

Private Wi-Fi on your device

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Are you geting this login screen almost daily?

If you think you have to sign in for your school Wi-Fi too often, it may be caused by Private Wi-Fi.

Welcome to CAconnect This is the CAconnect network. Staff and students please login with your CA ID and password. You will need to be on the list of authorized users for this network in order to access the Internet. Sign In

What is Private Wi-Fi?

Private Wi-Fi is a privacy feature where your device uses a randomly generated MAC address for each network it connects to, or periodically rotates between multiple MAC addresses for each network.

Private Wi-Fi is a standard feature in all current mobile and desktop systems, and it is turned on by default on most devices.

What does Private Wi-Fi do?

To connect to a Wi-Fi network, your device must identify itself with a unique MAC address. If your device always uses the same address, the network operator can easily track your location and activitiy. Private Wi-Fi was designed to address this privacy concern.

Using Private Wi-Fi does not affect your user experience on most networks, while it helps protect your privacy as it is intended to do.

On networks such as CA's, where devices are identified and authenticated for connection, Private Wi-Fi makes your device "new and unidentified" every time it uses a different MAC address, and that's why you get prompted to sign in for your connection each time.

Setting Private Wi-Fi on or off for one network does not affect how your device connects to other networks. You can turn it on or off for each of the networks you use regularly.

Should you use Private Wi-Fi?

The choice is yours. You can choose to keep it on, but you still have to sign in for each of your multiple MAC addresses, so the privacy effect is limited on the school network.

When you use Private Wi-Fi, you may need to sign-in more frequently, and if your device is lost or missing, we may not be able to help you find it easily on the network system.

How to turn off Private Wi-Fi

If you decide to turn off this feature while on the campus network, follow these steps.

iPhone and iPad (iOS/iPadOS 14 or later)

- Settings > Network > Wi-Fi
- Tap on (i) next to CAconnect
- Scroll down and turn off Private WI-Fi

Mac (macOS Sequoia or later)

- System Settings > Network > Wi-Fi
- Known Networks > click on onext to CAconnect > open Network Settings
- Turn off Private Wi-Fi address

Windows (only on supported hardware)

- Settings > Network & Internet > Wi-Fi > Manage known networks
- Select CAconect and turn off Random hardware addresses