as a whole
2. Security issues and challenges
3. Authentication issues and challenges
4. The effects of wireless in the classroom

After the overview the discussion focused heavily on two area's. Security and Authentication were the two area's that the group were all very much interested in finding out what other Universities are doing to cope with these problems. There was lots of discussion about different authentication mechanisms that people are using at their Universities. The vast majority of people were developing their own authentication mechanism's because of the lack of "off the shelf" products. However, some people are using a hybrid of both off the shelf and internally developed.

Another important aspect that came out of the discussions was integration. No one views Wireless as a stand alone service. Alot of emphasis and development was done with the thought of integrating Wireless into existing environments. For example, integration into LDAP, Directory Services and Kerbros were mentioned and talked about extensively.

The discussion ended with a quick wrap up of the key discussion points. The group felt that Wireless is still an evolving technology that is a great unknown to the industry and there will be many more technology and business decisions to make in the coming months and years.