

Media Independent Handoffs and the 802.21 Standard

ECE Scholarly Paper Presentation

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Abstract

Today's wireless world provides users with nearly ubiquitous network access for a wide range of devices. These devices can be anything from portable laptop computers to personal music devices to cellular phones. All of these devices are able to communicate over various wireless networks with varying speeds and capabilities. Increasingly, many devices are capable of communicating with multiple different wireless network technologies. This capability provides significant flexibility to the user. Unfortunately, for many of these multi-network devices the handoff procedure between available networks is clumsy and inefficient, resulting in a temporary network connection outage and potentially lost data.

This presentation will provide an introduction to the 802.21 standard and will examine the current performance measurements for these vertical handoffs and compare them to the potential performance of the new standard. This standard is being developed as a solution to the vertical handoff problem. Close attention will be paid to specific aspects of the handoff procedure, such as network discovery, and the performance increase offered to systems that make use of the standard.