Star TECH
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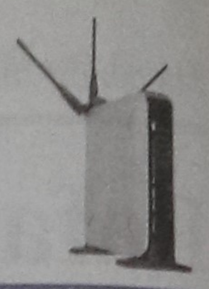
Wireless Access Point

In computer networking, a wireless access point (WAP or AP) is a device that allows wireless communication devices to connect to a wireless network using Wi-Fi, Bluetooth or related standards. Prior to wireless networks, setting up a computer network in a business, home, or school often required running many cables through walls and ceilings in order to deliver network access to all of the network-enabled devices in the building. With the advent of the Wireless Access Point, network users are now able to add devices that access the network with few or no new cables.



TECHVIEWS

Going wireless

SAMIUL ISLAM RIKTH

"What does this wire do?"
"Where does this wire go?"
"Which wire is this?"
A couple of years ago, all these questions made you go completely insane and nuts.

Starting from telephones right through to computers, its related accessories, and speakers and even the internet, everything were wired. Everything had numerous cables and wires attached and connected to them. I mean you would just sit for hours after hours and go through each and every cable and wire, all tangled and messed up; wondering about the wires related to your product.

And look at us now...

I am sitting here at Coffee World, accessing my e-mail, while treating myself to a nice, hot cappuccino.

It's unbelievable!

In recent years, technology has advanced so much that you don't need to connect several cables and wires to your computer. Nor do you need to sit at one place while speaking to someone on the telephone (since it's no longer fixed and hooked up with anything else with cables and wires). Even nowadays you do not need to struggle and worry about where you are going to hide the wires dangling down from your speakers.

The reason being...

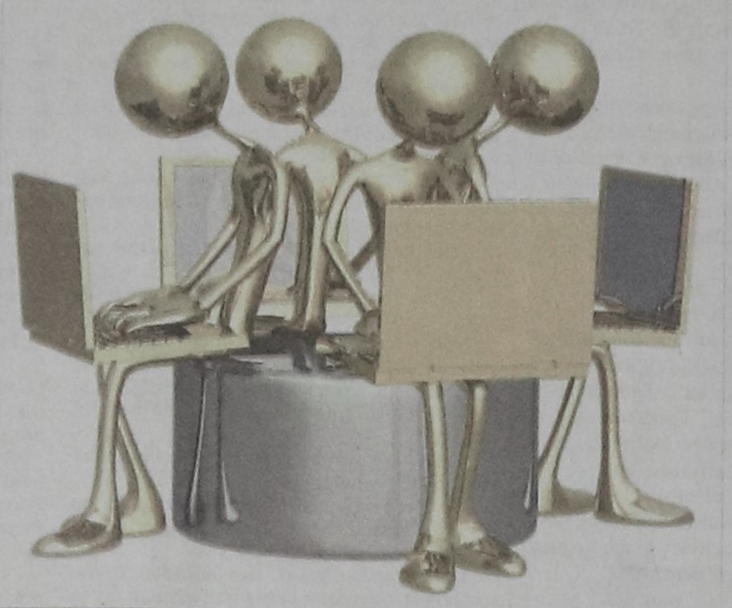
Everything, almost everything, has become completely wireless.

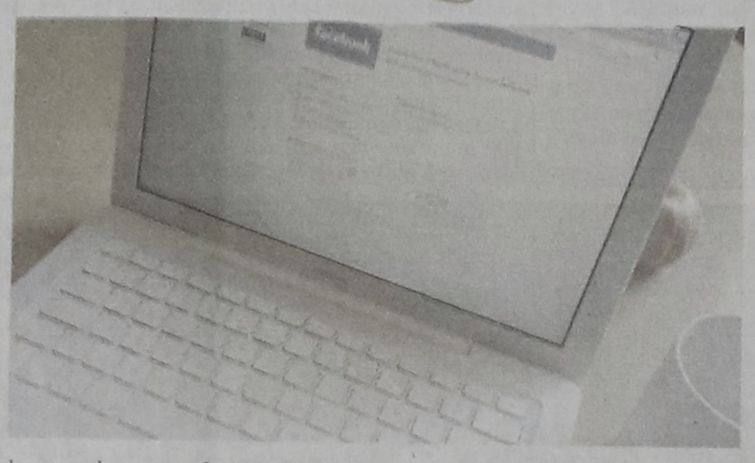
Enhancement in technology has progressed so much that wireless is taking over. Now we have different kinds of wireless computer accessories like a wireless mouse, wireless keyboard. Not only that, there are ever wireless speakers and headsets available, not to forget cordless phones!

