

# Wireless Communication Policy FAQ

## 1. What is the wireless network?

The wireless network is an extension of the wired network infrastructure, which allows for increased mobility and flexibility for campus network users. The most popular type of wireless network is built on 802.11b network hardware.

## 2. How does it work?

The wireless network uses radio waves to send and receive data. These 802.11b networks use radio frequencies in the unlicensed 2.4 GHz range

## 3. What about security?

Wireless network security is a serious issue. Wireless is not only a shared medium, but also a medium that is broadcast via radio waves. Therefore, the data is inherently insecure. MSU has deployed RADIUS servers to verify user authentication. Only users that have registered their wireless clients with Information Systems can access wireless networks on campus.

## 4. Can I install a wireless network or access point in my office?

**No.** Individuals and departments should not independently deploy wireless networking products. Security is the top reason why this has been deemed unacceptable. Only those products that have the ability to authenticate users against our RADIUS servers are allowed to be used on campus.

## 5. Can I use wireless in my Dorm room?

It is against ResNet policy to have in-room wireless access point devices for several reasons:

a) Many wireless access points are set by default to act as gateways, working as DHCP servers. These devices are not capable of serving hundreds of users, and when they are added to the existing housing network, they interrupt the network service for all users on the housing network.

b) Frequency management: The 2.4 ghz band is limited to 11 usable channels, only 3 of which do not interfere. Therefore, in the area an AP serves, there are only 3 usable channels. Without centralized coordination of which of the 3 channels are used in which areas, the network is not usable by any wireless network clients at functional speeds.

Issues of security and privacy eclipse bandwidth issues, as anyone within range of the access point can collect traffic. ResNet will be enforcing the housing network policy with wireless discovery equipment and requesting that anyone with a wireless access point discontinue its use immediately. Operating an access point is in violation of the ResNet network policy, and any network port that is found to have an access point attached will be shut down.

## 6. How can I get a wireless network for my department?

Contact MSU Information Systems Department.

**7. Can anybody connect to MSU's wireless networks?**

No. Only faculty/staff and students may utilize available access, but you must register your wireless device with Information Systems Department. Devices will not be able to communicate on the wireless networks until this registration has been completed. Access to wireless access points in each of the buildings is coordinated with the Tech Coordinator responsible for that area.