

ADFASWide Frequently Asked Questions

What is ADFASWide?

ADFASWide is the UNSW@ADFAS Campus Wireless Network for UNSW@ADFAS students and staff. Its purpose is to provide the students and staff with ad-hoc access to the UNSW@ADFAS Wide Network or Internet resources without the restriction of cables or wires.

What is a Wireless Network?

A wireless network is a type of local area network (LAN) whereby the computer communicates to the network through a low power radio frequency signal that is sent from the wireless card. Wires are completely unnecessary.

What is an Access Point or a base station?

An access point or base station is a piece of equipment within the wireless network infrastructure that acts as an antenna for the communication signals. The access point also bridges individual wireless nodes, such as your computer, to the ADFASWide network.

What is a SSID?

SSID stands for Service Set Identifier. The SSID or the Network name identifies a wireless network. Each network has a profile that should be allocated a Unique SSID or Network name. The SSID or Network name for this Network is ADFAS Wireless.

How fast is the ADFASWide Network?

The maximum Wireless speed is 55 Mbps.

What do I need to begin using the ADFASWide Networking?

You will need to have a laptop computer, and a Wireless Card to physically access the ADFASWide Network.

To have your ADFASWide access activated, you need to apply for ADFASWide access by completing the ADFASWide Access Application form. Once completed, return this form to the ICTS Service Desk.

What operating systems are currently supported on the ADFAWide Network?

Windows XP with SP2, Windows Vista, Macintosh OS X 10.1 and above.

Support for Linux and PDAs

Access to the ADFAWide Network using PCs running Linux or using PDA devices is currently not available or supported by UNSW@ADFA.

How much does ADFAWide cost to use?

You will not be charged to use ADFAWide to access UNSW@ADFA resources that reside on the local UNSW@ADFA Wide Network. If you use ADFAWide to access resources external to UNSW@ADFA you will be charged at 10 cents per megabyte.

How do I register to use the ADFAWide wireless Network?

After obtaining a wireless card and installing it on your system, get an ADFAWide Access Application form and fill in all the provided spaces. Then deliver the form to UNSW@ADFA ICTS Service Desk staff so that your account can be activated.

Can I borrow a card for use on the ADFAWide network?

Unfortunately not. All users are required to obtain their own wireless cards, which they can use on any other 802.11g compatible networks.

How do I know whether my computer has an onboard wireless card?

Check the documentation that came with your computer system for a description of the model. It should list as one of the components as an 802.11g compatible wireless card. If it does not have either one of these two types of card, then you will have to purchase a separate wireless card.

Where can I purchase the Wireless Cards?

Contact the supplier of the laptop.

Is there a preferred brand of cards that I should buy?

Most 802.11g compliant cards should be able to work. Some of the known brands that are being used on systems so far are:

Apple's AirPort Extreme Card (For Apple laptops)

Netgear

3com AirConnect.

Lucent/Orinoco

Cisco's Aironet.

How do I install the Wireless card?

The Cards come with manuals or documentation. Read them carefully and make sure that your system and the card are compatible.

Most installations are fairly simple and all cards come with step by step instructions for a variety of Operating Systems. Most new Operating Systems, such as Windows XP, will automatically install the drivers after inserting the card.

I have installed the card but I cannot access anything.

Just installing the card is not enough. Make sure that that you have followed the Connecting to the ADFAWide Wireless Network configuration guide to the letter. If you still cannot connect please contact either your laptop or wireless card manufacturer.

Does ADFAWide require authentication?

Yes, like many other secure online University services you are required to login using your username and password.

What are some of the causes of interferences with wireless signals?

The wireless signal will increasingly be degraded in areas that:

- Have walls between the your computer and the access point
- Are densely populated
- Other radio signal transmissions
- Overcast or Humid weather
- RF equipment e.g. Microwave Laser printers.

What areas currently have the Wireless access points?

Currently, ADFAWide Coverage is available in and around Academy House (building 33), the Research Precinct (building 21), UniAdmin (1st and 2nd floors building 1), the International Student Precinct (building 36), Library (Ground and top floors building 13 - includes HUB area), ETS (building 13), ICTS (building 14), ITEE (buildings 15 and 16), ACME (buildings 17, 18, 19 and 20), PEMS (buildings 22 and 26), SOB (building 27), the outdoor area outside of the ADFA Cafe (building 33), Officers' Mess (Ground floor building 6), HASS (buildings 28, 29 and 36), Lecture Theatres North (building 32), Lecture Theatres South (building 30), Military Building (building 3), Adams Hall (building 2) and Cadet Mess (building 4).

What services can I access on the ADFAWide Network?

You should be able to access both UNSW@ADFA network and many Internet resources. However some Internet services that require a source IP address may not work.

Can I register a fixed IP address on the ADFAWide Network?

No, you cannot because the IP addresses are allocated dynamically by the server.

How far from a base station can I be and what is the signal range?

The range depends on the level of interference, on the number of users in your location and the demands of the application on the network. In an open space, with minimal interference, the maximum effective range is 100m.

This FAQ does not answer my question, how can I get more help?

Contact the ICTS Service Desk on (02) 6268 8140 or email helpdesk@adfa.edu.au