

Technically Speaking

It is in the Air...

Daman Kapoor

Ever wondered how the wireless Internet in the library, station or union work? Wireless access is made possible by WiFi technology which is the wireless way to handle networking. WiFi is also known as 802.11 networking.

If you want to understand wireless networking at its simplest level, think about a pair of \$20 walkie-talkies that you might purchase at Wal-Mart. When you talk into a walkie-talkie, your voice is picked up by a microphone, encoded onto a radio frequency and transmitted with the antenna. Another walkie-talkie can receive the transmission with its antenna, decode your voice from the radio signal and broadcast it through a speaker.

The radios used in wireless networking are not so different from the radios used in walkie-talkies. They have the ability to transmit and receive data. To enable this exchange of data, wireless access points are set up at several hotspots at Northwest and your notebook contains an 802.11g Network Adapter. The wireless network adapter has the ability to convert computer data into radio waves and vice versa, which enables your notebook to connect and transmit data with the wireless access points to surf through the Internet.

Because WiFi transmits at much higher frequencies than a walkie-talkie and uses different encoding techniques, WiFi radios can handle a lot more data per second.

However, interference can lead to slower data transmission. The Northwest network transmits data at 2.4 GHz. Hence, interference to the Northwest network can be caused by any equipment working at 2.4 GHz. Common equipment that works at the 2.4 GHz frequency are cordless phones, Xbox and Playstation wireless controllers, and some wireless keyboards. Please make sure you do not use devices that work at 2.4 GHz frequency in any Northwest wireless Internet access zone as it is a Northwest computing policy violation. The wireless Internet zones at Northwest are located at Owens Library, the Union, the Station, Forest Village Commons and the Missouri Academy Lounge. 🐾

On the Web!



Fun Links

thestation.dvdtorent.com

- The website you use to reserve a DVD that you want to rent from the Station. You have to reserve the DVD online before you can rent it.

www.download.com

- A place where you can download all sorts of software and games.

www.weather.com

- Check out the weather anywhere in the world.

www.apple.com

- Check out all the latest products released from Apple Computer.

www.randmncally.com

- An alternative to MapQuest for driving directions.

Printed copies of Technically Speaking are available at the Front Desk

Facebook Frenzy

Erin Jewell

When using Facebook, many people do not seem to realize or even care that there is a risk associated with broadcasting so much personal information for everyone to see. Recently, a female college student using MySpace, a site similar to Facebook, was murdered by a man she met through the site. He had used the information she provided to learn more about her and began stalking her.

Facebook wants to eliminate potential stalkers; however, they are leaving the privacy option up to individual users. Since Mark Zuckerberg recently opened Facebook to the general public, privacy becomes an even bigger issue. Now, current and future employers can access all your information as well as your pictures online. Each member of the Facebook community is responsible for realizing the potential dangers of an online community and must

take precautionary measures. Each user has the option of determining what information they would like to display and to whom. If you have a Facebook account, update your privacy page to change the settings and only allow what you feel comfortable displaying.

Another downfall of Facebook that most people are not aware of is called the Facebook Development Platform. Through this feature, Facebook and Zuckerberg are allowing third parties access to user's information for the development of other Facebook related applications. If you would like to find out how to remove this feature, contact your PERT.

Now you have heard the good and bad of Facebooking. Please realize that this site can be wonderful if used safely. Happy Facebooking!!! 🐾

