

**Exploring Next Generation Mobile Applications in the Enterprise:
*The Case of Wireless in the Hospitality Industry***

By David Strom

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In today's enterprises, wireless no longer equates to portable laptop connectivity and the convenience of accessing email. Wireless is now a 'must-have' fixture in enterprise environments, helping to boost productivity and operational efficiencies, improve customer experience and create a competitive advantage in the enterprise. Beyond WiFi networks that support laptops, cellular voice is now replacing landline telephones, 3G and WiMAX services are delivering high-speed data transport, and a variety of wireless technologies are enabling location based services, wireless building automation and personal networking applications. To support this increasing range of wireless applications, enterprises will need cutting-edge wireless infrastructures that provide coverage for a variety of wireless technologies operating across multiple radio frequencies.

Several things have changed since the wired networking days in the mid-1990s, positioning wireless as the primary connection medium for a variety of devices. First, the latest incarnations of wireless networks have finally achieved adequately high throughput and low enough latency to compete with wired connections, even for more bandwidth-intensive applications like streaming media and voice over the Internet. Second, more users are mobile, taking their cellular phones and PDAs with them to meetings and using laptops as their primary desktop during the course of their day-to-day computing lives. Third, cellular and voice-over-Internet phones (VOIP) have also replaced desk and landline phones as the primary telephone, making better indoor cellular coverage and ubiquitous IP networks essential for many corporations.

With most wireless usage occurring indoors, enterprises will need to focus on making indoor wireless coverage as reliable and dynamic as employees, guests and customers expect outdoors. Achieving sufficient indoor wireless coverage on a facility-wide basis will be the key to adopting the next generation of breakthrough mobile applications and their underlying technologies. Let's talk about how the newest generation of wireless applications will bring mobility into the enterprise.

What's Beyond WiFi?

WiFi (802.11 standards-based protocol for WLAN technologies) has been around for more than a decade, undergoing a series of improvements in protocols evolving from the original two-megabit/second networks of the past. As a result, WiFi networks.....

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