

In Brief: Pittsburgh launches downtown WiFi net

July 7 2006

Pittsburgh is the latest U.S. city to launch a program to provide wireless Internet access in its downtown area.

The WiFi Downtown Pittsburgh project consisting of 52 WiFi antennas got under way with a small ceremony Thursday and should be online in September, the city announced.

"Free outdoor wireless will be a tremendous enhancement for workers, residents and visitors who want to utilize laptops, PDAs and other electronic equipment in downtown Pittsburgh," declared Michael Edwards, president of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership.

The system will be operated by US Wireless Online and will provide users with two free hours of WiFi daily. Subscriptions can be purchased for longer connections. Speeds range from 512 kilobits per second for the free access up to 1 megabit per second for those who pay the \$8 day rate.

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Citation: In Brief: Pittsburgh launches downtown WiFi net (2006, July 7) retrieved 2 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2006-07-pittsburgh-downtown-wifi-net.html>

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