

**GUIDELINE FOR WIRELESS NETWORK ANALYSIS**

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**UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA**

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**GUIDELINE FOR WIRELESS NETWORK ANALYSIS**

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fulfillment of the requirement for the degree  
Master of Science (Information Technology)  
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**By**

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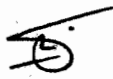
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## **Guideline for Wireless Network Analysis**

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### **Abstract**

Though greatly in use, today's Wireless Local Area Networks (WLANs) are far from optimised. The limitation for Access Point (AP) operators to manage and optimise WLAN performance is that current 802.11 standards do not allow AP and clients to share channel information, environmental data, and performance statistics. In order to assist the AP operators to evaluate their network performance and delivered quality, this thesis has proposed an estimate system utilising AP measurements. The estimate system accurately models the MAC-Layer behaviour of an 802.11b network and efficiently calculates the WLAN performance taking into account transmission errors and active rates. Furthermore, the work performed has studied methods on how to improve the estimate system with client information, which may become available to the AP in the near future, due to the release of the 802.11k standard. This thesis also explored the dependence of the WLAN performance on various network parameters such as bit error rate and network size, and provides suggestions for WLAN planning base on this dependence.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>CERTIFICATE OF PROJECT PAPER.....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>PERMISSION TO USE.....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>ABSTRAK.....</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>ABSTRACT .....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>DEDICATION.....</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS.....</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES.....</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES .....</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1</b>	
1 Introduction .....	1
1.2 Problem Statement .....	2
1.3 Contribution .....	3
1.4 Organization .....	4
<b>CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	
2 Background .....	5
2.1 The IEEE 802.11 Standard .....	5
2.2 Layers .....	5
2.3 Architecture .....	6
2.4 IEEE 802.11b MAC .....	7

2.5 CSMA/CA – Backoff Procedure .....	9
2.6 Bit-rate Selection Mechanism .....	11
2.7 Frequency Band .....	11
2.8 Modulation schemes .....	12
2.9 PHY Layer Packet Format .....	13
2.10 Multi-user Problem .....	13
2.10.1 Collisions and Backoffs .....	14
2.10.2 Hidden Nodes .....	15
2.11 Network Performance Statistics. ....	15
2.11.1 Throughput.....	16
2.11.2 Data Rate.....	16
2.11.3 Signal to Noise Ratio.....	17
2.11.4 Active Rate . ....	17
2.11.5 Error rate.....	17
2.11.6 Effective Bandwidth and Channel Utilisation .....	18
2.12 Literature Review .....	18

### **CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND RESULT**

3.1 Overall approach .....	20
3.2. Performance metrics .....	20
3.2.1. AP’s active Rate .....	21
3.2.2 Effective Bandwidth .....	21
3.2.3 Channel Utilisation .....	21

3.3 Delivered Quality .....	22
3.3.1 SNR .....	22
3.3.2 Delay .....	22
3.3.3 Effective Throughput .....	22
3.3.4 Error rate .....	22
3.3.5 Drop probability .....	23
3.4 Measurement item on AP.....	23
3.4.1 AP's Transmit Power (PoIr) .....	23
3.4.2 Downlink data rate .....	23
3.4.3 The Packet Statistics .....	24
3.5 Estimation Models .....	25
3.5.1 Uplink Data Rate Estimation.....	25
3.5.2 Estimation of SNR and Link Error Rate .....	25
3.5.3 Performance Analysis of IEEE 802.11b MAC .....	27
3.5.3.1 Performance Evaluation .....	30
3.5.3.2 Effects of Interference and Hidden Nodes .....	32
3.6 Measurement .....	32
3.6.1 Azimuth Test Platform .....	32
3.6.2 Test bed .....	34
3.6.2.1 Configuration of wireless system .....	34
3.6.2.2 Test Scenarios .....	35

