

# Configuring Your Macintosh for a Wireless Connection: OS 8.6 through 9.x

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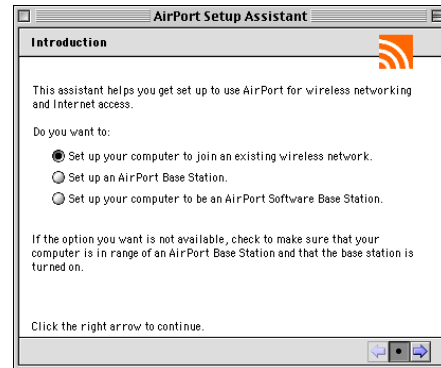
## Setting Up a Wireless Ethernet Connection

### Install the Airport Card

Step 1. Install your Airport card and software according to Apple's directions.

When the Airport Setup Assistant window appears, you can simply close it by clicking in the close box in the upper left corner of the window. **You do not need to use the Airport Setup Assistant.**

**IMPORTANT:** Do NOT set up your Macintosh to be an Airport Software Base Station!



### Use Your Wireless Connection

Step 2. Go to a location on campus where wireless networking is available. The list of access points and coverage areas is at:

<http://www.tc.columbia.edu/cis/connect/wireless/coveragemap.htm>

Step 3. Start up your computer and make sure the Airport is turned on. To do this, click the little black arrow in the Airport control strip module (see the diagram on the right) and select **Turn Airport On** if necessary.

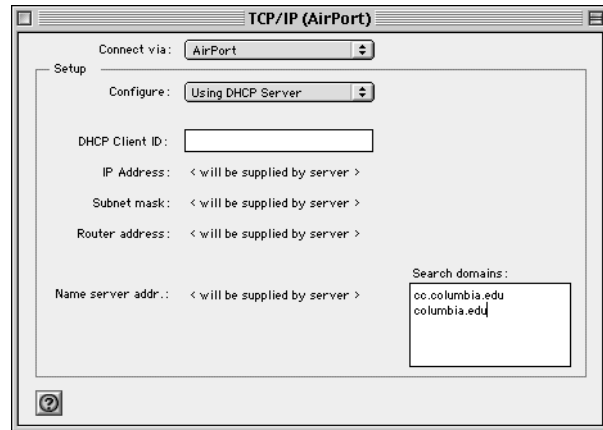


The dots on the Airport control strip module indicate the strength (and speed) of your wireless connection. Three or more green dots mean you have a good connection. If you see fewer than three green dots, you may want to move to get better performance. Having no green dots at all means you have no connection at all, and need to move to another location.

Step 4. Open the TCP/IP control panel.

- Set the connection to **Airport**.
- Set **Configure** to **Using DHCP Server**.
- Enter **tc.edu** and **int.tc.columbia.edu** in the Search Domains field.

Note that the **DHCP Client ID** field, if present, should remain blank.



Now you can run a network software program such as Netscape Navigator. You should be able to connect to the Internet and browse the Web just as you would with a wired connection.

## Troubleshooting Wireless Connections

If you have trouble getting a wireless network connection, you should check the following:

- **Signal strength.** If the Airport control strip indicates that you have no connection (none of the little dots are green), you should first make sure that you're in a location where wireless networking is available. Check the location map and move if necessary.

*Hint.* You can also tell if you have no connection by looking at the items in the pop-up menu in the Airport control strip module. If the only options you see are **Computer to Computer** and **No Airport Networks in Range**, then you are out of range and need to move. (If you are connected to the Teachers College wireless network, you will see the option **Teachers College** with a dot next to it.)

- **Is your Airport card turned on?** If you're in a location where wireless networking is available, make sure your Airport card is turned on. (See step 3 above.)
- If your Airport is already turned on, double-check that you have configured the **TCP/IP Control Panel** correctly, as described in step 4 above.
- **Reboot your computer.** If all else fails, reboot your computer.
- **Password prompt.** If you are prompted for an ID and/or password when you try to connect to the wireless network, it means that you are connecting to a non-TC access point. You should report this to [helpdeskt@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:helpdeskt@tc.columbia.edu) and move to a location served by a TC access point to try again.

## For More Help

- Faculty and Staff:
  - Call the CIS Helpdesk at 212-678-3300, Monday through Friday, 8am-6pm
  - Send electronic mail to [helpdesk@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tc.columbia.edu)
- Students:

- Call Academic Computing at 212-678-3302, Monday through Friday, 9am-5pm
- Send electronic mail to *studentcomputing@tc.columbia.edu*

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