

Hotspot Traffic Statistics and Throughput Models for Several Applications

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IEEE Globecom Telecommunications Conference (Globecom)

Dallas, TX

November 29 – December 3, 2004

Volume 5

Pages 3257-3263

Abstract:

Public wireless local-area networks (PWLANS) based on IEEE 802.11a/b/g standards are growing rapidly. Thus, it is critical to understand aggregated traffic statistics and network performance at and around PWLAN service areas. The paper presents measured PWLAN traffic statistics and application-level throughput at four hotspots that provide free Internet access. The four hotspots, located in Austin, Texas and owned by Schlotzsky's Inc., a national restaurant chain, used standard IEEE 802.11b equipment. This measurement campaign provided approximately 16 million PWLAN packets and several hundred throughput and SNR measurements. Throughput prediction models are developed based upon the measured data. These analysis results and throughput prediction models may facilitate the design and development of IEEE 802.11e/n standards and implementations. Moreover, the results provide insights into the required provisioning for PWLANs and autonomous control approaches for future broadband wireless access and real-time wireless voice/video services, especially when site-specific information is available.