



Personal Telco Project

Weather Report

“Its All About The Clouds”

Vol 1 Number 2

www.personaltelco.net

September 2004

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PTP In A Nutshell

We are a volunteer group of Portlanders who believe that 802.11 (wireless networking, or "Wi-Fi") technology is both cool and empowering. We started out by turning our own houses and apartments into wireless hot spots (also referred to as "nodes"), and then set about building these nodes in public locations such as parks and coffee shops. Currently we have over 100 active nodes, and we eventually would like to cover the entire city of Portland, Oregon with even more.

Our Mission Statement

We are here to promote and build public wireless networks through community support and education.

OCTOBER EVENTS

“Free societies are hopeful societies. And free societies will be allies against the hateful few who have no conscience, who kill at the whim of a hat.” President Bush

In our never ending quest to foster and grow our Free Society of Community Networks the PTP last month we announced October was going to be Education Month. Not that every day of every month is not educational, far from it. The PTP has always had a keen focus on education, October is just going to be that much keener. Is that even a word? Ack, type it in and let the spell checker sort it out. So what's on the agenda?

PTP Lending Library

First off is the announcement of the PTP lending library. We have recently been given an armload of books from the great folks at O'Reilly Publishing. Some are being used for the raffle this month, the rest will act as seeds for the PTP lending library.

Since we don't have a stable office space (yet), we will try to get the books members want to check out to the Monthly Meetings as well as to the Hack Nights. For starters we will try allowing folks to check out one

(1) book at a time for as long as 1 month. If you check a book out at a Monthly it is due back no latter than the next Monthly. If you can get it back sooner via a Hack Night so much the better. We will have a list of books up soon.

If anyone has books they would like to donate to the library, please let us know. We am also working with the DC503 group to get their library included in ours, and vice versa, as our groups share many of the same interests.

PTP Play Days

Next up are the Play Days and Workshops for October.

The EWRTshop

- * When: Saturday, October 16th, 2004 12 to 6 PM
- * Coordinator: TomHiggins
- * Where: Node236
- * Where's That: 2924 SE Alder St, Portland OR 97214

This workshop will help you learn to use your Linksys WRT54g as a full featured nocat node (using the Portless cutom EWRT firmware), a client, in pairs as a bridge or coverage extender as well as how to add antennas, tweak the firmware and mount them outdoors.

The "How To Use PTP Nodes" Play Day

- * When: Saturday, October 23rd, 2004 12 to 4 PM
- * Coordinator: TomHiggins
- * Where's That: 2214 NE Oregon, Portland, OR 97232

This Play Day will help users learn how to hook up with and use our nodes. These will be the perfect opportunity to learn about the basics of wireless gear, connecting to the PTP and using what we offer. If you have any problems connecting to the nodes, know of anyone who needs to learn how, or simply want to learn more this is the Play Day for you.

The Joint DC503/PTP Wireless Exploration Workshop

- * When: Saturday, October 30th, 2004 1 to 3 PM
- * Where: Urban Grind Coffee
- * Where's That: 2214 NE Oregon, Portland, OR 97232

Learn a little bit more about what goes on in the air between your wireless nics and the APs you connect to. Find out how to explore the space we all travel though. Learn few ways to spice up your wireless environment.

Hack Nights

Aside from the Play Days and Workshops we are revving up and old PTP event called the Hack Night. Our wireless brethren in's Seattle hold these on a regular basis, and soon so will we. Wednesday nights, all expect the last one which is our Monthly Meeting night, members who want to work on

building nodes, show off new gadgets, learn new skills or lead the charge on a new / old projects will gather to roll up their sleeves and get down to it. Check the General Mailing List and Calendar for the exact time and place for these events. No need to look for the first month: October's HackNights will be help at Tom Higgin's place, Node236. We will gather at about 6PM and call it a night no latter than 10PM.

For a complete set of PTP events please check out the PTP Calendar <http://www.personaltelco.net/calendar>

-tomhiggins

IRC

There are many ways to keep in touch with whats going on in the PTP. The general mailing list is one, the Documentation and Calendar web pages are others; but for an up to the minuet life-as-it-happens method you might want to join us on the IRC channel.

