



Broadband Wireless Exchange Magazine

June 18, 2007

MobileAccess Offers Fiber/Wi-Fi Solution to Deliver In-Building Broadband Wireless Networks

By Robert Hoskins

MobileAccess announced a suite of feature enhancements to its Universal Wireless Network solution that simplifies and accelerates an enterprise's migration to a multi-service, in-building wireless network. Building on IT/WLAN expertise, these advancements give enterprises a natural path to a comprehensive multi-service wireless solution. The core elements of this release include an expanded WLAN solution, new multi-mode fiber support, and a number of new management capabilities.

"MobileAccess constantly strives to make it easy and cost-effective for enterprises to deploy a single, flexible, broadband infrastructure capable of supporting an entire portfolio of wireless services and applications," said Cathy Zatloukal, CEO of MobileAccess. "These enhancements to our Universal Wireless Network enable enterprises to 'springboard' from their existing or planned WLAN investments to a universal solution that overcomes in-building coverage barriers and ensures pervasive coverage and reliable performance for WLAN, cellular and public safety, among others."

MobileAccess has expanded its award-winning Universal Wireless Network solution, making it even easier for enterprises to deliver their WLAN services over a multi-service wireless infrastructure. Maintaining the core benefits already realized by hundreds of WLAN customers, the new MA-860 WLAN solution perfectly replicates the 802.11 a/b/g coverage of Access Points installed on the ceiling and does so with the advantages of installation in secure, easily accessible wiring closets.

Coupled with MobileAccess' new multi-band antennas, this innovative solution includes a self-configuration feature that compensates for any signal loss that occurs on the cables between the Access Points and antennas, ensuring that WLAN signals are always delivered at the power levels expected by the Access Points, independent of antenna location.

This new WLAN approach makes it much easier for enterprises to embrace a universal wireless solution. IT managers can leverage their internal expertise and knowledge base to deploy the same WLAN designs they would obtain from vendors such as Cisco - wherever they would have placed an Access Point, they can now locate a MobileAccess multi-band antenna. This approach effectively creates a 'grid' of multi-service capable antennas, each of which can deliver WLAN services along with any combination of other wireless services. Once designed for WLAN services, new services can be added at any time without additional design work and without

having to retouch the multi-service capable grid. The new MobileAccess WLAN solution enables enterprises to seamlessly translate their WLAN investments and expertise into a pervasive, multi-service solution.

IT managers now have the option to select either single-mode (SMF) or multi-mode fiber (MMF) for installation of the MobileAccess Universal Wireless Network solution. While SMF is typically available in most large buildings, this expanded installation option for using MMF further simplifies the installation of MobileAccess in-building wireless solutions. Most buildings have spare single-mode and multi-mode capacity available, enabling a cost-effective installation. In some instances, spare SMF is not available; adding more fiber can unnecessarily add cost to the project if MMF is going unused in the building. By adding support for MMF to its Universal Wireless Network, MobileAccess now enables enterprises to leverage their existing MMF to reduce their initial installation costs, accelerate a project, and minimize disruption.

With this new set of features, MobileAccess is boosting the flexibility of the Universal Wireless Network while eliminating the barriers of design complexity. Using standard WLAN design techniques, enterprises can now design multi-service wireless solutions on their own, without special software or expertise.

The underlying MobileAccess technology addresses all of the RF management issues behind the scenes, providing the intelligent signal handling and interference mitigation needed for a reliable, high-performing multi-service solution. Enterprises have the flexibility to add new wireless services to the system at any time without worrying about disruptions or performance degradations. In addition, they can implement these solutions using the familiar construct of a structured cabling system with the option to use single-mode or multi-mode fiber as available. Once installed, MobileAccess simplifies the ongoing operation of the Universal Wireless Network solution with an enhanced set of software tools that deliver an intuitive, LAN-like management experience.