Newsletter Staff

Editor in Chief

Tabatha Verbick

Assistant Editors

Merlin Miller

Kim Todd

PERT Editor

Chris Grandfield

Contributing Authors

Chris Grandfield

Erin Jewell

Daman Kapoor

Meredith Manning

Beyza Aydar

Becky Rainford

Questions

PERT Contact Information

Erin Jewell **x-6628**
Franken Hall

Becky Rainford **x-5288**
Millikan Hall

Daman Kapoor **x-6251**
Dieterich Hall

Beyza Aydar **x-6118**
Phillips Hall

Chris Grandfield **x-6338**
Douglas/South

Meredith Manning **x-5639**
Tower Suites

Support Services

Help Desk x-1634

Help Desk Hours

M-T 8 am—10 pm

Fri 8 am—5 pm

Sat 11 am—4:45 pm

Sun 1 pm—10 pm

Notebook Support Center Hours

M-F 8 am—4:30 pm

Library Lab Hours

M-T 7:30 am—11:45 pm

Fri 7:30 am—4:45 pm

Sat 11 am—4:45 pm

Sun 1 pm—11:45 pm

Halloween Word Search



N F P T M B W X H L
 I S O R A N G E C Q
 E E V T E C O B T G
 T L S H R S B H I O
 S D R A C U L A W C
 N N E U S D I L F T
 E A D N R E N L S O
 K C I T S M O O R B
 N X P E K W H W Y E
 A P S D E G I E P R
 R B A R L J M E U B
 F E E R E U C N M L
 M W F O T C A O P A
 A B A S O Y N T K C
 S O O F N S D S I K
 K C F N T G Y B N L
 S I S E R I P M A V
 N R R G S P O O K D
 S S S P I R I T S H

BATS	MASKS
BLACK	MONSTER
BROOMSTICK	OCTOBER
CANDLES	ORANGE
CANDY	PARTY
CAT	PUMPKIN
COBWEB	SCREAM
COFFIN	SKELETON
COSTUME	SPIDERS
DRACULA	SPIRITS
FRANKENSTEIN	SPOOK
GHOST	TOMBSTONE
GOBLIN	VAMPIRE
HALLOWEEN	WEREWOLF
HAUNTED	WITCH

Computer Tips



- To display the help dialog box in any program press F1.
- To take a screen shot of the active window in Windows XP, press Alt + Print Screen. Then go to Microsoft Word and click edit and paste in to view the image.
- To change your password on a university computer, press Ctrl + Alt + Delete and click the Change Password button.

More than One Way to Browse the Web...

Chris Grandfield

Have you ever heard anyone say they are going to get on the Internet? Then they open Internet Explorer and they assume that is the only way to surf the web. Internet Explorer is not the Internet, but instead is a web browser. When it comes to web browsers, certainly more than one option is available.

Internet Explorer

The most common web browser of course is Internet Explorer. Internet Explorer 7 Release Candidate 1, the latest version of Internet Explorer, has been designed to make everyday tasks easier, provide dynamic security protection and improve the development platform and manageability. Improvements include a streamlined interface, tabbed browsing, printing advances, improved search functionality, instant feeds (RSS), dynamic security protection and more. Internet Explorer has certainly improved with the release of version 7.



Mozilla Firefox

One of the most popular alternatives to Internet Explorer is Mozilla Firefox. Firefox 1.5 has an intuitive interface and blocks viruses, spyware and popup ads while delivering web pages fairly quickly. Firefox is easy to install, import favorites and is packed with useful features like tabbed browsing, live bookmarks and an integrated search bar. For more information on Firefox go to <http://www.mozilla.com/firefox/>.



Netscape Browser

Netscape is another web browser with many features similar to Firefox. The revolutionary new Netscape Browser 8 provides more security options, streamlines standard browsing tasks and arms Internet users with more timesaving solutions to their browsing needs. Information on Netscape can be found at <http://browser.netscape.com/ns8/>.



Portable Applications

Becky Rainford

With portable media growing in popularity, most people on campus have some kind of USB drive to carry around files. Do you know you can put entire programs on your drive and run them from there? Running programs from your USB drive is pretty great when you use several instant messengers and you do not always remember the passwords or you want to use a computer where you do not have administrative rights and cannot install your favorite messenger or game. The programs you can install and carry with you are only limited by the size of your drive.

So what qualifies as portable media? Technically anything that you can save files to and carry with you including CD's, USB drives and MP3 players qualify as portable media. To find applications specifically designed as a portable application, visit www.portableapps.com or en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_portable_software for lists of portable applications to download.

Messengers

Isn't it annoying when you have an AOL, MSN and Yahoo account and the computer you are

on does not have the messenger you want or you have trouble remembering which screen name goes to which account with which password? By installing an all-in-one messenger on your portable media, you can quickly access all your messengers on any computer without any hassle. Try these portable messenger programs: gaim.sourceforge.net/ or www.trilliananywhere.com/.

