Opportunities and Challenges of Community Wireless Networks

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Presentation Outline

Motivation

Community networking – why?

- Viability & Challenges
 - Community Network Formation Study
 - Research Challenges

Some Solutions

- System Architecture and Components
- Capacity Estimation & Improvement
- Multi-Radio Routing
- Troubleshooting Mesh Networks

Testbeds & Trials Conclusions

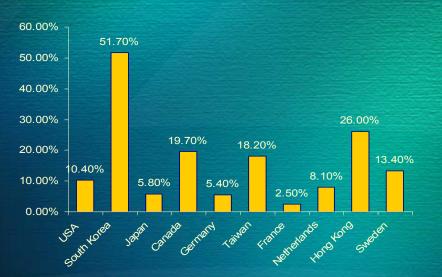


Motivation

"Residential broadband access is an under developed technology that has the potential for profound positive effect on people's lives and Nation's economy"

Residential Broadband Revisited, NSF Report, October 23, 2003

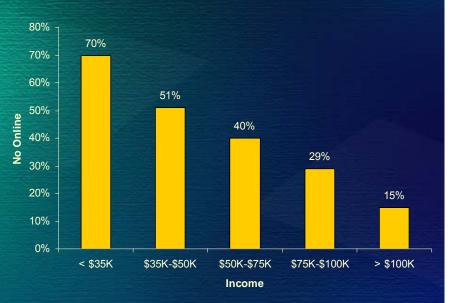
Residential Broadband Where are we?



Broadband as a % of total housholds

Source: Broadband & Dial-Up Access

% of housholds with BWA as F (income)



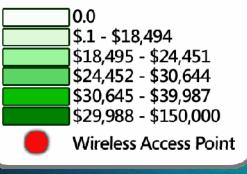
Source: Leitchman Research Group

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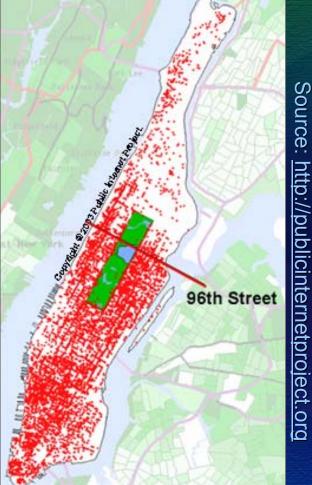
Broadband Divide

- 13,707 unique nodes within Manhattan (Fall 2002)
- 91% below 96th Street

Median Family Income 1990





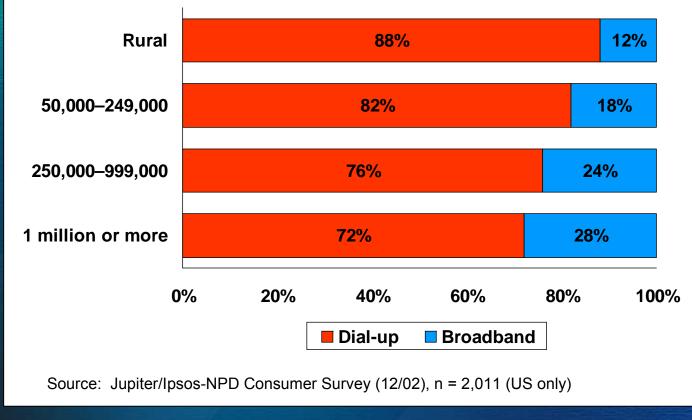


Density = Broadband

Limited Broadband in Rural Areas

Percentage of US on-line consumers

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Quotes

"For Internet access, there are15 ISPs for every 100K users, for Cable or DSL there are two providers for every 100K users" - Consumer Federation of America, July 2002

"One reason often cited for low penetration of broadband services is their high cost, typically \$50 a month" - The Mercury News

"[Broadband users] are much more likely to create content for the Web or share files, telecommute, download music, or game files, or enjoy streaming audio or video"

- Cox News Service

"Applications will drive broadband access and justify the investment for citizens, businesses and government"

- Office of Technology Policy, US Dept. of Commerce, Sept., 2002



What can you get for a \$1?

Processing

One PC-day of computation

Storage

 1 GB disk storage (2 DVD quality movies)

Interconnection

- 100 MB broadband data (3.5 hours of music)
- 1 MB voice telephony (15 minutes talk time)
- 1.6 KB SMS (10 messages)



Bits ≠ Value

- Broadband: 1¢ per MB
- GPRS: \$1 per MB
 - SMS: \$600 per MB

It's the Bandwidth (and Spectrum) that's expensive

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What about wiring the last mile?

The Last Mile: Connection between a home and local hub

Scale & legacy make last mile expensive

- ~ 135 million housing units in the US (U.S. Census Bureau 2001)
- POTS (legacy) network designed for voice & built over 60 years
- Cable TV networks built over last 25 years

The Truck Roll Problem: Touching each home incurs cost: customer equipment; installation & servicing; and central office equipment improvements

In our estimate building an alternate, physical last mile replacement to hit 80% of US homes will take 19 years and cost ~ US \$60-150 billion



Why should you care?

The future is about rich multimedia services and information exchange ...possible only with wide-scale availability of broadband Internet access

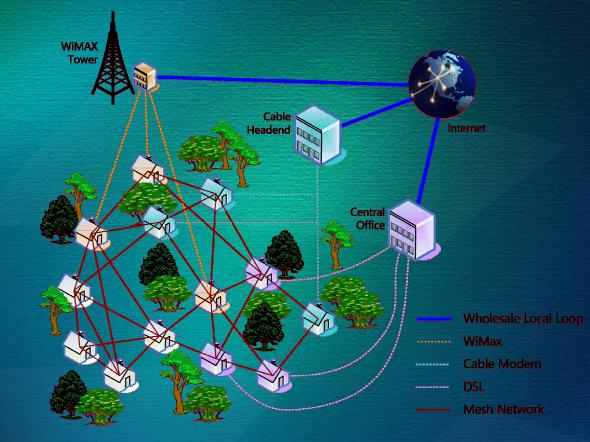
but...

Many people are still without broadband service

- Up to 30% of America (32 million homes) cannot get broadband service (rural areas, older neighbourhoods, poor neighbourhoods)
- A large majority of the developing world does not have broadband connectivity
- It is not economically feasible to provide wired connectivity to these customers



Community Mesh Network The natural evolution of broadband connectivity



Wireless mesh networks have the potential to bridge the Broadband divide

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We are not alone...

