

White Paper: 802.11n in Infrastructure Improves Connectivity

Benefit extends to pre-N mobile devices

Akron, Ohio, December 9, 2009 – The same 802.11n enhancements that boost throughput also improve connectivity, according to a new white paper from Summit Data Communications. When an organization deploys 802.11n in its Wi-Fi® infrastructure, connectivity improves for all Wi-Fi client devices, including those that lack support for 802.11n.

“802.11n incorporates many exciting enhancements to wireless LAN technology,” said Ron Seide, Summit’s president and the paper’s primary author. “To take advantage of enhancements that boost throughput, you need 802.11n on both the client side and the infrastructure side. To get the connectivity benefits, however, you just need 802.11n in your infrastructure. There’s no need to upgrade or replace mobile devices.”

Even before the IEEE 802.11n standard was ratified earlier this year, products that support 802.11n were flying off the shelves. 802.11n unifies the preceding Wi-Fi standards of 802.11b, 802.11g, and 802.11a and significantly enhances throughput, range, predictability of coverage, and quality of service.

Business-critical mobile devices such as mobile computers and medical devices don’t need a throughput boost but do need wireless network connections that are reliable, even when device users are on the move in environments that present connectivity challenges. The white paper explains how putting 802.11n in your infrastructure makes network connections more reliable for all devices, including pre-N devices.

802.11n support already has become a standard feature of some client devices, such as laptop computers. Many business environments include or soon will include a mixture of N and pre-N devices. An 802.11n infrastructure can accommodate a heterogeneous mix of client devices, but pre-N clients will limit the throughput of N clients.

“Business-critical mobile devices often are used for five or even 10 years, so they are not replaced often,” says Seide. “Organizations should discuss 802.11n with their mobile device vendors and plan their inevitable migrations to 802.11n.”

The Summit white paper, “The Value of 802.11n for Mobile Devices”, is available free of charge from the Summit Web site, www.summitdatacom.com.

About Summit

Summit Data Communications, Inc. is the *mobile* in today’s mobile computers and other business-critical mobile devices. Summit’s embedded Wi-Fi solutions provide secure, reliable connections in the challenging environments in which business-critical mobile devices operate, including factories, warehouses, ports, hospitals, and retail stores.

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