

Call a Professional

There are reasons beyond simple greed that make commercial wiring installations more expensive than DIY beginner projects, as described by Elizabeth Vidrine (Jan., p. 62–63).

No mention is made of standards. Both municipal building codes and the EIA/TIA 568-A-95 Wiring Standards must be followed. Were they? It is common practice to use the ceiling space as the return air plenum. If the library ceiling is done this way, was plenum-rated Cat 5 cable used? It costs several times the price of PVC Cat 5 riser cable but is required by most fire codes. Did any cable pass through wall fire dampers? Were the drops located in such a way that other trades could not damage the wire if they have to work near the wire? Did the campus buildings and grounds people sign off on the project? Do the wires lay on top of the suspended ceiling, or are they placed clear of the ceiling panels so that they would not be disturbed by a maintenance person who may cut them just to get them out of the way? Is the length of each segment within the distance parameters specified for UTP Ethernet?

Basic Ethernet cable testers do not yield qualitative information. They only check DC continuity and whether there are wiring errors. Professional testing equipment costs between \$2,500 and \$5,000. The fact that a segment seems to work is not a sufficient measure of success. That many installations function is a testament to the ingenious error-compensating architecture of Ethernet.

A professional installer may not even own the crimping tool that Vidrine purchased. First, it's not really needed—the standards state that all Ethernet segments will have sockets at each end! Second, crimping ends is unproductive. You can figure four or five bad ends for every 100 crimped. The commercial installer cannot afford to have well-paid, trained employees making cables. It takes five minutes to remake a bad patch cable; it takes 15 seconds to grab a new one out of the bag and

plug it in. You can purchase good-quality, ready-made stranded copper (think flexible) Ethernet cables for 25 cents per foot.

Firewalls are designed to keep intruders away from the protected network, not the other way around. Typical firewall configurations allow all traffic originating inside the protected network to exit. A firewall will not interfere when a protected machine accesses a website that shoves Blaster or a browser hijacker or one of dozens of trojans onto it. A virus-infected computer on the protected side has unrestricted access to the external network, unless the firewall is cranked down so tight that it restricts everything but port 80 traffic. Even then, Code Red will still pass the firewall.

Vern Mastel

Bismarck (N.Dak.) Veterans Memorial
Public Library
v.mastel@mail.infolynx.org

A Grave Error

I enjoyed Keith Michael Fiels's "My Favorite Boston Things" (Jan., p. 65), but he'll have to give up one of them: Benjamin Franklin's grave is in Christ Church cemetery here in Philadelphia, not in the Old Granary Burial Ground. He and his wife lie under the same stone adorned only with their names and dates.

At age 22, young Franklin composed an epitaph for himself:

The Body of B. Franklin
Printer
Like the Cover of an old Book,
Its Contents torn out,
And stript of its Lettering and
Gilding
Lies here, Food for Worms.
But the Work shall not be
wholly lost:
For it will, as he believ'd, appear
once more,
In a new & more perfect Edition,
Corrected and Amended
By the Author.

Judy Platt

Library and Research Center
Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia
judith.platt@phil.frb.org

Hope Continues in Zambia

A year after *American Libraries* published my story on the Fountain of Hope library in Zambia and the Lubuto Library Project that it inspired (Dec. 2003, p. 66–68), I'd like to give an update on the library and the project. Four years after it opened, the 20-foot-long shipping container housing the library is overwhelmed by hundreds of children coming to read, and most must sit outside due to lack of space. We hope to build a larger facility through the Lubuto project.

According to a colleague, the entire collection is intact, an astounding fact considering that hundreds of soccer balls donated to the same children several years earlier disappeared within days. How can this be? They tell us they have learned to treasure and look after the books and to teach other children to do the same. They have begun to read to one another and to produce their own books as well as HIV/AIDS prevention messages.

And those children who made it into secondary (boarding) schools because their studies in the library helped them pass the entrance exam now come back "home" to their library to study.

Our project to reproduce this success elsewhere in Africa is about to become the Lubuto Library Project, Inc., a nonprofit corporation. With shelving donated by the Folger Shakespeare Library and space in a local church, we are about to begin our first school outreach/book drives. After we have secured grant funding, we will certainly be contacting the many AL readers who offered assistance after reading the article, and to whom we would like to express our gratitude.

Jane K. Meyers

Lubuto Library Project
Washington, D.C.
mayazi@verizon.net

CORRECTION: Florida and Oklahoma libraries have reciprocal borrowing only between academic libraries (Jan., p. 26). ♦

Copyright of American Libraries is the property of American Library Association and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.