



Letter from Ash Dyer '06 announcing the FSILG Community Network Infrastructure Upgrade Project.

Dear members of the FSILG Community,

February 4, 2008

The IT-Telecomm Committee of the Association of Independent Living Groups (AILG) is very happy to announce the FSILG Community Network Infrastructure Upgrade Project. The project will be largely funded by the IRDF (Independent Residence Development Fund), the MIT fund built up by our alumni/ae gifts over the past 40 years. This project will enable all Fraternity, Sorority, and Independent Living Group buildings to upgrade to the latest wired and wireless network infrastructure. A high quality computer network is now an essential educational prerequisite for MIT students.

What to Do

Every FSILG should take advantage of this opportunity - and soon. To participate, your FSILG must pick up a simple informational packet from the FSILG Cooperative in W20-020A and return it before the end of February. There are 3 simple requests in the packet.

1. Prepare "as is" and "desired" network maps for their building. As explained in more detail later, all standard base requirements (including a new fire alarm radio) will be paid for by the IRDF.
2. Decide which, if any, additional related wiring/services you wish to have estimates and ultimately pay for. This list must be approved by undergrad and alumni officers. A list of possibilities is below.
3. Designate two or more responsible contact individuals. These could be the chapter's House Manager, the ILG Net Contact, and/or a responsible local alum. They will need to be available to show the network contractor around the house.

Please plan on having representatives of your chapter attend one of two currently scheduled information/question sessions.

Wednesday, Feb. 13 9:15-10AM in 20 Chimneys (W20-306), right after the AILG breakfast, or

Thursday, Feb. 21 7:15-8PM in Lobdell (W20-208)

Packets will be available at the meetings but can be picked up earlier in the FCI Offices at W20-020A.

Background

In 2005 the Information Services & Technology (IS&T) department upgraded the network connections to high speed fiber optic links for all of the FSILG residences. The internal network systems in the FSILG residences were not addressed at that time. A preliminary network study conducted this past fall, by IS&T and the AILG IT committee, discovered that many residences have what is now considered to be substandard internal networks. Consequently, the IRDF Grant Advisory Board approved funding for Phase One of the FSILG Community Network Upgrade Project. This phase will generate a detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) for vendor bidding in spring of 2008 to bring the FSILGs up to an IS&T-approved base infrastructure. Please see the project web site, <http://web.mit.edu/irdf/network/> for a full breakout of what the base specification encompasses. Phase One is also designed to allow each participating to determine what additional items you would like installed and the associated costs. At the end of this phase a contractor will be visiting your building to identify locations, wire runs, major pathways, and costs for this project. Your chapter will then be able to review the proposed detailed plans for your building before inclusion in the final RFP.

Advantages of Participation

These are the major advantages included in the base specification:

- * Each chapter will be brought up to the latest wired and wireless standards, including preparations for the new 802.11N wireless standard.
- * Each chapter's common and living areas will have a network infrastructure ready for the next decade.
- * Each chapter and MIT's IS&T would have an up-to-date data package, enabling much improved diagnostics for troubleshooting.
- * Each chapter will have all telecom wiring done to the latest building code standards.
- * Each chapter will have a VOIP (Voice Over IP) capable backbone.

These are additional related wiring/services you wish to have installed:

* Each chapter may elect to install a more advanced and reliable fire radio alarm service, replacing the two analog lines each house must now maintain. The IRDF will fund this also.

* Each chapter may elect to contract for additional related services at their own expense such as:

- CATV wiring
- VOIP switch / Telephone system / Voip telephones
- Access Control - Proximity, Swipe, Keypad systems
- Alarm System
- Intercom or doorbell system
- Building Monitoring System - temperature, door status, etc
- CCTV Systems

Phase Two of the project will consist of actual construction starting this spring with a target completion of spring 2009. If you would like to receive IRDF funding, your FSILG must elect to participate in this project during February. The IRDF has no plans to support individual, extensive network upgrades after this project.

We believe we have the best, most cost-effective opportunity to do this work now and hope you share our enthusiasm for this project. For further questions, information or advice, please plan on attending the information sessions. You may also contact any member of the AILG IT-Telecomm Committee, all of whom are listed below.

The AILG IT-Telecomm Committee

Ash Dyer '06, Chair

Andrew Bonvie, IS&T Telecom & Network Services

Jim Bueche '62

John Covert

Bob Ferrara '67 (also IRDF Grant Advisory Board member)

Alicia Hunt '94

Scott Klemm, FSILG Cooperative, Inc.

Chris Murphy, IS&T Network Administration

Stuart Peloquon, IS&T ResNet Coordinator