 Wi-Fi Hits the Hinterlands, BusinessWeek Online, July 5, 2004 "Who needs DSL or cable? New "mesh" technology is turning entire small towns into broadband hot spots" Rio Rancho N.M., population 60,000, 500 routers covering 103 miles²

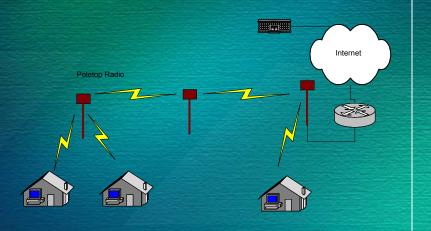
 <u>NYC wireless network will be unprecedented</u>, Computerworld, June 18, 2004 "New York City plans to build a public safety wireless network of unprecedented scale and scope, with a capacity to provide tens of thousands of mobile users"

<u>Rural Areas need Internet too!</u> Newsweek, June 7, 2004 Issue
 "EZ Wireless built the country's largest regional wireless broadband network, a 600-square-mile Wi-Fi blanket, and activated it this February"
 Hermiston, Oregon, population 13,200, 35 routers with 75 antennas covering 600 miles²

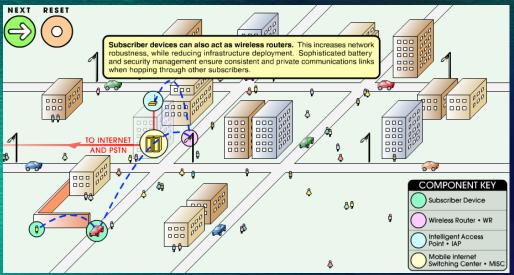
Mesh Casts Its Net, Unstrung, January 23, 2004 "Providing 57 miles² of wireless coverage for public safety personnel in Garland Texas" Victo

Wireless Last/First Mile Companies

Infrastructure Based



SkyPilot, Flarion, Motorola (Canopy) Invisible Networks, RoamAD, Vivato, Arraycomm, Malibu Networks, BeamReach Networks, NextNet Wireless, Navini Networks, etc. Infrastructure-less



Meshnetworks Inc.,Radiant Networks, Invisible Networks, FHP, Green Packet Inc., LocustWorld, etc.

Architecture effects design decisions on Capacity management, fairness, addressing & routing, mobility management, energy management, service levels, integration with the Internet, etc.

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Wireless Mesh Networks vision demo







My Resources Photos



PartyON

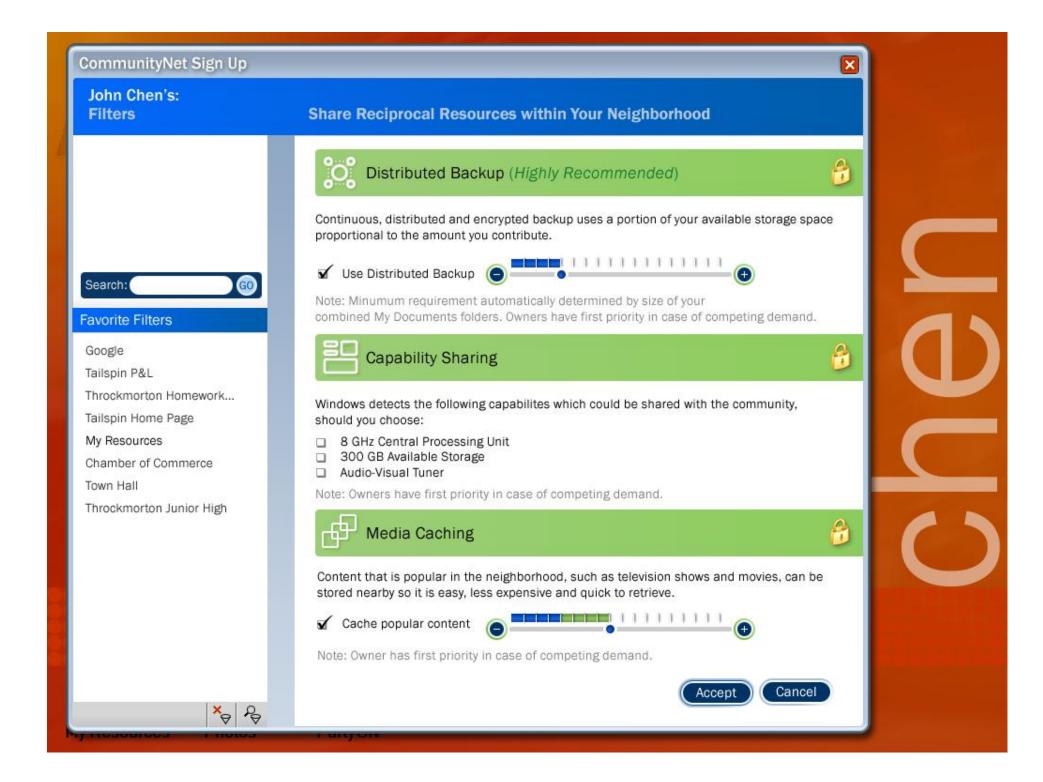
You have new services available: • CommunityNet Computing Services Yes, please enroll me No, thank you.

CommunityNet Sign Up × John Chen's: Share Reciprocal Resources within Your Neighborhood Filters Distributed Backup (Highly Recommended) Never lose a precious family photo, or any other important file, even if your equipment suffers a catastrophic failure. By distributing copies across other computers, you will always be able to Rine get your stuff ... and even when you're out and about. GO Search: Bigu **Favorite Filters** 2 Google **Capability Sharing** GUIDE 11:22 PM Tailspin P&L Throckmorton Homework... Wanted to record that show, but you were Tailspin Home Page recording something else at the same time? Or simply forgot to set recording up? My Resources If anyone near by recorded it, you could still watch it. Chamber of Commerce Town Hall Throckmorton Junior High 9 Media Caching Everyone's talking about that movie, but you haven't had a chance to see it yet. Finally, a quiet evening, but who wants to wait hours for it to download? If someone else in the neighborhood has already requested it, you can start watching instantly.

× Po

Dismiss

Curious?



Community Web Services

These Web Services Are Available To You:



NeighborPoint – Your central connection to your community and neighbors. Information, events, schools, and community.





- County Library System Online Offers library news, online reference materials, book reservations and checkout, and the library system events calendar.
- Woodmark Police Report Recaps of recent police activity in and around the greater Woodmark area.
- County Road Conditions Traffic reports and Web cams, road conditions, road work schedules, and more that affects how you get to work or get about town.



