Most new dorm phones working

Telephone service for New House is almost entirely installed, but MIT Telecommunications calculates there are still about 50 dorm students who don't have use of their telephones.

All of the approximately 300 dorm-line telephones for New House, MIT's newest West Campus dormitory, have been installed, and most of them are working, according to Dennis Baron, Technical Assistant to the Director of Telecommunications. But about 15 phones are known to be out of service, and Baron said he suspects that many more are not working.

"Last week, we thought we had all of them fixed and working," Baron explained. "But we found that a block of about 50 was fixed up, and we think that many phones aren't working but haven't been reported yet."

Installation of New House telephones was delayed, Baron said, by late delivery of cable needed to connect the dorm to the rest of the campus telephone service. The late delivery set work back until the beginning of the semester, when additional problems cropped up, he said.

"Most of our (dormphone) workers are students," Baron explained. "When the term started, that cut sharply into the amount of labor we had available to work on the New House problem. I'd estimate that it set us back about a week -- the amount of work we would have done in a week with everybody working takes us two to three weeks now."

Installation of the New House telephones has caused a number of headaches for Telecommunications, not the least of which was finding enough numbers to add 300 telephones to the system. "We had only about 100 dormphone numbers available on West Campus," Baron said. As a result, all dormphones were renumbered this year, and new telephone numbers were established (The Tech, Sept. 9).

New House dormphones have been assigned numbers in the 7400 to 7699 range.

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