



Intelibs, Inc

Mobile WiMAX Technical Overview

White Paper

Introduction

Mobile WiMAX is a broadband wireless solution that enables convergence of mobile and fixed broadband networks through a common wide area broadband radio access technology and flexible network architecture. The Mobile WiMAX Air Interface adopts Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiple Access (OFDMA) for improved multi-path performance in non-line-of-sight environments. Scalable OFDMA (SOFDMA) is introduced in the IEEE 802.16e Amendment to support scalable channel bandwidths from 1.25 to 20 MHz. The Mobile Technical Group (MTG) in the WiMAX Forum is developing the Mobile WiMAX system profiles that will define the mandatory and optional features of the IEEE standard that are necessary to build a Mobile WiMAX compliant air interface that can be certified by the WiMAX Forum. The Mobile WiMAX System Profile enables mobile systems to be configured based on a common base feature set thus ensuring baseline functionality for terminals and base stations that are fully interoperable. Some elements of the base station profiles are specified as optional to provide additional flexibility for deployment based on specific deployment scenarios that may require different configurations that are either capacity-optimized or coverage optimized. Release-1 Mobile WiMAX profiles will cover 5, 7, 8.75, and 10 MHz channel bandwidths for licensed worldwide spectrum allocations in the 2.3 GHz, 2.5 GHz, 3.3 GHz and 3.5 GHz frequency bands.

Mobile WiMAX systems offer scalability in both radio access technology and network architecture, thus providing a great deal of flexibility in network deployment options and service offerings. Some of the salient features supported by Mobile WiMAX are:

High Data Rates:

The inclusion of MIMO antenna techniques along with flexible sub-channelization schemes, Advanced Coding and Modulation all enable the Mobile WiMAX technology to support peak DL data rates up to 63 Mbps per sector and peak UL data rates up to 28 Mbps per sector in a 10 MHz channel.

Quality of Service (QoS):

The fundamental premise of the IEEE 802.16 MAC architecture is QoS. It defines Service Flows which can map to DiffServ code points or MPLS flow labels that enable end-to-end IP based QoS. Additionally, sub-channelization and MAP-based signaling schemes provide a flexible mechanism for optimal scheduling of space, frequency and time resources over the air interface on a frame-by-frame basis.

Scalability:

Despite an increasingly globalized economy, spectrum resources for wireless broadband worldwide are still quite disparate in its allocations. Mobile WiMAX technology therefore, is designed to be able to scale to work in different channelizations from 1.25 to 20 MHz to comply with varied worldwide requirements as efforts proceed to achieve spectrum harmonization in the longer term. This also allows diverse economies to realize the multi-faceted benefits of the Mobile WiMAX technology for their specific geographic needs such as providing affordable internet access in rural settings versus enhancing the capacity of mobile broadband access in metro and suburban areas.

Security:

The features provided for Mobile WiMAX security aspects are best in class with EAP-based authentication, AES-CCM-based authenticated encryption, and CMAC and HMAC based control message protection schemes. Support for a diverse set of user credentials exists including; SIM/USIM cards, Smart Cards, Digital Certificates, and Username/Password schemes based on the relevant EAP

methods for the credential type.

Mobility:

Mobile WiMAX supports optimized handover schemes with latencies less than 50 milliseconds to ensure real-time applications such as VoIP perform without service degradation. Flexible key management schemes assure that security is maintained during handover.

Physical layer description

OFDM:

OFDM exploits the frequency diversity of the multipath channel by coding and interleaving the information across the sub-carriers prior to transmissions. OFDM modulation can be realized with efficient Inverse Fast Fourier Transform (IFFT), which enables a large number of sub-carriers (up to 2048) with low complexity. In an OFDM system, resources are available in the time domain by means of OFDM symbols and in the frequency domain by means of sub-carriers. The time and frequency resources can be organized into sub-channels for allocation to individual users. Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiple Access (OFDMA) is a multiple-access/multiplexing scheme that provides multiplexing operation of data streams from multiple users onto the downlink sub-channels and uplink multiple access by means of uplink sub-channels. Fig. 1 shows a sample OFDM sub-carrier structure in frequency domain.

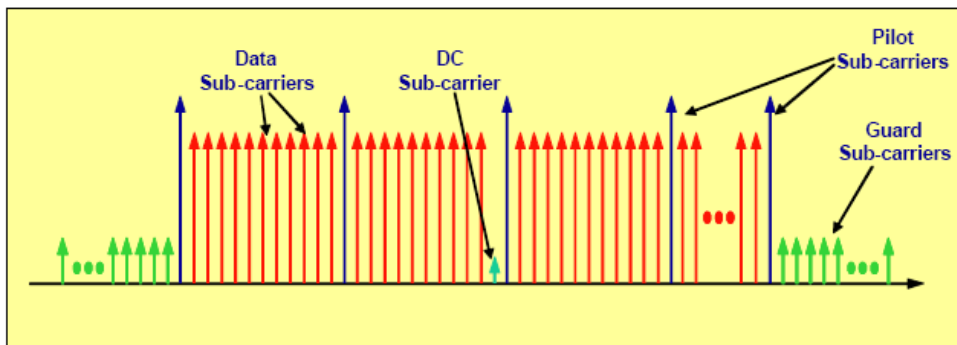


Fig. 1: OFDM Sub-carrier Structure

Other physical layer feature:

