COEN-4720 Embedded Systems

Lecture 9
WiFi

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BE THE DIFFERENCE.

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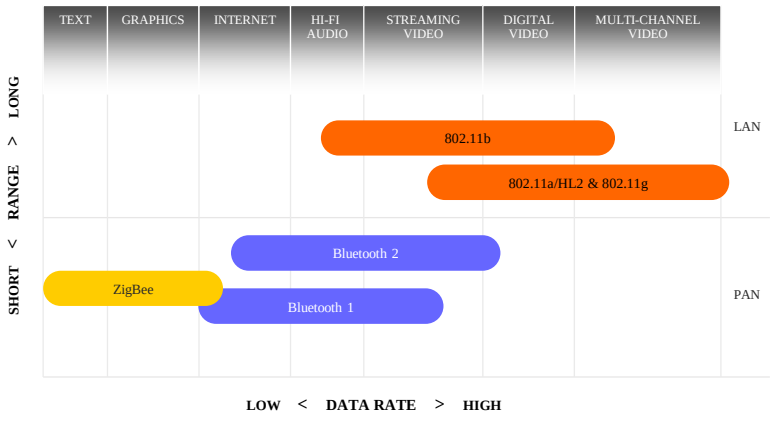
Wireless Technologies: WiFi

- WiFi
- Bluetooth
- Cellular
- 3G (3rd Generation)
- UWB (Ultra Wide Band)
- FSO (Free Space Optics)
- WiMAX
- ZigBee
- …



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Outline

- WiFi
  - Introduction
  - History
  - Standards
  - Security
  - Network architectures
  - Requirements
  - Antennas
- ESP8266 module and example

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What is a Wireless LAN?

- **Wireless LAN (WLAN)** - provides all the features and benefits of traditional LAN technologies such as Ethernet, but without the limitations of wires or cables.

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What is WiFi?

- Wi-Fi (or WiFi) is a local area wireless computer networking technology that allows electronic devices to connect to the network.
- The standard for wireless local area networks (WLANs).
- It is like a common "language" that all the devices use to communicate to each other. If you have a standard, people can make all sorts of devices that can work with each other.
- The governing body that owns the term Wi-Fi, the Wi-Fi Alliance, defines it as any WLAN products that are based on the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 802.11 standards.

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What is WiFi?

- The way Wi-Fi works is through the use of radio frequency (RF) signals.
- The wireless adapter card that is found inside of computers then uses the data that is being sent to change it into a radio signal to be transmitted by the antenna.
- A router then receives these signals and decodes them in order to send the information contained within to the Internet via a Local Area Network or a wired Ethernet connection like a cable network connection.

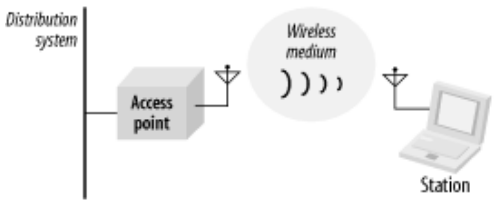

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Figure 1.

Select the Best Wireless Standard for Your Application

	ZigBee 802.15.4	Bluetooth 802.15.1	Wi-Fi 802.11b	GPRS/GSM 1XRTT/CDMA
System resource	4-32 KB	250 KB+	1 MB ±	16 MB+
Battery life (days)	100-1,000+	1-7	0.1-5	1-7
Nodes per network	255/65,000+	7	30	1-1000
Bandwidth (KBps)	20-250	720	11,000+	64-128
Range (meters)	1-75+	1-10+	1-100	1000+

Figure 2.

Which Wireless Standard?

	Application Focus	Success Metrics
ZigBee	Monitoring and control	Reliable, secure networking Protocol simplicity Low power consumption
Bluetooth	Cable replacement	Low incremental cost Ease of use/convenience Moderate data rate
Wi-Fi	Web, email, and video	High data throughput Flexibility (work and home) Hot Spot connectivity
GPRS / GSM	Wireless voice and data	Broad geographic coverage Datacentric pricing plans Network build-out

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Advantages

- Freedom – You can work from any location that you can get a signal.
- Setup Cost – No cabling required.
- Flexibility – Quick and easy to setup in temp or permanent space.
- Scalable – Can be expanded with growth.
- Mobile Access – Can access the network on the move.

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Disadvantages

- Speed – Slower than cable.
- Range – Affected by various medium.
  - Travels best through open space.
  - Reduced by walls, glass, water, etc.
- Security – Greater exposure to risks.
  - Unauthorized access.
  - Compromising data.
  - Denial of service.

