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Microsoft takes next step in white-space for wireless service

Develops a set of protocols for networks that will use this unlicensed spectrum

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Back in November 2008, the FCC approved the use of “white space”, the frequency range formerly used for UHF analog television, for wireless devices. (See [FCC okays white space spectrum for wireless service](#)) Microsoft Inc., along with researchers at Harvard University, has now created a set of protocols for networks that will use this unlicensed spectrum, reports [gigaom.com](#).

Regulations from the FCC to protect broadcasters from experiencing interference from these devices have been a major obstacle for Microsoft to tackle. Since wireless microphones are only active within this spectrum while being used, it is difficult to determine what channels are unused. In order to deal with this, Microsoft has developed an algorithm that detects available frequencies and switches to a backup channel if interference is detected. In tests, the device has detected interference from a wireless microphone and moved to another frequency within three seconds.

This new system is being called “White-Fi”. Though it does not have the bandwidth of WiMAX or LTE, it is comparable to Wi-Fi, but since it utilizes a higher frequency, its range is much greater. This has companies such as Google, Dell, Intel, and HP interested in reaching more rural areas with wireless internet.



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