

Right of Entry

UniCity, Cincinnati Bell's Smart City division, is installing a Smart City solution in your neighborhood in partnership with your municipality. We would like to install a discreet Wi-Fi Access Point (AP) outside your home, to offer public Wi-Fi in the area. This is a part of an economic development and digital equity project within your neighborhood to expand and provide free high-speed Internet access in support of education and distance learning, to ultimately help your community thrive and stay connected.



Example of typical indoor enclosure



Example of typical AP and outdoor placement



For further questions, please contact our Smart City Experts, John Putnam and Katie Meyer at UniCity@cinbell.com

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is Public Wi-Fi?

Public Wi-Fi is just what it sounds like: Wi-Fi in public spaces. By building a network with commercial outdoor hardware and fiber connectivity, Cincinnati Bell creates a Wi-Fi network that fills the streets, sidewalks, and public spaces. The community may log into the Public Wi-Fi through a splash page.

What is a Right of Entry Document?

A Cincinnati Bell Right of Entry (ROE) document is an agreement between a property owner and Cincinnati Bell. The ROE gives Cincinnati Bell permission to install and connect a Wi-Fi Access Point to the property. The document outlines the purpose and terms of the agreement.

Why did you choose my property?

The location of the hardware is based on a variety of factors that contribute to the Wi-Fi design. A Wi-Fi engineer analyzes components such as: fiber location, visitor density, physical obstacles, Wi-Fi strength and more, in order to narrow in on the physical location of the Wi-Fi Access Point.

What are my responsibilities?

You have only two responsibilities once the ROE is signed. First, you are asked to coordinate with our team for the installation. The time required to install the hardware may vary based on where it is located and how the fiber enters the building. We require that an adult be on-site during the installation so that the installation specialist can access the inside of your home to run fiber and mount the equipment. Second, you are asked to provide power to the access point.

How much power does the hardware utilize?

The Wi-Fi Access Point draws a minimal amount of power, approximately the same as a 100 watt light bulb. The cost associated is approximately \$2 per month per Access Point.

Why can't you just install them on the poles?

Only on very rare occasions are the poles able to be used for the Wi-Fi Access Points. One barrier to using the poles is the pole rights. Depending on who owns the pole, Cincinnati Bell may not be able to obtain permission. Another barrier is the additional cost that may be associated with building fiber to a pole. A third issue is the availability of a 24/7 power source. While we would love to be able to utilize public infrastructure, oftentimes there are a number of factors that prohibit it.

Does this mean that I will get free Wi-Fi in my home?

Yes and no. The Wi-Fi is designed primarily for outdoor spaces, although some coverage will bleed into your home.

What will be installed inside my residence?

Equipment will typically be installed inside a small, gray, plastic enclosure usually in the basement of your residence. This equipment will need to be located within 6 feet of a standard 110/120 volt electric source. In addition a Wi-Fi Access Point or Hotspot will be mounted outside your home that provides the Internet connectivity. For reference, pictures of both pieces of equipment can be found on the front page of this sheet.