

Production WiFi Best Practices

HPA Tech Retreat 2022

Who, What, Why?

Who

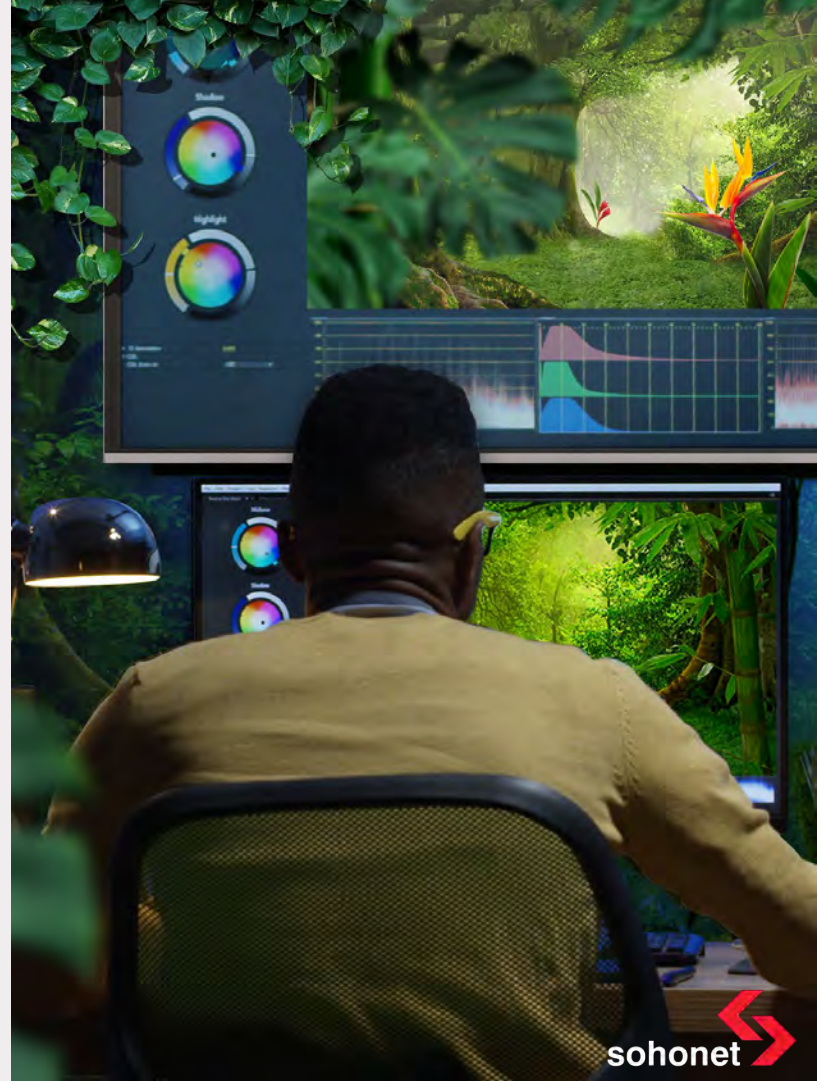
- Patrick Sumbly - VP Global Engineering @ Sononet
- 60+ studios, 500+ customers, 20+ countries
- Many thousands APs across the globe

What

- Wifi observations, suggestions and recommendations for production studios

Why

- Hopefully make things run more smoothly
- Numbers of devices are still growing



What's the problem here?

- Wireless deployments can be difficult in ideal environments but are even more challenging when deploying in production environments.
- The parties involved deploying the wifi may or may not be part of the same team/company
- The wireless environment might only exist for a few days in a location before being reconfigured / removed
- This presentation will cover the factors that make the environment hard and some of the potential solutions

