

Tom Parsons'

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USA Room Keys

Hawthorn Suites: Hotels across North America (approximately 140) are being outfitted with wireless high-speed Internet installations scheduled to be completed by year's end. About two-thirds of the installations have been completed. Guests will be able to gain access to the Internet from anywhere on the hotel property including guest suites, meeting rooms, restaurants and pool areas. There are no special software or configuration requirements. Guests traveling with the most recent laptops equipped with a wireless network interface will be able to open up their computer anywhere on property, connect to the system and gain high-speed access to limited free Web sites and the Internet. Travelers with more conventional technology can use laptop-compatible antennas from the hotel's front desk that will enable them to access the system. For guests who choose to leave their laptop at home, approximately 20 percent of all Hawthorn suites will feature WYSE Wintem thin client computers with color monitors and speakers. Guests have complimentary access to information about local weather, attractions and hotel amenities through a hotel-specific Web page. They will also be able to access general information from designated Web sites including

USA Today, MSN International, Hawthorn Reservations, Kids' Web and more, all free of charge. Full Internet access is \$9.95 per day. A Frequent Surfer Program, which enables guests to use a personal account to log on at any Hawthorn Suites hotel, is being developed. (800-527-1133, www.hawthorn.com)

Hilton Garden Inn: Four new properties have opened: the 171-room Hilton Garden Inn Houston Northwest (15 miles from Bush Intercontinental Airport); the 125-room Hilton Garden Inn Anchorage (the hotel group's first Alaska property); the 120-room Hilton Garden Inn Palm Springs/Rancho Mirage; and the 111-room Hilton Garden Inn Poughkeepsie/Fishkill. Each includes a Pavilion Pantry with a selection of food and sundries; a restaurant with room service; a lounge area with television and fireplace; a 24-hour, complimentary business center; and an on-site guest laundry facility. Guestrooms include a hospitality center with microwave, coffee-maker and small refrigerator; a sitting area with easy chair and ottoman; a hair dryer, iron and ironing board; on-demand movies, video games and interactive Hilton guest services. Business-oriented features include high-speed