The hardware address is very useful in network troubleshooting and is required for UVA Wireless account creation. Both addresses may be needed in order to troubleshoot stolen or duplicated IP addresses. Frequently, the hardware address is shown on the network card itself, but you can also determine either address from your operating system.

If your machine has multiple network adapters, such as a modem, Ethernet card, and/or Wireless Ethernet card, it is important to note that each of these has its own unique set of addresses.

### FINDING YOUR MAC ADDRESS

1. In the Finder navigate to the Utilities folder in the Applications folder.
2. Double click “Network Utility.”
3. Choose the Info tab.
4. Select your Ethernet interface from the drop-down menu under the Info tab. Your wireless card will correspond to selection ‘Ethernet Interface (en1).’
5. The colon separated 12 digit alphanumeric code labeled ‘Hardware Address’ is your hardware address.

### INSTALLING AN APPLE AIRPORT CARD

All Apple iBooks, G4 desktops and newer iMacs come AirPort ready, and many also come with an airport card pre-installed. If your Mac does not have an airport card, it can be ordered from Cavalier Computers or some other vendor. The Macintosh computer user guide that came with your computer has easy step-by-step instructions for installation. If you are not comfortable installing the card Cavalier computers will install it for a fee.

### CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT

You need to create a UVASecure Wireless Account ([https://www.web.virginia.edu/wire/](https://www.web.virginia.edu/wire/)) in order to use a wireless Ethernet PCMCIA card on UVa’s Secure wireless network.

Please note: You must turn the wireless card off at least 10 minutes before creating your wireless account or create the account before installing the card.

You will need your username (your UVa computing ID) and password when you setup your wireless account, as well as the hardware address of your airport card to complete your registration.

### WHAT IS A HARDWARE (MAC) ADDRESS?

Your computer has two types network address. One is a code assigned to the network chip that is installed by the manufacturer. This is the “hardware address”, also known as the MAC (Media Access Control) address, adapter address, or ethernet address. It is unique to your networking device, and allows network traffic destined for that device to ultimately find it. The format of a MAC address is xx:xx:xx:xx:xx:xx. It could be recorded with dashes or spaces instead of colons, or with no dividers at all. The numbers are hexadecimal, so the characters include 0-9 and A-F. An example of a hardware address is 08:34:A5:C7:47:98.

Your computer’s other address is the IP address. This is the four-part decimal address that is assigned by either the hostmaster of the site, or by a DHCP server. The format is xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx. The IP address is paired to the hardware address by the Domain Name Server for the network. An example of an IP address is 128.143.2.9. (Note that leading zeros were dropped here, although some applications include them.)