- Woodmark Weather Live temperatures and conditions from Woodmark and vicinity. Includes water temperatures at the Lake Woodmark swimming area.
- Woodmark CityPoint Information about the city of



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Community Net



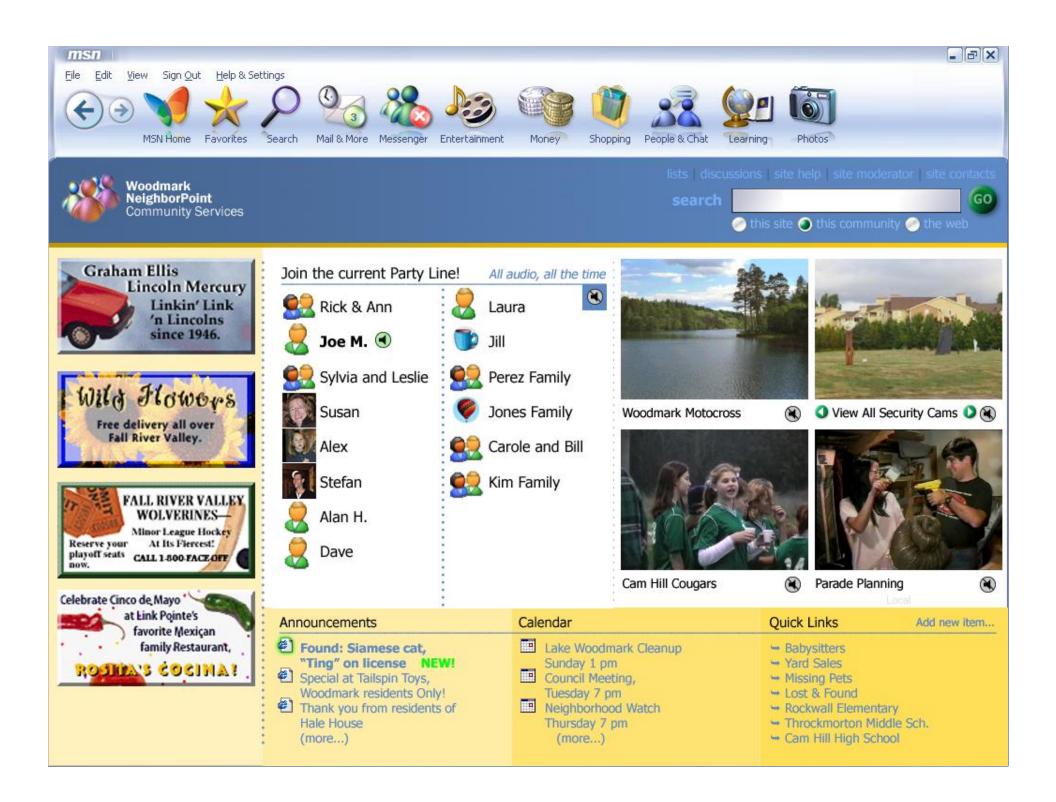
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My Resources Photos



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MOVIE SEARCH RESULTS

Any screen. Any time. SOUTHWIND VIDEO MOVIE S

Drama, romance and action movies, with more than 10 Woodmark Great! votes:

Geoff Grisso, Rob Verhoff, Andrew Dixon, Janice Galvin, Mary E. Gibson

Step Into Step Into Liquid

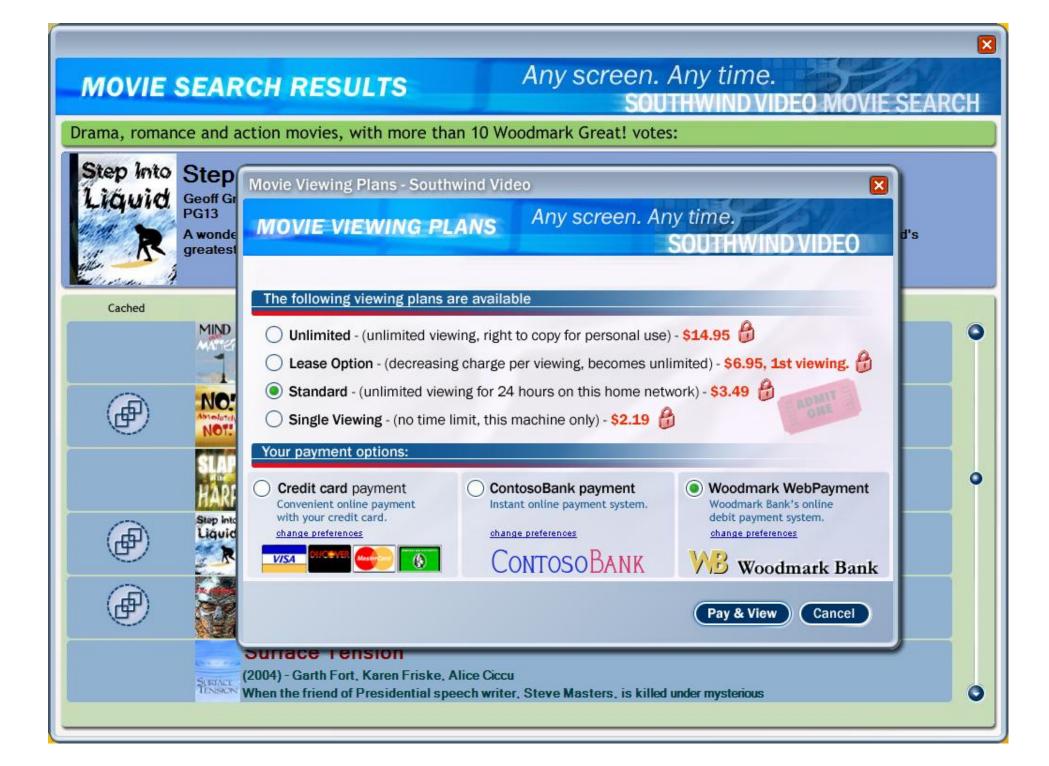


PG13

A wonderful love store set against a backdrop of a hotly contested surfing contest. The story unfolds in the world's greatest surfing locations.

Cached Title MIND Mind Over Matter (2005) - Raquel Mello, Linda Mitchell, Kok-Ho Lo For lonely undergrad Misty Shock, life on campus is a series of humiliations and disappointments NO No! Absolutely Not! (2003) - Imtiaz Khan, Laura Norman, Amy S. Recker Failing serial entrepreuner, Seymour Slayton, strains to nurture his struggling business. At the Slap of the Harp O (2004) - Magnus Hedlund, Jossej Goldberg, Shane DeSeranno There's a dire problem in the pit. The musicians of the famed Eastern Philharmonic Symphony Step into Step Into Liquid Liquid 🕤 (2002) - Geoff Grisso, Rob Verhoff, Andrew Dixon A wonderful love store set against a backdrop of a hotly contested surfing contest. The story St Gladiator (2003) - Jane Clayton, Chris Norred, Jeff Pike Everyone thought he would die at his first appearance in the arena. Not only does he go on to win Surface Tension (2004) - Garth Fort, Karen Friske, Alice Ciccu When the friend of Presidential speech writer, Steve Masters, is killed under mysterious C

X



Community Network Applications

Internet use in communities increased social contact, public participation and size of social network. (social capital - access to people, information and resources) Keith N. Hampton, MIT (author of "Netville Neighborhood Study") URL: http://www.asanet.org/media/neville.html

- Shared Broadband Internet Access
- Ubiquitous Access (roaming solved: one "true" network)
- Neighborhood Gaming
- Medical & emergency response
- Neighborhood watchdog (e.g. video surveillance)
- Shared Community Resource
 - Media repository
 - Distributed backup

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Mesh Viability & Challenges

Community Network Formation

Question

How many homes in the neighborhood have to sign up before a viable mesh forms?

