Specifying Unit-level Intra-Building Cabling Projects
Advisory Number 2
Last revised: 1 Nov. 1995

Topic:
Guidance has been requested on specification of unit-level installations and/or renovations of intrabuilding data, voice, and video cabling infrastructure. The request asked for materials for inclusion in bid documents and/or requests for quotation.

Example:
A unit is scheduled to move from Building B to Building C. The legacy data wiring in Building C is inadequate for the unit’s data needs. The rough cost of renovation of the data cabling and electronics is $300,000. Questions which arose included:

- Is UFRFC 0-C "Preferred Practices for Intra-building Wiring" mandatory for this size and kind of project?
- If UFRFC 0-C is optional, could it be helpful for such a project?
- What design, installation, testing, and documentation should be specified for the successful contractor?

[Those unfamiliar with "UFRFC" see note at the end of this document.]

Resources used in formulating the Advisory:
- Review of background, scope, and intent of UFRFC 0-C.
- Review of wiring renovation project history with Director, Network Services, and Asst. Director, PPD Telecommunications.
- Review of online discussion on this topic on the CCC list.

Premises:
- By agreement between OITS and Administrative Affairs, UFRFC 0-C is mandatory for projects budgeted at $500,000 or more.
- The practices codified in UFRFC 0-C are valuable for cabling projects of almost all budget sizes.
- There are contractors who will bid data and video wiring without the ability to fulfill their bids.

Conclusions:
• Except in rare, peculiar circumstances, URFRC 0-C should be followed in order to sustain maintainability, consistency, and quality of cabling and wiring.
• For data cabling it is important for units to specify Category 5 Level 2 installation and also to stipulate acceptance testing to demonstrate that the specification has been met.
• Independent testing is available from Computer and Electronic Technical Services "CETS" (392-2464, http://www.eng.ufl/ddf/) on a fee-for-service basis.
• For fiber-to-the-wall-plate specifications and currently supported services, contact Network Services (392-4519; http://www.ufnet.ufl.edu). CETS, see preceding item, can provide installation.
• For all wiring and cabling, it is important to specify that the contractor must provide as-built cabling plans and full as-accepted test results.
• OITS and Telecomm are building a list of contractors who have agreed to comply with UFRFC 0-C and have demonstrated that commitment on-campus. Suggestions for that list from UF units are encouraged.

Other Information:
A "UFRFC" is a "UF Request for Comments." After drafting, comment, review, and revision have taken place, UFRFC's typically are adopted by the Office of Information Technologies and Services as policy and/or preferred practice statements. Adopted UFRFC’s as well as those which are under consideration (at various stages of drafting) are available from the OITS Web site - http://nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu/~oits
Go to the link labeled "Policies and Preferred Practices."