Announcing an Internet Discussion Group on Wireless LANs

Bill Stevens
Apple Computer
20450 Stevens Creek Blvd MS 76-2H
Cupertino, CA 95014
(408) 974-6307

Several months ago, an e-mail based discussion group was created on the Internet (a collection of wide area networks, educational, government, and private-operated) to serve as a technical forum for the development of wireless LANs.

This document contains several e-mail messages and sample communications sessions which further explain this discussion group, how to join the group, and how to access the group's message archive, which is maintained by the group moderators at Tandem Computer.

When possible, please direct inquiries to Stuart Phillips or Kevin Rowett. They are the creators (and moderators) of this discussion group. Contact information for both may be found later in this document.

Section 1 - Announcement of Wireless Discussion Group

There is currently much discussion and publicity about Wireless LANs, their possible applications, choice of frequency, protocols, etc. The I.E.E.E 802 committee has established a sub-committee (802.11) to propose a standard for Wireless LANs.

Wireless LANs pose a unique challenge to the engineer since they represent a combination of technologies:

- RF design
- Propagation and wave physics
- Data communications
- Computer engineering
...

Few engineers or designers have all these skills in their portfolio; progress towards Wireless LANs therefore requires teamwork and an open mind to allow experts in different technologies to contribute and work towards a common goal.

We propose to establish a moderated mailing list to provide a technical forum for the development of Wireless LANs specifically aimed at data communications rather than voice. Our goal in moderating the mailing list is to avoid the degeneration of the list into a forum for answering users questions such as "Which Wireless LAN should I choose ?" or "I have this problem, please help !".

Our hope is that the mailing list will provide a forum for the engineering and design issues associated with all aspects of wireless LANs.

Assuming that the traffic on the mailing list got to a reasonable level we also propose to gateway the mailing list into a moderated USENET News group.

If you are interested in contributing towards the technical development of Wireless LANs and support this proposal for a forum, please e-mail to

        listserv@tandem.com

To subscribe to the mailing list, send a mail message to the above address with the following command in the body of the message at the beginning of the line.

        add jblow@sum.domain.org wireless

Help may be obtained from the list server by including the word HELP at the beginning of the line in an e-mail message.

Stuart Phillips
Kevin Rowett

Section 2 - A "Welcome"letter, plus more information

```
Welcome to the Wireless LAN mailing list !

We have 142 people signed up on the mailing list;
I'll append the current mailing list at the end of this message.

I was remiss in not including details on how to send messages to the
list in my news group postings.  Please send contributions to:

     wireless@tandem.com

Kevin Rowett or myself will then redistribute to the mailing list.

If for some reason you need to contact us by phone, our numbers are:

     Kevin Rowett       (408) 285-4325
     Stuart Phillips    (408) 285-4142

We hope to see some spirited and enlightening communications on the list !

Stuart

List members @ 17:55 6/1/91
```

Note: Membership list was omitted because it is out of date, and to avoid killing another dozen trees...

Section 3 - Sample of E-Mail from Joining Discussion Group

This is the message I sent to listserv@tandem.com to join the group:

```
From bsteven Sun Jun  9 22:18:48 1991
To: listserv@tandem.com
Subject: Add me to wireless list

add bsteven@apple.com wireless
```

This is the message I received in reply, confirming my membership:

```
From Postmaster@tandem.com Sun Jun  9 22:19:03 1991
Received: from suntan.Tandem.com by apple.com with SMTP (5.61/25-eef)
        id AA27562; Sun, 9 Jun 91 22:18:59 -0700
        for bsteven
Received:  by suntan.Tandem.COM (4.0/tdm-4.8)
        id AA00672; Sun, 9 Jun 91 22:18:55 PDT
Date: Sun, 9 Jun 91 22:18:55 PDT
Message-Id: <9106100518.AA00672@suntan.Tandem.COM>
From: postmaster@tandem.com (Mailing List Processor)
To: bsteven@apple.com
Subject: Re: your LISTSERVE request "add bsteven@apple.com wireless"
Status: RO

Per request by bsteven@apple.com
        "add bsteven@apple.com wireless"
'bsteven@apple.com' was ADDED to the 'wireless' mailing list.
```

Section 3 - Sample FTP Session for Retrieving Weekly Digests

Note: The text in boldface is what I entered as commands. Everything else is text from the apple.com host computer (a VAX running 4.3BSD Unix). Also, please note that even though anonymous login is used, it is a courtesy to use your email address as the password.

```
% ftp suntan.tandem.com
Connected to suntan.tandem.com.
220 tandem FTP server (SunOS 4.1) ready.
Name (suntan.tandem.com:bsteven): anonymous
331 Guest login ok, send ident as password.
Password:bsteven@apple.com
230 Guest login ok, access restrictions apply.
ftp> dir
200 PORT command successful.
150 ASCII data connection for /bin/ls (130.43.2.2,3835) (0 bytes).
total 5
dr-xr-xr-x  2 root      daemon          512 Jun  5  1989 bin
dr-xr-xr-x  2 root      daemon          512 Jul 14  1989 etc
drwxrwxrwx  2 ftp       10              512 May 28 23:49 hamradio
drwxrwxrwx  3 ftp       daemon          512 Jun 24 16:19 pub
drwxr--r--  2 ftp       daemon          512 Jul  7 20:38 wireless
226 ASCII Transfer complete.
314 bytes received in 0.66 seconds (0.47 Kbytes/s)
ftp> cd wireless
250 CWD command successful.
ftp> dir
200 PORT command successful.
150 ASCII data connection for /bin/ls (130.43.2.2,3837) (0 bytes).
total 167
-r--r--r--  1 ftp       daemon        38822 Jun  2 09:02 digest-060191
-r--r--r--  1 ftp       daemon        57104 Jun  9 12:48 digest-060891
-r--r--r--  1 ftp       daemon        12473 Jun 16 17:59 digest-061591
-r--r--r--  1 ftp       daemon        12079 Jun 23 14:21 digest-062291
-r--r--r--  1 ftp       daemon        31970 Jun 30 09:37 digest-062991
-r--r--r--  1 ftp       daemon         9923 Jul  7 20:38 digest-070691
-r--r--r--  1 ftp       daemon         3612 Jun  1 17:54 welcome
-r--r--r--  1 ftp       daemon         1977 Jun  1 17:58 wireless
226 ASCII Transfer complete.
552 bytes received in 1.6 seconds (0.34 Kbytes/s)
ftp> get digest-070691
200 PORT command successful.
150 ASCII data connection for digest-070691 (130.43.2.2,3848) (9923 bytes).
226 ASCII Transfer complete.
local: digest-070691 remote: digest-070691
10178 bytes received in 1.1 seconds (9.4 Kbytes/s)
ftp> close
221 Goodbye.
ftp> bye
%
```