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History of Wi-Fi

- In 1985 the FCC allowed the opening of several bands of the wireless spectrum. Allowing those bands to be used without government license.
- The bands were taken from the scientific, medical, and industrial bands of the wireless spectrum.
- The FCC made these bands available for communication purposes.
- Using *spread spectrum technology*, which spreads a radio signal over wide range of frequencies, they were able to steer around interference from other equipment.
- When Ethernet became popular vendors came to the realization that a wireless standard was best.

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History of Wi-Fi Continued

- In 1988, the NCR Corporation wanted to use the unlicensed spectrum to hook up wireless cash register, they looked into getting a standard started.
- Victor Hayes and Bruce Tuch were hired and they went to the IEEE and created the committee known as 802.3.
- Vendors took a while to agree on an acceptable standard due to the fragmented market.
- In 1997 the committee agreed on a basic specification that allowed for a data-transfer rate of two megabits per second.
- Two technologies, known as frequency hopping and direct-sequence transmission, allowed for this data-transfer rate.

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History of Wi-Fi Continued

- The new standard was finally published in 1997, and engineers immediately began working on prototype equipment that was compliant.
- Two variants 802.11b (operates in 2.4GHz band), and 802.11a (operates in 5.8GHz band) were ratified in December 1999 and January 2000 respectively.
- In August 1999 the Wireless Ethernet Compatibility Alliance (WECA) was created with the intention to assure compatibility between products from various vendors.
- A consumer friendly name was need for this new technology and the term "Wi-Fi" came to be.
- Apple was the first to supply their computers with Wi-Fi slots on all their laptops, thus sparking the mainstream penetration of Wi-Fi.

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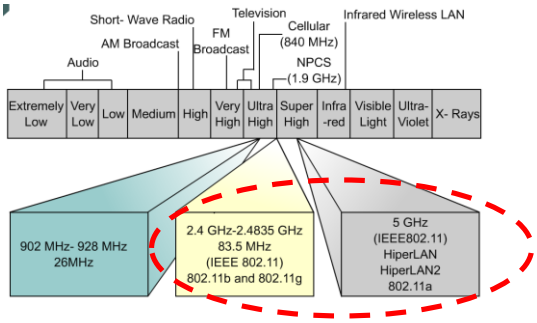
US Frequency Bands



Band	Frequency range
UHF ISM	902-928 MHz
S-Band	2-4 GHz
S-Band ISM	2.4-2.5 GHz
C-Band	4-8 GHz
C-Band satellite downlink	3.7-4.2 GHz
C-Band Radar (weather)	5.25-5.925 GHz
C-Band ISM	5.725-5.875 GHz
C-Band satellite uplink	5.925-6.425 GHz
X-Band	8-12 GHz
X-Band Radar (police/weather)	8.5-10.55 GHz

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Wi-Fi Standards

IEEE Standard	802.11a	802.11b	802.11g	802.11n	802.11ac	802.11ax
Year Released	1999	1999	2003	2009	2014	2019
Frequency	5Ghz	2.4GHz	2.4GHz	2.4Ghz & 5GHz	2.4Ghz & 5GHz	2.4Ghz & 5GHz
Maximum Data Rate	54Mbps	11Mbps	54Mbps	600Mbps	1.3Gbps	10-12Gbps

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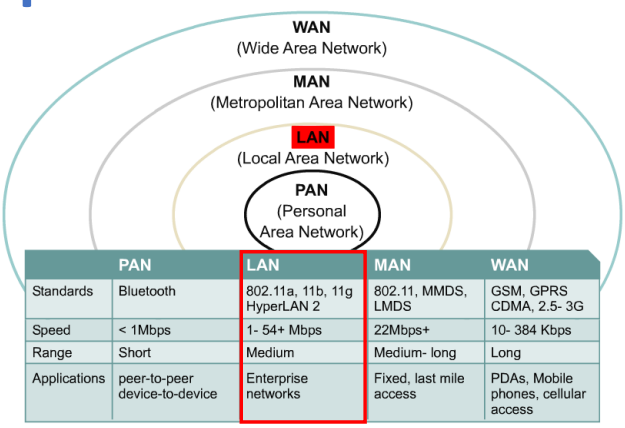
Atmosphere: the wireless medium



	PAN	LAN	MAN	WAN
Standards	Bluetooth	802.11a, 11b, 11g HyperLAN 2	802.11, MMDS, LMDS	GSM, GPRS CDMA, 2.5- 3G
Speed	< 1Mbps	1- 54+ Mbps	22Mbps+	10- 384 Kbps
Range	Short	Medium	Medium- long	Long
Applications	peer-to-peer device-to-device	Enterprise networks	Fixed, last mile access	PDAs, Mobile phones, cellular access

- Wireless signals are electromagnetic waves
- No physical? medium is necessary
- The ability of radio waves to pass through walls and cover great distances makes wireless a versatile way to build a network.

