

# Seoul to offer free wifi in public areas

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An Internet cafe in Seoul. The South Korean metropolis of Seoul said on Wednesday it would offer free wifi in outdoor spaces in a \$44 million project to give residents and visitors Internet access on every street corner.

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Seoul will make its network available in 10,430 parks, streets and other public places by 2015, the city government said in a statement.

Demand for wifi is booming amid the rapid spread of smartphones and [tablet computers](#) but outdoor coverage in the South Korean capital has so far been limited.

"Wifi service is unavailable at 83 percent of outdoor areas in [Seoul](#)... but

it soon will be available at every street corner of the city," the city government said.

Three local wireless operators will invest 47.7 billion won (\$44 million) for the project.

All buses, subway trains and taxis in the city will be equipped to offer [wireless Internet](#) to passengers by the end of this year.

Telecommunication authorities say the world's most-wired country will have more than 20 million [smartphone](#) users by the end of this year out of a population of 48.6 million.

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