

UC Berkeley

Campus WiFi Options

History of Wireless at Berkeley

Beginning in Fall 2001, a pilot wireless LAN service became available in selected locations around campus. The new service, known as AirBears, enables one to connect to the campus network using a laptop equipped with a wireless Ethernet card. The service is based on the IEEE standard 802.11 wireless LAN technology.

The service was able to grow slowly, based on the needs of the departments in the buildings. In 2012, UC Berkeley IST was able to partner with AT&T to dramatically increase the number of access points, resulting in a more expansive coverage with higher overall throughput.

As of June 1, 2014, there are now over 3,600 access points that provide services in the Academic, Administrative, and Residence areas of the University.

The current implementation of the campus wireless networks can handle up to 75,000 different client devices simultaneously. Regularly, peak client counts are around 24,000 devices.

Future of Wireless at Berkeley

Based on the needs and requests of the users of the campus wireless network, IST has the following objectives in the planning stages for future release:

Enhancements for guest and visitor WiFi access.

802.11ac - The next generation of wireless network communication. Devices, both network and client, that support this standard will be able to utilize higher data rates than ever before.

PRIMARY OFFERINGS

AirBears2

AirBears2 is an enhanced alternative to AirBears. The secure automatic connection means that users only login once. The encryption of wireless data traffic improves security.

Access: Students, Faculty, Staff

AirBears

AirBears is the basic wireless access to campus networks with web-based connection.

Access: Students, Faculty, Staff, Guests



ALTERNATE OFFERING



attwifi

attwifi is an on-campus Wifi service provided by AT&T Wireless. It is available to AT&T customers. Connect your smartphone to this high speed data network without having usage count towards your monthly data plan.

Access: AT&T customers, Public (with a fee)

Upcoming WiFi Improvements for Visitors and Guests

CalVisitor - will provide WiFi Internet access for campus visitors and guests, without requiring the creation of a Guest Account.

eduroam - will provide WiFi Connectivity to visitors from other eduroam enabled institutions. It will also allow UC Berkeley faculty, staff and students to use the WiFi networks at those institutions. More information on eduroam is available at <http://www.eduroam.org/>.

Support for Wireless Networking

Online: ist.berkeley.edu/airbears

Telephone: Campus Shared Services
(510)664-9000

Email: itcsshelp@berkeley.edu

*Note: The maximum transmission rate is the representation of the speed data can flow in a single direction over the wireless devices. IEEE-802.11 devices utilize a shared medium, resulting in a half-duplex operation. The actual data rates for end-to-end communication will vary based on the number of users, the quality of the radio signal, and the overall amount of data being passed over the wireless medium.