

WELCOME TO THE GWC WIRELESS NETWORK



Golden West College

Wireless Networking Procedures and Guidelines

Purpose:

These procedures and guidelines are intended to assist the deployment of wireless networking technology on Golden West College. Wireless will provide flexibility and compliment the regular cabled network.

The objectives are to ensure proper operation, reliability and security to the wireless network service while protecting the campus information resources and electronic communications. The inherent nature of the wireless technology requires cooperation and coordination between departments and faculty to facilitate deployment in different buildings and prevent possible radio frequency spectrum interference or network impairments.

Scope:

These procedures and guidelines apply to all existing and future installations of wireless networking technologies by faculty, staff and students in the 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz radio frequency spectrums on the Golden West College campus, both inside buildings and for outdoor areas.

Golden West College will follow policies and procedures of wireless networks that apply to campus, district, federal, provincial and civic laws. Wireless networking at Golden West College is subject to the computer acceptable use policies. The student policy can be found in the student handbook and the staff (faculty, classified, and management) Computer and Electronic Resource Systems approved January 19, 2005. In addition, all users are subject to state and federal guidelines.

Background:

The Technology Support Services (TSS) department is responsible for the design, installation, support and maintenance of the campus network infrastructure including the wired communications outlets and GWC hardware devices. In a wireless environment, this extends to include the wireless access points and the authentication and encryption methods used to secure wireless access. Wireless access points are considered to be part of the campus network.

Wireless technology is not intended to replace network wiring but rather to complement it. Students, faculty and staff want to use their laptops in libraries, lecture theatres, classrooms, study areas and outdoor areas. A wireless network can provide network connectivity in large open areas or where restrictions such as asbestos or historical buildings would limit wired access.

The Golden West College wireless network standard and central management of the 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz radio frequency spectrum are necessary to protect valuable information resources and ensure the maximum amount of functionality.

Security:

Wireless security standards are still in their infancy. When submitting a username and password on a web site, make sure it is SSL encrypted. SSL, or Secure Socket Layer, is an encryption protocol to protect data being sent back and forth between a client user and a web site. Wireless devices should have current anti-virus and firewall software installed and running to protect from viruses and anyone attempting to gain access to the device.

Wireless Procedures:

GWC does expect compliance with these procedures and will notify management of any non-compliant devices from the GWC wired or wireless networks. Compliance with the following procedures is required:

- Wireless networks will be the responsibility of TSS.
- The TSS department will provide exclusive management and radio frequency channel allocation for new wireless networks which connect to the GWC wireless data network.
- The TSS department will provide the design, specification, installation, operation, and maintenance for new wireless networks connected to the GWC wireless network.
- IP is the only protocol supported.
- All wireless networks must be compatible with existing GWC technology for authentication and encryption.
- All internal wireless network access to the campus data network must authenticate with a valid Microsoft account.
- In the event that a wireless network poses a security threat, measures will be taken to protect the integrity of campus data and systems.
- The demarcation point for the network service will be the access point. The TSS networking group will be responsible for the maintenance and support of the TSS access points and the network connecting them to the campus data network.
- TSS is not responsible for the purchase, installation, configuration and support of the wireless client cards in non-GWC computers.
- All IP addresses for GWC will be provided through the DHCP servers administered by TSS.
- All installations must be in compliance with the health, safety, and building/fire codes.
- GWC and TSS do not assume any responsibility for the intrusion into the personal devices attached to the wireless network, nor the security of the communications on the wireless network. SSL and other encryption are recommended when using a wireless network.
- Any intruders or otherwise abusive users will be investigated the same as on the wired network.

Radio Signal Interference:

The wireless network operates in the unlicensed 2.4 GHz radio frequency spectrum and conforms to the IEEE 802.11b and 802.11g standards. The use of other devices including wireless networking devices, cordless phones, microwave ovens etc., in this same 2.4 GHz spectrum may disrupt the campus wireless network. If interference occurs between other devices and the GWC wireless network, TSS will provide assistance in eliminating the interference. Where a recommended solution to interference cannot be provided the wireless network will have priority.

Notes:

All procedures and guidelines have been reviewed and approved by the College Technology Committee and the administration.