

Petition For **Easily Accessible** And **Less Restrictive** Wireless Access For UMB Students Email joecohen@cs.umb.edu to E-Sign

We the students of UMASS Boston demand that wireless be made:

Easily Accessible: (These are available if 802.1x is used)

- NO software to download and run
- NO time consuming connection
- ABILITY to save password
- ABILITY to automatically reconnect
- ABILITY to connect from mobile devices (iphone, android)
- ABILITY to connect from Linux

Less Restrictive:

- CS/IT students can connect to CS/IT servers with ease
- Students can use VPN services from inside the campus
- Students can Remote Desktop to remote machines off campus
- Students can SSH to remote machines off campus

A personal appeal by Joseph Paul Cohen,

Learning is tough, it should not be made harder by forcing students to struggle with computer security. If schools are concerned about network security then they can give all computers the same access to their network as everyone on the internet. Everyone else on the internet is not forced to scan their computer before connecting. The workload for securing the network should be placed on the paid staff and not the students. The open internet should start at universities not end there. 802.11x is a industry standard protocol that is designed to rid the world of systems like the one UMB has adopted. It is designed to make administration of a network easy as well as using that network even easier.

Who is using 802.11x wireless authentication? Here are just a few

Boston University
University at Buffalo Law School

Northeastern University
Ohio State University

University of Miami Leonard M.
Miller School of Medicine

The UMB IT office has solved problems using the wrong methods. I would go as far to say these methods have been put in place so that there is less Internet usage to deal with. The following are requirements that are solved using 802.1x:

Requirement	Current	802.11x
UMB Username and Password required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to visit website • Cannot save password 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated into computer • Supported on all major devices (iPhone, Android, Mac, Linux, Windows) • Can save password
Secure connection between student and network	??	Extensible Authentication Protocol with Transport Layer Security (Very Secure)
Allow UMB to access files on computer	Yes	No
Quick connection	No	Yes
Monitoring who is doing what on the network.	??	Yes

All requirements are taken care of except the ability for the university to run software that can access all of your files. Schools should not have the right to access our machines and we should not take it. At the Lower Merion School District in Pennsylvania they installed agents that allowed them to spy on students through a webcam [1].

This may not be the case at UMB but there is no way to knowing unless every student was able to see the source code for the agent and then compile that code themselves. I would much rather put my trust in Apple or Microsoft then a government vendor and an IT office that keeps making things harder for students.

My motto for computer information systems is "When things are done right you never notice that anything was done at all." This saying should be true for Internet access at UMB.

Please sign the petition in support of this argument.
Joseph Paul Cohen <joeccohen@cs.umb.edu>

[1] <http://www.businessinsider.com/school-that-spied-on-students-with-laptop-cameras-says-it-was-security-feature-2010-2>