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IEEE 802.11 Standards Activities

- 802.11a: 5GHz, 54Mbps
- **802.11b: 2.4GHz, 11Mbps**
- 802.11d: Multiple regulatory domains
- 802.11e: Quality of Service (QoS)
- 802.11f: Inter-Access Point Protocol (IAPP)
- **802.11g: 2.4GHz, 54Mbps**
- 802.11h: Dynamic Frequency Selection (DFS) and Transmit Power Control (TPC)
- 802.11i: Robust Security Network
- 802.11j: Japan 5GHz Channels (4.9-5.1 GHz)
- 802.11k: Measurement
- 802.11n: High throughput standard > 100Mbps. Backwards compatible with a,b,g

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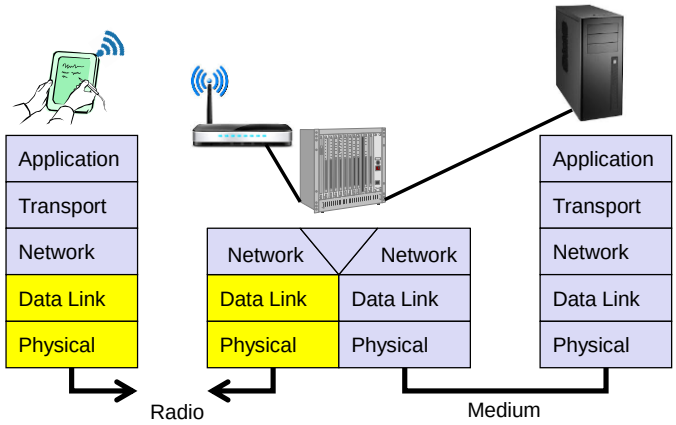
802.11 Standard

- Standard 802.11 is primarily concerned with the lower layers of the Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) model



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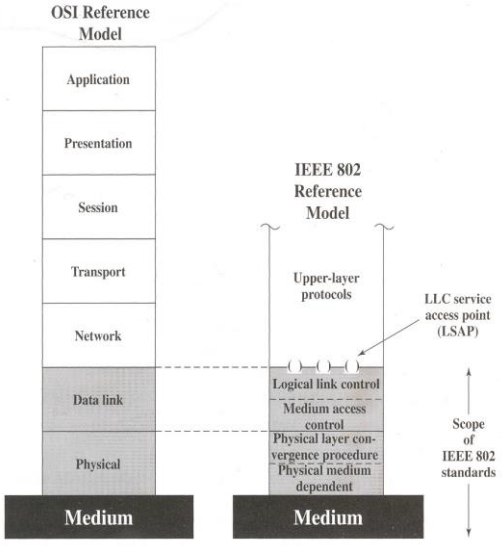
IEEE 802 vs. OSI

- **Data Link Layer**
  - Logical Link Control (LLC)
  - Medium Access Control (MAC)
- **Physical Layer**
  - Physical Layer Convergence Procedure (PLCP)
  - Physical Medium Dependent (PMD)



IEEE 802 Protocol Layers Compared to OSI Model

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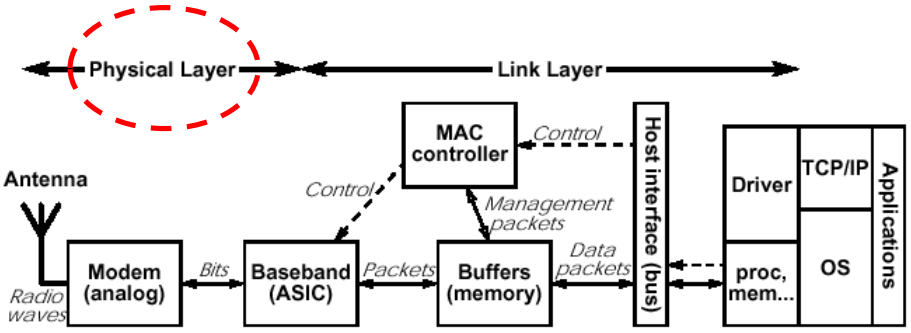
Functional Diagram



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802.11 PHY (Physical Layer) Technologies

- Three types of radio transmission within the unlicensed 2.4-GHz frequency bands:
  - Frequency hopping spread spectrum (FHSS) 802.11b (not used)
  - Direct sequence spread spectrum (DSSS) and Complementary Code Keying (CCK) **802.11b**
  - Orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing (OFDM) **802.11g**
- One type of radio transmission within the unlicensed 5-GHz frequency bands:
  - Orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing (OFDM) **802.11a**

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Orthogonal Frequency-Division Multiplexing (OFDM)