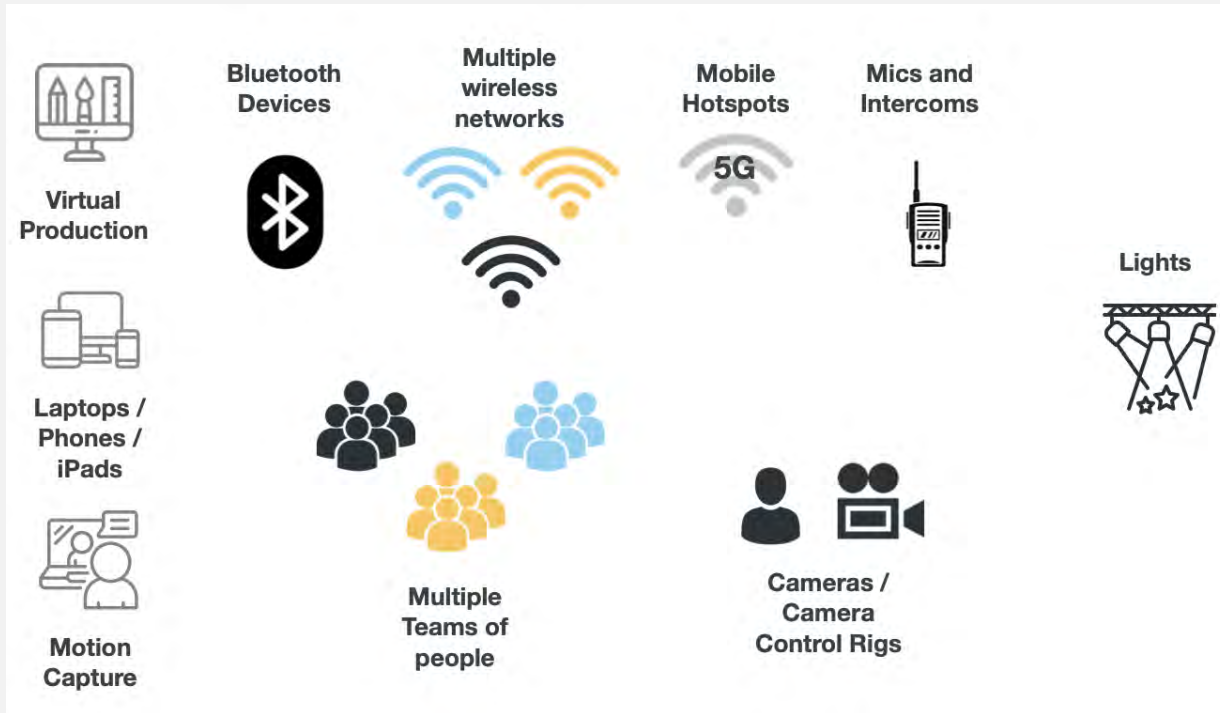
- Multiple parties
- Competing tech requirements
- Short term

Lights, Camera, Wifi, Action



Competition for radio spectrum

100s devices are all fighting for the same air space:



Lights, Camera, Wifi, Action



Teams / Companies / Departments

- Different people will be responsible for different equipment
- Some work at the studio
- Some remote
- Some freelance and only there for days/weeks
- Some roles are unionized



Time

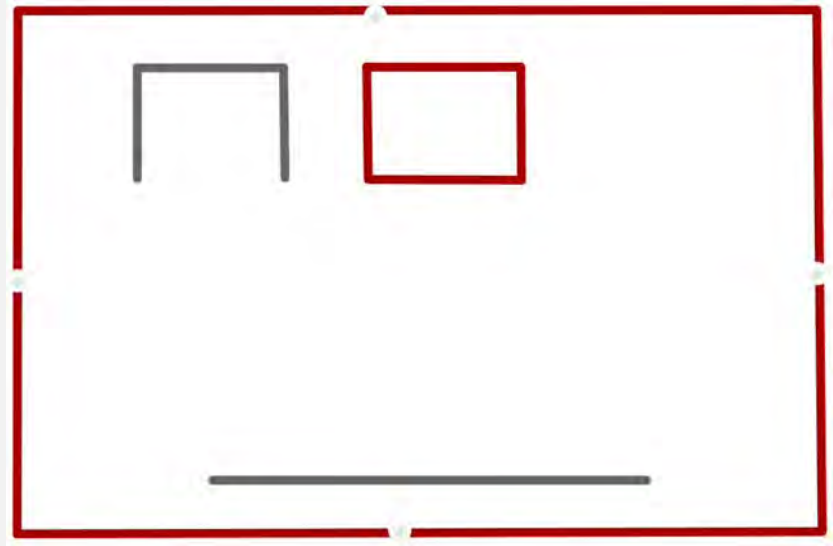
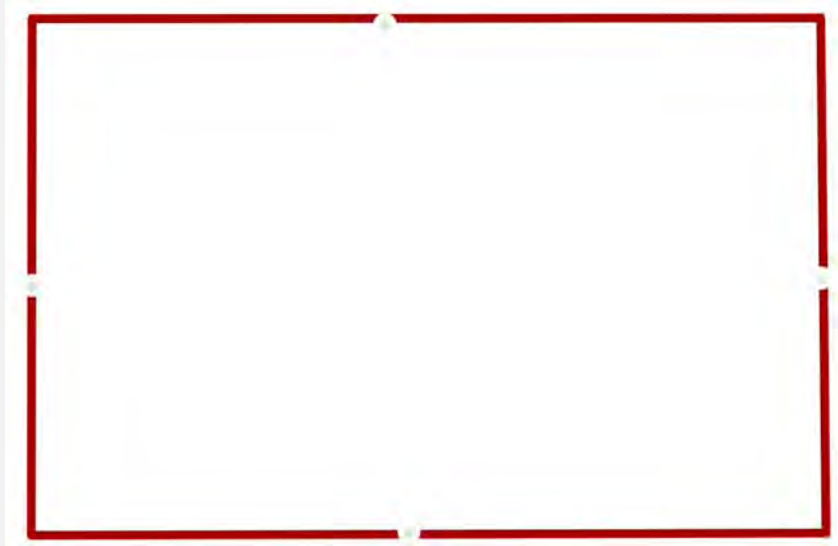
- Short amount of time to build up tech stack
- May only be there for hours/days/weeks
- Priority in space is to build sets, set up cameras, lights etc...