IRC is one of the granddadies of what has come to be known as Instant Messaging (IM). It is still being used simply because it is still th best way to do this sort of thing. There are IRC clients for must every computer platform, it is not locked down to any one companies proprietary software, and its wide open for us to use as we see fit.

As a user of IRC the first thing you need is piece of software called an IRC Client. Since IRC has been around for a long time there are a zillion options ranging from things like

Mozillas Chatzilla plugin to MIRC to a simple command line tool like ircii. Linux folks can use gui drenched clients or simpler apps like irssi and ircii. Mac folks can use apps like Ircle, MacBitchX and the like.

A good place to look for IRC Clients is <http://www.ircreviews.org/clients/>

Whatever client you end up picking you will then need to connect that to an IRC Server, lucky for you the PTP runs its own and has even connected it to a large group of IRC servers run by the a loose affiliation of community networking groups from around the globe.

Thats one of the cooler aspects of IRC, you can create a group of servers to focus on specific needs,projects, topics, etc. The Freenetworks group of servers is focused on Free Community Wireless Networking, which is a good thing since that what we are into as well.

Once you have your IRC client running tell it, however your client requires you to do so, to connect to the server called

irc.personaltelco.net

Once you have been connected to the server you will want to ask your client to join #ptp , this is the name of the place PTP folks tend to be.

Once there you can start typing things like "heya, so where are the new nodes" or "Where is the weekly meeting going to be" or even "Can some one come help me put up a 24db slotted wave guide, I want to unwire all of my hood". Odds are you will get a response. Depending on t he time of day, or night, it may take longer or shorter to get a response.

IRC is all about conversations, people talking to people. Think of #ptp as a

place like the Urban Grind where you can go and find other PTP people to talk to. only we hang out on #ptp nearly 24/7 . Its odd to think about but if you watch #ptp for a while you realize we have members flung far across the globe such that while we might be in the midst of slumbering at 4am its someones 4pm and they are just winding down from a day of work.

If you want to see what types of things we talk about, there are logs of the last couple of months of IRC conversations to be found over at <https://www.bcwireless.net/~infobot/logs/irc.freenetworks.org/%23ptp/>

These are the basics of getting on #ptp , once there just get used to conversing. There are a few useful surprises to be found once you get comfortable, things like WifiFred, 8Ball and assorted other gizmos.

For now though, grab a client and come join us on server irc.personaltelco.net channel #ptp.

-tomhiggins

THREE SIMPLE WAYS TO HELP THE PTP

There are tons of tasks that need doing to keep the PTP growing , some easier than others to hand off to willing volunteers. There are some tasks that came up at regularly that everyone and anyone can and should consider helping out with. They may not land you on the cover of the WillyWeek but if enough people do them the PTP will get stronger.

1) Printing

There are a slew of documents we pass out at trade shows, tabling events (like the upcoming FreeGeek Fair) and at nodes that tell folks not only who we

are but what we are doing and how to use our nodes. If everyone printed just 10 - 20 copies of these a month we would have a ready cache of printed literature both for events and for you folks to put at your favorite nodes.

Some of these documents, specifically the Quick Connect cards and the various information trifolds, can be found on

<http://www.personaltelco.net/static/publications/index.html>

If you have a good color printer there always this one page ad

http://www.personaltelco.net/~tom/ptps_tuff/ptpnoyay.pdf

There is also a one page double sided Newsletter that would be great to print out and pass around at nodes or to folks you know who want to know more about the PTP. It has some general info as well as some specifics on what is currently happening.

http://www.personaltelco.net/~tom/Newsletter_2.pdf

There are more things to print, these are just some to get you started. Print and distribute or print and bring them to the Weekly or Monthly meetings so they can be stock piled for events or brought to nodes that may need them.