- A method of encoding digital data on multiple carrier frequencies
- Keeps the modulated carriers orthogonal
- Each carrier is modulated using BPSK/QPSK/M-ary QAM
- Do not interfere with each other
- Overlap of frequency response is possible as opposed to FDM where inter-carrier spacing is a must
- Frequency responses of the carriers overlap at zero crossings avoiding Inter Carrier Interference (ICI)
- Effectively squeezes multiple modulated carriers tightly together, reducing required bandwidth
- Popular scheme for wideband digital communication (digital television, DSL Internet access, wireless networks, 4G,…)

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OFDM Advantages

- Allows carriers to overlap (no guard band), resulting in lesser wasted bandwidth without any Inter Carrier Interference (ICI)
- High data rate distributed over multiple carriers resulting in lower error rate
- Permits higher data rate as compared to FDM
- Increased security and bandwidth efficiency possible using CDMA-OFDM (MC-CDMA)
- Simple guard intervals make the system more robust to multipath effects

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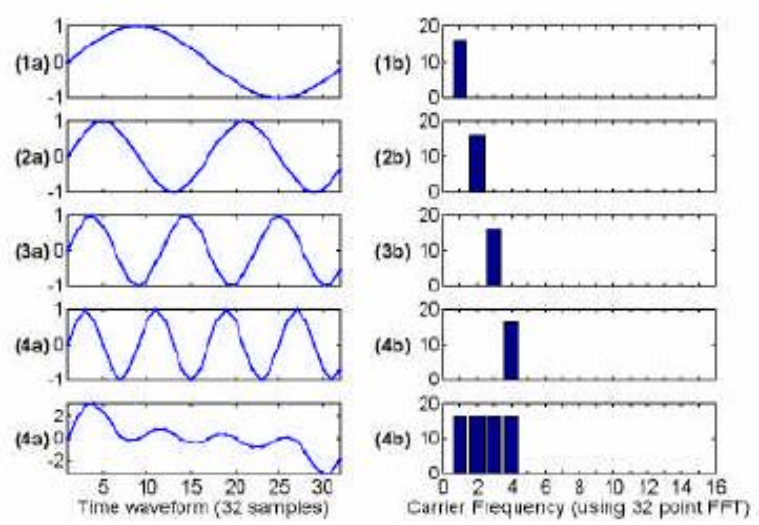
What is OFDM?

Orthogonality in time domain…



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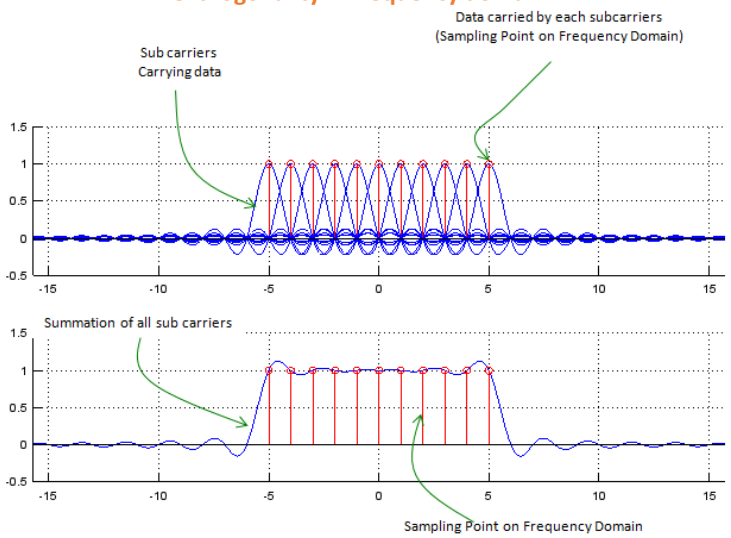
What is OFDM?

Orthogonality in frequency domain…



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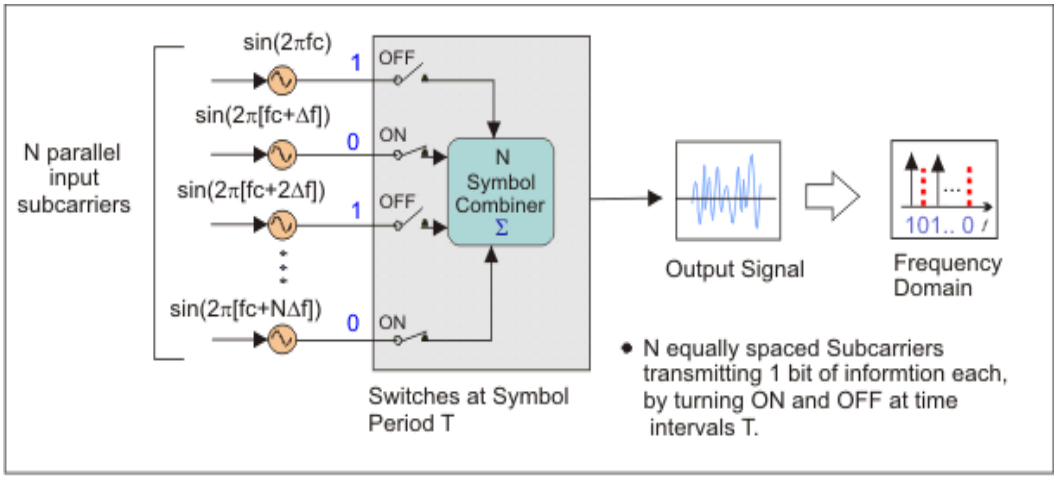
Simplified OFDM Generation



