

L. Policy for the Use of the 2.4 GHz / 5.8 GHz Radio Frequency

Mount St. Joseph University's wireless network allows campus users to access Mount web resources from mobile or portable computers. However, it also means that a portion of radio airspace on the campus serves as the transport medium for a part of the campus network. Accordingly, certain computing policies now apply to that segment of the radio airspace on campus. This document alerts members of the campus community to the potential problems that could result from devices using the same radio frequency.

The Mount's wireless network uses the FCC unlicensed 2.4 GHz / 5.8GHz Industrial/Scientific/Medical (ISM) band. Transmissions within that band conform to the IEEE 802.11 DSSS (Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum) wireless LAN specification. Certain other "wireless" devices exist in the market place that also employ the same 2.4 GHz / 5.8 GHz frequency band and can cause interference to users of the Mount's service. These devices include, but are not limited to other IEEE 802.11 wireless LAN devices, cordless telephones, audio speakers and microwave ovens.

In order to assure the highest level of service to the users of the Mount's wireless network, ISS needs help from all members of the campus community in minimizing the potential interference from those devices. ISS requests that use of all other 2.4 GHz / 5.8 GHz devices be discontinued in university-owned buildings. In cases where the device is being used for a specific teaching or research application, ISS will work with faculty to determine whether there are circumstances under which use of the device may still be accommodated without causing interference to users of the Mount's wireless network.

ISS will approach the shared use of the 2.4 GHz / 5.8 GHz radio frequency in the same way that it manages the shared use of the wired network. While we will not actively monitor use of the airspace for potential interfering devices, we will seek out the user of a specific device if we find that it is actually causing interference and disrupting the campus data network. In these cases, ISS reserves the right to restrict the use of all 2.4 GHz / 5.8 GHz radio devices in university-owned buildings and all outdoor spaces on the Mount's Campus.

If you think you have an existing system that may use 2.4 GHz radios / 5.8 GHz for transmission or you are planning to purchase a wireless system and you are uncertain if it employs 2.4 GHz / 5.8 GHz radios, please contact the ISS Help Desk at 244-HELP (4357) or send an e-mail message to iss.helpdesk@msj.edu

This policy has been adapted with permission from a similar document created by Carnegie Mellon University.