Answer depends on

- Definition of "viable"
- Wireless range
- Neighborhood topology
- Probability of participation by a given houshold

Example Scenario

Viable mesh: group of at least 25 houses that form a connected graph

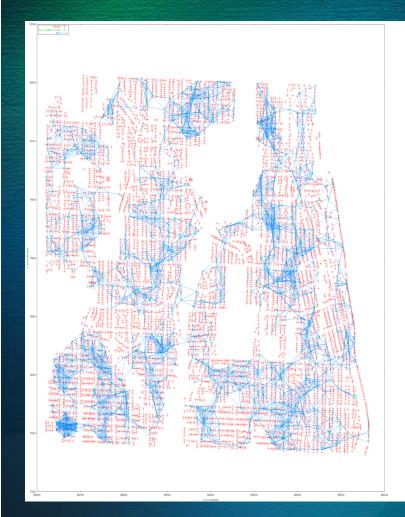
Topology: A North Seattle Neighborhood. 8214 houses, 4Km x 4Km

<u>Wireless range</u>: 50, 100, 200 and 1000 meters

Houses decide to join at random, independent of each other. We consider 0.1% to 10% participation rates.



Mesh Formation



5-10% subscription rate
needed for suburban
topologies with documented
wireless ranges

Once a mesh forms, it is usually well-connected

 i.e. number of outliers are few (most nodes have > 2 neighbors)

Need to investigate other joining models

 Business model considerations will be important

Increasing range is key for good mesh connectivity

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Suburbia

- Upper-middle class neighbourhood Houses about 40-120' apart 21 houses covering 7.8
- acres or ~1/3 acre lots
- Microwave ovens, cordless phones, televisions etc. cause interference
- Angled sheetrock and concrete walls, hills and trees absorb signal and create multi-path reflections
- Not a pleasant place to roll out wireless
- One reason why cellular uses 80'-100' masts for their cell towers

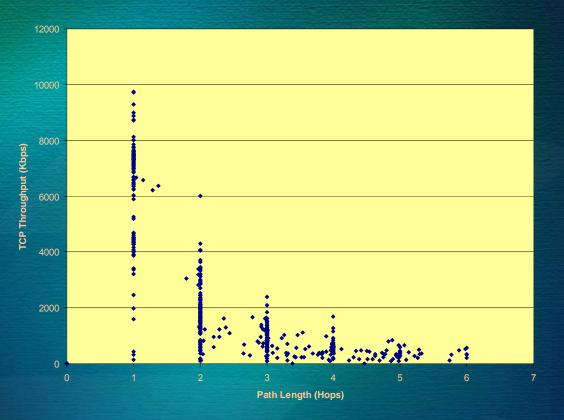


5 GHz:

- Bandwidth is good, provided you can get a mesh to form
- Published 802.11a ranges led us to believe we could achieve the yellow circle
- Measured range from the apartment trial is the red circle
- Range is not sufficient to bootstrap mesh until installed % is quite high (in this diagram ~50%)

802.11a in a Multihop Network

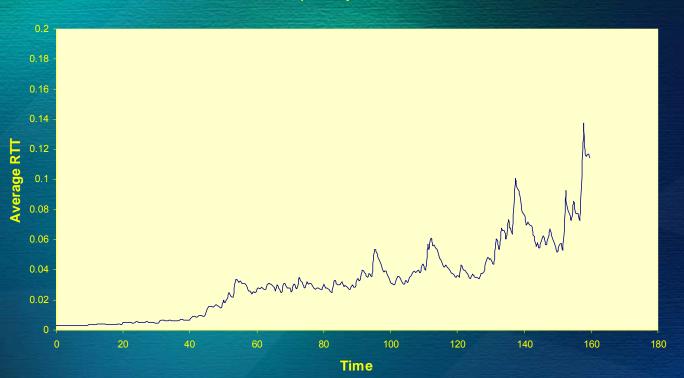
Impact of path length on TCP Throughput



R. Draves, J. Padhye, and B. Zill **Comparison of Routing Metrics for Static Multi-Hop Wireless Networks** ACM SIGCOMM 2004 (also Technical Report, MSR-TR-2004-18, March 2004) July 6, 2004

Round Trip Delay

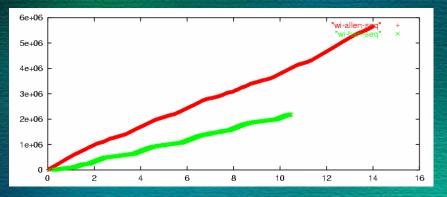
Average RTT avg_rtt = 0.1*curr_sample + 0.9*avg_rtt One sample every 0.5 seconds



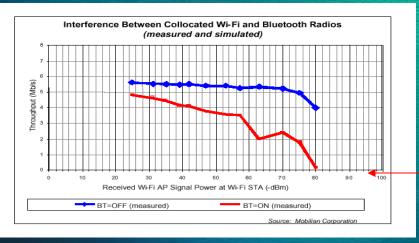
A new 100Kbps CBR connection starts every 10 seconds, between a new pair of nodes. All nodes hear each other.

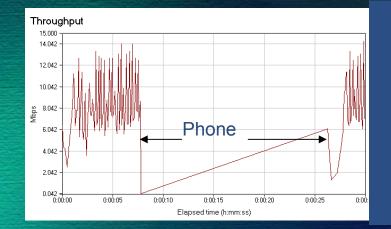
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Colliding Communications



TCP download from a 802.11 AP





Panasonic 2.4GHz Spread Spectrum Phone 5 m and 1 wall from receiver

Performance worsens when there are large number of short-range radios in the vicinity

Badly written rules: Colliding standards

Victor Bahl, Amer Hassan, Pierre De Vries, **Spectrum Etiquettes for Short Range Wireless Devices Operating in the Unlicensed Band**, White paper, Spectrum July Policy⊙ Property or Commons, Stanford Law School Victor Bahl

Conclusion Meshes are viable existing technologies are inadequate

To make them real Identify and solve key problems build & deploy meshes in a variety of RF environments

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Problem Space

Range and Capacity

- Inexpensive electronically steerable directional antenna or MIMO for range enhancement
- Multiple frequency meshes
- Multi-radio hardware for capacity enhancement via greater spectrum utilization
- New data channel MAC with Interference management or higher throughput

Multihop Routing

- L2.5 on-demand source routing with link quality based routes selection
- Route selection with multiple radios (multiple channels)

Security, Privacy, and Fairness

- Guard against malicious users (and freeloaders)
- EAP-TLS between MeshBoxes, PEAPv2 or EAP-TLS between clients and MeshBoxes

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Priority based admission control, Secure traceroute

Self Management & Self Healing

- Minimal human intervention avoid network operator
- Watchdog mechanism with data cleaning and liar detection
- Online simulation based fault isolation and diagnosis



Problem Space (Cont.)

