

MIMO signal will beat wall barrier for WiFi, says Airgo

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WiFi is set to overcome its limitation of being barred by walls and achieve actual 200Mbit/s data transfer speeds, according to the leader in MIMO (multiple input multiple output technology), Airgo Networks.

"The MIMO signal is twice as loud as non-MIMO, so it will go through

walls twice as thick as non-MIMO," said Airgo's director of product marketing, Dave Borison, at the recent Globalpress Monterey Summit Conference.

One of the limiting factors for WiFi used in home networking has been the signal's inability to penetrate walls. This has been especially true in Europe, where walls are often concrete or brick and can be thick.

The problem is exacerbated when the transmitter and receiver are not opposite each other on either side of a wall, requiring the signal to pass through it diagonally.

WiFi is also looking for a significant speed boost. Whereas the current MIMO WiFi runs at a theoretical 240Mbit/s and achieves an actual 110-115Mbit/s, next-generation MIMO WiFi will have an actual throughput of around 200Mbit/s, claims Airgo. "Airgo has demo-ed 200Mbit/s for MIMO over WiFi," said Borison.

While MIMO silicon is on the market, it cannot be sold as 802.11n while the standard is not fixed. The first draft standard was agreed last week. "Our customers market their products not as 802.11n, but as compliant with 802.11a, b and g," said Borison. "They benefit from eliminating dead-spots in homes and offices, and by improved throughput."

Airgo has shipped over two million MIMO chipsets and is on a run-rate of 200,000 chipsets a month selling at an average of over \$10 each.

"We will be first to market with 802.11n products which are IEEE compliant, guaranteed to be interoperable with other 802.11n products," said Borison.