

WABnet OVERVIEW

The Wabash College
Data Network

BENEFITS AT A GLANCE:

- ◆ *Yahoo! Internet Life* ranked Wabash the 34th most wired college in America in 2000
- ◆ Direct, continuous high-speed connection means less waiting
- ◆ Internet service is separate from phone service; phone is not tied up when using the Internet
- ◆ Search the Lilly Library Catalog and library resources
- ◆ Obtain campus news and information from the Wabash web site
- ◆ Find class readings, lecture notes, and test and homework keys for many courses
- ◆ Send electronic mail across campus or around the world
- ◆ Set up your own Web site, which can be seen by anyone on the Internet
- ◆ Store personal files on campus servers
- ◆ Share files with friends and classmates
- ◆ Print to campus laser printers
- ◆ Stay in touch, even when off campus—access your email and network files from any computer on the Internet

WABnet is the Wabash College data network, or digital information system. It is a computer network that spans the campus, connecting all college computers. WABnet provides the pathway to campus servers, such as our Novell file servers, Windows NT Internet servers, and Unix systems. WABnet, of course, is also part of the Internet, allowing access to digital resources around the world. *Yahoo! Internet Life* ranked Wabash as the 34th most wired college in America in 2000.

How is WABnet Used?

WABnet supports virtually all academic and administrative computing functions on the campus. All faculty and staff are connected to the network. As an incoming student, you will receive a WABnet account as part of freshman orientation. Primary uses of the network include sharing files and information, running shared applications, browsing the library catalog, electronic mail, and doing research on the Internet.

Many classes use WABnet class accounts to facilitate learning. Class accounts allow students to save files, such as Microsoft Word documents or Excel spreadsheets, to a special location on the network. These files can then be accessed by the professor, and in some cases by other students in the class. Students use the accounts to submit papers electronically, to provide the results of experiments to other students in a class, and to collaborate on group projects. Faculty use the accounts to make comments on student papers electronically (often even viewing draft copies of papers) and to provide lecture notes, assignments, or sample data sets for students. Many of these classes also use electronic mail or Web-based conference systems to continue discussions outside of class.

WABnet in the Student Living Units

All college dormitories and fraternities have high-speed connections to WABnet. If you have a computer, you can connect it to WABnet in your dorm or fraternity room. A WABnet connection offers you the following:

- ◆ High-speed ethernet access to the campus network. An ethernet connection offers communication speeds *several hundred times faster* than a modem connection, which means less time waiting.
- ◆ Direct, continuous access to the Internet and the World-Wide Web. There is no need to dial in to another system; you are connected to the Internet as soon as you turn on your computer.
- ◆ Internet service does not use your telephone line. Since the Internet and phone services are separate, you can use your phone while you are browsing the Web.
- ◆ Access to Wabash information servers. The College Web servers provide easy access to a wide range of information, such as upcoming events, student services information, sports information, class offerings, and department and faculty profiles.

- ◆ Electronic mail. You can send email to your professors, advisors, and other students. Of course, the mail system is connected to the Internet, allowing correspondence with others around the world.
- ◆ Your own Web site. You can create your own homepage on a college Web server (or, if you are really ambitious, on your own computer), which can be seen by anyone on the Internet.
- ◆ Access to Library Services. You can search the Lilly Library catalog, as well as holdings at other colleges and universities, through the PALNI catalog. Through the library web site you will also have access to many research-related Internet sites.
- ◆ File storage and retrieval on campus servers. You will have 100MB personal file space on college systems, plus additional space for certain classwork.
- ◆ Access to campus printers. You can print to laser printers in the computer labs from your room.
- ◆ Stay connected, even when off campus. You can access your Wabash email account and network files remotely, from any computer on the Internet.
- ◆ If you have a network problem, help is available from 10am until midnight, seven days/week.

How Much Does it Cost to Connect?

Surprisingly, very little! You will need a network card for your computer, which many computers now have pre-installed. If your computer doesn't have a network card, the Wabash bookstore stocks WABnet Connection Kits, which contain a network card, cable, and software (because of the speed and connection type offered by WABnet, a modem will not work). The cost of a connection kit ranges from \$50 to \$100, depending on the type of computer. There are no other charges—no monthly or annual access fees, no Internet usage charges, no connection support costs, and no fee for email or file storage.

WABnet in the Computer Classrooms

Wabash has seven public labs on campus. Most labs are open from 8am-midnight; one lab is open 24 hours/day. Many academic departments also have computers for students to use for work in a particular discipline. Campus wide, Wabash has more than 200 computers dedicated to student use. In the computer labs, you have all the benefits listed above, as well as access to a wide range of commercial software applications, such as Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Mathematica, Pagemaker, Photoshop, Internet Explorer, statistical programs, computer programming languages, and a variety of course-specific applications.

For More Information

The Computer Services web site has a variety of information about WABnet. It is available on the Internet at <http://www.wabash.edu/depart/ccc>. Feel free also to contact Quentin Dodd, Network Administrator, at 765.361.6337, or via email at doddq@wabash.edu.