How to Access the NIST-Guest Network

How can I access the NIST-Guest Network?

As with any wireless network, your personally owned device should detect and present you with an option to connect to wireless networks in range. **NIST-Guest** is broadcasted and is the network to connect your device with.

1. Connect wirelessly to SSID: NIST-Guest
2. Open your browser. You will be directed to the Access and Use Policy. Review the complete Access and Use Policy by scrolling to the bottom of the Window.
3. Acknowledge that you agree to the terms identified by selecting ACCEPT.

For example, iPhones:
>Settings >Wi-Fi >Choose A Network >Select NIST-Guest
Open your browser. You will be directed to the Access and Use Policy.

*Please review the complete Access and Use Policy by scrolling to the bottom of the window. To acknowledge that you agree to the terms identified, select ACCEPT. If you choose DECLINE, access to the NIST-Guest WiFi Network will not be permitted.*

You should then be directed to a welcome page. This may require you to refresh the page several times.

You will then need to repeat these steps each day when initially accessing NIST-Guest.

From what locations can I access NIST-Guest?

The NIST-Guest will utilize existing access points located in Gaithersburg’s Building 101 Red/Green Auditoriums, first floor Lecture Rooms, Lobby, Poster Hallway, HR hallway, Courtyard, Cafeteria, West Square, Heritage and Portrait Rooms, Executive Dining Rooms, and Library/Terrace. The signal will carry over slightly beyond these areas (e.g., to outdoors, neighboring buildings and floors).
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What if I walk to areas outside the NIST-Guest locations?
The connection will drop if the user moves to locations outside the covered area(s). If connectivity is required for a Visitor, the Visitor will require registration by a NIST-Visitor Wireless Administrator and issuance of account credentials for use of the NIST-Visitor Network. (Of note, NIST-Visitor is for NIST’s short term visitors, as policy prohibits use of this resource for NIST staff.) Because connectivity is for one day, if the user returns to the covered area within the same day, the device will automatically reconnect to NIST-Guest.

What other network mechanisms are in place if I cannot access NIST-Guest?
The current NIST-Visitor will continue to be available in the pilot areas, but not broadcast. This will allow users who are registered for NIST-Visitor access in another building to have a seamless experience while in the pilot areas. Of note, NIST-Visitor is for NIST’s short term visitors, as policy prohibits use of this resource for NIST staff.

What information do I have to provide to connect?
The NIST-Guest collects the MAC address of the end user’s device, but no information from or about the user.

What is the maximum user throughput?
The maximum user throughput on NIST-Guest is 1 Mbps (megabits per second).

What can prevent my access?
Device access will be blocked if (1) it is a NIST-owned device; (2) malware or other malicious activity is detected; or (3) inappropriate online behavior is detected.