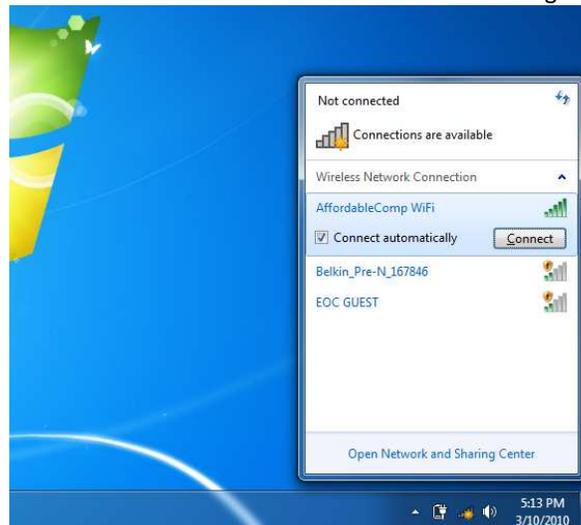# How to connect to a Wireless Network in Windows 7

1. Look down on the bottom right hand side of your screen. You should see a series of icons on the **taskbar** next to the **clock**. Look for an icon that looks like a signal strength indicator. If you have not connected to this network before it will be empty with a yellow star on it. See picture below:

(this is the **Wireless Icon**)

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2. Next **left click** on the **Wireless Icon**. This will bring up a menu with the available wireless networks. Listed should be your wireless network. If you have a DLink router and have not changed any settings your network should be called dlink, if you have a Linksys router and have not changed any settings your network should be called linksys, etc. Your network should also have the strongest signal strength. Click on your network, make sure the "Connect automatically" option is selected, then click on the **Connect** button. If you are connecting to an open network that doesn't require a password you may see a warning when you select this network that "Information sent over this network might be visible to others". This is normal.
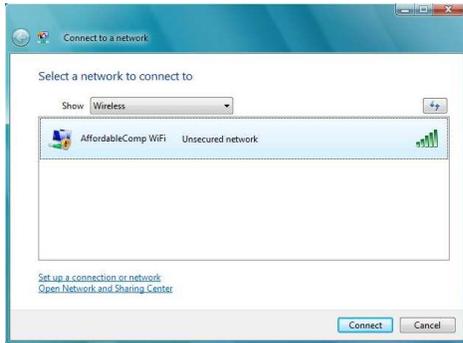

(**Left-click** on your wireless network then click **connect**)

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3. After you click **Connect** you will get this message while Windows connects to the Wireless network you selected. Also the Wireless Icon will have a blue animated circle on it. See Picture below:

(This happens while Windows tries to connect to the network)

4. Now Listed should be your wireless network. If you have a DLink router and have not changed any settings your network should be called dlink, if you have a Linksys router and have not changed any settings your network should be called linksys, etc. Your network should also have the strongest signal strength. Click on your network on then click on the **Connect** button on the bottom right hand side of that window. You will probably get a message warning you that you are about to connect to an unsecured network. This is normal. Click **Connect Anyway**. See pictures below:

(Choose your network, click on it, then click **Connect**)

(Click **Connect Anyway**)

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5. Your computer will now attempt to establish a connection and obtain an IP address. This may take a minute or two. During the connection process the **Wireless Icon** will have a small yellow explanation mark beside it. See pictures below:

(this animation means you are being connected!)

(Notice the yellow explanation mark by the **Wireless icon**)

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6. When your computer successfully connects it will say **Successfully connect to (your network name).** Click the check mark boxes beside **Save this network** and **Start this connection automatically.** Then click the **Close** button in the bottom right hand corner of the window. Now the Wireless icon will have a small globe icon next to it. See pictures below:

(place a checkmark in both boxes)

(your **Wireless Icon** should look like this)

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7. Now you can close the **Connect to a network** window with the red X in the top right hand corner of the window, Click on your **Internet Explorer** icon and you should be online! When you have connected to a wireless network once, you should not have to go through this process again, Windows should automatically connect to that network again. But if you wish to connect to an alternative network, you will need to repeat the steps outlined above.

(**Double-click** on your **Internet Explorer** icon to surf the Web)