Now, what is wireless?

This is the system of transferring information over a distance without the use of any kind of wires or cables. The information is transmitted via the use of some form of energy like radio frequency (RF), infrared light, laser light, visible light, acoustic energy and many more.

Ever since its discovery, going wireless has hit the tech market by storm. Reducing and minimising the usage of wires and cables probably became the motto of most of the tech providers.





Cordless telephones were one of the earliest wireless discoveries. Although the two words, cordless and wireless don't go hand in hand, cordless phones were regarded as wireless since it reduces the usage of wires, which are only used to accommodate the fixed telephone line. Following cordless phones, we were blessed with a much more modern, portable, and wireless device cellular phones also known as mobiles. Since then life could not have become so easy, fun and flexible all at the same time.

When computers first made its grand entry it was all wired. The monitor, mouse, and keyboard- the entire package was all wired. But now, a wireless computer can be set up. Apart from the power adaptor almost everything has gone wireless. I mean you have a wireless monitor, keyboard, mouse and what not.

Wireless speakers, printers, scanners have all stormed into the market and now when you buy a new computer; you don't have to stress on the fact that which wire goes where. All these wireless applications have made the maintenance of your computer extremely easy. No more hassle of having wires and cables dangling from here and there. Neither do you have the worry or stress of tangling them into a mess and then waste hours and hours unraveling them.

With wireless speakers, you don't have to worry about where you can set this speaker without the wire being visible. Wireless accessories like the mouse and keyboards give you the freedom of sitting anywhere within that certain range and using them, all relaxed and laid back.

Wireless, or Wi-Fi, is the fresh new technology that is creating the entire buzz lately in our country and is also another way of connecting your computer to the network using radio frequency and no network cables. Its purpose is to provide wireless access to digital content such as audio and visual media, internet connectivity, or other data.

Wi-Fi works similarly to cordless phones; they transmit data from one point to another through radio signals. But wireless technology also requires you remain within the wireless network range area to be able to connect your computer. There are three different types of Wi-Fi networks- Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN), Wireless Personal Area Network (WPAN) and Wireless Wide Area Networks (WWAN).

Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) is the wireless network that is widely recognised and it is the network system that uses radio waves. The backbone network usually uses cables, with one or more wireless access points connecting the users to the wired network. The range of a WLAN can be anywhere from a single room to an entire campus.

With its growing popularity, Wi-Fi is available in quite a few places within the metropolitan. A variety of new and old hang-out places are implementing the Wi-Fi technology to attract their customers so that they can make the most of everything. Places like Coffee World, PM Lounge, Cuppa Coffee Club and Coffi11 and almost all the reputed hotels have Wi-Fi services available making their customers' and visitors' time even more pleasant and enjoyable.

With the world demand for energy growing rapidly, new forms of energy that will be sustainable, economical, and that will not worsen environmental damage need to be discovered. That's one of the main reasons why energy transfer is the latest process that's going wireless, so that it could emerge as a potential alternative for us.

Wireless energy transfer or wireless power technology is the process that takes place in any system where electrical energy is transmitted from a power source to an electrical load, without interconnecting wires in an electrical grid.

Over the years, several wireless transmission techniques have been discovered and experimented ranging from induction to radio and microwaves to laser and many more to name.

In 2008, Intel repeated the experiment done by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2007 and powered a light bulb wirelessly with 75% efficiency at a shorter distance using a two 60cm-diameter coils.

Wireless power transmission will give you freedom from wires and at the same time ensures safe power transmission and most of the developed countries have started their research and work using its full potential.

It's amazing to see how almost everything is becoming wireless by 2008. It will not come as a surprise as to how mobile and wireless we become in the next couple of years. It is about time that cables and wires become extinct and we are freed from all the tangle and dangle. Going wireless is the way to go; It's the way

TECHNEWS

Adaptive lighting for grandpa!

MAHDIN MAHBOOB

TODAY, the major source of light in most of our apartments and offices, like it or not, constitutes of artificial lights and not natural lights! And it is no secret that artificial light affects us in subtle ways; at its best, ambient lighting can relax, soothe or excite, but used poorly it can drain us of energy and disrupt sleep. Ever thought about a lighting system that could adapt automatically to meet our individual needs?

According to a report published in ICT Results of the European Commission Website, a team of European researchers say the result would be an improvement in the general wellbeing of anybody who spends long periods in artificially lit buildings, particularly the elderly and the infirm, but also factory and office workers.

"Studies have shown that the quality and type of lighting can have a significant impact on our health and comfort," explains Edith Maier, a researcher at Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences (FHV) in Austria.