## **CHAPTER 4: RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS**

4.1 Measurement Results of Azimuth .....	36
4.2 Dependence of WLAN performance on network parameters .....	42

## **CHAPTER 5: INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE ESTIMATION MODEL**

5.1 Procedures .....	50
5.2 Measurement Methodology on AP .....	51
5.3 Utilization of Client Information .....	53
5.4 Aspects of system planning .....	56

## **CHAPTER 6: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

6.1 Conclusions .....	57
6.2 Future Work .....	59

<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	<b>60</b>
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## LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1 DSSS PHY Frequency Channel Plan .....	12
Table 3.1 Configuration parameters for 802.11b .....	34

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1 Wireless Local Area Network .....	2
Figure 2.1 802.11 and OSI layers .....	6
Figure 2.2 Ad Hoc Mode .....	7
Figure 2.3 Infrastructure Mode .....	8
Figure 2.4 Basic access in MAC protocol .....	8
Figure 2.5 Backoff Procedure in 802.11 DCF (with SIFS and ACK omitted) .....	10
Figure 2.6 Example of exponential increase of CW .....	10
Figure 2.7 DSSS PHY Modulation Schemes .....	12
Figure 2.8 Long PLCP PPDU Format .....	13
Figure 2.9 Hidden node Problem .....	14
Figure 3.1 Overall Approach .....	21
Figure 3.2 Example of relationship between Data Rate and Received Signal Strength .....	27
Figure 3.3 IEEE 802.11 BER versus SNR .....	29
Figure 3.4 Estimation of Hidden Node and Interfering AP Effects .....	31
Figure 4.1 Throughput versus AP RSSI (STM -STM) .....	38
Figure 4.2 Total Throughput versus AP RSSI (STM -STM) .....	39
Figure 4.3 Total Throughput versus Pact (STM -STM) .....	40

Figure 4.4 Total Throughput versus AP RSSI (TMM -STM) .....	44
Figure 4.5 Total Throughput versus Active Rate (TMM -STM) .....	42
Figure 4.6 Throughput Efficiency versus Number of Clients .....	43
Figure 4.7 Throughput versus BER .....	44
Figure 4.8 Throughput versus Minimum Contention Window Size .....	46
Figure 4.9 Throughput versus Retry Limit .....	47
Figure 4.10 Throughput versus AP active rate .....	48
Figure 4.11 Throughput versus Packet Length .....	49
Figure 5.1 Estimation Procedures .....	51
Figure 5.2 Utilization of Client Rx SS .....	52
Figure 5.3 Long PLCP SIGNAL field .....	53
Figure 5.4 Utilization of traffic type .....	55
Figure 5.5 Utilization of Active Rates .....	55
Figure 6.1 Thesis Contributions .....	58

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. Introduction

The networking technology known as Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) has experienced a tremendous growth over the last 10 years. WLAN technology enables the connection of network devices over an air-based interface with the use of radio frequency communications. The standardisation efforts by the IEEE under the IEEE 802.11 family name and the interpretability efforts by the Wi-Fi Alliance have helped the widespread adoption of WLANs by businesses, Small Office Home Offices (SOHOs), and the general public. The ease of deployment of WLANs in extending the existing wired networks or to build new networks from the ground-up, coupled with advances in the Internet technologies, have made it the logical choice for public hotspots, conference centres, and home networking.

The deployment of WLAN-based infrastructures in multiple environments poses challenges to IT architects that are significantly different from those found in similar systems deployed at the enterprise level or in commercial settings (i.e., Hotspots). For example, services offered through a HotSpot are normally subject to a fee whereas in a campus setting these services are free of charge. Also, a variety of users with different needs (e.g., students, departments, administrators, etc.) have to be considered in the design, resulting in different applications and security requirements per user category.

The users will get more consistent network access, fewer disruptions to applications, and faster service, when AP operators are provided the information about the network and clients. Currently, however, the IEEE 802.11b standard does not allow AP and clients to share channel information, environmental data, and performance statistics, which limits the administrators' ability to dynamically optimise the AP's configurations. Thus, finding out the ability of the AP to assess system performance and the delivered service quality, as well as the ability to indicate traffic load would

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