

This week's Tech Tip deals with network performance on campus.

The UW-Superior Technology Help Desk receives many calls from people every year that have **speed or performance issues** with their campus **network/Internet** connection on their computer. One possible cause of a slow connection is a kinked or twisted Ethernet jumper. The Ethernet jumper is the cable that connects most campus computers to our network. They are usually colored yellow, green, red, blue, or grey and connect from the computer to the wall outlet in offices and labs.

Technology Services advises not to tightly coil or kink your Ethernet jumper. The recommended minimum bend radius is three inches for Ethernet cable, any tighter bends or kinks can cause the signal to have internal reflections, thus causing false traffic on your connection. This additional bogus traffic will slow your port down and make your response time longer. The best practice is to try to avoid tight twists or turns when running your computer cable around desks or through tight places. Also, do not place furniture on top of your cable when moving things around in your office. By avoiding tight bends and crushing your cable you will ensure better network performance for your research and work needs.

Ethernet cables are also known by several other names like Patch Cable, Cat 5 or Cat 6 cable, Network Cable, Internet cable. In this case we used Ethernet cable as it is the term most widely in use.