ABSTRACT

In order to provide ubiquitous broadband access to the mobile users, two technologies particularly Wi-Fi and WiMAX are integrated and our focus is mainly on their handover management aspect. For this reason we concentrate on IEEE 802.21 standard which provides the framework for Media Independent Handover (MIH) among these heterogeneous networks to overcome the integration issues and achieve seamless service continuity. The mechanism involves a vertical handover between the networks by which the dual mode mobile node can either choose to get better connectivity or is simply forced to switch to another network due to low coverage. The point here is to be always best connected and the underlying action involves signalling and triggers that keep tracking any up-to-date and imminent changes in the network. To explicate this obscure handover process we consider simple scenarios to show how the dual mode mobile user switches between the networks and also carry out some simulations to demonstrate handoff performance with respect to mobility.