



Dark Tip: Mac Wardriving

Find Wi-Fi hotspots with your PowerBook.

By Roman Loyola

Friday night, woo-hoo! My wife let me redeem my "Boys Night Out" coupon, and my buddies and I decided to do a bit of [wardriving](#) in my 'hood. As we cruise by The Lone Palm on 22nd Street, I bust out my PowerBook. My buddy cracks, "You can't find shizzle with dat!" I give him the eye, take a deep breath (he's always spouting off 'bout his XP rig), and prepare to school the naysayer. "You know nothin'," I reply. "D-Tip hooked me up just right. See?"

And I showed him the Wi-Fi hotspot located near the KFC on Mission Street. The hotspot is probably from a Wi-Fi network from the Social Security building next door. "KisMac!" I hollered. My buddy glared at me. Later that night, I realized my buddy thought I told him to kiss my ass. We're cool.

Anyway, Mac users out there, listen up! D-Tip (aka Kevin Rose) is going to hook you up just right, too. On today's show he'll demonstrate how you can use a Mac laptop for those late-night (or middle-of-the-day) wardriving sessions.

Set up your Mac

First thing's first. We already know you have a Mac laptop. Now you need a Wi-Fi card for it. Go get one, preferably one with an Orinoco or PrismII chipset. Cisco Aironet cards work as well.

The next thing you need is an application called [KisMac](#). KisMac is what you use to find open Wi-Fi networks. (In case you're interested, KisMac is an enhanced port of a Unix tool called [Kismet](#).)

KisMac not only discovers wireless access points, it has a mapping feature that can tell you where you are in relation to the WAPs in the area. To use this feature, you need to have a GPS device connected to your computer. (Unfortunately, I didn't have one that night. That would've shut my buddy up for good.)

One more thing: KisMac can be used to crack WEP-encrypted WAPs. Now why would you want to do that?

Install KisMac, punch in some settings, and you're ready to roll.

Did I mention KisMac is free? No? Well, it is! [Download it now](#).

Originally posted April 26, 2004