

WiFi

1. Introduction

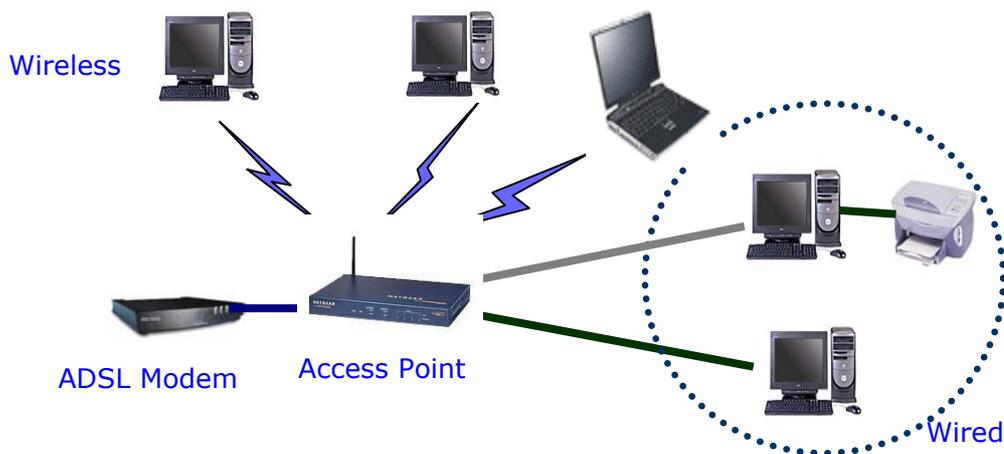
WiFi is a wireless (radio) access technology, which is used for the interconnection of terminals or devices such as laptops, PDAs, etc.

1.1 What's WiFi

WiFi (or standard IEEE 802.11b under its technical name), or *Wireless Fidelity*, is a standard technology for wireless access to local networks. The principle is to establish quick radio links between terminals connected to broadband networks.

Thanks to these WiFi terminals, the user connects to the Internet or to his company's intranet and has access to numerous applications based on data transfer. This technology thus enjoys a true complementarity with ADSL networks and corporate LANs. WiFi can reach a throughput of 11 Mbps in theory and operates in the unlicensed 2.4GHz range. A WiFi terminal has a range of around 100 meters (in open space) and provides access to data in a rather wide perimeter and the maximum number of users is 32 per access point.

WiFi is standardised internationally. This technology makes it possible for equipment to interoperate completely, whatever the brand or the type of terminal. Products conforming to the WiFi standard have been on the market for three years now and there are already 30 million devices in use worldwide.



1.2 Hotspots

Hotels, train stations, airports, cafés, conference centres, shopping malls, etc., are all heavily frequented areas, called Hot Spots. They welcome users (sales representatives, travelling executives, or tourists looking for information) whose needs in Broadband accesses are becoming more and more important. With the installation of WiFi terminals in these heavily travelled areas, these people on the move can have access to their messaging centre, to Internet sites or to all the shared applications of their company from their portable PCs or their PDAs with the same ergonomomy as in the office.

WiFi Devices



Laptops:

- Atheros
 - Both IEEE802.11a and 802.11b wireless connectivity into some laptops models made by HP, IBM, NEC and Toshiba.
- Sony
- IBM
- Toshiba Satellite, Tecra and Portege
- Compaq
- Rugged Notebooks Talon
- Itronix GoBook
- Acer
- Panasonic TOUGHBook
- Apple PowerBook
- Dell (available soon)