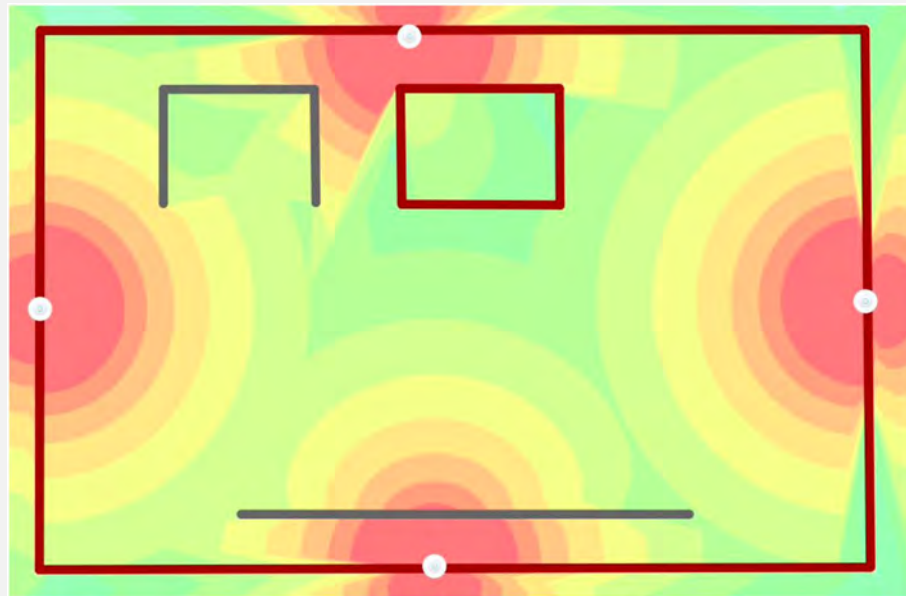
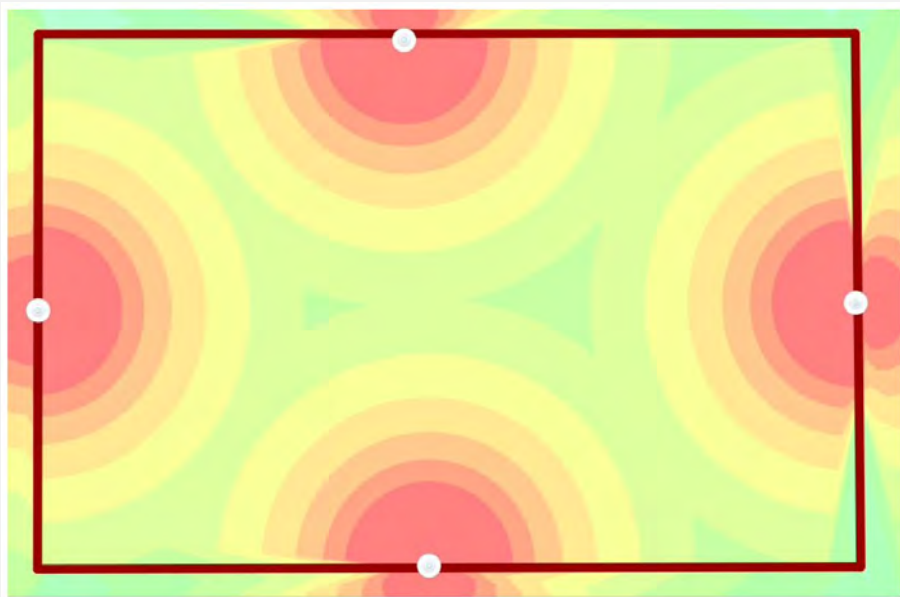
Space

- Sound stages are not the ideal location for wireless.
- Mounting Access Points (APs) can be difficult
- Sets, metal lighting rigs etc can create wireless blackspots

Location, Location, Location



Location, Location, Location



How Do We Make it Better

Technology

- Where possible use 5Ghz or Wifi6
- Channel planning and mapping, reserve some channels
- Don't use wireless for wireless sake
- Make devices easier to configure

Process

- Make it someone's responsibility
- Publish local wireless channels that are free to use/reserved
- Create a register for teams to "claim" channels

Standards

- Agree some standards
- Easier said than done

Education

- Train staff on wireless equipment
- Setting channels on some devices is actually setting the frequency hopping pattern...thanks!
- Don't build faraday cages

Security

- Configure different SSIDs and security zones
- Change default configurations
- Use encryption
- WPA2 or better

Thanks



Drive Safely