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*Stark County Law Library Association*

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## BEGINNERS

## FreelanceLaw.com

**The email address, info@starklawlibrary.org really works! TRY IT!!**

FreelanceLaw <<http://www.freelancelaw.com/>> is the brain-child of Melody A. Kramer, a San Diego attorney whose purpose for establishing the site is:

simplifying the process for law firms and inhouse legal counsel who are trying to locate specifically qualified freelance attorneys, paralegals, court reporters, interpreters, and other freelance legal professionals to meet their project requirements.”<sup>1</sup>

FreelanceLaw connects law firms and legal departments with freelancers using a confidential, qualification-searchable, database. It has several advantages. FreelanceLaw seems to be more cost-effective than legal temporary agencies. To maintain a confidential atmosphere, the freelancer’s profiles do not list email addresses or phone numbers and are accessible only

to registered law firm users. FreelanceLaw checks the information from all users who register as law firms. If an applicant does not qualify as a legitimate law firm, they are not allowed to use the site, thus protecting the free-lancers from temporary employment agency attacks.

The site also has a section on Freelance Law that identifies the relevant policies of the ABA, IRS, United States Patent and Trademark Office as to their stand on legal outsourcing. They also include about eight state ethics opinions though they do not include active links at present.

Lastly the site contains a freelancer forum (still in Beta) for networking with each other and sharing suggestions for improving the FreelanceLaw website. Participation in the forum is by invitation only but invitations are issued to all participants soon after they register with the site.





## INTERMEDIATE MiFi

There's a new toy in town - the Novatel MiFi, a cellular modem, slightly larger than a credit card, "that does not need to be pushed into, slotted, USB'd or otherwise wired to your laptop to link you to a cellular-hosted internet service."<sup>2</sup>

The Mifi sits in your pocket and turns an incoming 3G radio wave into a small (about 30 foot) Wi-Fi network. You can hook it up to "your laptop, iPod Touch or anything else with a Wi-Fi radio. This last is pretty exciting on its own as it effectively turns an iPod Touch into an iPhone without a phone."<sup>3</sup>

The difference with the Mifi is that it is so tiny and, according to the New York Times' David Pogue, ridiculously easy to use. It'll run for 40 hours in standby, much like a cellphone, and when you hit the single switch on the side it springs (or rather, stirs) into life... Once on, the battery will give five hours of surfing but can be plugged into the power as it goes to re-juice the batteries.<sup>4</sup>

It currently operates on the Verizon and Sprint networks.

From Sprint you get 3G speed for just \$99 after a \$50 mail-in rebate with a 2-year contract.<sup>5</sup> The MiFi received a 4.7 star rating after 19 reviews. Cost and contract were the same from Verizon with four and a half star review rating after 151 reviews.<sup>6</sup> In 3G speed, Verizon was just a bit faster than Sprint.<sup>7</sup> Both systems require the same operating systems and system requirements:

- Windows® 2000, XP and Vista
- Mac OS X 10.4.0 or higher and Linux
- Memory (RAM) requirement: 128MB
- Hard disk space requirement: 100MB<sup>8</sup>

One drawback might be that you only get 5 GB of data, enough to send up to 150,000 emails or equivalent downloads. Overage charges beyond the allotted 5 GB are \$0.05 per MB.

Security wise it utilizes WPA2, <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wi-Fi\\_Protected\\_Access#WPA2](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wi-Fi_Protected_Access#WPA2)> and WEP <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wired\\_Equivalent\\_Privacy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wired_Equivalent_Privacy)> protocols.

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## INTERMEDIATE MiFi (Continued)

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Why should you care about this?

In both my normal consulting, and my consulting to attorneys concerning IT/Computer Science issues in litigation, it would often be useful to have an essen-

tially anywhere uplink in the arsenal. Then, every vehicle or picnic table becomes a place where a team can gain access to new information via a secure network (VPN over WiFi through the Internet using MiFi).<sup>9</sup>

## ADVANCED Mind Mapping

Mind maps (or similar concepts) have been used for centuries in learning, brainstorming, memory, visual thinking, and problem solving. But the 60's marked an increase in the use of mind maps in the business world, led by Tony Buzan, a British psychologist and business guru.<sup>10</sup>

Mind mapping is the visual representation of the interconnection of ideas, images and memories graphically arranged to help you create, capture and organize complex ideas, information, problems, and data. For a

good overview of one use of mind mapping take a few minutes to watch the YouTube presentation on Mind Mapping by Stephen Pierce <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uvnbKEH OQIY>>.

One of the best uses of mind mapping is to get a handle on complex problems or questions by analyzing and structuring the information and identifying relationships between key points. But there are a lot of other uses, including:

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## ADVANCED Mind Mapping ( Continued)

- Summarizing workshops
- Reporting on project or staff meeting, brainstorming or strategy sessions
- Improving knowledge management systems
- Improving creativity and balancing right and left brain activities
- Strengthening the team concept <sup>11</sup>

Next month we will present some of the free and commercial mind mapping software that are available. These expand the use of mind mapping so that you can convert the map into other forms of communication such as PowerPoint presentations, Word files and Outlook tasks.



## FOOTNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> “About Us.” Freelance Law. 2008 - 2009. Freelance Law, Inc. 6 August 2009. <[http://freelancelaw.com/About\\_Us](http://freelancelaw.com/About_Us)>
- <sup>2</sup> Bilinsky, David. “Lighting a Rocket...” Thoughtful Legal Management. 10 May 2009. 12 August 2009. <<http://thoughtfullaw.com/2009/05/10/lighting-a-rocket/>>.
- <sup>3 & 4</sup> Sorrel, Charlie. “Verizon Mifi: Personal Wi-Fi Coming this Month.” Wired. 8 May 2009. Condé Nast Digital. 12 August 2009. <<http://www.wired.com/gadgetlab/2009/05/verizon-mifi-personal-wi-fi-coming-this-month/>>.
- <sup>5</sup> “MiFi™ 2200 by Novatel Wireless.” Sprint. 2009. Sprint. 13 August 2009. <<http://nextelonline.nextel.com/NASApp/onlinestore/en/Action/SubmitRegionActioncurrZipCode=&nextPage=DisplaySelPhoneDetail&equipmentSKUurlPart=%3FphoneSKU%3D%2200WFDO%26currentPage%3DphonePage&filterStringParamName=&newZipCode=44709>>.
- <sup>6 & 8</sup> “MiFi™ 2200 Intelligent Mobile Hotspot.” Verizon Wireless. 2009. Verizon Wireless. 13 August 2009. <<http://www.verizonwireless.com/b2c/store/controlleritem=phoneFirst&action=viewPhoneDetail&selectedPhoneId=4726>>
- <sup>7</sup> Sullivan, Mark. “A Day in the Life of 3G.” PCWorld. 28 June 2009. PC World Communications, Inc. 13 August 2009. <[http://www.pcworld.com/article/167391-2/a\\_day\\_in\\_the\\_life\\_of\\_3g.html](http://www.pcworld.com/article/167391-2/a_day_in_the_life_of_3g.html)>.
- <sup>9</sup> Gezelter, Bob. Comment to “Lighting a Rocket...” 16 May 2009. 12 August 2009. <<http://thoughtfullaw.com/2009/05/10/lighting-a-rocket/#comment-83610>>.
- <sup>10 & 11</sup> “van Halen, Cees. “Mind Mapping.” 12Manage. 20 August 2009. Manage - The Executive Fast Track. 20 August 2009. <[http://www.12manage.com/methods\\_mind\\_mapping.html](http://www.12manage.com/methods_mind_mapping.html)>.

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