Mobile WiMAX employs adaptive modulation and coding (AMC) and hybrid automatic repeat request (H-ARQ) to enhance capacity and cell coverage for mobile applications. It also employs advance channel coding techniques such as convolutional turbo codes (CTC) and low density parity check codes (LDPC). In AMC, it supports up to 64 QAM with the code rate of 5/6. Table 1 shows the available modulations and code rates for Mobile WiMAX.

		DL	UL
Modulation		QPSK, 16QAM, 64QAM	QPSK, 16QAM, 64QAM
Code Rate	CC	1/2, 2/3, 3/4, 5/6	1/2, 2/3, 5/6
	CTC	1/2, 2/3, 3/4, 5/6	1/2, 2/3, 5/6
	Repetition	x2, x4, x6	x2, x4, x6

Table 1: Supported codes and modulations

MAC layer description

QoS support:

In the Mobile WiMAX MAC layer, QoS is provided via service flows as illustrated in Figure 2. This is a unidirectional flow of packets that is provided with a particular set of QoS parameters. Before providing a certain type of data service, the base station and user-terminal first establish a unidirectional logical link between the peer MACs called a connection. The outbound MAC then associates packets traversing the MAC interface into a service flow to be delivered over the connection. The QoS parameters associated with the service flow define the transmission ordering and scheduling on the air interface. The connection-oriented QoS therefore, can provide accurate control over the air interface. Since the air interface is usually the bottleneck, the connection-oriented QoS can effectively enable the end-to-end QoS control. The service flow parameters can be dynamically managed through MAC messages to accommodate the dynamic service demand. The service flow based QoS mechanism applies to both DL and UL to provide improved QoS in both directions. Mobile WiMAX supports a wide range of data services and applications with varied QoS requirements. These are summarized in Table 2.

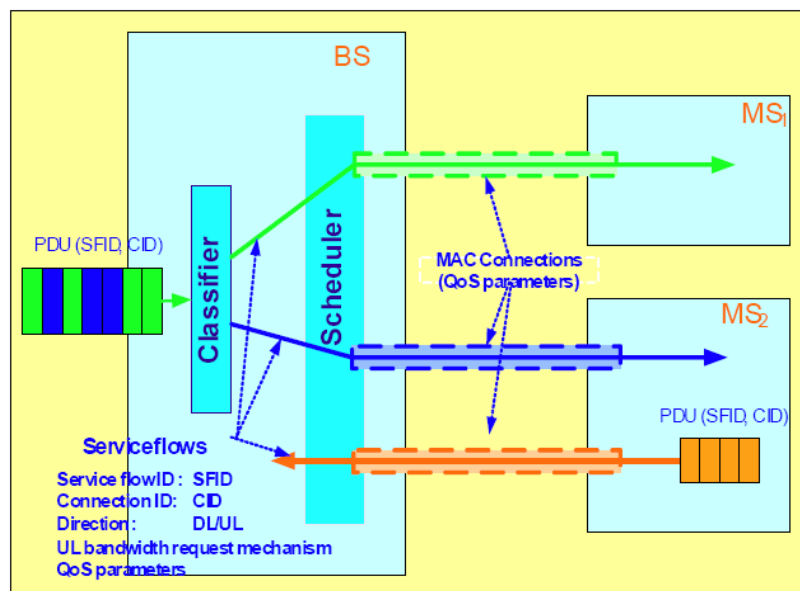


Fig. 2: Mobile WiMAX QoS support

QoS Category	Applications	QoS Specifications
UGS Unsolicited Grant Service	VoIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum Sustained Rate • Maximum Latency Tolerance • Jitter Tolerance
rtPS Real-Time Polling Service	Streaming Audio or Video	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Reserved Rate • Maximum Sustained Rate • Maximum Latency Tolerance • Traffic Priority
ErtPS Extended Real-Time Polling Service	Voice with Activity Detection (VoIP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Reserved Rate • Maximum Sustained Rate • Maximum Latency Tolerance • Jitter Tolerance • Traffic Priority
nrtPS Non-Real-Time Polling Service	File Transfer Protocol (FTP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Reserved Rate • Maximum Sustained Rate • Traffic Priority
BE Best-Effort Service	Data Transfer, Web Browsing, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum Sustained Rate • Traffic Priority

Table 2: Mobile WiMAX applications and quality of service

Advanced features of Mobile WiMAX

Smart antenna technologies typically involve complex vector or matrix operations on signals due to multiple antennas. OFDMA allows smart antenna operations to be performed on vector-flat sub-carriers. Complex equalizers are not required to compensate for frequency selective fading. OFDMA therefore, is very well-suited to support smart antenna technologies. In fact, MIMO-OFDM/OFDMA is envisioned as the corner-stone for next generation broadband communication systems. Mobile WiMAX supports a full range of smart antenna technologies to enhance system performance. The smart antenna technologies supported include:

Beamforming: With beamforming, the system uses multiple-antennas to transmit weighted signals to improve coverage and capacity of the system and reduce outage probability.

