

On-The-Road Network Access Guide

I. Introduction

A. This guide is for a notebook PC user who will be going on trips. Obtaining network access while on your trip is different depending on where you are going and staying. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

II. Hotel Access Types

A. Not all hotels offer every type of access. Here are the types that may be offered:

1. Dial-Up Access: This is the type of access most likely to be offered. Many hotels offer data ports on their room phones that allow you to connect your notebook modem to their phone system. Please check with the staff at the hotel to see whether you will be charged for local and/or long distance calls. Also keep in mind that even if you have an access number with the same area code as the area you are visiting, that number may not necessarily be a local one, and you could be charged additional toll fees. Again, check with the hotel staff, or if they do not know, call your service provider's support line.

a. NOTE: The Foundation does NOT offer our own dial-up access. Users would need to pay long distance charges while away from the office if we did. There are many national service providers out there, please shop around and find the one that best suits you. Some possible providers to look into (these are not the only ones however) are: AT&T WorldNet, MSN, AOL, etc.

2. Broadband Access: This type of access is usually offered in the more upscale hotels. Some hotels will allow you to simply plug in and obtain service, while others may have a special method for accessing their system. Please check with the hotel staff to see what their procedures are. Access charges may apply.

a. If you are asked whether your TCP/IP settings are set to DHCP, you may answer yes.

3. Public Access Terminals: You will not be able to use your computer with this type of access. Rather, you will be using a dedicated computer in a public area of the hotel with network access. Therefore, it is not a good idea to do anything potentially confidential on these machines.

III. Airport Access Types

A. You may be able to obtain network access at airports as well.

1. Network Access Kiosks: Some airports provide access kiosks where you may have a private area to do work, send e-mail, etc.

2. Wireless Access: If your notebook is wireless-enabled, you may be able to obtain network access this way. You will most likely be charged for this type of service. See the Wireless Access section for additional information.

IV. Wireless Access

A. Wireless access may be available in certain places. Some places, like small coffee shops, may provide service for free if you buy something from them. Others will charge access fees.

B. NOTE: The Foundation does not have very much information on these types of services. The options here are for consideration purposes only.

C. Paid services that may be considered are:

1. LAN-type Access: Your service will be limited to the site where it is provided. Access speeds should be relatively fast. One possible service to subscribe to is T-Mobile's HotSpot service, although coverage area is very limited.