

Wireless networks

[Technology](#), [Development](#)



802.11 Wireless

Networks

IEEE 802.11 is a set of media access control (MAC) and physical layer (PHY) specifications for implementing wireless local area network (WLAN) computer communication in the 900 MHz and 2.

4, 3, 6, 5, and 60 GHz frequency bands. They are created and maintained by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) LAN/MAN Standards Committee (IEEE 802).

The base version of the standard was released in 1997. The standard and amendments provide the basis for wireless network products using the Wi-Fi brand. They called it 802.11 after the name of the group formed to oversee its development. 802.11 only supported a maximum network bandwidth of 2 Mbps - too slow for most applications. For this reason, ordinary 802.11 wireless products are no longer manufactured.

Description: The 802.11 family consists of a series of half-duplex over-the-air modulation techniques that use the same basic protocol. 802.11 was the first wireless networking standard in the family, but 802.11b was the first widely accepted one, followed by 802.11e, 802.11g, 802.11n, and 802.

11ac. Other standards in the family (c-f, h, j) are service amendments that are used to extend the current scope of the existing standard, which may also include corrections to the previous specification. 802.11b and 802.11g use the 2.4 GHz ISM band. The segment of the radio frequency spectrum used by 802.

11 veries between countries. In the US, 802.11e and 802.11g devices may be operated without a license. History: 802.11 technology has its origins in a 1985 ruling by the U. S. Federal Communications Commission that released the ISM band for unlicensed use.

In 1991 NCR Corporation/ET&T (now Nokia Labs and LSI Corporation) invented the precursor to 802.11 in (Nieuwegein), the Netherlands. The inventors initially intended to use the technology for cashier systems. The first wireless products were brought to the market under the name (Weve-LEN) with data rates of 1 Mbit/s and 2 Mbit/s. In 1999, the Wi-Fi Alliance was formed as a trade association to hold the Wi-Fi trademark under which most products are sold. Vic Hayes, who held the chair of IEEE 802.11 for 10 years, and has been called the "father of Wi-Fi", was involved in designing the initial 802.11b and 802.

11 standards within the IEEE. 802.11e (OFDM waveform): 2 Originally described in clause 17 of the 1999 specification, the OFDM waveform at 5.8 GHz is now defined in clause 18 of the 2012 specification, and provides protocols that allow transmission and reception of data at rates of 1.5 to 54 Mbit/s. It has seen widespread worldwide implementation, particularly within the corporate workplace. While the original amendment is no longer valid, the term 802.

11e is still used by wireless equipment (cards and routers) manufacturers to describe interoperability of their systems at 5 GHz, 54 Mbit/s. The 802.11 standard uses the same data link layer protocol and frame format as the original standard, but an OFDM based air interface (physical layer). It

operates in the 5 GHz band with a maximum net data rate of 54 Mbit/s, plus error correction code, which yields a realistic achievable throughput in the mid-20 Mbit/s. Since the 2.4 GHz band is heavily used to the point of being crowded, using the relatively unused 5 GHz band gives 802.11e a significant advantage.

However, this high carrier frequency also brings a disadvantage: the effective overall range of 802.11e is less than that of 802.11b/g. In theory, 802.11e signals are absorbed more readily by walls and other solid objects in their path due to their smaller wavelength, and, as a result, cannot penetrate as far as those of 802.

11b. In practice, 802.11b typically has a higher range at low speeds (802.

11b will reduce speed to 5.5 Mbit/s or even 1 Mbit/s at low signal strength). 802.11e also suffers from interference, but locally there may be fewer signals to interfere with, resulting in less interference and better throughput. pros of 802.

11e: Fewer maximum speed; regulated frequencies prevent signal interference from other devices. Cons of 802.

11e: Higher cost; shorter range signal that is more easily obstructed. 802.11b: The 802.11b standard has a maximum raw data rate of 11 Mbit/s, and uses the same media access method defined in the original standard.

802.11b products appeared on the market in early 2000, since 802.11b is a direct extension of the modulation technique defined in the original

standard. The dramatic increase in throughput of 802.11b (compared to the original standard) along with simultaneous substantial price reductions led to the rapid acceptance of 802.11b as the definitive wireless LAN technology.

Devices using 802.11b experience interference from other products operating in the 2.4 GHz band. Devices operating in the 2.4 GHz range include microwave ovens, Bluetooth devices, baby monitors, cordless telephones, and some amateur radio equipment.

pros of 802.11b: Lowest cost; signal range is good and not easily obstructed
 Cons of 802.11b: Lowest maximum speed; home appliances may interfere on the unregulated frequency band.

802.11g: 3 In June 2003, the third modulation standard was ratified 802.11g.

This works in the 2.4 GHz band (like 802.11b), but uses the same OFDM based transmission scheme as 802.11e.

It operates at the maximum physical layer bit rate of 54 Mbit/s exclusive of forward error correction codes, or about 22 Mbit/s average throughputs. 802.11g hardware is fully backward compatible with 802.

11b hardware, and therefore is encumbered with legacy issues that reduce throughput by ~21% when compared to 802.11e. The then-proposed 802.11g standard was rapidly adopted in the market starting in January 2003, well before ratification, due to the desire for higher data rates as well as to reductions in manufacturing costs.

By summer 2003, most dual-band 802.11e/b products became dual-band/tri-mode, supporting both b/g in a single mobile device card or external point. Details of making b and g work well together occupied much of the lingering technical process; in an 802.11g network, however, activity of an 802.11b participant will reduce the data rate of the overall 802.

11g network. pros of 802.11g: Fast maximum speed; signal range is good and not easily obstructed. Cons of 802.

11g: Coexists more than 802.

11b; efficiency may interfere on the unregulated signal frequency. 802.

11n: 802.11n is an amendment that improves upon the previous 802.11 standard by adding multiple-input multiple-output antennas (MIMO). 802.11n operates on both the 2.4 GHz and the 5 GHz bands.

Support for 5 GHz bands is optional. It operates at a maximum net data rate from 54 Mbit/s to 600 Mbit/s. The IEEE has approved the amendment, and it was published in October 2009. Prior to the final ratification, manufacturers were already migrating to 802.11n networks based on the Wi-Fi Alliance's certification of products conforming to a 2007 draft of the 802.11n protocol. pros of 802.11n: Fast maximum speed and best signal range; more resistant to signal interference from outside sources. Cons of 802.11n: Extended is not yet finalized; coexists more than 802.11g; the use of multiple signals may greatly interfere with nearby 802.11b/g based networks. References: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IEEE_802.11

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