Smart Spectrum Utilization

- Spectrum etiquettes and/or rules
- Agile radios, cognitive radios, 60 GHz radio, underlay technologies
- Cognitive software & applications

Analytical Tools

Information theoretic tools that predict network viability & performance with practical constraints, based on experimental data

Ease of use (Plug and play, HCI)

- Pleasant, hassle-free user experience
- QoS protocols to improve content delivery

Digital Rights Management (DRM)

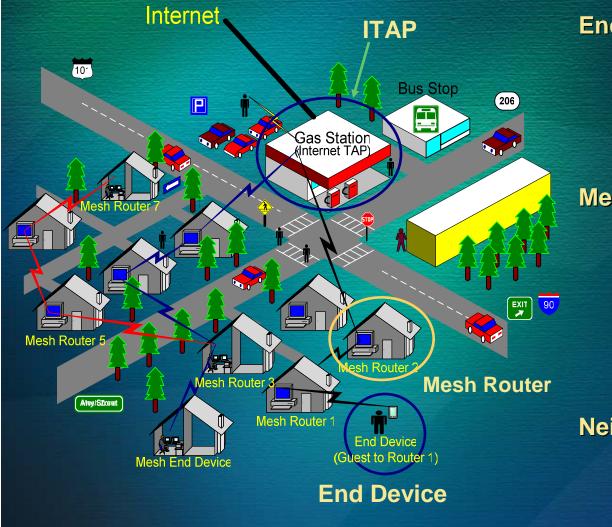
- Broadband access popularity related to expanded digital content.
- Increase the value proposition for end-users/subscribers

Proof of concept via rapid prototyping and testbed deployments

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Mesh Architecture

Scenario: Neighborhood Wireless Meshes



End Device

- <u>Connects</u> to a Mesh Router
- <u>Standards Compliant</u> Network Interface

Mesh Router / MeshBox

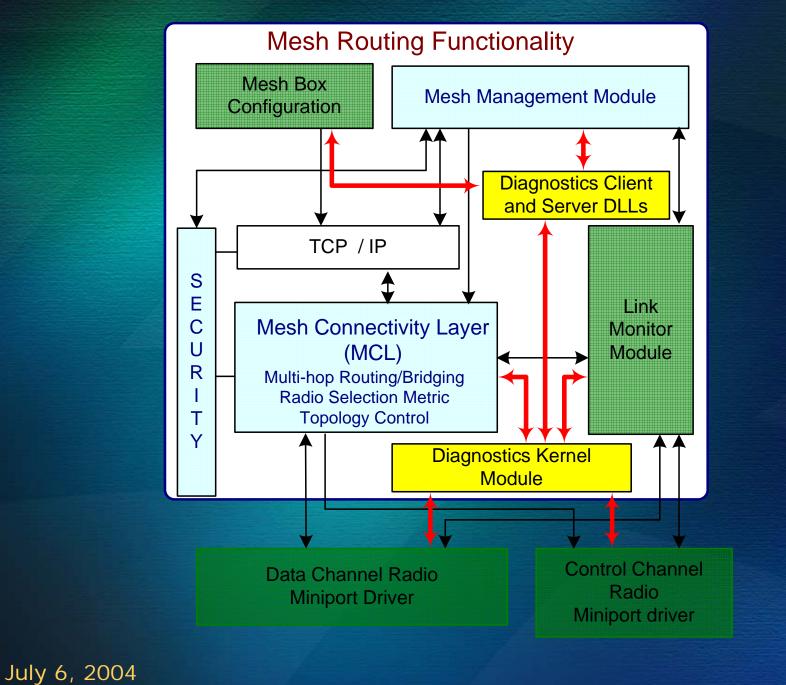
- Routes traffic within the mesh and to the neighborhood Internet Gateway
- Serves as <u>access point</u> for End Devices

Neighborhood Internet Gateway

• <u>Gateway</u> between the mesh nodes and the Internet

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Key: Multiple radios, cognitive software



Capacity Estimation & Improvement

K. Jain, J. Padhye, V. Padmanabhan, L. Qiu. Impact of Interference on Multi-hop Wireless Network Performance ACM Mobicom, San Diego, CA, September 2003

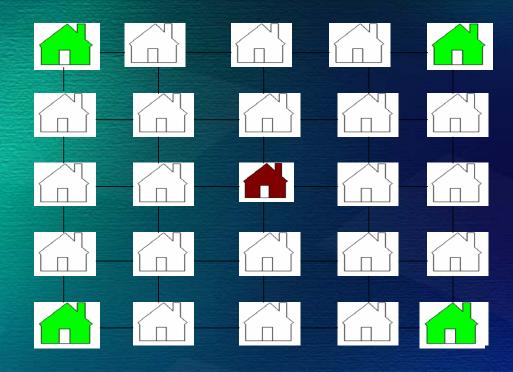
Victor Bahl, Ranveer Chandra, John Dunagan, SSCH: Slotted Seeded Channel Hopping for Capacity Improvement in IEEE 802.11 Ad-Hoc Wireless Networks, ACM MobiCom 2004, Philadelphia, PA, September 2004

Calculating Mesh Capacity

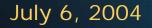
Previous work focused on determining <u>asymptotic</u>, <u>pessimistic bounds</u>

Gupta and Kumar
 2000: O(1/sqrt(N))

We focus on achievable capacity of specific topologies with specific technologies and traffic patterns Example: 4 houses talk to the central ITAP. What is the maximum possible throughput?



Asymptotic analysis is not useful in this case



Analytical Framework

Connectivity Graph

- Models node connectivity
- Incorporates capacity of each link

Conflict Graph

Captures interference among links

Tool

Solves MAXFLOW problem on the connectivity graph with constraints drawn from the conflict graph

"What-if" Analysis

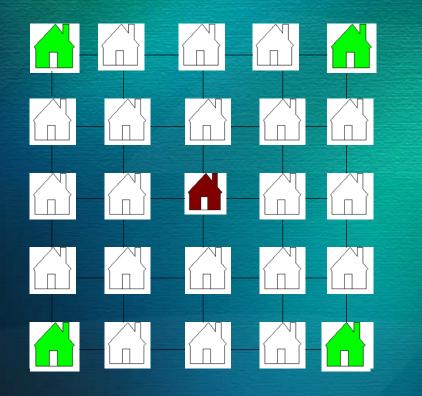
- Scenario based numbers instead of asymptotic bounds
- Allows evaluation of different wireless technologies





Sample Results: What-if Analysis

Example: 4 houses talk to the central ITAP. What is the maximum possible throughput?



Scenario	Aggregate Throughput
Baseline	0.5
Double range	0.5
Two Radios	1

Conclusion Two radios are better than one

Houses talk to immediate neighbors, All **links have capacity 1**, 802.11 MAC, **Question:** Multipath routing. **Are 3 radios better than 2? What is the optimum number?** July 6, 2004 Victor Bahl

Capacity Improvement

Problem

Improve throughput via better utilization of the spectrum

Design Constraints

Require only a single radio per node Use unmodified IEEE 802.11 protocol Do not depend on existence of a rendezvous channel

Assumption

Node is equipped with an omni-direction antenna - MIMO technology is OK Multiple orthogonal channels are available Channel switching time is 80 usecs.

