



NETWORKWORLD

June 25, 2007

MobileAccess wireless-distribution system upgraded for simpler WLAN deployment

By [John Cox](#)

[MobileAccess](#) is modifying its in-building [wireless](#)-distribution system to simplify deployments for [wireless LANs](#).

Like the previous model, the new MA-860 Wireless LAN Module will be a box into which you plug WLAN access points. The 860 can combine these signals with signals from cellular base stations and wireless sensor nets, for example, and over coaxial cable to and from ceiling-mounted MobileAccess antennas. These multiband antennas act as a kind of radiant grid throughout the building, a single infrastructure that can support different types of wireless signals.

The new MA-860, typically mounted in the distribution switching closets, has new signal-conditioning code that compensates for the WLAN radio energy that “leaks” from the coaxial cable. What this means in practice is that IT staff can position the MobileAccess antennas as if they were WLAN access points. No additional measurements, testing or experimentation is needed, according to Cathy Zatloukal, CEO for the Vienna, Va., company.

Also new is a port that supports for the first time multimode fiber, which now can be used where available instead of single-mode fiber to connect the MA-860 back to the central MobileAccess head-end unit.

A complete [MobileAccess deployment](#) consists of the head-end components, which link with cellular base-stations or repeaters and put those signals onto the fiber backbone; the remote hub units, which can include the MA-860 and other boxes for various wireless voice and data services that are; and the multiband antennas.

The MA-860 is in beta tests with [Cisco](#) and is scheduled to ship in the fourth quarter. Pricing has not been completed.