

WIFI & NETWORK CAPACITY



Information Services maintains reliable and robust network and data systems that can accommodate the College's current network and data needs. The systems are available, and unexpected outages are rare and brief. We have two Internet service providers, backup power generators and redundant servers installed in key locations to keep our systems in service. We also use "cloud" services, such as Google Apps for Education, to increase service availability. All residence halls and administrative and academic buildings have new wireless access points (605 in total) since 2011.

Our servers and data storage devices are up to date, and they are appropriately sized to accommodate our data needs for the next few years. However, an increased volume of network traffic challenges our network cabling capacity and our network firewalls, routers and switches. The increased demands come from streaming video applications and thousands of connected smart phones, tablets and other networked devices.

Information Services intends to use current operating funds to replace old network equipment to meet the increased demand. Much of the current equipment is designed for traffic at a maximum speed of 500 megabytes per second (Mbps). We will select equipment to accommodate connections of one to two gigabytes (GBs). Funding this equipment is a challenge; however, beginning in the summer of 2014, bond funds will be used to upgrade the fiber infrastructure from 20-year-old multimode fiber to single-mode fiber, so that we can accommodate higher network traffic speeds.

THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT WIFI & NETWORK CAPACITY:

- The network and server administrators maintain 24 physical and 100 virtual servers, an increase of 16 percent over last year.
- The College's Internet connection speed is 600 Mbps and is at capacity. Additional bandwidth will be requested for FY15.
- The College has 605 wireless access points installed in all academic, administrative and residential buildings, and 3,800 active wired network ports. Key outdoor areas have access to the wireless network as well.

For more information, contact Bruce Carpenter, Director of Technical Support and Information Security Officer, at x5242 or bwcar@conncoll.edu.