How-to obtain the IP address of your system

This article will describe how to obtain the IP address of your computer.

- **What is an IP Address?**
- **Step-by-step guide for Windows Systems**
  - Windows 7 and 8
  - Windows 10
  - Generic for all Windows (command line)
  - Windows XP and Vista
- **Step-by-step guide for Mac OS Systems**
  - The Graphical way
  - The Command line way
- **Step-by-step guide for Linux Systems**
  - The Command line way

**What is an IP Address?**

An **IP Address** is an identifier that allows your computer to communicate with other computers on a network.

The address can be public (internet routable) or private (only local network access), typically private IP addresses at SEAS look like this: **10.243.X.XXX**

The network configuration on your computer should be set to Dynamic so that our servers give you an available **unique** IP.

To get an IP you need to be registered, please follow these instructions: [How to register a computer on the Harvard wired network](#)

There are two types of IP address, IPv4 and IPv6, for the purposes of this article, please assume that any mention of IP is equivalent to IPv4 and vice-versa.

**Important**

You can’t have an IP unless you are currently connected to a network.

**Step-by-step guide for Windows Systems**

**Windows 7 and 8**

1. Click on the "Start Menu"/Hit the windows Key
2. Click on "Control Panel" (on the right column of the menu)
3. Go to "Network and Sharing Center"
4. Click the link "Local Area Connection Status" by the connection you want to examine (right of the window)
5.
6. Click on Details and locate the item labeled **IPv4 Address**.

**Windows 10**

1. Open the **Settings app**
2. Go to **Network & Internet**
   a. Click on **WiFi** if you want the IP address from a wireless card
   b. Click on **Ethernet** if you want the IP address from a wired card
3. Click on the network name to see its properties.
4. On the next page, you will find the IP for that network card.

**Generic for all Windows (command line)**

1. Hit the **"Windows Key"** from the keyboard (close to the space bar) and the letter "R" (i.e. Windows + R)
2. Once the Execute window, type **"cmd"**
3. Once the black **"cmd"** window is open, type **"ipconfig"** and search for **IPv4 Address** field

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**WINDOWS EXCEPTION**

**Windows XP and Vista**

Due to SEVERE security issues that are no longer being fixed, Windows XP and Vista systems are not allowed in any Harvard network. If you have one, please disconnect it immediately and contact us.

The presence of this systems endanger all other systems on the network along with the Harvard intellectual property on them.

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**Step-by-step guide for Mac OS Systems**

**The Graphical way**

1. Click on the Apple icon on the top left corner of your screen and find "**System Preferences**".
2. Click on **Network**
3. **Select your connection from the left frame.**
   a. Choose the device you use to connect to the network:
      i. Thunderbolt Ethernet
      ii. Usb Ethernet
      iii. Built-in Ethernet
4. You should see the IP address on that main screen

**The Command line way**

1. Click on the magnifier at the top right corner (spotlight search) (**command + space bar**)
2. On the new window, type `terminal`  
3. On the terminal type `ifconfig -a`  
4. Look for your **active network connection**, it will contain the IP address

**Step-by-step guide for Linux Systems**

The Command line way

1. Open a terminal  
2. Type `ifconfig -a` and look for the IP address

If you encounter any problem or you are unsure, please contact us at ithelp@harvard.edu and we'll help you find the right information.