# Wireless :: Regular Wireless Access Overview

HSU's regular wireless is similar to the public wifi services at airports and coffee shops. Speed and performance are generally good, but users will not be able to access certain areas of the HSU wired network, such as departmental fileshares and wired printers, without the use of a VPN [1] connection. Some applications may not be accessible for security reasons. If excessive bandwidth is used, shaping restrictions will be automatically imposed for a limited amount of time.

If you need more extensive and/or secure access, please connect using the HSUWireless-Secure network [2].

## Getting Online

Your computer should automatically detect the HSUWireless network. To complete the process:

1. Connect to the HSUWireless network
2. Open your browser. You should see a login screen.
3. Review the CSU Responsible Use Policy [3]
4. Enter your HSU User Name [4] and Password. You should see a welcome screen.
5. Click the link to accept the policy and download the Windows or Mac PolicyKey [5] as appropriate. Follow the onscreen instructions to register on the network and install the software.

## Security Check

Your computer will now be checked to ensure it meets HSU security requirements (as relevant to your operating system):

- Patched and updated operating system
- Up-to-date antivirus from the approved list. HSU also has a campus-wide license for the free use of Sophos Antivirus [6] on personal computers.
- Windows is configured to notify you when new updates are ready to download and install
- Windows firewall [7] enabled
- No network address translation device present
- No peer-to-peer software running
- No proxy [8] setting problems

If your computer passes all these checks, you will be connected to the network. If your computer does not meet one or more of these requirements, you'll see a screen advising you of the problem and how to fix it. For your convenience, we do permit you to connect to the HSU Technology Help Desk to log a ticket and to specific websites that will enable you to download updates to bring your computer into compliance.

Once you're online, check out the guidelines and best practices for appropriate wireless use in the classroom [9].

## Security Issues in Using HSU's Wireless Network

Although HSU endeavors to use the most secure available wireless technology, it is important that you

don't take unnecessary risks, so please avoid sending unprotected personal information over HSU's regular wireless network. While HSU has adopted GMail [10], which uses SSL encryption [11], as the campus standard email system, other email systems may not be as secure, and so unsecured SMTP (email) traffic is automatically blocked.

You can usually tell if a web site is using SSL encryption by the presence of a "lock" icon in the lower right-hand corner of the screen; in addition, the address at the top of the screen will have the prefix "https://" instead of the usual "http://". Most banks and other financial institutions, and some commercial sites, will present you with an SSL-protected web page before they accept your login name and password or other sensitive information. But if they don't, please avoid sending such information over the regular HSU wireless network.

Also for security reasons, certain ports are disabled for wireless access to protect confidential information stored on the network. If for any reason you need for a particular port to be enabled, staff and faculty should contact their local ITC [12]; the Technology Help Desk [13] can also provide assistance on this to any member of the campus community.

If you have questions about HSU's network security policy, please contact the HSU Information Security Office at (707) 826-3815.

## Related Topics

Wireless [14]

**Source URL:** http://www.humboldt.edu/its/wireless

**Links:**
[1] http://www.humboldt.edu/its/../../../../../../glossary/5#term246
[2] http://www.humboldt.edu/its/secure-wireless
[3] http://www.humboldt.edu/its/policy-campusIT
[4] http://www.humboldt.edu/its/glossary/5#term99
[5] http://www.humboldt.edu/its/glossary/5#term136
[6] https://www3.humboldt.edu/ditss/download
[7] http://www.humboldt.edu/its/glossary/5#term218
[8] http://www.humboldt.edu/its/glossary/5#term221
[9] http://www.humboldt.edu/its/wireless-best-practices
[10] http://www.humboldt.edu/its/glossary/5#term195
[11] http://www.humboldt.edu/its/glossary/5#term239
[12] http://www.humboldt.edu/its/glossary/5#term233
[13] https://humboldt.edu/tech-help
[14] http://www.humboldt.edu/its/category/quicklinks/wireless