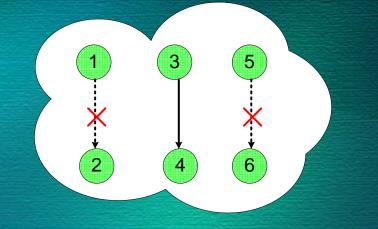
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- current speeds 150 microseconds



Capacity Improvement

In current IEEE 802.11 meshes



Only one of 3 pairs is active @ any given time

With MSR's SSCH enabled meshes

Ch 1 $1 \rightarrow 2$ $1 \rightarrow 4$ $5 \rightarrow 4$ Ch 2 $3 \rightarrow 4$ $5 \rightarrow 2$ $1 \rightarrow 6$ Ch 3 $5 \rightarrow 6$ $3 \rightarrow 6$ $3 \rightarrow 2$ 10 msecs 10 msecs 10 msecs

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Slotted Seeded Channel Hopping

Approach

Divide time into slots At each slot, node hops to a different channel (to distribute traffic) Senders and receiver probabilistically meet and exchange schedule Senders loosely synchronize hopping schedule to receivers Implement as a layer 2.5 protocol (works over MultiNet)

Features

Distributed: every node makes independent choices

Optimistic: exploits common case that nodes know each others' channel hopping schedules

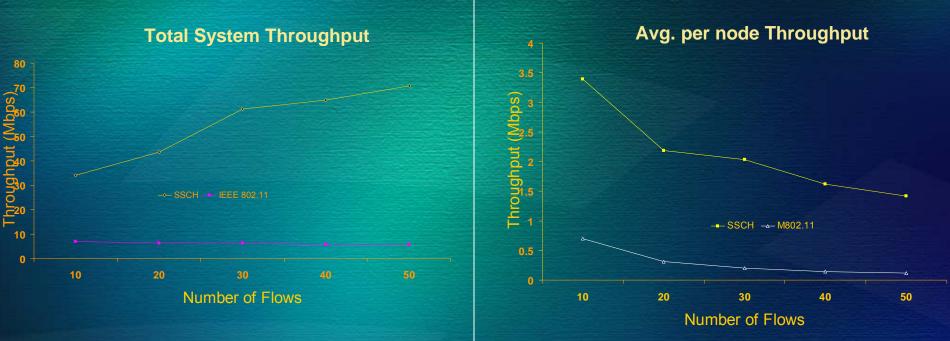
Traffic-driven: nodes repeatedly overlap when they have packets to exchange

Prior Work SEEDEX (MobiHoc '01), TSMA (ToN '97), multi-channel MAC (VTC '00, MobiHoc '04),

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Performance

QualNet Simulation: 100 nodes, IEEE 802.11a, 13 channels, every flow is multihop



Significant capacity improvement when traffic load is on multiple separate flows



Routing in Wireless Meshes

Richard Draves, Jitendra Padhye, and Brian Zill *Routing in Multi-radio Multi-hop in Wireless Meshes ACM MobiCom 2004,* September 2004

Atul Adya, Victor Bahl, Jitendra Padhye, Alec Wolman, and Lidong Zhou. **A Multi-Radio Unification Protocol for IEEE 802.11 Wireless Networks** IEEE BroadNets 2004 (also Technical Report, MSR-TR-2003-41, June 2003)

Mesh Connectivity Layer (MCL)

Design

Multi-hop routing at layer 2.5

Framework

- NDIS miniport provides <u>virtual adapter</u> on <u>virtual link</u>
- NDIS protocol binds to physical adapters that provide next-hop connectivity
- Inserts a new L2.5 header

Features

- Works over heterogeneous links (e.g. wireless, powerline)
- Implements DSR-like routing with optimizations at <u>virtual link layer</u> We call it Link Quality Source Routing (LQSR)
- Incorporates Link metrics: hop count, MIT's ETX, MSR's WCETT
- Transparent to higher layer protocols. Works equally well with IPv4, IPv6, Netbeui, IPX, ...

Source & Binary Download

Available @ <u>http://research.microsoft.com/mesh</u>

Radio Selection Metric

State-of-art metrics (shortest path, RTT, MIT's ETX) not suitable for multiple radio / node

Do not leverage channel, range, data rate diversity

Multi-Radio Link Quality Source Routing (MR-LQSR)

- Link metric: Expected Transmission Time (ETT)
 - Takes <u>bandwidth</u> and <u>loss rate</u> of the link into account

Path metric: Weighted Cumulative ETTs (WCETT)

- Combine link ETTs of links along the path
- Takes <u>channel diversity</u> into account

Incorporates into source routing



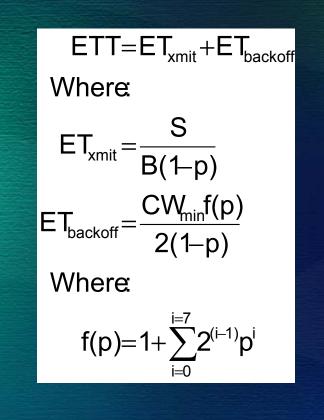
Expected Transmission Time

Given:

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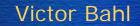
- Loss rate p
- Bandwidth B
- Mean packet size S
- Min backoff window CW_{min}

Expected and Simulated Transmission times S = 1000 Bytes, B = 1Mbps, CWmin = 320 microsec.



Formula matches simulations

0.06 - Expected Transmission Time 0.05 (predicted by the formula) 0.04 Transmission time observed in NS 0.03 simulation (1MB FTP transfer) 0.02 0.01 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.6 0.7 0.8 0 0.4 0.5 Loss Rate



WCETT = Combining link ETTs

Need to avoid unnecessarily long paths

- bad for TCP performance
- bad for global resources

All hops on a path on the same channel interfere

- Add ETTs of hops that are on the same channel
- Path throughput is dominated by the maximum of these sums

Given a *n* hop path, where each hop can be on any one of *k* channels, and two tuning parameters, *a* and *b*:

$$WCETT = \frac{\left(a * \sum_{i=1}^{n} ETT_{i}\right) + \left(b * \max_{1 \le j \le k} X_{j}\right)}{a + b}$$

where
$$X_{j} = \sum_{i = 0}^{n} ETT_{i}$$

Select the path with min WCETT

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Results

Test Configuration

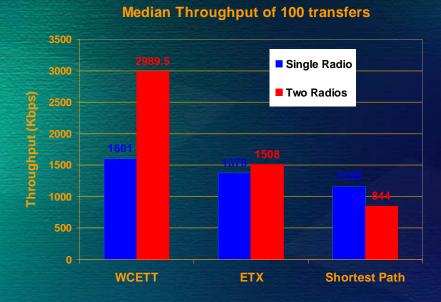
- Randomly selected 100 senderreceiver pairs (out of 23x22 = 506)
- 2 minute TCP transfer