Web Browser

The portable version of the Firefox browser has many great features such as bookmarks, saved passwords and user preferences. If you already use Firefox, this is great news since Firefox is rarely installed on a public computer. Portable Firefox is available for free download through portableapps.com.



Email Etiquette

Writing email messages is not as simple as you might think. Everyone should follow some basic guidelines and pay attention to the information that you are putting your name on. The last thing anyone wants is to be criticized for simple things that could have been prevented. The following email etiquette guidelines are from the Northwest Computer User's Guide to the Electronic Campus 2006-2007.

1. Keep email messages short and to the point. Use correct grammar and spelling. Do not use uncommon abbreviations.
2. Use the Subject line when sending a message to aid the recipient in responding to email.
3. When replying to an email message, briefly summarize the message you received from the sender.
4. To avoid difficult to read messages, use upper and lower case letters.
5. Send messages only to people to whom the content is relevant.
6. Never read another person's messages. Email is no different than mail received through the post office.
7. Be polite and do not use threatening or abusive terminology in your messages.
8. Do not abuse the privilege of sending email.
9. Email messages are not private. While messages are in transit, they may pass through several systems where people can read them. Messages may also be printed by the recipient and be read by others. A general guideline is that if you would not want someone else other than the recipient to read the message, then do not send it by email.
12. Email is easily misdirected due to misspellings, therefore, be careful to ensure an email address is correct before sending a message. Also, if you receive a message, keep in mind it might not be directed to you.
13. Northwest students, faculty and staff must honor a recipient's or a list owner's request to stop sending messages. An exception would be granted to faculty, staff and students sending to recipients under their authority. Such exceptions include the following:
 - Faculty sending messages to students enrolled in the their class.
 - Supervisors sending messages to their department.
 - An organization sending messages to its membership. 🐾

Meredith Manning

iTV

We all wish we could play movies and videos that we download to our computers easily on our big screen TVs. Now Apple will make our wish come true. On September 12th at the company's special event in San Francisco, CEO Steve Jobs introduced iTV with the tag line "you can take content to your computer or iPod, but now... TV." iTV is a small wireless box which was designed to transmit digital content from a computer to a television. Jobs described it as a "DVD player that happens to play Internet videos instead of DVDs".

iTV will bridge the gap between computers and television. This media streaming device allows you to play music and videos from your iTunes library on your television and stream movie trailers from Apple's movie trailer page. Many people assumed that the device does not

have a hard drive. Robert Iger, CEO at Disney contradicted it by saying that he has seen Apple's upcoming device and that it has a hard drive. You will be able to search for thousands of videos on a menu item called Google Videos. Google's consumer product chief Marissa Mayer told Newsweek reporter Steven Levy that Google and Apple are engaged in talks. iTV will not ship this year, but will be on the market in the first quarter of 2007 and will be sold for \$299.

Sony, Hewlett-Packard and Microsoft have tried to design a device to bridge the gap between computers and television. However, none of them succeeded in attracting the consumers' attention. We will see in six months whether Apple will discern itself from its competitors one more time or not. 🐾

Beyza Aydar

Windows on a Mac

Since Apple computer has made the change to Intel processors, you can now run Windows XP SP2 on Macintosh computers. With the use of software called Parallels Desktop, you can have your OS X running at the same time as the Windows XP is running. The only problem with running two operating systems simultaneously is it is memory intensive.

The other option provided by Apple is called Boot Camp. The downfall to this is you can only run either OS X or Windows XP, not both at the same time. However, Boot Camp is a free download and Parallels Desktop is not. More information can be found at www.apple.com/bootcamp and www.parallels.com.

PERT SPOTLIGHT

Erin Jewell
Franken Hall PERT

Erin is currently a junior from Peculiar, MO. She is double-majoring in Pre-Professional Zoology and Spanish. Erin is a member of the Pre-Med Club and Sigma Society, which is a service organization on campus, and also works at the Student Rec Center.

In her free time, Erin enjoys playing basketball and other sports, watching movies, singing along with Brad Paisley, reading and spending time with friends and family. Anyone up for a "friendly discussion" regarding KU's supremacy over Mizzou in basketball is more than welcome to come see her.

In the future, Erin plans on attending medical school and specializing in Pediatrics. She is currently engaged and will be getting married in August 2007 settling in the Kansas City area.