

## HotSpot module – public WLAN access without a hitch

In this day and age, business customers are not the only ones bringing along their notebooks while traveling. It goes without saying that customers would like to go online using WiFi wherever they can to access their e-mail or access information available on the World Wide Web.

Unfortunately, not all operators of hotels, bed & breakfasts, airports, campgrounds, cafes, restaurants, etc. have responded to this new reality. It does, of course, not take much to set up a WiFi access point and offer unencrypted Internet access to everyone. As you can imagine, however, providing such a service without any monetary benefit does not really offer a great incentive. What is more, offering free, unencrypted WiFi access will not only allow your customers and guests to go online, but gives your neighbors and other people close by an opportunity to mooch off of your free service. This will not only bring down your bandwidth, but will also stir up, first and foremost, questions with regard to liability. Last year in Germany, the owner of an establishment offering free WiFi access was found to be liable by a court (so-called disturbance liability) because a third party was "sharing files" using the owner's unsecured WiFi access point.

By now, a ton of telecommunication companies have started offering pay services in connection with accessing the Web using hot spots. Unfortunately, these services are often more expensive than the revenue generated by providing them. Or, access providers dictate the access rates and force you to share the revenue with them.

PROVISIO now has a solution to this problem and presents the "HotSpot Module" that plugs into SiteCafe 2.0 for EUR 299,-. This software can be installed on any computer running WindowsXP or Vista. The only two other things you will need are a second network card and any WiFi access point available in stores. Both are available at specialized stores for under EUR 30 -> done!

Customers who would like to use the access you are providing only have to switch on their laptops and select your WiFi network. When they open their browser, users will automatically be taken to a page prompting them to enter or purchase a valid prepaid PIN code.



Fig.: WiFi access requires code input

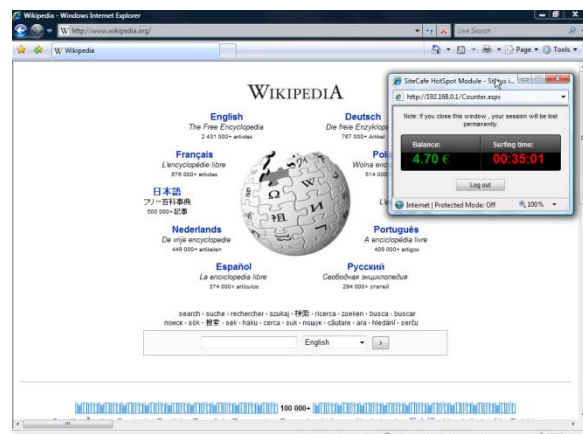


Fig.: Screen after login

The operator can use the included SiteCafe software to generate, print, sell or give away these access codes. Another option is for customers to buy the code themselves using the so-called Ticket Station. The codes will automatically expire once the credit has been used up or, for instance, x days after they have been activated.

Apart from its unbeatable price, this hot spot solution offers the following advantages: the operator specifies who is allowed to use his or her WiFi network and if and how much users will have to pay for using the network. Only one license fee is required per installation location no matter how many customers want to use the hot spot at the same time! The operator and no one else will benefit from the revenue generated.

To download and thoroughly test SiteCafe 2.0 including the HotSpot module for free, log on to the manufacturer's Web site at <http://www.provisio.com/>. The Web site also provides additional information about the software.