

MOBILE DEVICES

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Smartphones, tablets and websites: How can hotels keep up?

New year, new trends, although one has been growing steadily over the past several years, in fact: A story on GuestCentric.com is reporting that by 2015, more travelers will access the Internet through their mobile devices than anything else.

GUEST INTERNET ACCESS

More hotels implement free Wi-Fi service

More hotels are cutting the wires—and the costs—to make Wi-Fi accessible for more hotel guests.

Kimpton said to have best hotel WiFi, Westin the worst

Of course, a hotel company based in the tech-crazy San Francisco Bay Area offers the best WiFi in the lodging industry.

Online Reviews, Incentives and Wi-Fi are Key to Customer Loyalty

More than 1,000 respondents were asked in a survey conducted in October by customer intelligence firm, PeriscopeIQ whether they use online incentives for hotels and/or restaurants and the vast majority said that often or occasionally do.

Free Internet? More hotels say 'not so fast'

Free Wi-Fi. You can get it while sipping a double tall latte at Starbucks, eating a Big Mac at McDonald's or waiting for your flight at an increasing number of airports.

BROADBAND / WI-FI

ITIF Report: U.S. Is on Broadband Fast Track

According to a new broadband rankings analysis from the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, the U.S. has made "rapid progress" in broadband deployment, performance, price and adoption.

Broadband '2,000 times' faster aim of Bangor scientists

The Bangor University team hope the high-speed fibre optic technology can be developed using cheap 'off-the-shelf' components

How Potatoes are Helping Improve Airplane Wi-Fi

If the wireless Internet connection during your holiday flight seems more reliable than it used to, you could have the humble potato to thank.

Tech, telecom giants take sides as FCC proposes large public WiFi networks

The wireless industry is against such available service. Google and Microsoft say it would spark innovation.

HDTV

Guestroom TVs evolve as video on demand loses steam

The guestroom TV has had a long standing as the centerpiece of the hotel guestroom, also functioning as a money-making asset through its video-on-demand offerings. Recently, however, hoteliers are seeing a shift in guest priorities that could present a challenge to VOD.

Does anyone watch hotel TVs anymore?

At Hyatt Place hotels, like this one in Richmond, Virginia, flat-screen televisions are positioned to be seen both from a sitting area and the bedroom. But is anyone watching them?

DOOR LOCKS / F&B

Seoul hotel loans smartphones as room key

The idea of using smartphones as hotel keys has been picking up steam of late, especially as near field communication becomes more prevalent in mobile devices. But the concept took a new step forward this week.

Survey gauges cost of ingredients, technology in F&B

In addition to asking chefs and bartenders about top menu trends and bar trends for 2013 the National Restaurant Association (NRA) polled more than 1,800 American Culinary Federation member chefs and almost 200 United States Bartenders' Guild member bartenders about a variety of other hot topics in F&B.

TECH TRENDS / BUSINESS

2013 will be the year of 'the Internet of things' as more than 5B wireless chips ship

Over five billion wireless connectivity chips will ship in 2013, according to ABI Research, as our appetite for everything mobile continues to grow. Bluetooth and Wi-Fi are both growing, of course, but so are lesser-known specs such as Zigbee, UWB, and, yes, even NFC.

At Disney Parks, a Bracelet Meant to Build Loyalty (and Sales)

Imagine Walt Disney World with no entry turnstiles. Cash? Passé: Visitors would wear rubber bracelets encoded with credit card information, snapping up corn dogs and Mickey Mouse ears with a tap of the wrist. Smartphone alerts would signal when it is time to ride Space Mountain without standing in line.

Comcast Business Services launches communications suite for hotel industry

Comcast Corporation, a major provider of communications products and services, today announced Comcast Business Hospitality, a new product suite consisting of Ethernet, Internet, video and voice services packaged in one integrated package customized for the hospitality industry.

Survey: Nearly a Quarter of Netflix Subs Cancel Pay-TV Service

Reed Hastings may want to revisit his canard that Netflix's pioneering subscription video-on-demand service isn't contributing to cord-cutting among cable and satellite TV subs.

Comments / Suggestions: Please feel free to bring to our attention technology articles that we may have overlooked. We welcome your comments and submissions: Please remit to: David.Phillips@ihg.com