Simple OFDM Generation

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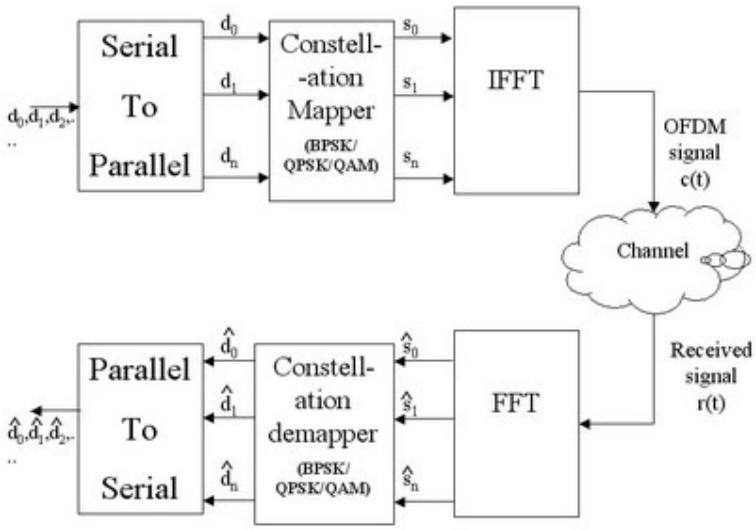
OFDM Transceiver



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802.11b Standard

- Well-supported, stable, and cost effective, but runs in the 2.4 GHz range that makes it prone to interference from other devices (microwave ovens, cordless phones, etc.) and also has security disadvantages.
- Limits the number of access points in range of each other to three.
- Has 11 channels, with 3 non-overlapping, and supports rates from 1 to 11 Mbps, but realistically about 4-5 Mbps max.
- Uses direct-sequence spread-spectrum (DSSS) technology.

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802.11g Standard

- Extension of 802.11b, with the same disadvantages (security and interference).
- Has a shorter range than 802.11b.
- Is backwards compatible with 802.11b so it allows or a smooth transition from 11b to 11g.
- Flexible because multiple channels can be combined for faster throughput, but limited to one access point.
- Runs at 54 Mbps, but realistically about 20-25 Mbps and about 14 Mbps when b associated.
- Uses frequency division multiplexing (OFDM).

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802.11a Standard

- Completely different from 11b and 11g.
- Flexible because multiple channels can be combined for faster throughput and more access points can be co-located.
- Shorter range than 11b and 11g.
- Runs in the 5 GHz range, so less interference from other devices.
- Has 12 channels, 8 non-overlapping, and supports rates from 6 to 54 Mbps, but realistically about 27 Mbps max.
- Uses frequency division multiplexing (OFDM).

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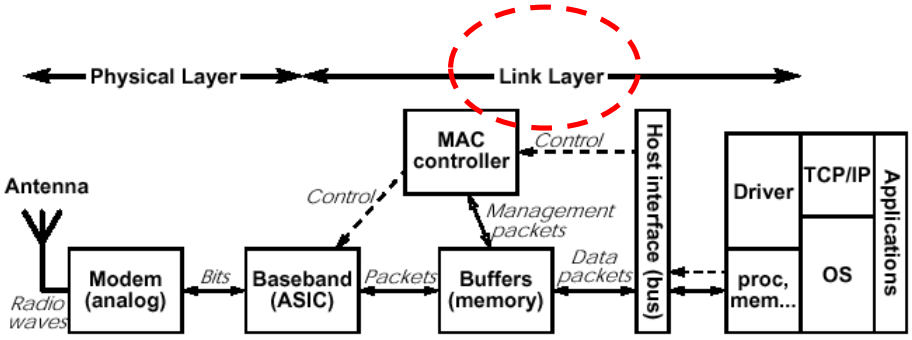
Functional Diagram



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802.11 - MAC Layer

- Traffic services
  - Asynchronous Data Service (**mandatory**) - DCF
  - Time-Bounded Service (**optional**) - PCF
- Access methods
  - DCF (distributed coordination function) CSMA/CA (carrier sense multiple access with collision avoidance): **mandatory**
    - Collision Avoidance via randomized back-off mechanism
    - ACK packet for acknowledgements (not for broadcasts)
  - DCF with Request to Send/Clear to Send (RTS/CTS): **optional**
    - Avoids hidden terminal problem
  - PCF (Point Coordination Function): **optional**
    - Access point polls terminals according to a list

