

MACALESTER COLLEGE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Misconfigured or mismanaged network access devices sometimes mimic the actions of central network control equipment and prevent network access by other users of the network segment, often an entire residence hall. Such devices include wireless access points and home routers, among others. Wireless access points are units which, when plugged into our network, emit a radio signal permitting properly equipped computers to access the network without a cable; home routers are designed to create small networks of a few computers. The type of network access device does not matter: if any such device is found to cause network problems, or even threatens to cause such problems, we must react immediately.

RESPONSE TO DISRUPTIVE WIRELESS ACCESS DEVICES

1. Network or other ITS staff members identify an IP address threatening other network users.
2. Network staff identify the disruptive device in the network registration system and discover the name of its registered owner. Network staff blocks the device's network access. Because of the threat to others posed by threatening wireless devices, network access blocking must occur immediately. Any attempt to access the Web will lead to a page informing the student of the circumstances and referring the student to the Help Desk. Attempts to access resources other than the Web will fail.
3. Network staff notify the Help Desk. Help Desk staff contact the wireless access device owner.
4. Help Desk staff refers the operator to the wireless "how to" document, explains that such devices are not supported at the College and that a second violation will result in a written order to keep the device off the network, copied to the Dean of Students.
5. If the device appears a third time and is still causing problems on the network, its network access is blocked permanently. The owner is sent a written order to this effect, and the order is copied to the Dean of Students.

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