Maier coordinated the EU-funded *Aladin* project which brought together academic and industrial partners from Austria, Germany, Hungary, Italy and Romania to develop an innovative ambient lighting system that adapts intelligently to individual needs and wishes.

The system uses information from biosensors worn by the occupants of a room or building to determine what users are doing and then changes the lighting accordingly. The researchers' goal is to use the technology to improve the wellbeing of the elderly, people suffering from age-related illnesses and people with reduced mobility, many of whom spend a lot of time confined indoors.

"Poor lighting can accentuate existing vision problems and reading difficulties among the elderly, it can cause depression and disrupt sleep cycles," Maier says. "By automatically adapting the lighting in a room to what people are doing, many of these psychological and physiological problems can be reduced."

Most adaptive ambient lighting systems in use today do not take individual needs and activities into account. They rely instead on a preset-time cycle to brighten and dim during certain periods of the day. In contrast, the *Aladin* system uses data from sensors in a glove worn by users to measure their heart rate and skin conductance response the electrical resistance of the skin which goes up during periods of activity and down while at rest. Fed wirelessly into a control system, the bio-data lets the system know automatically when to switch between a brightly lit "active setting" and a more subdued relaxation mode.

More than a hundred people participated in a series of lab and field tests conducted in Austria, Italy and Germany. The trials showed that elderly people quickly learnt how to use the system and, over the course of three months, experienced improvements in their general wellbeing, including less trouble reading and less disturbed sleep patterns.

Source: ICT Results (European Commission Website)

TECHNEWS

New iPhone software has copy-paste, no Flash

AFP, *California*

APPLE on Tuesday unveiled next-generation iPhone software with copy-paste and multimedia messaging features but no sign of much-coveted Flash for digital video.

Apple gave analysts and reporters a demonstration of the coming iPhone 3.0 operating system during an invitation-only event at the firm's headquarters in Cupertino, California.

The software is available for outside developers interested in crafting mini-programs for popular iPhones and iPod Touch MP3 players but the operating system will not be publically released until mid-year.

"It's a significant update," said Gartner analyst Van Baker. "When it ships, cut, copy and paste as well as multimedia-media messages will resonate most with consumers."

IPhone 3.0 software will be a free upgrade for owners of the multi-function, Internet-linked mobile telephones. The new software will cost iPod Touch users about 10 dollars each.

The improvements in iPhone 3.0 addressed some of the complaints that iPhones lacked functions basic in competitors such as the Blackberry Storm, the Google Android G1, and the as-yet-unreleased Palm Pre.

Scott Forstall, Senior VP of iPhone Software, left, and Greg Joswiak, Apple vice president of iPod and iPhone Product Marketing, right, speak at an event announcing the new operating system for the iPhone on March 17.

