



Information Technology Services to Implement Additional Wi-Fi Improvements

The University recently completed a 3-year project to upgrade and increase the Wi-Fi coverage across campus. The project was undertaken based on an independent third-party assessment of campus Wi-Fi performed by wireless specialists, Radiant Networks. As part of the project, the number of wireless access-points on campus was increased from approximately 350 to over 1100. In addition, every access-point was upgraded to new state-of-the-art models. As a follow-on to the project, the University is now implementing secure Wi-Fi Access in conjunction with deploying enhanced security features. These additional improvements are aimed at increasing the reliability and safety of the campus Wi-Fi network.

Why Is a Secure Wi-Fi Access Necessary?

It will ensure that everyone using the campus Wi-Fi is authorized to access it. This is accomplished through authentication, which is the use of a username and password. One small step of logging in will help to protect everyone using the Wi-Fi and reduce the possibility of malicious activities such as unauthorized access to someone else's computers, data breaches and identity theft. Additionally, authentication helps prevent someone who should not be using the Wi-Fi from consuming shared resources, such as internet bandwidth, and that means there will be more remaining for everyone else. The new secure Wi-Fi access also introduces the latest encryption technologies. This encodes Wi-Fi traffic and protects everyone's data as it traverses the campus network by insuring it is not sent in clear text. That means your data will not be readily accessible for someone else to see or intercept, allowing you peace of mind that your activities and information are kept safe and confidential.

What to Expect

The first time you connect to the Wi-Fi, you will be redirected to a webpage that will prompt you for your username and password. The username and password are the same, as the ones you already know and use. They are identical to your information for logging into the campus network, Blackboard or your email account. After you have accessed the webpage and logged in for the first time, that is it. You can continue to use the Wi-Fi on campus, as you always have. The login is persistent and you will not need to login additional times, unless you access the Wi-Fi from a different device. When you access Wi-Fi from a different device, you will again be redirected to the webpage - one time - and asked to enter your username and password.

Additional Features

The secure Wi-Fi access has built-in features to help visitors to the campus and those that are not directly associated with the University. If someone is visiting and does not have a University issued username and password, they will have the ability to register with their personal information and gain temporary access. In addition, the secure Wi-Fi access supports eduroam and visitors from participating institutions will be able to use our campus Wi-Fi with their own credentials.

How do I get help with the Wi-Fi Portal?

Questions or concerns? Please contact the Technology Resource Center at it@framingham.edu or 508-215-5906.