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Suppliers' Information Note

For The BT Network

BT Wi-Fi Service Description

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Enquiries relating to this document should be directed to: sinet.helpdesk@bt.com

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1. Introduction

This Supplier's Information Note (SIN) describes the BT Wi-Fi service and provides technical information for terminal equipment (TE) manufacturers and suppliers.

2. Service Outline

The BT Wi-Fi service provides wireless Internet access for individual nomadic computer users through a network of local islands of connectivity known as hotspots. Service commenced on August 1st 2002. Typically users have a laptop or hand held device and are authenticated by logging onto the service, usually through a web browser interface. The location of hotspots is published at <http://www.btwifi.co.uk> and is also available to users at hotspots through their Internet browser when using a laptop, whether logged in or not. The specific area covered at each hotspot may be advertised through local signage.

3. Service Availability

The service will be available throughout the UK where network capacity exists, to users within the coverage area of a hotspot. Performance is best within a few tens of metres of the location advertised by the local BT Wi-Fi signage. This is a localised service for nomadic computer users.

4. End User Interface Description

The Network Termination Point (NTP) is at the radio interface presented at the hotspot. The radio interface can take the following forms:

- a) a wireless LAN radio interface conforming to specification IEEE 802.11b^[1], IEEE 802.11g^[7], IEEE 802.11n or IEEE 802.11ac End user equipment operating to this specification can be certified for interoperability by the WiFi Alliance^[2], hence this interface is generally known as a WiFi interface.
- b) a wireless LAN radio interface conforming to specification IEEE 802.11a, IEEE 802.11n or IEEE 802.11ac at 5 GHz, generally known as a 5 GHz wireless LAN interface^[4].

Typically the user radio device will either be built into the user laptop or hand held device, or will be part of a plug in PC card. All hotspots offer the WiFi interface. 5 GHz wireless LAN interfaces are being introduced at selected hotspots over time.

5. Technical Specification

For interface (a) described in paragraph 4 above, the end user radio device will conform to the requirements of IR2005^[5].

For interface (c), the end user radio device will conform to the requirements of IR2006^[6].

To enhance security, the default BT Wi-Fi service may restrict traffic by IP port or protocol. Further restrictions may be applied for certain subscription customers once logged into the

service. An example would be where the security policy of a particular enterprise customer demands that certain ports or protocols are blocked.

6. Further Information Contact Point

For enquiries regarding the BT Wi-Fi service please contact the helpdesk. Details available from <http://www.btplc.com/sinet/>

If you have enquiries relating to this document then please contact sinet.helpdesk@bt.com

7. References

[1]	IEEE 802.11b	Supplement to IEEE Standard for Information technology — Telecommunications and information exchange between systems — Local and metropolitan area networks — Specific requirements — Part 11: Wireless LAN Medium Access Control (MAC) and Physical Layer (PHY) specifications: Higher-Speed Physical Layer Extension in the 2.4 GHz Band	September 1999
[2]	WiFi Alliance	http://www.wifialliance.org	
[3]	Bluetooth	Specification of the Bluetooth system, version 1.1	February 2001
[4]	IEEE 802.11a	Supplement to IEEE Standard for Information technology - Telecommunications and information exchange between systems - Local and metropolitan area networks - Specific requirements - Part 11: Wireless LAN Medium Access Control (MAC) and Physical Layer (PHY) specifications: High-speed Physical Layer in the 5 GHz Band	1999, amended 2000
[5]	IR2005 Version 3.0	UK Interface Requirement 2005 Wideband Transmission Systems Operating in the 2.4 GHz ISM Band and Using Spread Spectrum Modulation Techniques	15 th November 2006
[6]	IR2006 Version 3.0	UK Interface Requirement 2006: Wireless Access Systems (WAS) including RLANs operating in the 5150 – 5725 MHz band.	14 th November 2006
[7]	IEEE 802.11g	Supplement to IEEE Standard for Information technology — Telecommunications and information exchange between systems — Local and metropolitan area networks — Specific requirements — Part 11: Wireless LAN Medium Access Control (MAC) and Physical Layer (PHY) specifications: Higher-Speed Physical Layer Extension in the 2.4 GHz Band	1999, amended 2003

For copies of referenced documents please see document sources at <http://www.btplc.com/sinet/>

8. Abbreviations

Acronym	Expansions
BT	British Telecommunications plc
GHz	GigaHertz
IEEE	Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers
IR	Interface Requirement (Ofcom Publication)
LAN	Local Area Network
NTP	Network Termination Point
PC	Personal/Portable Computer
SIN	Suppliers Information Note
TE	Terminal Equipment
WiFi	Wireless Fidelity

9. History

Issue 1	12 November 2002	First Publication
Issue 1.1	23 February 2004	Editorial changes. Clause on terminal equipment approvals deleted, information available via SINet Useful Contacts page.
Issue 2.0	4 February 2005	Added reference to 802.11g IEEE Standard.
Issue 2.1	2 February 2006	Updated service description
Issue 2.2	18 July 2007	Limitations deleted in Service Availability clause to take account of increased coverage.
Issue 2.3	June 2013	Change all reference of BT Openzone to BT Wi-Fi
Issue 2.4	July 2015	Change SINet site references from http://www.sinet.bt.com to http://www.btplc.com/sinet/
Issue 2.5	September 2017	Added reference to 802.11ac IEEE Standard

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