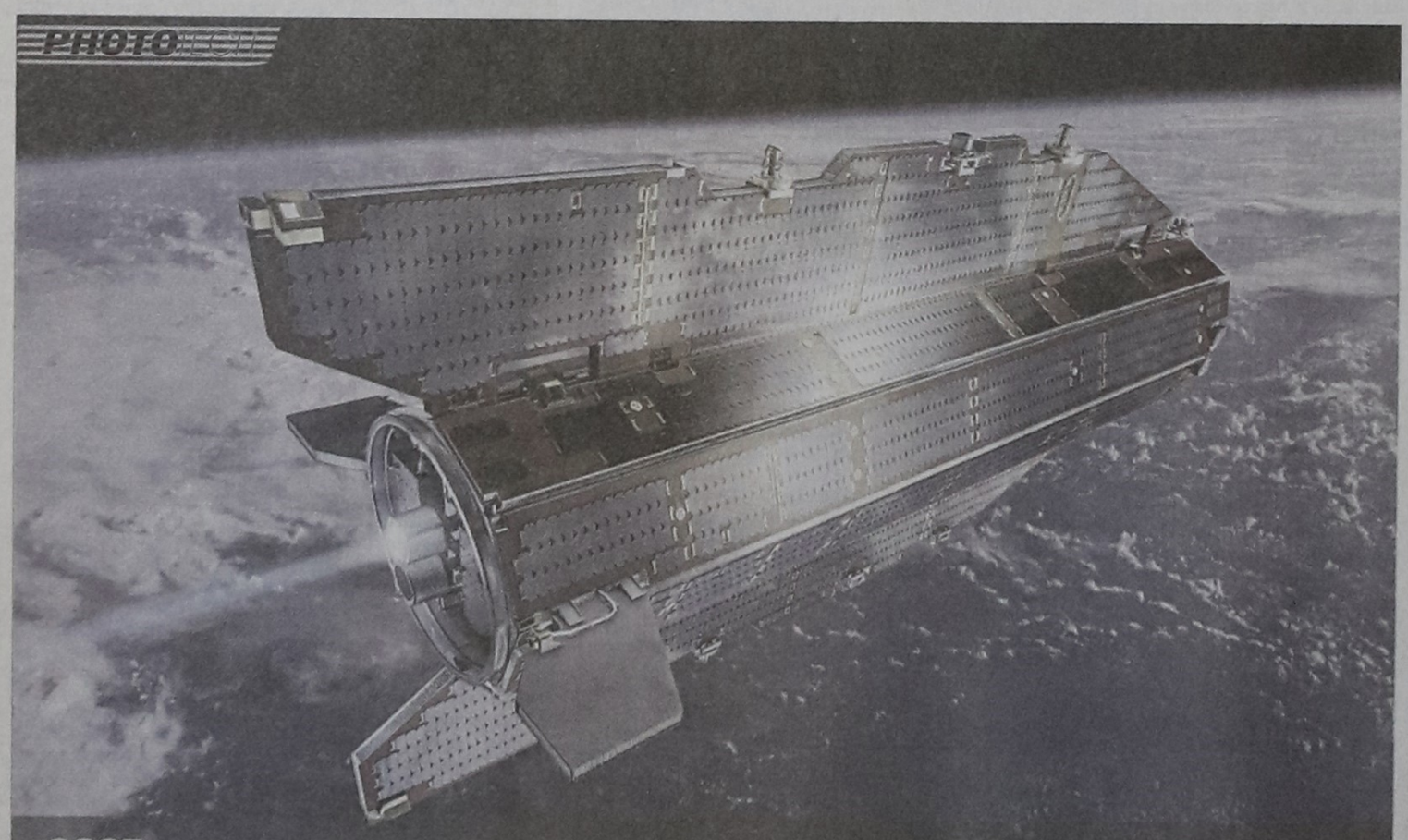
Upgrades did not include being able to record video with iPhones or play video made using Adobe's ubiquitous Flash software; an omission deeply irking many iPhone owners.

During a question-and-answer session, Apple executives responded with "No comment" to clamors for video recording and compatibility with Flash.

Apple has sold nearly 14 million iPhones in 80 countries since the devices hit the market in 2007.

More than 800 million programs for iPhones have been downloaded from its online App Store, according to Apple.

PHOTO



GOCE

Undated artists impression of the Gravity field and steady-state Ocean Circulation Explorer (GOCE) satellite which is planned to lift off from Plesetsk on March 16. GOCE is dedicated to measuring Earth's gravity field and modelling the geoid with unprecedented accuracy and spatial resolution. Data from this advanced gravity mission will improve our knowledge of ocean circulation, which plays a crucial role in energy exchanges around the globe, sea-level change and Earth-interior processes.

PHOTO: AFP

TECHNEWS

Online Valentine's contest held

STARTECH DESK

PRIZE Giving Ceremony of a mobile-based contest 'Valentine's Dhamaka 2009' was held at the Lakeshore Hotel in the capital on March 12. HottDhaka.com (owned by hottMedia Ltd) and Communication-2 (C2) organised the contest.

Over 7000 participants across the country participated in the contest, which lasted from 9 to 22 February.

'Valentine's Dhamaka 2009' had three 3 categories of contests 'Win a Dinner with a Celebrity', 'Mr. Romeo or Ms. Juliette' and 'Love Guru'.

Lucky winners of the 'Win a Dinner with a Celebrity' contest won dinner dates with celebrities like Arnob, Apurbo, Monalisa and Bindu.

The contestants had to send in the highest number of SMS's for their favourite celebrity to win the contest.

Farah Tahsin from Dhaka Cantonment, who won dinner with Arnob, sent 5,000 SMS's.

The second contest, 'Mr Romeo or Ms Juliette', was call-based, where the contest who dedicated the most songs on the newly launched song dedication platform by dialing 3355 won a trip to Cairo for two, courtesy of Qatar Airways.

Navidul Huq won the trip by dedicating 1,200 songs during the contest.

The last contest was the 'Love Guru,' an interactive quiz contest and Mohammad Abdul Wadud from Comilla, with his highest numbers (5,000) of correct answers, won Acer Laptop, courtesy of Executive Technologies, Ltd.

After the great response from their inaugural contest, hottDhaka.com and C2 are planning several new products and promotions for the country's youths.