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New with LCOS 8.5: HTTPS requests and cabled Internet access for guests

LANCOM: Free upgrades for the content filter and the hotspot solution

London, UK, May 16, 2011—German networking specialists LANCOM release an extensive update with new functions for their solution for guest Internet access, the LANCOM Public Spot option, and also for their web content filter. The new features come with the operating system LCOS version 8.5, available for free download from the LANCOM customer portal myLANCOM.

Guest Internet access now available via Ethernet and remote

As of LCOS 8.5, the Public Spot option—originally developed for LANCOM's access points and WLAN controllers to provide secure wireless Internet access for guests—can now be activated on selected routers and on LANCOM's central-site gateways. For the first time, guest Internet access accounts can be implemented on a LANCOM network not only via wireless but also by wireline. This is often required in hotel rooms, for example, where difficult structural conditions prevent the use of wireless LAN. Using the same approach, companies relying on a cable-based network can use their existing infrastructure to provide guest Internet access in conference rooms, for instance.

Wireline guest access accounts operate in exactly the same way as wireless guest access. The login data is generated with a simple user interface and output to a standard printer. Time periods and methods of payment can be defined individually.

Another innovation in the LANCOM Public Spot solution is of special interest to hotel chains and operators with multiple sites. With the option installed on a WLAN controller, for example at the data centre, the hotspot function can be made available at access points at remote locations over a secure connection. This technique provides a very economical way of implementing wireless hotspot solutions in distributed networks.

The LANCOM Public Spot option can be activated on all LANCOM Wireless LAN controllers and access points, on the routers LANCOM 1711 VPN and LANCOM 1721+ VPN, and on the central-site gateways LANCOM 7100 VPN and LANCOM 9100 VPN.

Content filter with HTTPS requests

As of LCOS 8.5, the LANCOM Content Filter supports the blocking of unwanted HTTPS requests. This improves the effectiveness of web-site filtering with particular regard to the protection of minors, which is highly relevant as this option is increasingly used in schools. Furthermore, the performance of the filter has been optimised: The new version now operates with twice the maximum number of active users per device. Another new feature is the simplified override function that allows administrators to configure the system to allow users to override the blocking of certain web site categories.

The LANCOM Content Filter can be activated on a variety of LANCOM routers, VPN central-site gateways, and on LANCOM WLAN controllers. A range of additive licenses is available for 10, 25 or 100 users, each with a validity period of 1 or 3 years. A full list of supported devices and numbers of users is available on the LANCOM web site.

LANCOM Systems background:

LANCOM Systems GmbH is the leading German manufacturer of reliable, innovative network solutions for large enterprises and SMEs, public authorities and institutions. The focus is on remote access and site connectivity based on virtual private networks (VPN) and on wireless networking (WLAN). LANCOM Systems GmbH is headquartered in Würselen near Aachen and has sales offices in Munich, Barcelona and Amsterdam. The company's founder and Managing Director is Ralf Koenzen.

Your editorial staff contact:

Eckhart Traber

LANCOM Systems GmbH

Tel: +49 (0)89 665 61 78 - 67

Fax: +49 (0)89 665 61 78 - 97

presse@lancom.de

www.lancom.eu

Asim Qureshi

AxiCom UK

Tel: +44 (0) 208 392 4084

Fax: +44 (0) 208 392 4055

asim.qureshi@axicom.com

www.axicom.com

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LANCOM Press Lounge: <http://press.lancom.eu>