

Internet Access at Sea

The WHOI ships have Internet, but it's not like the Internet you have at home. It is accessed over several different satellite systems. We have implemented the following measures to make Internet usage equitable for everyone on the ship.

Each user on the ship receives a network account with a daily data quota. Scientists are assigned a science username to access internet and email. To access the Internet, open a browser and log in to the captive portal webpage. You can also check your daily data usage from a link on the above login webpage. Only one device per account is permitted. Best practice is to log out from the device before logging in with another, and to log out from the Internet when you are not using it to reduce unintentional background usage.

Additionally, there are some public use computers with unlimited data usage.

The WHOI ships offer a shipboard email for scientists while at sea which does not count towards your daily quota. This email account has a 60kb filter for attachments. This filter can be increased. The reason for the filter is that email is exchanged with a shore server every five minutes as a zipped up tar file and if the size is kept small it will work over a spotty or maxed out satellite link, unlike your usual webmail service. This shipboard account is also used on the ships for internal communications, announcing safety meetings, fire drills, plan of the day. It should be checked daily.

WHOI's Information Technology, Acceptable Use Policy can be viewed on the ship's internal website. We ask that anyone using the Internet abide by the policy. Internet traffic is monitored.

Transferring data to shore works much better as a background process and the ships has a mechanism for this. Science can place files in an outgoing directory and it will get transferred to shore where a shore side person can pick it up. If you would like to learn more contact sssg@whoi.edu or talk with the ship's SSSG technician.

We recommend that you do the following before you reach the ship:

- Download and bring large files with you (manuals, software, drivers, data),
- Install and test critical software on the computers you bring to the ship,
- Ensure that your applications do not require a persistent Internet connection,
- Sync your email archives to your local device, and limit the size of messages to download in your email,
- Download a web browser plug-in that allows you to turn off images when they're not necessary and use low bandwidth alternatives when available,
- Turn off auto-update and auto-backups to off-ship servers.