

MEMORANDUM

Residence Wireless IP Address Shortage

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To: All students in University of Waterloo Residences

Subject: Residence Wireless IP Address Shortage

The University of Waterloo is experiencing a shortage of public internet protocol (IP) addresses for the residence wireless service (eduroam and uw-unsecured). Additional IP addresses have been allocated over the past 12 months, in an attempt to keep up with demand, but demand continues to exceed availability with many students using multiple wireless devices, and a shared pool of only 5,250 public IP addresses available for residence wireless.

A restructuring of University public IP address space, or a move to private IP addresses with network address translation (NAT), is required to address the issue, and unfortunately this will not be complete until February 1, 2012.

Our only solution during the month of January is to encourage the use of the wired residence network port, for devices which support wired connections, and turn off wireless connections on devices when not in use, if possible. This will reduce the demand for wireless IP addresses, leaving them available for devices which do not support wired connections.

If you are using a laptop which supports a wired connection, please use this connection while in residence, and disable the laptop wireless adapter. Network patch cables are available from the help desk, or from any residence front desk, if needed.

To simplify use of the wired network, users may now change computers without visiting the help desk to have the port reset.

We regret this inconvenience, and recognize the wired network does not offer the flexibility and mobility of the wireless network. The University is committed to providing flexible high speed network services for students in residences. If you have any questions or comments, you are welcome to contact me.

Note this issue does not affect wireless service in non residence buildings, which use private IP addresses.

Bruce Campbell
Director, Network Services