You are responsible for deploying a CitySense network around your city.
1) What goals would you have for the system besides monitoring urban weather and pollution?
2) What other benefits could a CitySense network provide?
3) How could local businesses and citizens benefit from the network?
4) What legal and ethical concerns should you understand prior to deploying the network?
5) What can you do to protect your network and your city from these issues?

Deploying CitySense

One of my top goals in deploying CitySense would be providing free Internet access across the city. It makes no sense that there isn't free wi-fi in all American cities and towns at this point, and such a feature would be great for attracting business travelers and vacationers as well as industry. Plus, the taxpayers are paying for these nodes, so they deserve to reap the rewards.

One of the most attractive aspects of this system is its versatility. Running an OS on each individual node allows us to run virtually any software we desire and install any kind of sensors we want to run on it. Traffic and security cameras would give citizens and law enforcement a birds-eye, real-time view of the city, but this is something of an obvious thing to implement. I believe a real way to see what the system could do would be to open it up to the public, employ Web 2.0 technologies and ASPs and see what the citizens can do with it. There's a real potential for using this technology for online community building.

The concern with free wi-fi is that we could drive companies selling broadband out of business; therefore, bandwidth on the wi-fi network must be governed. Opening the network to anyone also opens it to security issues, but none of these are more dangerous than what a web-surfer is exposed to online currently. As long as security standards are maintained, then the system can be open. With cameras added to each node, privacy issues are raised, so they must be fixed-position cameras, in place for a specified purpose. As long as there is transparency in the system, citizens won't have to worry.