

KGO-TV/DT
San Francisco
Oakland
San Jose

HOME

ABC7 NEWS

7 ON YOUR SIDE

LOCAL NEWS

REGIONS

WINTER SCENES

ENTERTAINMENT

ABC7 SPORTS

HEALTH

TRAVEL

WEST AREA GUIDE

ABOUT ABC7

NEWS FEEDBACK

JOBS @ ABC7

CONTACT US



Search for Bay Area homes in the MLS zipRealty

City: Bed / Bath: Sq. Ft.:

Quick Links

ABC7 News Top Stories

Tuesday, February 03, 2004

Wi-Fi Coming To A Coffee Shop Near You?



(AP Photo)

Aug. 21 — Starbucks announced Wednesday it's installing Wi-Fi technology at 1,200 cafes across the country. That gives people with specially-equipped laptops and hand-helds the ability to connect to the Internet while enjoying their coffee. But what's Wi-Fi? [David Louie](#) explains.

If you're using a cell phone, you're using wireless. But now the same concept is spreading for laptop computers and PDA's. You can connect to the Internet on the go.

Arturo Pereyra, Wi-Fi user: "You're no longer tethered to your desktop. You're no longer tethered to your place at home or at work."

The technology is called Wi-Fi, Wireless Fidelity.

At a coffee shop, a small transmitter and receiver provides Internet connectivity within a few hundred feet. Subscribers pay about \$20 to \$30 a month, and they can log onto the Internet at a growing number of locations in the Bay Area and across the country.

Mary Wolf, Printers Inc. Cafe: "Hopefully it's going to be more of a draw to my business and to other businesses."

The longer customers linger, the more coffee and food might be sold.

Chris Smith, graduate student: "I'm working on my dissertation, so I might be at a place for hours so it is kind of nice to be able to connect, I'd imagine, and be able to check your e-mail or check something on the Web."

But Wi-Fi doesn't mean you have to stay put.

A large section of University Avenue in Palo Alto is wired for Wi-Fi, providing even more flexibility.

Dan Rasmussen, Wi-Fi user: "Soon as I get out of a meeting or go into a meeting, I find a spot that's got a good signal. I log on, I pull my mail, I really don't have to be rushing back and forth to the office, which in the Bay Area is a godsend."

Wi-Fi security can be a problem because it uses an over-the-air frequency. Others with Wi-Fi cards could tap into the signal.

Wi-Fi companies say security firewalls are crucial to preventing theft of service, information or hacking. But the big benefit is high-speed Internet access on the run — speeds similar to DSL or cable.

Layne Holt, Etherlinx Communications: "Ironically, the city of Campbell in the middle of Silicon Valley, there's no DSL or cable available."

More Local Headlines

- ✦ [Kerry Edwards Tangle Over South Carolina](#)
- ✦ [San Leandro Teen Shot, Killed In His Driveway](#)
- ✦ [Mayor Ron Gonzales' Condition Upgraded](#)
- ✦ [Santa Cruz Women On Lookout For Groper](#)
- ✦ [California First Lady Maria Shriver Quits NBC News](#)

More recent stories

PAGE OPTIONS

- [Email this Page to a Friend](#)
- [Printer-friendly version of this page](#)
- [Search for Related Items](#)

RELATED LINKS

- [More Assignment 7 Reports](#)

SPECIAL REPORTS

Regular Special Reports Seen On-Air

- ✦ [7 On Your Side](#)
- ✦ [Assignment 7](#)
- ✦ [ABC7 Salutes](#)
- ✦ [Dr. Dean Edell](#)
- ✦ [ABC7 I-Team](#)

MEET THE ABC7 NEWS TEAM

Choose a Bio

SAW IT ON ABC7 NEWS?

If we told you on-air to go to our Web site, you'll find the link [here](#).

SEX OFFENDER LOOKUP

How many sex offenders **live in your neighborhood**? Find out here. Plus, your guide to [Megans Law](#).

RECALL ROUNDUP

All the **safety recalls** you need to know about.

PERFECT PET



Julia likes to hike and go to the beach, do you? [Adoption info here.](#)

Layne Holt is developing a Wi-Fi network that will blanket all of Campbell to give users the speed they crave.

The city of Campbell plans to link up police cars and all departments at City Hall with Wi-Fi equipped computers.

Etherlinx has figured a way to do point-to-point links up to 50 miles. The antennas are no larger than the ones commonly used for satellite TV reception. It would give wireless Internet service to wider areas than a single cafe or store.

Just think of it. With an antenna like this, you could give broadband Internet access to every student at the desk without having to wire up every single classroom."

For now, Wi-Fi is provided by a patchwork quilt of companies in scattered locations but it's expected to go through the same kind of consolidation that cell phone technology has experienced.

As that happens, you'll be able to do more than ever on the go.

Last Updated: Aug 22, 2002

 [BACK TO TOP](#)

 [HOME](#)

[ABCNEWS.com](#) | [ABC.com](#) | [Movies.com](#) | [ESPN.com](#) | [FamilyFun.com](#)
[Advertise on this Site](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Copyright ©2004 ABC Inc., KGO-TV Inc.

[Terms of Use](#), [UPDATED Privacy Policy](#) and [Internet Safety Information](#) for this site.

