

Dear FSILG members and AILG stakeholders,

For the last several years, the AILG IT committee has been working with MIT's IS&T department to upgrade FSILG network infrastructure to the state-of-the-art and to integrate it with the on-campus network. In 2014, we completed a major milestone with the installation of direct fiber-optic connections from FSILGs back to MIT. Latest-generation wireless access points were deployed in 2015. And earlier this year, we made MIT telephone numbers and handsets available to every FSILG.

Now we are pleased to announce an upgrade program for the wired network switches in every FSILG. The current Netgear switches are the last remaining hardware from the original CNUP project and are nearly ten years old. They have never been officially supported by MIT IS&T, and as they deteriorate houses will find their wired networks offline with no warning and no responsible party to provide repairs. We are already starting to observe an increased failure rate across the system.

The replacement switches will be Cisco 3650 (48-port PoE), the same as used by IS&T in every on-campus building. They will be officially supported by IS&T, including a full five year warranty. The purchase price per switch is \$5526. IS&T has generously agreed to install the new switches at no additional cost during their regular Network Management Program site visits. Furthermore, the IRDF has agreed to subsidize 50% of the upgrade cost, so the final cost to FSILGs will be \$2763 per switch.

Most FSILGs currently have 100 to 200 wired network drops, serviced by two to four 48-port switches. FSILGs may opt to purchase fewer switches than they currently have and connect only a subset of the existing drops. IS&T has indicated that they can only continue to provide network support if all houses upgrade their switches at the same time. Accordingly, the minimum purchase quantity for an FSILG to stay connected to MITNet will be one switch.

Any FSILGs which wish to purchase more than one new switch should contact the FCI at info@fsilg.coop before October 1, 2016. Otherwise, the new switches will be installed during the fall semester 2016, and payment of \$2763 per switch will be due to the FCI by March 30, 2017. The IT committee has worked very hard to keep the upgrade cost as low as possible, and for an FSILG that purchases one new switch the cost works out to roughly \$3 per resident per month over the guaranteed lifetime of the switch.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to ailg-it@mit.edu, or to me personally at dlaw@mit.edu, with any questions about this project or if you are interested in joining the AILG IT committee.

Sincerely,
David Lawrence '14 TEP
on behalf of the AILG IT committee