



Franklin and Marshall College

Realizing the benefits of combining educational excellence with cutting-edge technology



The Franklin and Marshall College 70-acre campus

Summary

Franklin and Marshall College is at the forefront of computing technology in higher education. It is an all-Macintosh platform institution, and has recently upgraded its computing network to wireless technology—expanding the network to the entire 70-acre campus.

Key Benefits

- Student have unlimited access to resources.
- Instructors gain flexibility in classroom presentations.
- AirPort is compatible with all 802.11b-compliant products.
- AirPort firewalls and encryption devices ensure security.

Many colleges offer students web-based services that can be accessed from dorm rooms or from computer labs. However, at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, students access online services such as e-mail, course materials, and library resources, from anywhere on the 70-acre campus—in dining halls, outside on the lawn, in the library, or in any classroom—without wires—from their own laptop computers.

Freedom of wireless technology

The college has been integrated on a traditional network for over ten years, linking all of the desktop computers on campus. But the staff has recently installed wireless AirPort technology, enabling them to extend the network to the entire campus. The freedom of wireless technology is particularly popular with students. Over 75 percent of Franklin and Marshall's incoming freshmen chose laptop computers over desktop computers.

Dr. Jonathan Enos, Associate Provost for Facilities Planning and Information Technologies, says that the school has developed three main areas of wireless computing.

The first is what Dr. Enos describes as a mobile classroom. Apple's iBook Wireless Mobile Lab is a portable cart with 10 or 15 iBook computers, a teacher station, an AirPort Base Station, and a printer. The mobile classroom can be taken to any room, and each student has immediate links to class materials, Internet resources, or other programs designed by the instructor for classroom presentations. Class can be held in the library, in a laboratory, or on the lawn, and students have the same access to online resources and materials as if a wire network connected them.

Another main use is laboratory work. Imagine, for example, a biology lab where various specimens are set out for experimentation. Students with laptops can move around the lab easily, gathering data, accessing reference materials, accessing class notes, and entering the data into online spreadsheets as each experiment is performed. Franklin and Marshall has two wireless iBook labs in its biology building, and they can be moved to any laboratory.

And the third area of benefit is the flexibility for the students as they work and study on their own. Students can begin their research while they're having lunch, accessing many library resources anywhere on campus. They can then take their laptops to the library and begin entering notes from reference volumes they have already identified online, then they can take all their work to the periodicals section for additional research. They can easily crosscheck their resources with materials available online. They can keep track of notes and reference materials from anywhere and move easily around the library.



Apple Customer Profile

Franklin and Marshall College

"The access to information helps our students think better, do better research, and communicate ideas more effectively."

—Dr. Jonathan Enos, Associate Provost for Facilities Planning and Information Technologies.



Students study on Macintosh laptops.

AirPort technology

AirPort is the cutting-edge wireless networking technology that allows Internet access from anywhere within 150 feet of an AirPort Base Station—no need for additional phone lines or complicated networking hardware. The technology works through walls and solid objects. It is fast, up to 11 megabits per second (Mbps) and it is secure, including features like firewall protection and 128-bit encryption to keep data safe.

Although Franklin and Marshall is a one-platform campus, AirPort works with both Macs and PCs, it complies with the IEEE 802.11b industry standard to allow interoperability with other 802.11b-compliant products.

Realization of goals

The school's computing innovations have positively affected the entire college community. The benefits are varied and wide-ranging, such as saving advisors' time, because they can immediately access student records and graduation requirements so each student can be helped more efficiently. Or the benefits to instructors in giving online quizzes at the beginning of class and immediately obtaining the scores, so lectures can emphasize particular weak points. Or the benefit to students in having immediate results on tests and quizzes. The College's commitment to technology is based upon the desire for Franklin and Marshall's students to be equipped with the best technology available. Dr. John D. Hoh, director of Computing Services, says, "We want them to enter the working world with the ability to embrace technology."

Dr. Enos says, "Our system has broken down communication barriers between students, faculty, and staff, and that results in a stronger, more productive learning environment. The access to information helps our students think better, do better research, and communicate ideas more effectively."

For More Information

For more information about Apple Professional Services consulting, setup and installation, training, and technical support services in the United States and Canada, please call 800-848-6398, or visit www.apple.com/services, or email services@apple.com.

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