

The CSIT Division held its monthly meeting on September 16th, just two days ago. A key topic discussed was wired data drops for all general classrooms in the new TLC building. The discussion resulted in a unanimous agreement that all general classrooms should have wired data drops.

There were several prevailing reasons as to why. Some reasons have been advocated previously and other reasons were presented during our meeting. I will summarize briefly some key comments.

First I would like to point out that several strong advocates for wired classrooms were; Bill Williams (Network Manager, Aerospace Corp), Kabwe Chanda (IT Manager, Valley College), Vicky Seno (IT Manager, CSUN), Myself (Networking Instructor and CSIT Data Center Manager). Collectively we represent over 90 years of network management experience:

- 1) Wireless networks cannot adequately support bandwidth requirements for many applications and use-cases.
- 2) Non-wired based classrooms will not provide redundancy in the event of a wireless network outage.
- 3) Wired-based classrooms are very cost effective and typically require no maintenance for extended periods of time.
- 4) Wired-based classrooms can be upgraded independently or temporarily as required.
- 5) Certain organizations will not utilize our facilities or participate, if wired-based classrooms are not available.
- 6) Wired-based classrooms provide the "Best Use" flexibility scenario. For example, a wire-based classroom will be capable of supporting current needs and most foreseeable future needs.

In closing, I would like to reiterate Point #3. Category-6, UTP (unshielded twisted-pair) wired-based classroom infrastructures are not expensive options. The cost to cable-up a classroom consisting of 50 drops should not exceed \$10,000 per classroom. This should include patch panels and all other needed hardware, but does not include "switch networking" hardware. Switches would not be needed initially and could be installed only when required. In addition, there will be practically no maintenance expense associated with this approach.

Reference Link: <https://www.fixr.com/costs/upgrading-to-cat6-cabling>