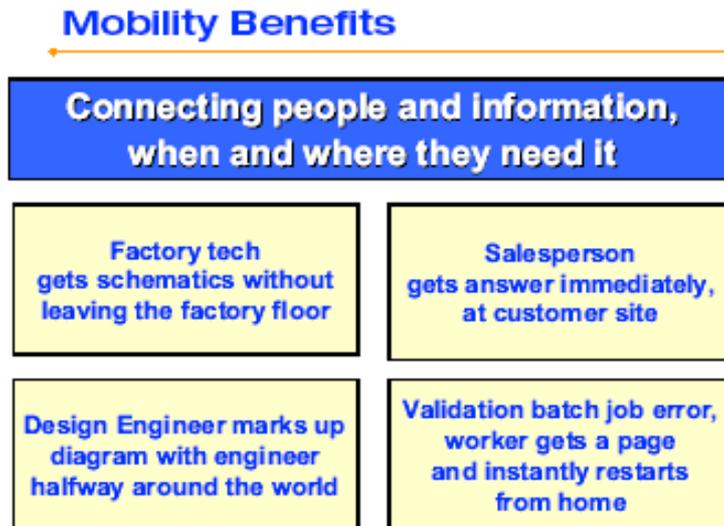
- Tablet
 - Acer
 - Compaq
 - Fujitsu
 - Toshiba
 - ViewSonic
 - Tatung
-
- PDA and Pads
 - Several PDAs available with the following capabilities:
 - HP iPaq 5450 (Pocket PC)
 - Toshiba e740 (Pocket PC)
 - FIC AquaPad (Pocket PC)
 - SonicBlue (Linux)
 - Samsung Nexio (proprietary OS)
 - Phones
 - Motorola plans to offer Wi-Fi PDA/phone by end 2004
 - Nokia, Qualcomm, others to follow



2. Advantages

There are several advantages to this technology including:

Mobility within coverage area – Access to information in any location within the operating range of WiFi

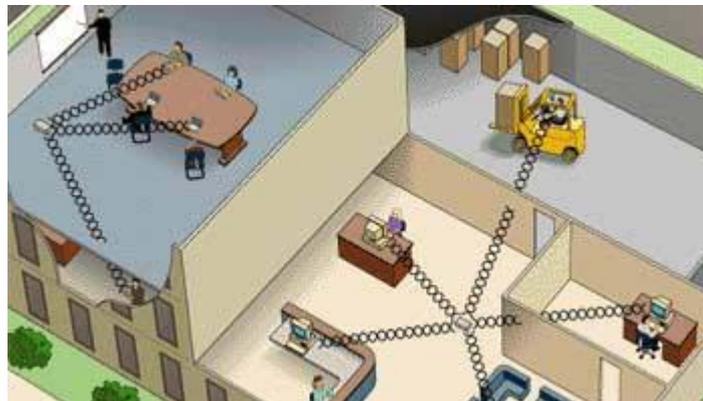


Complement existing wired network - WiFi makes it possible to expand the existing wire network to cover meeting rooms, offices, warehouses, etc., with an effectiveness equivalent to that of a cabled network. It also allows collaborators that are just passing through to connect themselves.

Reduced investment cost - WiFi is easy to set-up, manage and relocate. It avoids installing cables in buildings and therefore to reduce infrastructure costs.

Flexibility / Scalability – WiFi can be configured in a variety of topologies to meet the needs of specific applications and installations.

Security – Different levels of security can be provided to meet specific requirements.