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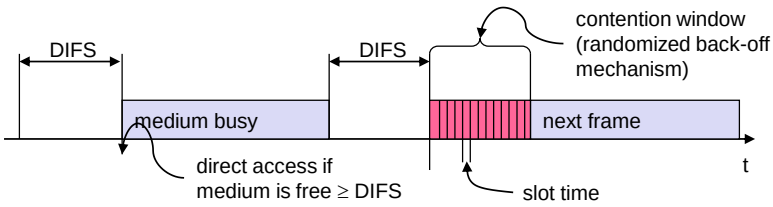
802.11 - CSMA/CA



- Station ready to send starts sensing the medium (Carrier Sense based on CCA, Clear Channel Assessment)
- If the medium is free for the duration of a DCF Inter-Frame Space (IFS), the station can start sending (IFS depends on service type)
- If the medium is busy, the station has to wait for a free IFS, then the station must additionally wait a random back-off time (collision avoidance, multiple of slot-time)
- If another station occupies the medium during the back-off time of the station, the back-off timer stops (fairness)

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Outline

- WiFi
  - Introduction
  - History
  - Standards
  - Security
  - Network architectures
  - Requirements
  - Antennas
- ESP8266 module and example

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Wired Equivalency Protocol (WEP)

- Basic encryption technology.
  - Uses an RC4 stream cipher.
    - Pseudo-random bytes.
  - Two versions: 64-bit and 128-bit versions.
- Built into Wi-Fi certified equipment.
  - Implemented at the MAC level.
- Protects radio signal between device and access point.
  - Does not protect data beyond the access point.
- Uses static encryption keys.
  - Easy to crack.
    - Still better then nothing.

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Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA)

- Designed to replace WEP.
  - Firmware update.
  - 128-bit Temporal Key Integrity Protocol (TKIP) encryption.
    - Uses a master key that is regularly changed.
  - User authentication.
  - Data Integrity.
- Protects radio signal between device and access point.
- Built into Wi-Fi certified equipment.
  - Implemented at the MAC level.
- Available in two versions:
  - WPA2 Personal.
  - WPA2 Enterprise.

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Wi-Fi Protected Access 2 (WPA2)

- Designed to replace WEP.
  - 128-bit Advanced Encryption Standard (AES).
- Based on the IEEE 802.11i standard.
- Provides government level security.
- Also available in two versions:
  - WPA2 Personal.
  - WPA2 Enterprise.

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Extended EAP

- EAP - Extensible Authentication Protocol.
- Addition to the Wi-Fi Protected Access.
  - Used in internal network.
- Extra security for enterprise and government Wi-Fi LANs.
- Several versions available.

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Virtual Private Network (VPN)

- Creates a secure virtual “tunnel” from remote device to VPN server.
  - Creates an encryption scheme.
  - Requires authentication.
- Works across the internet.
- Many types and levels of VPN technology.
  - May include hardware and software components.
  - Some very expensive.
  - Windows provides a basic implementation in its server software.

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Firewall

- Can make the network or computer invisible to the internet.
- Block unauthorized users.
- Monitor and control flow of data to/from a network or computer.
- Many types and levels of firewall technology.
  - Hardware and software combinations
  - Software only versions.
- Many devices provide basic firewall capability.
  - Gateways and access points.
    - Network address translation.
  - Windows XP operating system.

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Bringing it all together

- Any combination of these security techniques can be used.
- The more security the more of a hassle.
  - Important when supporting users.

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Four main requirements for a WLAN solution

1. **High availability** — High availability is achieved through system redundancy and proper coverage-area design.
2. **Scalability** — Scalability is accomplished by supporting multiple APs per coverage area, which use multiple frequencies. APs can also perform load balancing, if desired.
3. **Manageability —** Diagnostic tools represent a large portion of management within WLANs. Customers should be able to manage WLAN devices through industry standard APIs, including SNMP and Web, or through major enterprise management applications like CiscoWorks 2000, Cisco Wireless Control System or AirMagnet
4. **Open architecture** — Openness is achieved through adherence to standards such as 802.11a and 802.11b, participation in interoperability associations such as the Wi-Fi Alliance, and certification such as U.S. FCC certification.

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Other requirements

- **Security —** It is essential to encrypt data packets transmitted through the air. For larger installations, centralized user authentication and centralized management of encryption keys are also required.
- **Cost —** Customers expect continued reductions in price of 15 to 30 percent each year, and increases in performance and security. Customers are concerned not only with purchase price but also with total cost of ownership (TCO), including costs for installation.

