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State Library committed to Wi-Fi security

The State Library of Queensland remains committed to internet security and educating clients about the risks of using public access wireless internet.

The risks of using unsecured wireless networks has been highlighted in the media with regard to Firesheep software, which enables unauthorised access to private accounts including Facebook, Twitter, Yahoo, Hotmail (Windows Live) and Amazon.com. Some of these companies have already implemented fixes to protect users.

Acting State Librarian Rory McLeod said the State Library operates a free wireless public access point to help clients access online services and collections, as well as the internet.

“Our policy promotes rewarding and responsible use of public computer facilities provided by the State Library, and also identifies risks involved with the use of wireless internet”, Mr McLeod said.

“Continued access to our library services is central to our mission of creatively engaging people with information, knowledge and community.

“We also remain committed to providing advice and support to clients regarding internet access and safety and the State Library periodically runs public internet safety training sessions as part of its commitment to education in this area.”

A hugely popular free online course on Web 2.0 technologies, *Looking at 2.0*, offers information on protecting users and computers when using the internet, including public wireless networks, and identifies Firesheep as a potential risk.

The State Library is also investigating the implementation of a ‘splash page’ as part of the wireless service – presenting a range of messages to users, including a reminder regarding the unsecured nature of wireless.

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