The most efficient and effective wireless deployment is one that is designed by a Wi-Fi Professional

A Wireless Site Survey, sometimes called an RF (radio frequency) site study, is the process of planning and designing a wireless network to provide a wireless solution that will deliver the required RF coverage and throughput for the identified space. There are two predominate methods of surveys that can take place; predictive and active with pros and cons to each.

An Active Survey is an in-depth analysis of the physical facility. The engineer will go onsite to make note of layout, construction and finishes of the facility. They should also bring with them the hardware and software to properly measure the RF within the facility making note of how the RF functions within the space. Active surveys cost money. There is overhead in software, hardware and labor necessary to develop a proper report. The result should be a functional design, exact bill of materials and a strongly supported budget. No guess work.
A Predictive Survey is done using only floor plans. Based upon the floor plans alone, the engineer predicts where the best location for access points would be and produces a design. Some engineers take an educated guess at it while others use tools like Air Magnet or Ekahau to produce coverage maps to back their suppositions. These tools can be effective if the floor plans are scaled properly and construction materials are not only accurate, but the engineer takes the time to incorporate them into their predictive design. Predictive surveys are incomplete and rely on guesswork about how the RF will function in the environment. Predictive surveys require less overhead and therefore should be much less expensive. If the engineer charges you anything, the cost should be nominal as there is no investment in equipment, travel or on-site labor.

Active Design. Be it a re-design or new deployment, engineers are trained and certified, using the best of class tools and software to survey and design the most effective and efficient wireless deployment. Engineers will develop a wireless network guaranteed to function to your specifications. When working with an accredited RF Engineer conducting a proper active survey design, customers will save money and provide a wireless network that will be the most efficient and effective for today’s devices and software applications of error.