

Information Technology Services Updates

ITS Update – 08/14/06

Did you know?

Your ID card is also your copy card. (The days of needing to purchase or recharge cards or carry coins around are over). Using the mag stripe on the back, your Hamline ID can be swiped to charge copies at any public digital imager at the university. For faculty and staff, the charge is applied to the account (ORG) under which you were hired. For students the charge is applied directly to your student account.

Wireless at Hamline and your laptop

Anyone who has a Hamline issued laptop with integrated wireless, or perhaps has connected with their personal laptop has discovered that the services available are not the same as if the laptop was plugged directly into a network jack. Unlike the wireless in your local coffee shop, you can only use the wireless service at Hamline if you can authenticate with a valid username and password.

But you don't actually login to the network in the same manner as you do from your desktop. For example, you won't have direct access to your I: and U: drives. The primary reason for this is that wireless is a *shared* technology. This means that for all users connecting wirelessly to an access point in a given area, the signal that is available is divided proportionately and decreases for each user as new users connect.

At the same time it is also the case that fully logging into the network, thereby connecting to all services, is very bandwidth intensive. This is not a problem for computers that are directly connected through an Ethernet jack because all bandwidth is dedicated (not shared) and intelligently managed through switches. So, during the normal academic year when many individuals are connected wirelessly, anyone fully logged in could experience a serious degradation in performance.

If you have questions or need more information about this or any other ITS Update, please contact Harry Pontiff, CIO (2860; hpontiff@hamline.edu).