Simple, Secure Onboarding for **Wi-Fi Hotspots**

**Next-Generation Hotspots**

Users of smartphones, tablets and laptops are frequently reminded that it’s risky to use their credit cards or enter confidential or private information when using mobile devices at a public hotspot. The reason for this is that hotspots are unencrypted networks, and joining them prompts modern operating systems to display warning messages. This makes users understandably hesitant to use their device as freely and productively as they would when connected to a secure, encrypted network. It also motivates subscribers to bypass their service provider’s hotspot and instead conduct business over 3G/4G networks.

To solve the problem, some providers have considered using Mobile Device Management (MDM) solutions to provision devices for secure, encrypted Wi-Fi. But these solutions are intrusive and heavyweight, requiring a client component on every device. The management-centric approach of MDM makes it a mismatch for service provider networks, which consist of personal devices. Also, given the millions of users who want to connect at popular hotspots across multiple locations, the MDM approach can create an impossible workload for IT administrators in a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) world.

What service providers and users need is a lightweight, self-service solution for provisioning encrypted Wi-Fi across today’s wide variety of devices to ensure millions of devices are connected without inconveniencing the user or creating support tickets.

That solution is the XpressConnect Enrollment System (ES) from Cloudpath Networks.

**XpressConnect ES: The Path to WPA2-Enterprise**

XpressConnect ES makes it possible for service providers to enable secure WPA2-Enterprise wireless networks at massive scale with minimal support costs. With a proven track record of enabling millions of devices annually for WPA2-Enterprise, XpressConnect ES ensures your Wi-Fi offering is as secure, reliable and supportable as your 3G/4G/cable offerings.
XpressConnect ES makes encrypted Wi-Fi for personal devices a reality through its Automated Device Enablement (ADE) approach. Designed for the era of personal devices, ADE allows devices to be assimilated easily, securely, and without support assistance. Through smart, policy-associated certificates and the wireless standard WPA2-Enterprise, ADE provides a set-it-and-forget-it user experience that minimizes the footprint on the device and maximizes the number of devices supported.

For service provider hotspots, the ADE approach:
- Creates a set-it-and-forget-it user Wi-Fi experience
- Provides simple, self-service device activation and onboarding
- Protects the network and customer from snooping, man-in-the-middle, and credential theft attacks
- Eliminates Wi-Fi interruptions, and the related support tickets, caused by forgotten and changed passwords
- Allows WPA2-Enterprise to scale to service provider networks

Offering Service Providers a Competitive Differentiator

Customers have come to expect secure Wi-Fi, with over 90 percent of households using encryption along with nearly every enterprise and educational institution. This leaves hotspots as the only remaining setting for unencrypted Wi-Fi and creates an opportunity for service providers to differentiate themselves by offering a secure hotspot option.

XpressConnect ES is the best way to capitalize on this opportunity by:
- Providing reliable connectivity and a consistent experience across a consumer’s many devices
- Offering Wi-Fi services based on the security gold standard: WPA2-Enterprise with EAP-TLS
- Enabling encrypted Wi-Fi for both public- and private-access networks
- Scaling to accommodate millions of devices
- Onboarding various generations of devices, including SIM and non-SIM-based devices as well as Hotspot 2.0/Passpoint-capable and non-capable devices
- Improving TCO by deploying a standards-based, vendor-neutral solution that works with existing Wi-Fi access points

About Cloudpath Networks

Cloudpath Networks, Inc. provides software solutions and services that simplify the adoption of standards-based security, including WPA2-Enterprise, 802.1X and X.509, in diverse BYOD environments.

Cloudpath was the originator of the secure, automated onboarding model for personal and unmanaged devices, and our XpressConnect Enrollment System won the Best of Interop—Wireless & Mobility award and was named a finalist for the GSMA Global Mobile Awards. From educational institutions, to enterprise, to service providers, to government agencies, Cloudpath services are deployed worldwide for millions of devices every year.

For More Information

To learn more about Cloudpath’s secure hotspot solutions, visit www.cloudpath.net, email info@cloudpath.net or call us at +1 303.647.1495 and hear about successful deployments with leading service providers worldwide.