



Wi-Fi to be installed in dorms in three to four years

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Move over, Ethernet. NYU plans to put Wi-Fi in residence halls.

Though Information Technology Services estimated the change won't happen for three or four years, the university approved funding over the summer to bring NYURoam to all university dorms, according to Marilyn McMillan, associate provost and chief information technology officer. Following discussions with the Office of Residential Life and Housing Services, ITS is currently in the planning stages of supplying residence halls with Wi-Fi, so students can access NYURoam from their rooms.

To test the Wi-Fi technology and make changes to improve service, ITS began providing residents of 26th Street residence hall with NYURoam last fall. This semester, the service was extended to include the Mercer Street Residence and D'Agostino Hall, both of which house NYU School of Law students.

"These initial installations have been instructive in some of the special challenges involved in providing this service in residence halls," McMillan said.

Although an approximate timeline of Wi-Fi installation has been determined, some students living in Hayden and Third Avenue North residence halls say they were promised access to WiFi in their rooms as early as this year during First Year Residential Experience live webinars, which were held over the summer with their residence hall directors. During these 45-minute online orientation seminars, students received information about their residence halls and what to expect for move-in day and their first year in housing.

"We were told during Welcome Week that it was only a week away," said CAS freshman Alice Berners-Lee, who lives in Hayden. "And now, six weeks later, we still are using Ethernet."

CAS freshman Liz Liang, a Third North resident, was told the same thing.

"I was told we were going to have Wi-Fi," she said, adding that she is "upset" that the change hasn't been implemented.

McMillan said there might have been a miscommunication.

"There appears to be a misunderstanding over the details of what was said at the webinar," she said.

Currently, Wi-Fi is available in select areas of residence halls, such as Hayden's second-floor library and Third North's courtyard.

Still, many students feel they should have access to Wi-Fi from their rooms.

"If I'm paying this much money for college, I expect to have Wi-Fi in my dorm room," Tisch freshman and Third North resident Marcie Gainer said.

Although ITS has begun preliminary wiring work in some of the locations that students were told would receive Wi-Fi this fall, McMillan said a service availability date has not yet been established for those residence halls.