

DePauw Student Government
A White Paper Concerning WiFi Deadspots throughout DePauw's Wireless Network

White Paper No. 2

As students in a progressing technological and connected world, the necessity for Wireless Internet on a college campus has grown. The Internet has become the main source of communication and learning for the DePauw community. Students that do not have smart phones rely heavily on wireless access to communicate with professors, fellow students, and countless other people. We are very impressed with the initiative the IT department has taken to establish and improve the wireless system on campus. DePauw is one of the most wireless campuses in the nation. Each of our academic buildings has Internet access along with the outdoor space on campus. Wireless access in Janet Prindle Institute of Ethics is also appreciated. In response to student concerns, this white paper is used to inform Information Technologies (IT) on the areas of campus that can be improved as well as inform students of the improvements the IT department expects to complete in the upcoming months.

Suggestions for improvement

While we understand that these issues stem from many people accessing the Internet at the same time in one spot, after conversing with students, we found certain areas in need of improvement and special consideration to ensure Wireless Internet access to the students of DePauw. In this transitioning period from the current wireless system to an updated, improved system, students would like attention drawn to specific areas on campus that have very weak WAP's.

We ask that the IT department take into consideration our suggestions, such as:

1. Academic Buildings: Third floor of Asbury, Back side of Peeler by the ceramics and sculpture studios, Third floor and Basement of Roy O West, GCPA practice rooms and ensemble and the entire PCCM building.
2. Residence Halls: Many students have discussed issues with Mason, Anderson Street, and Hogate. Students feel that wireless should be offered everywhere in residence halls, especially study rooms.
3. Anderson Street: Several houses, like 426 Anderson, do not receive wireless internet on the DPU_Wireless server, but rather, dpu_cinergy. If the University is considering permanently reserving houses like this for students each year, these houses should be able to access full DPU_Wireless instead of accessing an outside company's wireless.

4. Lilly Center: Wireless access is inconsistent.

Plans for the future:

The IT department is currently installing and working on installing more and better Wireless Access Points throughout campus. A Wireless Access Point (WAP) is a device that allows for connection to the wireless network, via Wi-Fi. In the past there has been wireless access points that have had limited connections, including WAPs in Roy O West Library and other academic buildings. The IT department has recently installed new WAPs inside Roy, that should allow for an unlimited number of connections. They have also installed new WAPs that will provide Wireless access to all of Anderson Street, Rector, Bloomington Street, and Senior Hall, with plans to install new WAPs throughout south quad and all student living.

Currently, DePauw is working on installing a secured, password protected, wireless network throughout campus. This would allow for students to have access to a safe and encrypted network. The secured network would also allow DePauw IT to control bandwidth; speeding up the wireless connection for all students, by limiting access to only the DePauw community. The current network will also stay in place, allowing for the community and student body to continue to benefit from its connectivity.

Everyone's Responsibility:

The problems that the DePauw community faces within the network are and will be addressed to help improve and maintain the privileges we enjoy. We recognize that the IT department encourages students to inform them on the current status and problems we face with the network. Dead-spots and slow connections can be resolved by informing the IT department of the issue that one may experience. By creating an open line of communication between students and the IT department, future issues like those listed above can be solved. The current improvements that the IT department are working on are greatly appreciated by the students and our hope is that campus be completely wireless by Fall 2012.

Aye ___44___

Nay ___0___

Abstain ___0___

Charles Pierre, President

Attest:

Annie Bowers, Secretary