Two scenarios:

- Baseline (Single radio): 802.11a NetGear cards
- Two radios
 802.11a NetGear cards
 802.11g Proxim cards

Repeat for

- Shortest path
- MIT's ETX metric
- MSR's WCETT metric July 6, 2004 _____



WCETT utilizes 2nd radio better than ETX or shortest path

Troubleshooting Mesh Networks

Lili Qiu, Victor Bahl, Ananth Rao, Lidong Zhou, **A Novel Framework for Troubleshooting Multihop Wireless Networks** September 2003, *MSR Tech Report*

Goals

"Network management is a process of controlling a complex data network so as to maximize its efficiency and productivity"

Reactive and Pro-active Troubleshooting

- Investigate reported performance problems
 - Time-series analysis to detect deviation from normal behavior
- Localize and isolate trouble spots
 - Collect and analyze traffic reports from mesh nodes
- Determine possible causes for the trouble spots
 - Interference, or hardware problems, or network congestion, or malicious nodes

Respond to troubled spots

- Re-route traffic
- Rate limit
- Change topology via power control & directional antenna control
- July 6, 2004 lag environmental changes & problems

Challenges in Fault agnosis

Characteristics of multi-hop wireless networks

- Unpredictable physical medium, prone to link errors
- Network topology is dynamic
- Resource limitation calls for a diagnosis approach with low overhead
- Vulnerable to link attacks

Identifying root causes

- Just knowing link statistics is insufficient
- Signature based techniques don't work well
 - Determining normal behavior is hard

Handling multiple faults

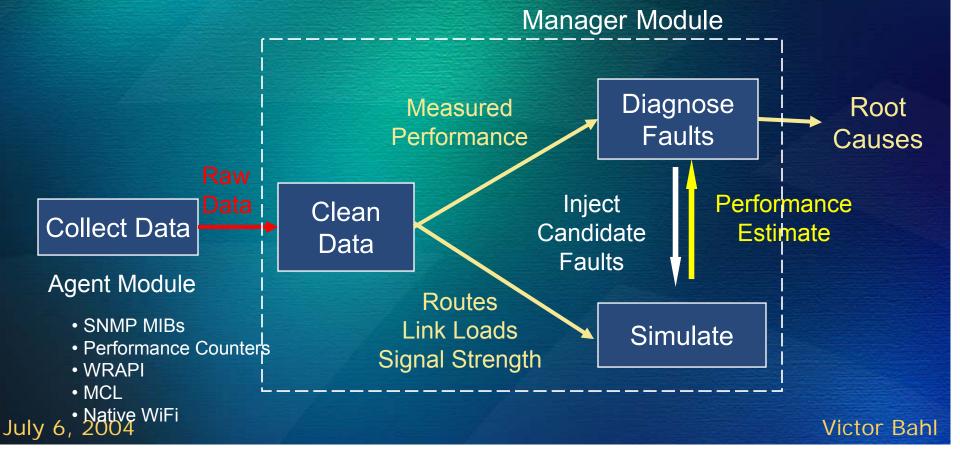
 Complicated interactions between faults and traffic, and among faults themselves

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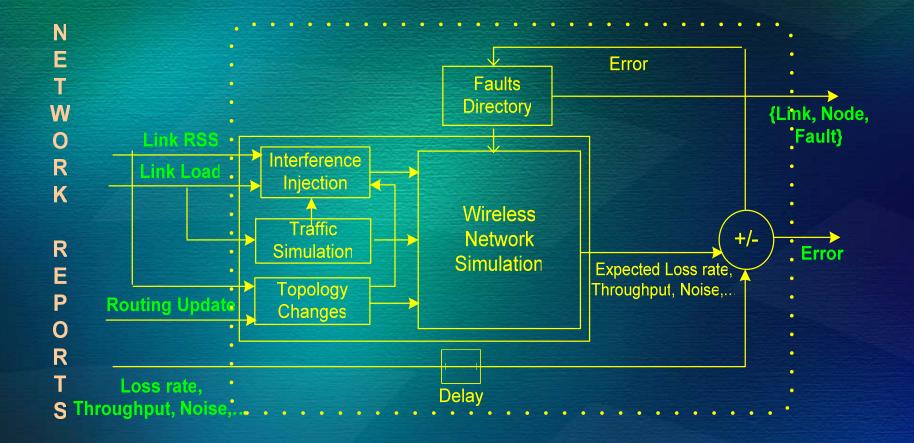
Our Approach

Steps to diagnose faults

- Establish normal behavior
- Deviation from the normal behavior indicates a potential fault
- Identify root causes by efficiently searching over fault space to reproduce faulty symptoms



Root Cause Analysis Module



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Diagnosis Performances

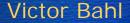
25 node random topology

Number of faults	4	6	8	10	12	14
Coverage	1	1	0.75	0.7	0.92	0.86
False Positive	0	0	0	0	0.25	0.29

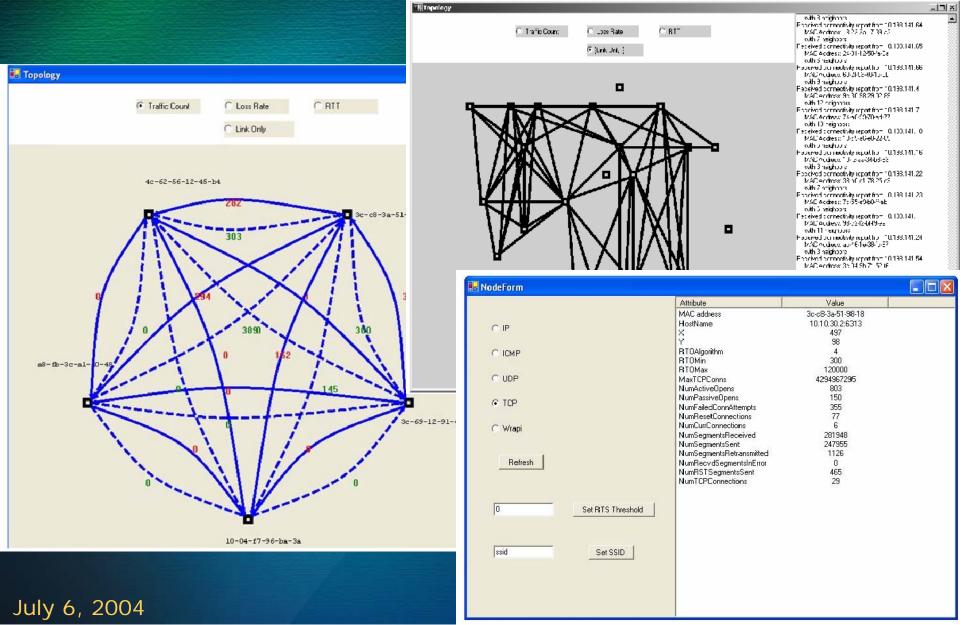
Faults detected:

