Integrated
entertainment

A room isn't just for sleeping in

What should hotels be thinking of in terms of entertaining their guests once they reach their rooms. The TV is obvious, but what about music, games, activity books, etc., especially for kids. Some hotels now make a feature of guest tablets and you should also be prepared for customers forgetting rechargers, wanting iPod docks, etc. What's new on the market or the latest craze. And is it economically practical for smaller hotels to be thinking in terms of Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, etc.

In-room innovations

Jo Berrington, YOTEL VP, explores the importance of in-room entertainment

With the dual pressures of an increasingly crowded market place and competition from the sharing economy, it is more important than ever for hotels to offer innovative in-room entertainment facilities while still guaranteeing the basic functions customers have come to expect. Technology evolves rapidly, and hotels must always aim for the most versatile, easy-to-use in-room entertainment as possible.

One solution is to structure facilities around guests' personal technology. A 'bring your own device' ethos allows customers to interact with their hotel room and tailor their entertainment to meet their needs. The seamless connectivity offered by Bluetooth and Wi-Fi removes much of the hassle and expense of constantly updating equipment, while also giving guests greater control over their entertainment.

At the same time, hotels must still take comfort and convenience into consideration when designing entertainment systems. Business travellers in particular look for quick and easy-to-use in-room facilities to help them unwind from the routine stresses of travel. Hotels must therefore make sure that guests can connect to their entertainment system from the moment they sit down on their bed without passing through a barrage of login screens.

While these trends may seem daunting at first, recent technological developments present a number of exciting opportunities for hotels to expand and improve their entertainment facilities. At YOTEL, for example, guests can embrace the ease and simplicity of Bluetooth connectivity to interact with their personal Tech Wall, which offers audio-visual equipment as well as multiple power points. Furthermore, YOTEL's signature SmartBeds™ allow guests to turn their bed into a sofa at the touch of a button, transforming their cabin from a sleeping space to a place for working and socialising.

New direct installation solution

ONELAN launches System-on-Chip software solution for Samsung SSP and LG webOS

ONELAN is pleased to announce the launch of its new System-on-Chip (SOC) software solution enabling its software to be installed directly onto either a Samsung Smart Signage display or LG's webOS platform.

While the traditional Net-Top-Box will still offer enhanced functionality, the SOC solution facilitates direct integration with Samsung and LG's displays making installation simpler, with no external player and reduced cabling. In addition, the total cost of ownership for the end user can be reduced, making it a more attractive proposition in some installations.

The solution is delivered by the ONELAN CMS 3.0 which enables content to be published to a mixed network of integrated small screens, SOC displays and the full range of NTB signage players. This offers complete flexibility in content display to the end-user. The SOC player uses the same 'Store and Forward' content delivery mechanism to ensure reliability, with content playback continuing even if internet connection is lost.

Furthermore, the option to host on-premise or in the cloud, as well as integration with Active Directory, makes SOC an ideal solution for corporate enterprises who can chose the levels of scalability, flexible pricing options and control required.

Simon Carp, Senior Product Manager commented; "We're delighted to be working with our technology partners to bring SOC to the market. While traditional signage players will continue to offer significant advantages, there are many applications which can be easily serviced by our new single and multi-zone SOC players."

Further information: www.onelan.com

In-Room Entertainment from Chantry Digital

We are currently living in a multimedia rich environment with digital TV services and high-speed internet connections as standard and customers expect the same level of experience when staying in a hotel room, whether on business or pleasure.

Chantry Digitals Commercial department, specialises in the supply, install and service of all aspects of Video and audio for the hospitality sector. From the small Boarding house or pub, to the large blue Chip Hotels or Pub Groups. Chantry digital is a nationwide company, based near Bath in the West Country with its own engineers networked around the country.

You can deliver a wide choice of up to the minute in-room movies to your guests. The high-quality Movies on Demand service showcases box office films not yet on general release in the UK. Previously, in-room movies have had to run a strict schedule - and the chances are that your guests may already have seen the film. With our system your guests can start a movie whenever they want, pause the movie for as long as they want, rewind and fast forward at their own convenience.

Further information: 0800 373246; www.chantrydigital.co.uk