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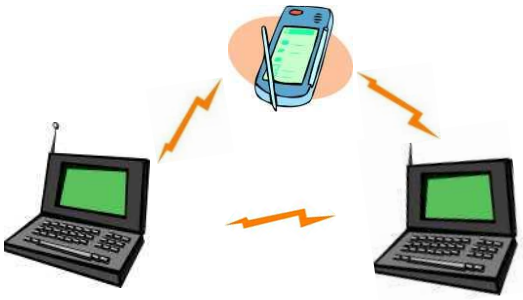
WLAN Architecture - Ad Hoc Mode

- Peer-to-peer setup where clients can connect to each other directly. Generally not used for business networks
- Set up for a special purpose and for a short period of time



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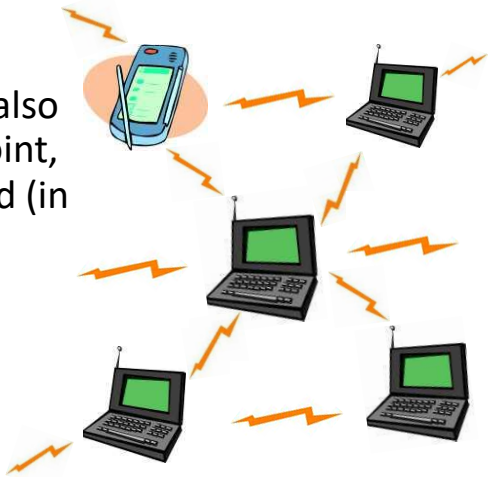
WLAN Architecture - Mesh

- Every client in the network also acts as an access or relay point, creating a "self-healing" and (in theory) infinitely extensible network.



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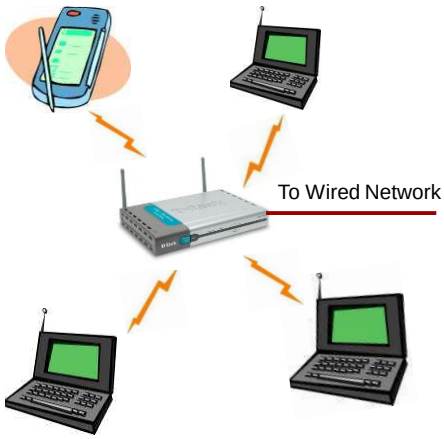
WLAN Architecture - Infrastructure Mode

- Access Point (AP) becomes the hub of a "star topology"
- Any communication has to go through AP
- Multiple APs can be connected together to handle a large number of clients
- Majority of WLANs in homes and businesses



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Antennas

- All WLAN equipment comes with a built-in omni-directional antenna, but some select products will let you attach secondary antennas that will significantly boost range
- Antenna
  - 2.4 GHz Antennas
  - 5 GHz Antennas

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Antennas

- Antennas come in all shapes and styles:
  - Omni-directional:
    - Vertical Whip
    - Ceiling mount
  - Directional:
    - Yagi ("Pringles can")
    - Wall mounted panel
    - Parabolic dish

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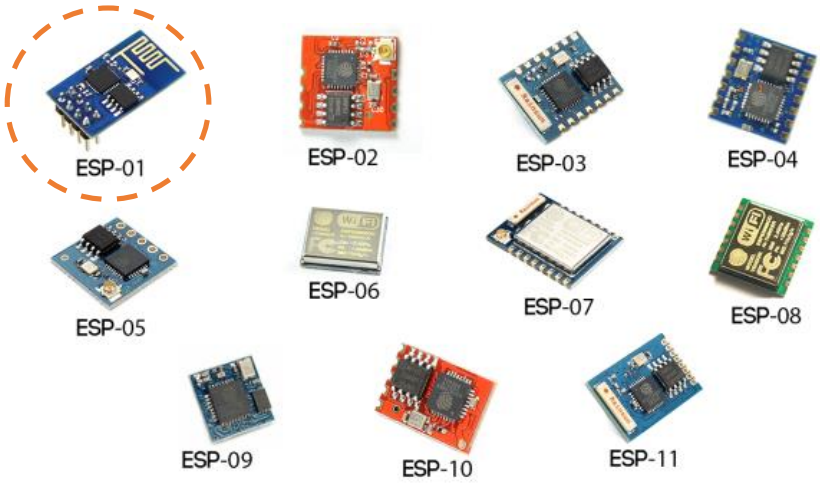
ESP-01 (ESP8266 circuit) Module



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ESP8266 Circuit

- CPU
  - 32 bit
  - 26MHz-52MHz
  - 64KB instruction RAM, 64KB boot ROM
  - 96KB data RAM
- Wi-Fi
  - 802.11b/g/n
  - Access Point or Station
  - WEP
- GPIO, UART, ADC, I2C, SPI, PWM
- Made by Expressif (China)

