CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

Wireless Network Coverage at UF Widens

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UF Information Technology

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Wireless network coverage on campus continues to expand. The service, which allows users to take their laptops with wireless modems outdoors and stay connected, is available free to anyone with a GatorLink userid. While it is still being deployed, it is available in many areas on campus.

"The proposed area of coverage is the whole core of campus. This includes the area that follows the boundaries of University Avenue, 13th Street, Museum Road and North-South Drive. But there will also be areas outside of this which will be covered as well," said Matt Grover, senior network engineer for OIT-Network Services.

Wireless access is currently available in some indoor areas, including the College of Engineering classrooms (in 10 buildings), Computer Science, the College of Law, The Reitz Union, O'Connell Center, and some areas within the McCarty complex, said Grover. Outdoor areas include the Turlington Plaza, the Stuzin Courtyard, Marston Courtyard, the Law Courtyard, the Plaza of the Americas, and the Reitz Union and lawn. For a detailed coverage map, please see http://net-services.ufl.edu/~ns/provided_services/wireless/map.html.

The target date to finish making all of UF wireless-accessible is June 2004.

If you're interested in learning how to use wireless networking, please see http://net-services.ufl.edu/provided_services/wireless. There you will find a user FAQ and a department FAQ, links to the coverage map, troubleshooting, and more.

If you are interested in implementing wireless service in your area contact Network Services at net-services@ufl.edu for assistance.

While the possibilities of wireless networking on campus are exciting, Grover warns that wireless is not a replacement for wired networks. "It (wireless) has problems specific to the wireless medium that restrict its capabilities. So, it should be used to augment wired networks and to enable special applications, but it should not be expected to replace the need for the traditional wired infrastructure," he said.

For assistance with wireless access on campus, contact the UF Computing Help Desk at (352) 392-HELP or e-mail helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all UFIT documentation. Please send your comments to:

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