We heard you! In a 2017 survey, undergraduate student respondents reported the most reliable access to wireless networks in campus libraries and the least reliable access in outdoor spaces. During the summer of 2018, nearly 3,000 wireless access points across campus were updated to the best available model to improve the wireless experience. Investments are made possible by student technology fee.

The first wireless network was installed in 1998 in McKeldin Library to pilot wireless feasibility on campus. In 2009, half of student survey respondents reported owning a mobile device with internet capability. Just eight years later, in 2017, most students report owning two or more devices. As portable devices became more popular among students, faculty, and staff, the demand for wireless network capacity grew as well. UMD expanded capacity and kept pace with quickly growing technology in wireless security and reliability. Our goal was to design a system that was secure, adaptable, and able to serve the 39,000 students and 14,000 faculty and staff who move from building to building every hour!

EDUCAUSE surveys consistently rank reliability as the most important feature of the wireless networks followed by bandwidth speed and regular ease of access. They ranked security the least important feature.

Students ranked reliability as the most important feature of the wireless networks followed by bandwidth speed and regular ease of access. They ranked security the least important feature.

EDUCAUSE surveys consistently rank reliability as the most important feature of the wireless networks followed by bandwidth speed and regular ease of access. They ranked security the least important feature.8

UMD wireless networks handle over Seven gigabits per second of traffic at the busiest time.

UMD wireless staff in the Division of IT currently support over 7,000 access points in over 220 buildings on 1,335 acres of campus.