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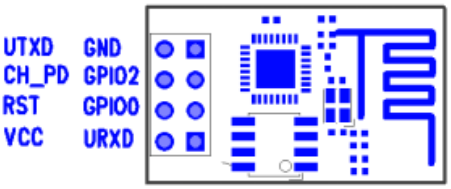
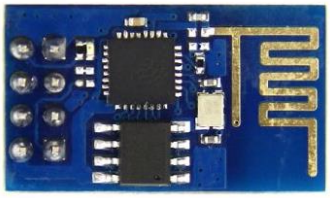
ESP-01 Module





- $US 2..3 on Ebay
- 3.3V - an inconvenience when working with boards like Arduino (5V)
- 115200 baudrate - but can be changed (to be able to use with "software" serial on Arduinos)
- AT commands set
- Firmware can be updated - somewhat painful

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ESP8266 AT Commands

- AT+RST
- AT+CWMODE=1
- AT+CWJAP=ssid,password
- AT+CIPMUX=1
- AT+CIPSERVER=1,8888
- AT+CIPSEND=0,13
- ...

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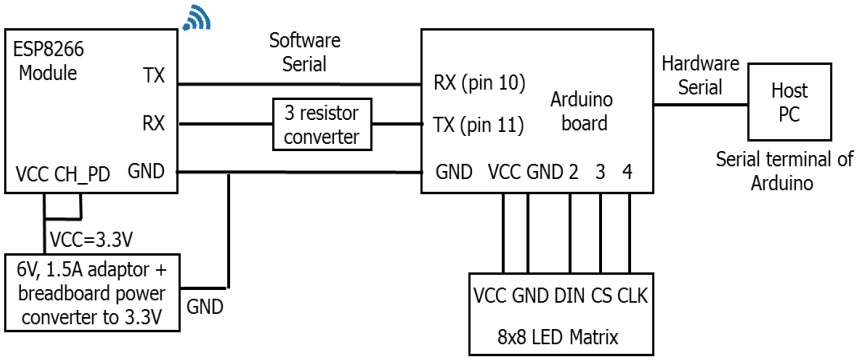
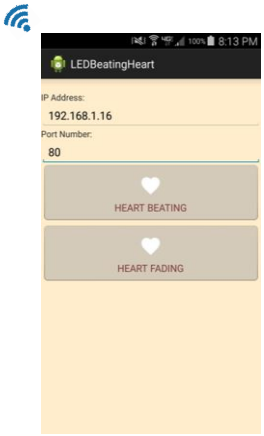
Example: ESP8266 Arduino + 8x8 LED matrix control from Android app





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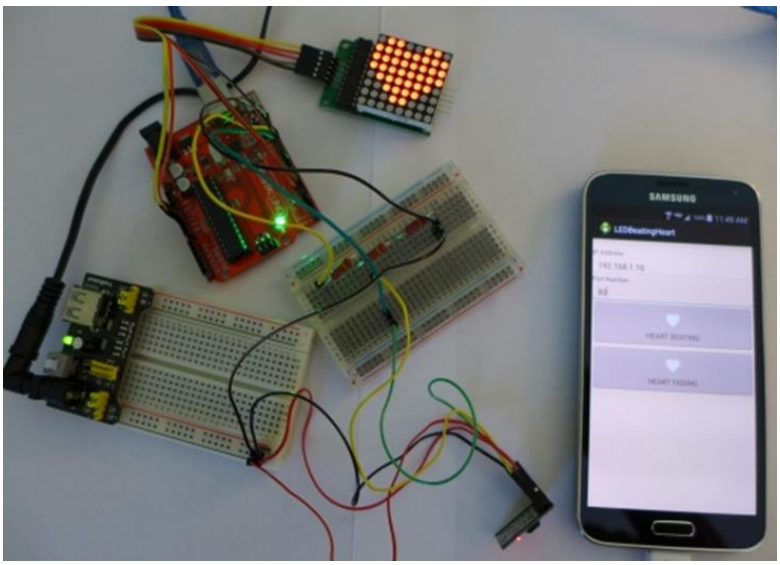
(Not so neat) Experimental Set-up



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Credits, References

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Potential Wi-Fi Scenarios

Technology	Wi-Fi	WiMAX	UWB	Bluetooth	3GPP/2	RFID	Zigbee
LAN for Enterprise	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
LAN for Home	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
Home multiple A/V distribution	✓	-	✓	(audio streaming)	-	-	-
Backhauling and last mile	Proprietary sol'n	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Wide Area Mobility	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-
Cable/device Replacement	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	-
Mesh Networking	Enterp/ Home/N	Neighbor-hood Mesh	Home Mesh	-	-	-	-
Sensor Networking	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓
Inventory Control	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-
Auto PC	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓

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