Space-Time Code (STC): Transmit diversity such as Alamouti code is supported to provide spatial diversity and reduce fade margin.

Spatial Multiplexing (SM): Spatial multiplexing is supported to take advantage of higher peak rates and increased throughput. With spatial multiplexing, multiple streams are transmitted over multiple antennas. If the receiver also has multiple antennas, it can separate the different streams to achieve higher throughput compared to single antenna systems. With 2x2 MIMO, SM increases the peak data rate two-fold by transmitting two data streams. In UL, each user has only one transmit antenna, two users can transmit collaboratively in the same slot as if two streams are spatially multiplexed from two antennas of the same user. This is called UL collaborative SM.

Table 3 shows the peak data rates for various SIMO and MIMO configurations for 10 MHz bandwidth.

DL/UL Ratio			1:0	3:1	2:1	3:2	1:1	0:1
User Peak Rate (Mbps)	SIMO (1x2)	DL	31.68	23.04	20.16	18.72	15.84	0
		UL	0	4.03	5.04	6.05	7.06	14.11
	MIMO (2x2)	DL	63.36	46.08	40.32	37.44	31.68	0
		UL	0	4.03	5.04	6.05	7.06	14.11
Sector Peak Rate (Mbps)	SIMO (1x2)	DL	31.68	23.04	20.16	18.72	15.84	0
		UL	0	4.03	5.04	6.05	7.06	14.11
	MIMO (2x2)	DL	63.36	46.08	40.32	37.44	31.68	0
		UL	0	8.06	10.08	12.10	14.12	28.22

Table 3: Data rates for SIMO and MIMO configurations

End-to-end mobile WiMAX architecture

The Mobile WiMAX End-to-End Network Architecture is based on an All-IP platform, all packet technology with no legacy circuit telephony. It offers the advantage of reduced total cost of ownership during the lifecycle of a WiMAX network deployment. The use of All-IP means that a common network core can be used, without the need to maintain both packet and circuit core networks, with all the overhead that goes with it. A further benefit of All-IP is that it places the network on the performance growth curve of general purpose processors and computing devices, often termed “Moore’s Law”. Computer processing advances occur much faster than advances in telecommunications equipment because general purpose hardware is not limited to telecommunications equipment cycles, which tend to be long and cumbersome. The end result is a network that continually performs at ever higher capital and operational efficiency, and takes advantage of 3rd party developments from the Internet community. This results in lower cost, high scalability, and rapid deployment since the networking functionality is all primarily software-based services. Fig. 3 shows IP-based overall WiMAX architecture.

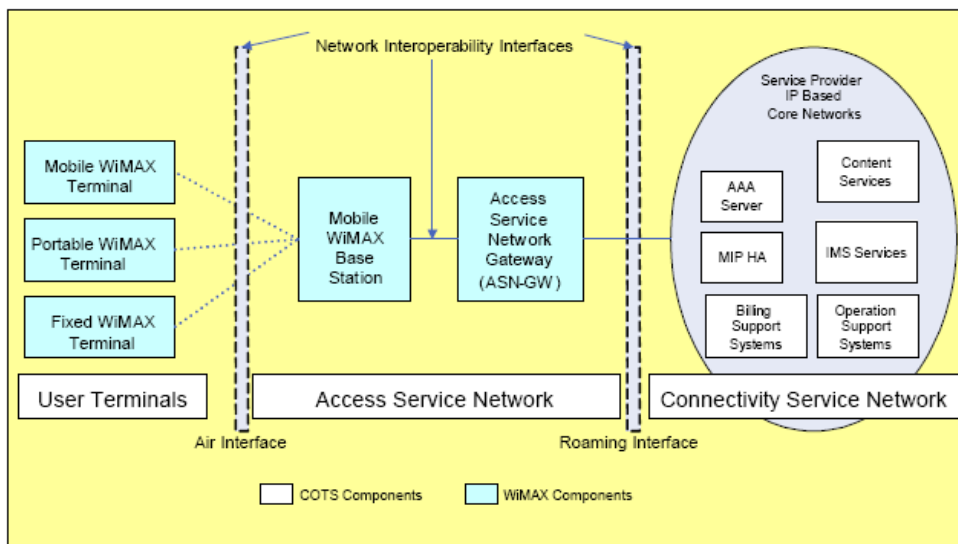


Fig. 3: IP-based WiMAX architecture