University of Connecticut  
Information Technology Leadership Working Group  
Wireless Subcommittee

I. Charge

The Information Technology Leadership Working Group (ITLWG) charged the 
Wireless Subcommittee with determining the needs of campus users (including all 
regional and Co-op extension sites) with respect to wireless technology. To date, 
the University of Connecticut has not developed a plan or specifications for 
wireless technology implementation. Wireless technology had formerly been cost 
prohibitive, however, now is less expensive than wired technology. This 
document outlines the baseline service needed for faculty, staff, and students.

II. General View of Wireless Services

The University community realizes that wireless services can not survive without 
a wired backbone. The community also agrees that wireless services should not 
replace wired services. However, wireless services can be an alternative means of 
connectivity to add functionality, convenience, and productivity. Wireless 
services can also be employed as a more cost effective solution for temporary office space, conferences/conventions, and cost prohibitive wired implementations.

III. Needs of University Community

A. Students

Students are the largest consumers of wireless technology in a University setting. The typical student uses wireless connectivity for research, studying, and general internet-based tasks (email, internet, instant messaging). Wireless connectivity allows that student to accomplish tasks in any location/setting available. For most students a simple connection need only be provided. It is expected that the University would manage bandwidth restrictions to prevent students from downloading/serving large amounts of music, videos, and other multi-media.

B. Faculty and Staff

Faculty and Staff have an equal and growing need for wireless technology including access to data and class materials from anywhere at anytime. The primary use of wireless by faculty and staff would most likely occur
in a classroom, lab, conference, or presentation setting. Wireless would be the more cost effective solution to maintain connectivity. Consistent communication (via email, internet, IM) would also apply to a faculty member who maintains an office in one building, but does research in another. More importantly, faculty must also be abreast of the new technology that students are using.

IV. Recommendations

The ITLWG Wireless Subcommittee recommends the creation of two wireless networks across campus. The first, and primary network, would employ technology available to any authenticated user on the University network. The primary uses of the connectivity would be limited to general internet access (includes email, instant messaging, etc.). Faculty, staff, and students would have access to this network. General areas of coverage would include dining halls, lounges, common areas, the general university grounds (Student Union Mall, Co-op Patio, Quad areas, etc.). This is the Campus overlay network. University Information Technology Services would manage, maintain, and be responsible for this network. Bandwidth and/or hardware restrictions (personal Access Points, 2.4 GHz cordless phones, etc.) should be employed.

The second wireless network would employ technology limited to intra-building communication. Schools/Colleges/Departments would have the ability to co-manage the management, maintenance, and responsibility of this network with UITS. Possible uses for this network would include faculty and staff access, conferences, presentations, and mobile and standard classrooms. This network would not be open to the general public. Faculty wishing to maintain connectivity from one building to the next would be required to connect to the campus overlay network.