How do I connect to the Internet?

These instructions will assist you with the application and setup process of your ResCom Network connection.

In order to connect to the ResCom Network you will need a network adapter (usually integrated into the computer) and network cable. Network cables, also known as patch cables or Ethernet cables, are sold at the Bookstore for a nominal fee. If at any time you are in need of assistance with the setup of your personal computer or residence hall connection, please contact us via any of the means listed on the next page to contact the ResCom Helpdesk.

**ResCom Network Connection Procedure for New Connections**

1. Set up your personal computer in your dorm room.
2. Connect your personal computer to the network jack via the network cable.
3. Write the room number here: ______________. Write your jack letter here: ______________. You will need both during the registration process. A network jack is named by combining the room number and a letter, for example, room 123 may have a data jack named, 123A or 123B.
4. Find your “physical address” using the provided instruction sheet titled, “Locating the Physical Address in Windows XP / Vista” to assist with the process.
5. Write down your physical address here: __________________________ __________________________.
6. Register your computer with ResCom. You may use one of the campus computer labs or a roommate’s computer if they have already connected to the ResCom Network. *(Please note that from this step forth, you must have an active PSU access ID and password. If you do not have one, you will not be able to register your connection at this time.)*
7. Visit the ResCom website – http://www.rescom.psu.edu. Click the link on the left, “Online Ethernet Registration Database.” Ensure that you have all of the required items before continuing and then click “Proceed to the Ethernet Registration Form.” On the next screen you may enter your access ID and password. If prompted, agree to the ResCom Connection Agreement.
8. Once you click OK, you will be redirected to your personal ResCom Connection homepage. Now you can select your campus from the drop down list and choose “New Connection.”
9. You will be prompted to enter the semester for which you are applying, the building name, room number, jack, network address *(hint: you should have filled in your room, jack, and network address in the blanks above)*, and some general information about your computer. Click the submit button.
10. You need not keep the information displayed as your computer will retrieve its settings from a server at University Park. Using the provided directions titled, “Configuring the network in Windows XP / Vista”, configure the network adapter in your computer to automatically obtain its network information.
11. That’s it! Allow approximately 24 hours for your ResCom Network connection to be activated.
Your ResCom connection will remain active for an entire school year, both fall and spring semesters unless of course you transfer or graduate, at which point it is terminated. You do not need to reapply for ResCom access after the Christmas/Winter break. At the end of the spring semester all connections are terminated.

Are you a returning student? While you still have to follow most of the procedure outlined in the new connections section, the ResCom system should have saved your network address and computer information you submitted the previous year, saving you the hassle of finding and entering it again. You will, however, have to tell the system your new room and jack number.

**ResCom Internet Connection Procedure for a New Physical Address**

Have you purchased a new computer and are wondering why your network connection isn’t working? The ResCom Network is configured to accept connections only from the physical address you specified when you submitted your connection request. Therefore you must inform the system of your new physical address if you have purchased a new computer. To do so, follow steps, 4 & 5 to obtain your new physical address. Then follow steps 6 & 7 to access the ResCom system. Click ok, once you’ve entered your user ID and password. This will bring you to your personal ResCom Connection homepage. Choose Mont Alto from the drop down list of campus locations and then click “Change Ethernet Address.” On the next screen you will be prompted to enter your new physical address which you should have noted in step 5. Click the submit button after you’ve done so. That’s it! Your connection information will be updated and you should regain access to the network within 24 hours. Using the provided directions titled, “Configuring the network in Windows XP / Vista”, ensure your computer is set to receive its network information automatically.

**ResCom Internet Connection Procedure for Switching Dorm Rooms**

Switching dorm rooms? Don’t worry, it happens all the time. There is a procedure however that you should follow so that your network connection is reactivated in your new dorm. To do so, follow step 7 from the previous page to access the ResCom system. Click ok, once you’ve entered your user ID and password. This will bring you to your personal ResCom Connection homepage. Choose Mont Alto from the drop down list of campus locations and then click “Disconnect an Existing Connection.” On the next screen click the “Confirm Disconnect” button to confirm your intent to disconnect your old connection. Once you’ve disconnected, follow the same steps for activating a new connection. If when registering your new connection you receive a jack unavailable or similar message, check with the person with whom you’ve switched rooms and ensure they’ve completed the disconnect of their old connection. The ResCom Helpdesk can also submit a disconnect request on their behalf if necessary.

**Important Web Sites**

Penn State Mont Alto: http://www.ma.psu.edu
ITS @ Penn State Mont Alto: http://www.ma.psu.edu/its
ResCom @ Penn State Mont Alto: http://www.ma.psu.edu/rescom
ResCom: http://www.rescom.psu.edu

For more information please stop by our office and pick up one of our many informative pamphlets, brochures, or booklets. The IT department stands ready to assist you with your computing needs, please let us know how we can help!

Information Technology Services
1 Campus Drive
MAC Building Suite 124
Mont Alto, PA 17237

ResCom Helpdesk Phone: 717-749-6113
Fax: 717-749-6194
Web: http://www.ma.psu.edu/its
E-Mail: marescom@campuses.psu.edu
Locating the Physical Address in Windows XP / Vista

You need to use your physical address to register for a Rescom network connection. Use this guide to find that address.

The instructions are similar for both Windows XP and Windows Vista, but the first step is different.

1. (XP)

Click on the Start Menu, then click on Run.

A small window, titled Run, will open. Type in CMD, then click OK or press Enter.

2.

The Command Prompt will appear. Type ipconfig /all and press Enter.

3.

In the results, locate the connection named Local Area Connection. Find the Physical Address and write down that 12 digit number. You will need this to register your computer with Rescom. DO NOT write down the wireless connection’s physical address. The wireless connection will have the word wireless in the name.

1. (Vista)

Click on the Windows Logo, then in the Start Search box type cmd. Hit Enter.
Configuring the Network in Windows XP / Vista

Use this page as a guide to configure your computer to access the Rescom network.

The instructions are similar for both Windows XP and Windows Vista, but the first step is different.

1. **(XP)**
   
   Click on the **Start Menu**, then click on **Run**.
   
   ![Start Menu and Run](image)

2.
   
   A small window, titled **Run**, will open. Type **control netconnections**, then click **OK** or press **Enter**.

3.
   
   In the results, locate the connection named **Local Area Connection**. Right click on the connection and select **Properties**. For Windows XP, proceed to step 5. For Windows Vista, proceed to step 4.

4.
   
   On Windows Vista, this UAC dialog box may appear. Click **Continue**.

5.
   
   Select **Internet Protocol (TCP/IP)** on Windows XP or **Internet Protocol Version 4 (TCP/IPv4)** on Windows Vista. Then click on **Properties**.

6. 
   
   Find and select "**Obtain an IP address automatically**", and make sure that "**Obtain DNS servers automatically**" is also selected. Once finished, click "**OK**". Click "**OK**" again. You have now properly configured your computer for use on the Rescom network.