2) Community Outreach

How we grow as a group and as a network of nodes is by going to our local business establishments, talking to local home owners, and working with other community minded groups to set up nodes. The tough part is always getting folks educated on who we are and what our goals are. The printing done in the step above combined with

the seeming unending good press we get (thanks Nigel) are going a long way to help, but it still takes members on the ground, in shops, in homes and in the community to get things going in reality. So go out and talk to the owners of your fave hangouts, talk to the folks who live on your block with that great big roof, go work with the local school or community groups and sell them on the idea of the PTPnet covering Portland with truly Free Community Networking and the ways they can help.

3) Documentation

The PTP is growing fast and there are a million things that make it up. Its not just tech , its the social aspects, the contacts we are making, the resources we have, the skill sets we all have to share with each other. The place the PTP has set this stuff down in the past is the Documentations section which can be found at <http://wiki.personaltelco.net/>. We use something called a wiki, its just a odd name for an old concept. The idea is that everyone gets to add their bits , help edit what others enter, and together make a shared store of knowing. Once you get used to it it all makes sense, but the best place to get started is by reading whats already there, finding out whats missing and then jumping in and adding/editing.

If everyone took just a few minuets a day to go over the wiki either as readers or as some one who adds or edit stuff there we would have a much stronger and better written documentation spot to use.

These are three simple ways everyone can help out the PTP. If you have any questions or comments please post them up to the General Mailing list.

-tomhiggins

How To Connect

1. Set your [ESSID](http://www.personaltelco.net) to www.personaltelco.net
2. Come within range of one of the nodes listed on this page.
3. Open a web browser and try and go somewhere , you will be redirected to our web page.
4. Read the terms and conditions, if you accept them click "I Agree ... " to continue and get access.

SouthWest

- Bar 71 -
SW 2nd and Ash
- Coffee Plant -
SW Broadway and
Washington
- Daily Double -
SW 20th and Morrison
- Moonlight Staffing at PGE Park -
SW 18th and Salmon
- Pioneer Courthouse Square Area -
SW 6th and Morrison
- Stumptown Coffee Roasters -
SW 3rd and Ash
- South Park Blocks -
SW Park and Market

Northwest

- Anna Bannanas -
NW 21st and Northup
- Backspace -
NW 5th and Couch
- Couch Park -
NW 19th and Glisan

- Ecotrust -
NW 10th and Johnson
- Powell's Bookstore -
NW 10th and Burnside
- Urban Grind In The Perl
NW 14th and Kearney
- Vivace Coffee House -
NW 23rd and Pettygrove
- World Cup Coffee and Tea -
NW 18th and Glisan

Southeast

- The Basement Public House -
SE 12th and Taylor
- Crema Cafe and Bakery
SE 27th and Ankeny
- Hawthorne Hosteling International -
SE 31st and Hawthorne
- Portland Independent Media Center
SE 34th and Belmont
- Red Wing Coffee and Baking -
SE 6th and Market
- Rose and Raindrop -
SE Grand and Stark
- Subway Sandwich Restaurant -
SE 35th and Hawthorne
- Red and Black Cafe -
SE 21st and Division
- Stumptown Coffee Roasters-
SE 45th and Division
- Stumptown Coffee Roasters-
SE 34th and Belmont
- Ugly Mug Coffeehouse -
SE 13th and Nehalem
- WSMF -
SE 29th and Alder

NorthEast

- Cafe La Dolce Vita -
NE 12th and Alberta
- Costello's Travel Caffe -
NE 22nd and Broadway
- Goldrush Coffee Bar -
NE M L King Blvd and
Russell
- Hollywood Library -
NE 41st and Tillamook
- Irving Park -
NE 7th and Fremont
- Rocky Butte -
NE Rocky Butte
- Urban Grind Coffeehouse -
NE 22nd and Oregon
- ## North and Beyond
- Arbor Lodge Park -
N Dekum and Greeley
- Cedar Hills Crossing Shopping
3205 SW Cedar Hills Blvd.
- The Crow Bar -
N Mississippi and Failing
- Dittos-
N Williams and Freemont
- Northstar Coffeehouse -
N Interstate and Lombard