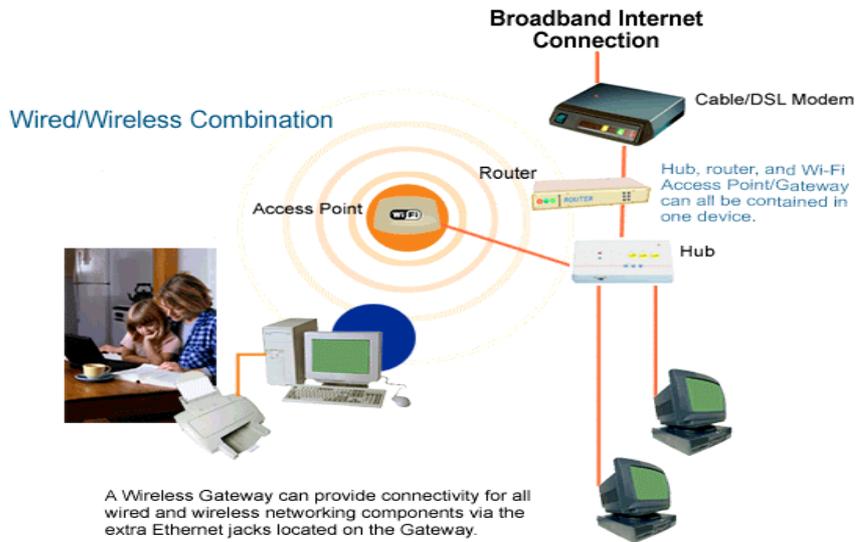
3. Uses

From the enterprise to public places

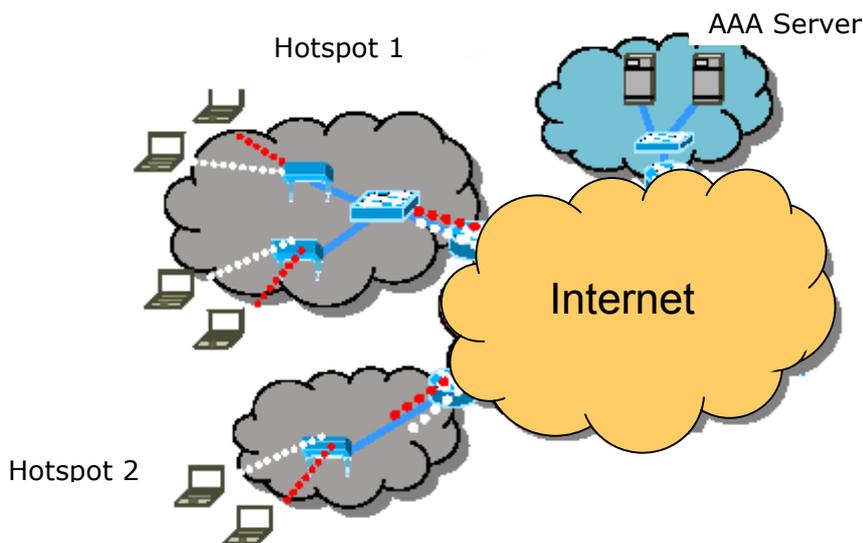
In the beginning, WiFi was designed to expand the Ethernet networks of companies. Currently, this remains the major use because WiFi cards are more and more often integrated into the portable computers that companies use in such great numbers.

Extension of LAN (for Corporate)

► Combined Wireless network

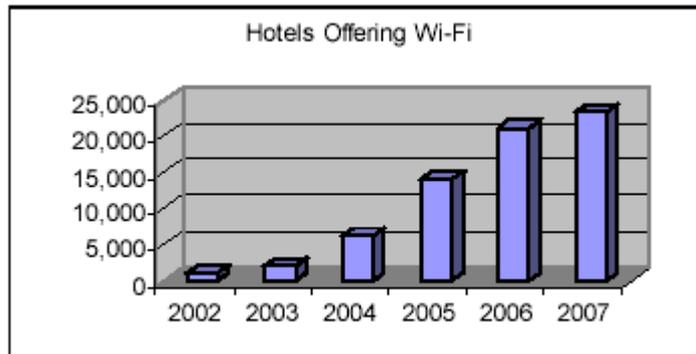


Public Hotspots (e.g. for hotel guests, travellers)



Providing Internet access in public areas is proving to be a very lucrative business, especially in the US and Canada.

4. Hotels & WiFi



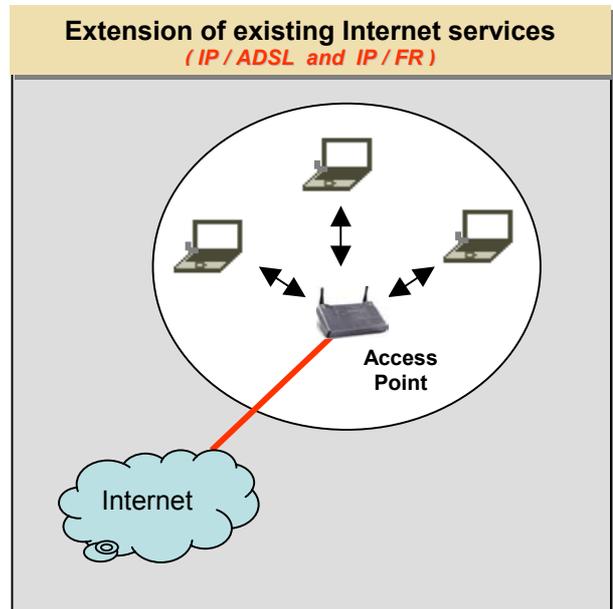
Source: Pyramid Research

World trend for hotels offering WiFi to customers.