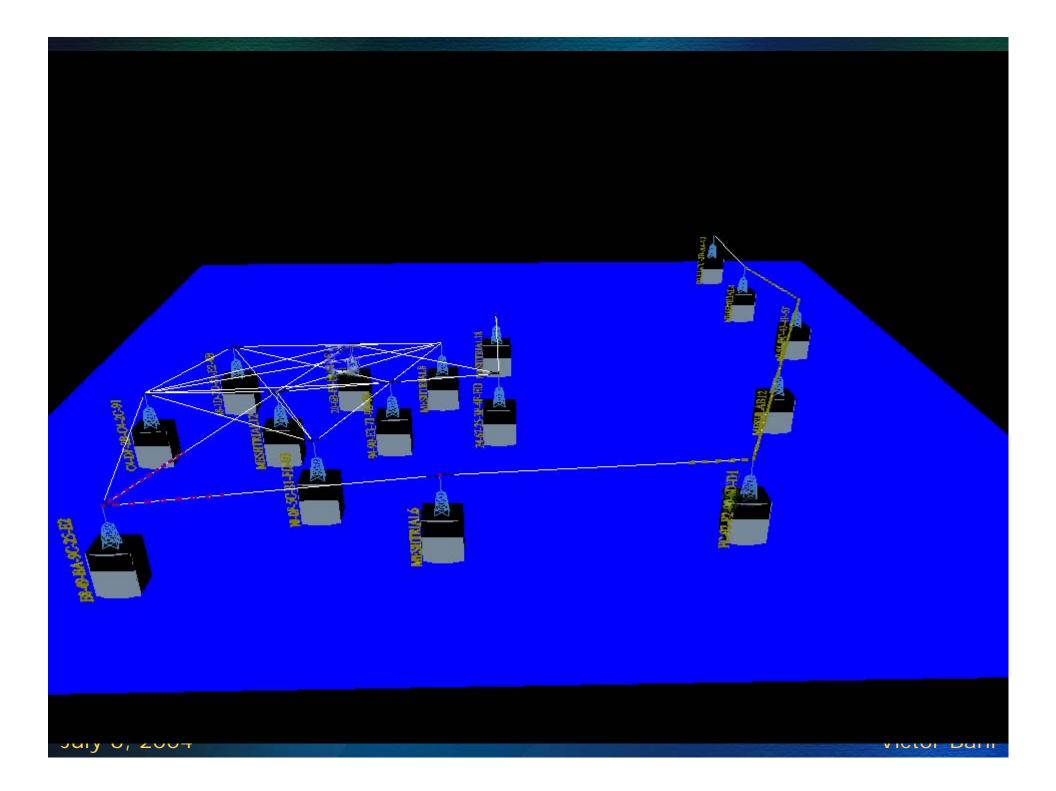
- Random packet dropping
- MAC misbehavior
- External noise





Mesh Visualization Module





Testbeds & Trials

Testbeds

Details

25 to 30 nodes Inexpensive desktops (HP d530 SF) Two 802.11 radios in each node

- NetGear WAG or WAB, Proxim OriNOCO
- Cards can operate in a, b or g mode.

Purpose

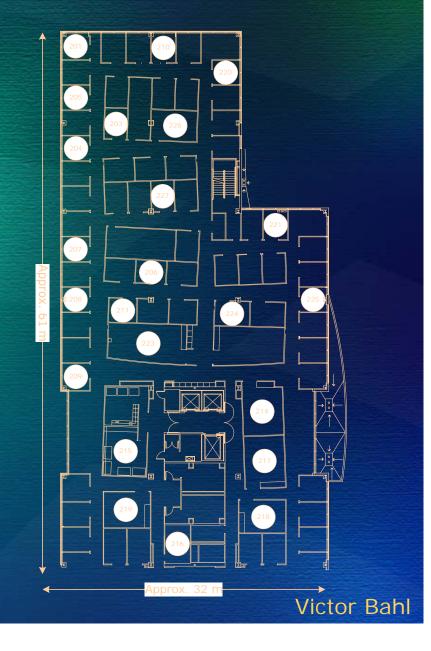
Verification of the mesh software stack

- Routing protocol behavior
- Fault diagnosis and mesh management algorithms
- Security and privacy architecture
- Range and robustness @ 5 GHz with different 802.11a hardware

Stress Testing

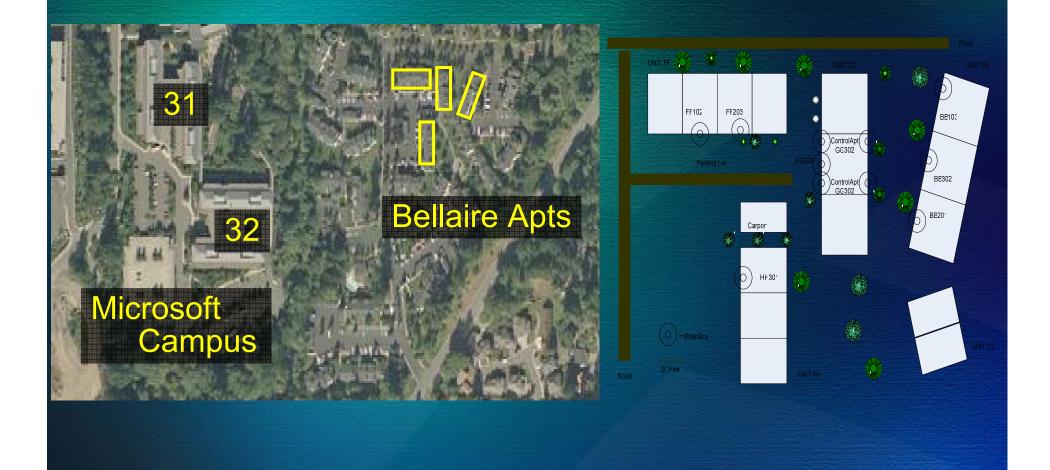
Various methods of loading testbed:

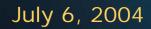
- Harpoon traffic generator (University of Wisconsin)
- Peer Metric traffic generator
- Ad-hoc use by researchers



July 6, 2004

Redmond Apartment Trials





Redmond Apartment Trial





Mesh Hall (Kitchen)



Cambridge UK Trial

Deployed by The Venice Team

Working with *ehome* to create a media sharing demo in collaboration with ZCast DVB trial

10 node mesh







Victor Bahl

Venice

Latest Mesbox





Going Forward Elements of the converging Digital Future

Power at the Edge of The Network

Smart Regulation

Cognitive Software & Hardware

July 6, 2004

Call To Action

Together academia, government, and industry must develop common vision

Perform scenario & systems based research tackling hard problems

Partner in building and deploying real-world test beds



Resources

Software, Papers, Presentations, articles etc.
 URL: http://research.microsoft.com/mesh/

Contact

Victor Bahl, bahl@microsoft.com

Mesh Networking Summit 2004

Videos, Presentations, Notes etc. URL: http://research.microsoft.com/meshsummit/

