

Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a secure, reliable and manageable wireless network at Brandon University.

Scope

This policy applies to all uses of WLAN technologies at all physical locations on the University campus, both inside buildings and in outdoor areas. Exceptions may only be granted by the Director Information Technology Services.

Policy

The Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) also known as a wireless network shall be governed by the following set of policies.

1. IT Services will have the responsibility for determining the installation, operation and the management of all wireless network deployments.
2. Individuals and/or departments may not deploy access points or other devices that extend the coverage of the university network without permission of the Director, IT Services. Non-conforming access points may be used in areas not covered by the University WLAN. These access points may be used with permission until such time the area is served by the campus WLAN.
3. The use of the campus WLAN shall be subject to the University's Acceptable Use Policy.
4. Where interference occurs due to other wireless devices, the campus WLAN will have priority. In extreme cases, users of other wireless devices may be required to cease using those devices causing interference.
5. All access to the wireless network must be secure.

Definitions

Access Point: a wireless communications hardware device that creates a central point of wireless connectivity. A wireless access point behaves much like a "hub" in that the total bandwidth is shared among all users for which the device is maintaining an active network connection.

Coverage Area: The geographical area in which an acceptable level of wireless connection service quality is attainable. Coverage areas for similar devices can vary significantly due to the presence of building materials, interference, obstructions, and access point placement.

Interference: Degradation of a wireless communication radio signal caused by electromagnetic radiation from another source including other access points, cellular

telephones, microwave ovens, medical and research equipment, and other devices that generate radio signals. Interference can either degrade a wireless transmission or completely eliminate it entirely depending on the strength of the signal generated by the offending device.

WLAN: "Wireless Local Area Network". The term often used for a wireless network within a limited area consisting of one or more access points that provide network connectivity to computers equipped with wireless capability (usually a notebook computer with a wireless PC card). In essence, a WLAN provides the functionality of a wired LAN without the physical constraints of the wire.

Approved by President's Advisory Group

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