Offering high speed Internet access has always been an issue for hotel operators. With ADSL and WiFi, this can be addressed easily. By deploying WiFi access points in selected areas of the hotel, a good coverage can be provided to the guests.

Accor Case Study

France Telecom Group has announced a strategic alliance with Accor to deploy their network of WiFi hotspots in 900 hotels in France. At least 300 hotels will be equipped by the end of the year, enabling Accor hotel customers to benefit from all the advantages of wireless Internet access.



Customers, can access the high-speed Internet using pre-paid cards sold at the Accor hotel reception desk. These new services will be intended for Accor customers, and especially business travellers. They will enable users to connect easily to the Internet and e-mail services.

The WiFi network will be deployed in common areas, such as lobbies and bars, in meeting rooms and in certain rooms.

Other hotels around the world

By early 2002, approximately 5% of mid-scale, first-class and luxury properties in the U.S. offered high-speed Internet access (HSIA) in some or all rooms. Among the majors, Marriott was the most aggressive, wiring more than 400 properties. In 2002, more than 500 hotels added some degree of Wi-Fi access, more than doubling the total number of Wi-Fi ready hotels on the market.

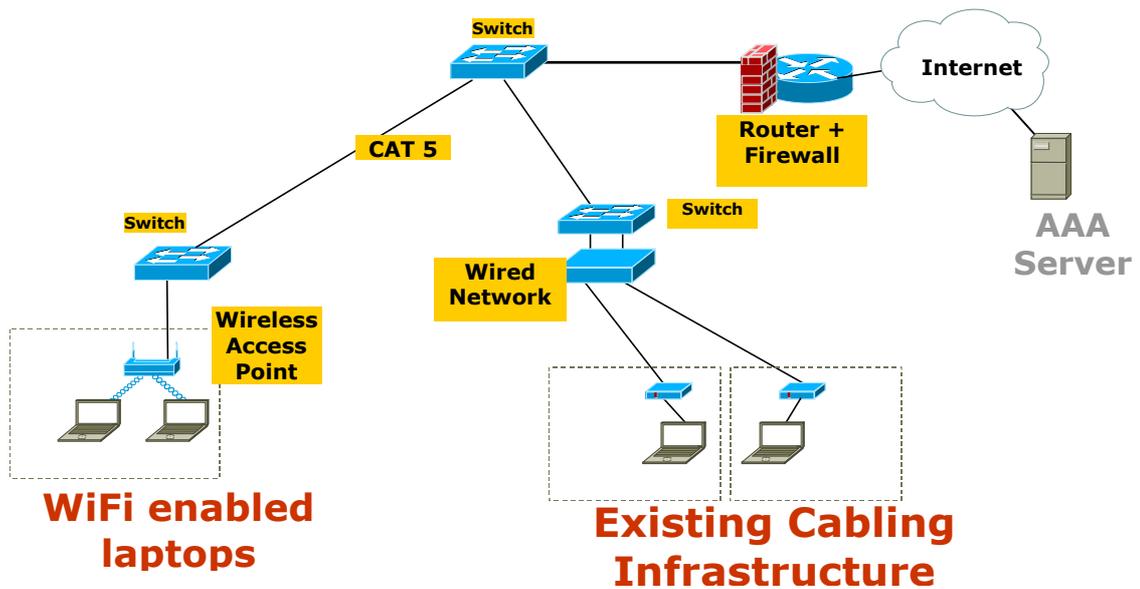
5. Overview of Mauritius Telecom Group offering

Corporate

For this segment, Mauritius Telecom is proposing a WiFi solution for your intranet. This solution is based on Cisco Aironet equipment. It is ideal for enterprises where there are a lot of open space and meeting rooms. This will provide wireless network access to users and allow them to move around while still being connected.

Hotels

In addition to the wireless intranet solution above, Mauritius Telecom is coming with a complete solution for providing Internet access to your guests.



Payment Modes

Payment modes will include prepaid plans and monthly charges. With prepaid cards, you will be able to claim a margin on the cost of the card.

