

"Keeping You Informed"

Online Gaming on Campus

January 2007

General Information

Online gaming on campus is a luxury. While I.T.S. does its best to support the ability to play online games, it is not the highest priority of I.T.S. and probably should not be students' highest priority either. That being said, online gaming is and will probably continue to be a favorite past-time and opportunity for stress relief for many students on campus. I.T.S. recognizes this and generously continues to support it on a basic level.

One of the most common concerns for gamers is network latency, or "lag." With the amount of students using the network for various things, such as web browsing, downloading, gaming, watching YouTube, etc. some lag is to be expected. There are times when there is less lag. After around 10pm, there are usually fewer students online and, as a result, there is typically less lag. There are some games that are more affected by lag. For example, online first person shooters tend to be very hard to play on campus due to lag. With these things in mind, if there seems to be a significantly unusual amount of lag experienced, do not hesitate to call SCS and inform them of the problem.

There are also alternatives to playing games online. Local Area Network (LAN) games are often very popular, as they are typically easy to set up and have much less lag. You can play a LAN game with anyone in your dorm simply by plugging your computer/console directly into the wall, or through a hub/switch that is plugged into the wall. You may then simply join a LAN game or create your own through the game's multiplayer menu.

Technical Information

Xbox Live

To set up Xbox 360, or other console, on Messiah's Network, you must first fill out this form:

<https://mcreg.messiah.edu/manual.html>

After that, find your personal computer's IP Address by going to control panel, network connections, right click on Local Area Connection, click Status, click on the support tab, and click the Details button. Write down the IP Address, Subnet Mask, Default Gateway, DHCP server, DNS servers and WINS server. Then right click on Local Area Connection and click disable.

After your PC's LAN connection is disabled, make sure your Xbox is plugged into the network with your ethernet cord, then go into the Xbox 360 dashboard and find the network settings area. You will need to change your Xbox's network settings to match those of your computer. Then select "Test Xbox Live Connection" and it should validate everything. You may need to restart the Xbox before it will work.

After your Xbox has connected to Xbox Live, you may then right click on your PC's Local Area Connection and Enable it. It should then find a new IP Address since your Xbox has taken its old one.

If Xbox Live does not work right away, wait a day or so and try again. The registration sometimes takes a while.

Wii

A Wii can be used on Messiah's network simply by using a LAN adapter which can be purchased at various game stores, online retailers, or Walmart for about \$20. Due to security protections on the wireless network connections on campus, it is not feasible to use Wii wirelessly at Messiah.

Game Server Population lists

When searching for a game server to play on, there are often hundreds or even thousands of servers that populate the list. In the past, students have let that list fill and, as a result, gone over the network usage limit which resulted in being blocked from the network. To prevent this from happening, make sure you set filters for the game servers, so that it does not show every single available server.

Hosting Online Games

Unfortunately, for most games, hosting is not available while on campus. This is because incoming internet traffic is blocked for security reasons. This just means that you will be unable to create a game that people outside of Messiah's network can join. You can still host LAN games and you can join games created by those off campus.

World of Warcraft

There is an all messiah guild called <Tea Time> located on the Shadowsong server.