

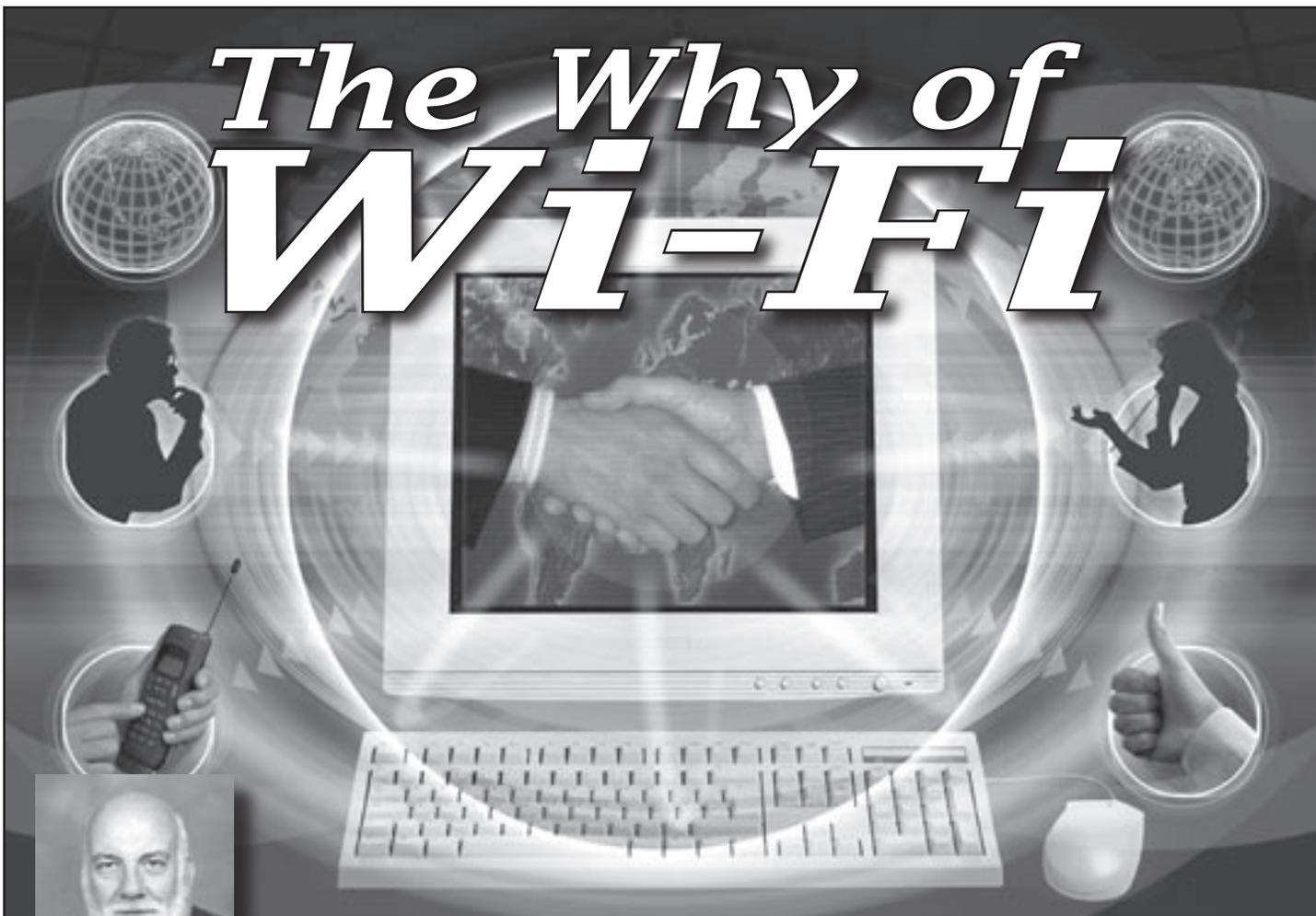


# life® TOOL TIME

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*Tips, tools, and timely tidbits to make your publishing job easier*

## The Why of Wi-Fi



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### life

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Some of us remember the days when kids would place a string between two tin cans and talk back and forth. As long as they kept the string fairly tight, they could talk over surprisingly long distances. Others may remember the pre-stereo days when Hi-Fi (High Fidelity) was the fad. One could place speakers all over the house or apartment and “pipe” music to those rooms. Later in the Sci-Fi (science fiction) era, messages were beamed to places among the stars where no man had gone before. Now communications has entered another

era — the age of Wi-Fi.

Wi-Fi is short for Wireless Fidelity, a type of wireless networking communication, and it is rapidly becoming more popular.

Many of you may recognize that Springfield, Missouri, is not exactly the technological center of the universe. So when the local *Springfield Business Journal* featured on its cover a photo of a student from Assemblies of God Theological Seminary using wireless communications at the Mud House coffee shop, I decided it was time to do an article on Wi-Fi.

Several types of devices make Wi-Fi communications possible. A wireless Ethernet card is the most commonly used. It enables your computer to use radio waves to connect to an access point and allows it to function much like a cordless phone. Wi-Fi enabled devices (laptops or PDAs) can send and receive data wirelessly from any location equipped with Wi-Fi access. However, their range is limited, usually less than 500 feet from the connection point.

A new long-range Wi-Fi is available to those who use a GSM (Global System for Mobile commu-



nications) cellular-based phone.

T-Mobile provides both the equipment and the service, and they claim it provides a much faster data transfer rate than normal telephone, modem-based Internet service. Its monthly rate is less than most cable Internet connections, and it has the advantage of being portable — you take it with you when you travel.

Wi-Fi access points may be called HotSpots, the Zone or Wi-Fi Zone — areas in which Wi-Fi connections are available. Starbucks, one of the largest promoters of Wi-Fi communications, has 4,700 Wi-Fi locations nationwide and charges a small fee for the use of their

**For FREE Wi-Fi Zones in your area, here are a few of the many Web sites available that may be helpful:**

<http://www.jiwire.com>  
<http://www.wi-fihotspotlist.com/>  
<http://www.wififreespot.com/>  
<http://www.lessnetworks.com/>

*This information constantly changes. If you find more good locators, please send them to us and we will include them in a future edition.*

HotSpots. Many other Zones are provided free of charge in airports, restaurants, or coffee shops as entrepreneurs seek to attract the upwardly mobile flying public and entice customers to purchase their goods while using a particular HotSpot.

As I crisscrossed the United States in recent months, I watched for Wi-Fi markers and locations. I used Wi-Fi connections in various airports while waiting for flights. Several coffee houses, including Dunns Brothers and Seattle's Best, allowed me to enjoy both good coffee and undisturbed communication with missionary colleagues around the world. Even discount retail stores

like ShopKo had Wi-Fi connections available in their lunch areas. Kinko's, Borders, and Barnes and Noble also provide this service for their customers. I saw truck stops advertising that they are Wi-Fi compatible. I was most surprised by the Burger King in Budapest, Hungary, which provided its customers with both Wi-Fi and in-house computers while they ate lunch.

Internet communication is now used by over 85 percent of our AGWM personnel. It allows missionaries and staff to send newsletters, prayer requests, updates, photos, work projects, and yes even a few jokes, almost instantly to the farthest points on earth.



**This newsletter is dedicated to providing you, our partners in God's work, with tools and information that will make your work easier. If you would like to see specific topics featured or would like to contribute an article, please contact us via e-mail at [info@lifepublishers.org](mailto:info@lifepublishers.org) and mark the "subject" as "Newsletter." Mailing address: 1400 N. Campbell, Springfield, MO 65802-1818.**