Pakedge Patents In-Ceiling WAP, Intros Flip-Down

The ceiling is often the best place for a wireless access point (WAP), but they can sure look ugly if affixed to the ceiling like a smoke detector.

Many manufacturers now make hidden WAPs that practically disappear into the ceiling, but Pakedge was awarded the patent for the design in July. If you're scoring at home,

it's Patent No. 7,763,797 for a "Ceiling-mounted wireless network access point."

From the patent abstract:

A ceiling-mountable wireless access point includes a ceiling box with a wing bracket and a wireless access point. The access point is receivable in the ceiling box, with the ceiling box mountable in a drywall installation.

The wing bracket couples with ceiling box to secure the apparatus in a ceiling. A power-over-Ethernet module may be provided to eliminate the need for a dedicated power supply at the installation site.

Not long after, Pakedge did some more innovation, with a new in-ceiling design. At CEDIA Expo 2010, the company introduced two flush-mounted WAPs that flip down from the ceiling.

Although it appears from the images that the WAPs flip down for greater coverage when in use, Pakedge spokesperson Nick Philips tells us the "swing down feature is for easy installation and maintenance."

Installation is simple, he says: Simply cut a round hole, engage two dog ears, connect a Cat 5/6 cable and close the cover. The product protrudes just 3/4-inch from the surface.

The WAP-C3N supports 8012.11b/g/n for "ultra high throughput" and the WAP-C3G supports 802.11b/g. Both products are enterprise-class. A single access point can serve multiple VLANs with multiple SSIDs so only one AP is needed to span multiple subnets, says Philips. —*Julie Jacobson*

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In Brief

Mozaex Adds 3D Media Servers

A number of manufacturers have left the media server category over the past several months (see AMX, Imerge, Colorado vNet, Sunfire). But Mozaex is relatively new to category, and the Salt Lake City-based company recently introduced a line of server products that can play 3D Blu-ray discs.

Mozaex's 3D product line includes multiroom A/V distribution capabilities and single-room product solutions, and according to Mozaex CEO Douglas Kihm, the servers provide playback of everything from streaming media to basic functions like photo viewing. Retail pricing for the line starts at $4,795 for the Solo 1 3D 1TB all-in-one system.