

CREATE Fayetteville

What We Know

Providing FREE Wi-Fi Downtown

(as of 11-2-11)

Hardware/Software Costs:

Estimated Costs to get blanket Wi-Fi across two blocks:

2 MR58-HW (\$1499 each) - \$2998

2 ENT-LIC-3YR (\$300 each) - \$600

4 ANT-10 (\$100 each) - \$400

2 ANT-13 (\$149 each) - \$298

Total List: \$4,296

Free Trial demo Gear Discount = 50%

Total Cost: \$2,148

The above solution will get you a nice blanket across your coverage area. However, there will be spots that get a weak signal due to buildings and other obstructions. For each of those spots expect to spend roughly \$500 for every additional access point.

Broadband Costs:

Unknown – Need to seek quotes from ISPs. (Ric Cavender, Executive Director of Charleston East End Main Street, said the service costs approximately \$200 per month but was unsure whether that would be comparable to a similar service in Fayetteville.)

Other Hidden Costs:

The above solution will get you a nice blanket across your coverage area. However, there will be spots that get a weak signal due to buildings and other obstructions. For each of those spots expect to spend roughly \$500 for every additional access point.

Other Details:

1. Ric Cavendar has expressed a willingness to assist in hardware placement.
2. Businesses are on board and some have shown a willingness to contribute funds.
3. Charleston East End Main Street used grant money, as well as money it independently raised to fund the equipment purchase.
4. Ric said the service provides an added bonus to area businesses, namely, promotion. The service attracts more people to the business district and also provides them with free advertising. They can configure repeaters to customize messages that appear at the top of every webpage.
5. The public Wi-Fi does not replace service for the businesses. They still have to have their own Internet provider for banking and other private transactions.

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