Computer and Internet Access at WisCon 28

The Basics

(1) There are computers on the 2nd Floor, outside the University Rooms. You may use these to check mail, surf, and print.

(2) There are computers on the 1st Floor in the Concourse's business center.

(3) You may connect your laptop to the Internet on the 2nd floor.

(4) There are two open WiFi (801.11b) networks.

The 2nd Floor Computers

There are 2 (or more) computers on the 2nd Floor, outside the University Rooms (the Art Show). One computer runs Windows; another runs Mac OS 8 (it's old[1]).

You can use a web browser or an SSH client to access your mail.

If others are waiting, please limit yourself to 5 minutes.

Don't be stupid. If you're using the computer to access sites to which other people object,[2] you're doing it in front of everyone.

If you're using the computer to update your Weblog/Live Journal/Secret Diary, log out of Live Journal when you're done.

Printing

You will find at least 1 printer on the 2nd floor. The printers are on the network; their names will be of the form WisConPrinter1, WisConPrinter2, etc. Do not connect to printers that do not follow this naming convention. Those don't belong to us.

Check your system's documentation for information on how to connect to networked printers.

Do not use the printers as copiers. If you need to produce a large number of copies, use the Kinko's on West Washington Avenue.

Linux

You will find a Knoppix boot CD by the Windows box. If you want to use Linux, boot the Windows box from the Knoppix disc. Do your business and reboot back into Windows. Don't steal the Knoppix CD.[3]

Laptop Lane

There is a hub and cables to connect your Ethernet-ready laptop to the Internet. Your computer must be Ethernet-ready.[4] Set it to use DHCP.

The printers will also be on this network.

WiFi/Airport/Wireless/802.11b

This year the Concourse has installed 2 free wireless Internet networks:

• FREE2GUEST on guest floors and 1st floor.
• CONSERV on 1st and 2nd floors.

You will need a 802.11b or g card in your computer to use these networks.[5] We have been told that the 2 open WiFi networks are on the same subnet as the public access computers. That means you should be able to discover and use the printers on the 2nd floor.

Security Considerations

The way that the Concourse has set up their network suggests that you should consider using a software firewall on your laptop.

We also suggest that your turn off non-essential services such as file system sharing and web serving unless you need them.

As there are many products and methods, we suggest you use your expert judgment, or that of a computer networking professional, to choose the correct solution for your circumstance.

Support

Jennifer White and Bill Humphries support Internet and computer access at WisCon. Please contact them through a member of the convention committee. Bill will have his PowerBook with him and will lurk on iChat/AOL Instant Messenger under the ID **whump@mac.com**.

We are unable to provide assistance beyond showing you how to connect your computer to the network. Due to the variances across systems, we make no guarantee that you'll be able to connect.

Bear in mind that since it is a holiday weekend, if the Concourse experiences a network outage, it may not be fixed immediately.

Notes

[1] Do you want to donate a more recent vintage Mac? It's tax deductible.

[2] This may range from BushCheney04.com, PervyHobbitFanciers.org, to SuicideGirls.net or JohnNormanFanboys.co.au.

[3] If the Knoppix CD is missing, contact the management.

[4] No, we don't have extra Ethernet cards.

[5] No, we don't have extra 802.11b cards. But the hotel might have them for sale (really — ask).