

VoIP and WLAN - Changing the Rules? Telecom Forum 2006 Klaus Nieminen



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During the presentation I will try to give you some answers to the following questions:

- Why VoIP and & WLAN make difference?
- What's the business case?

However, I'm a regulator so I will concentrate on:

- What questions we have faced?
- How we have solved them?
- What regulations you need to understand when you are building new services?





3GPP IMS

LAAJAKAISTAPUHELIN.NET

Voice over IP







Viestintävirasto Kommunikationsverket Finnish Communications Regulatory Authority



Add friend



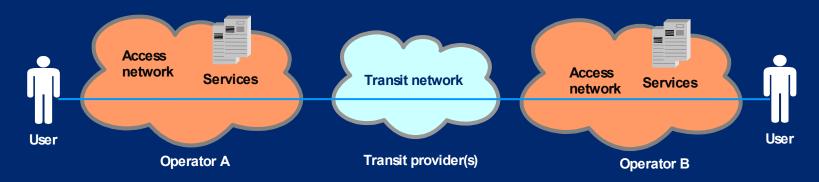
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What's different in VoIP?

• Reminder: the legacy model – e.g. PSTN, GSM



• What's different in VoIP?

- Size of necessary investments
 - can utilise existing Internet connections
 - can utilise open source software (e.g. Asterisk, SER)
 - network equipment can be located anywhere
 - may not even need own servers (peer-to-peer)

New capabilities and services (e.g. presence)

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VoIP in Finland

Number of providers

at least 26 operators

Number of subscriptions (1Q06)

∀≈ 70 000
from which ≈ 65 000 are enterprise users

VoIP interconnection will start ...soon will enable inter-operator services will enable market growth (compare to SMS in US)



What's the business case?

Clear concepts that will prevail



- Internet VoIP the current winner
- mobile VoIP will come, but has still some problems
- cellular, WLAN and WiMAX

Some ideas about fixed VoIP

- some future in enterprise PBXs
- one part of a broadband service bundle
 - •As an example I will present the situation in France.



VoIP in France

Some countrywide figures 1Q06

- subscriptions 4 359 000
- growth from last year 172 %
- and it is not coming from PSTN replacement
- change only -2 % = 674 000 PSTN subscriptions
- $\forall \Rightarrow$ Fixed-mobile substitution has ceased because fixed carriers have been hitting back with converged offers.
- Example offer from Noos
 - http://www.noos.fr/



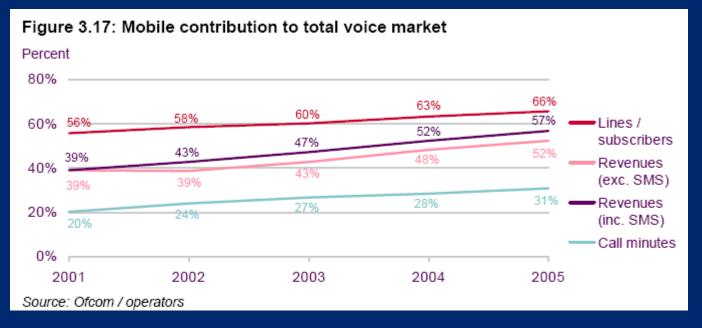
- 20M/512k triple play package priced 29.90 €/month
- include free national PSTN calls

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VoIP will be mobile

• VoIP needs to be mobile:



Technical problems that still needs to be solved:

 Voice call continuity and handovers between cellular / WLAN / WiMAX / generic IP access network

Cellular specific problems like call setup delay and RTT



Regulatory issues

Guideline how the current legislation is applied: http://www.ficora.fi/suomi/document/VoIP%20-ohje_eng.pdf





Regulatory issues 1/2

The problem is easy to define:

• What regulations are applied to a certain service?

ECS PATS US

0

- **Electronic Communication Service (ECS)**
 - Service (normally) provided for remuneration
 - Consists wholly or mainly in the conveyance of signals on Electronic Communication Networks

Public Available Telephone Service (PATS)

- Public Available Service
- = Originating & Receiving (inter)national calls
- Access to Emergency Service (112)
- E.164 numbering scheme

Universal Service (US)

- Services to be made available to *all end-users* in territory
- Designated by National Regulatory Authority



Regulatory issues 2/2

Other main issues:

Applicability of national legislation

 need to maintain balance between obligations and incentive to bypass regulations

Numbering + number portability

 FICORA has not restricted the use of number ranges for VoIP services.

Emergency calls + power supply

- requirement is imposed on telecommunications operators in a telephone network
- technical regulations are in line with capabilities of different services



Case Skype

• Our decision was published in 2.12.2005:

http://www.ficora.fi/englanti/document/Skype_final_English.pdf

Main decisions:

Applicability of national legislation

 Skype Out and Skype In services when implemented in Finland + numbering in Skype In

Service classification

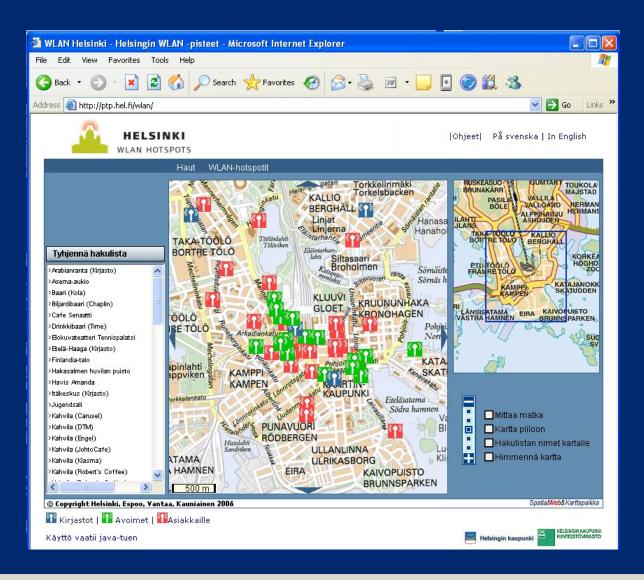
 Skype (classic), Skype In and Skype Out are considered to be separate services

Numbering

• E.164 numbers can be used also in ECS



WLAN





What's different in WLAN?

- Examples of various business models
 - "fixed" wireless broadband connections
 - commercial WLAN hotspots
 - free WLAN networks (e.g. city owned)
 - mutual agreements (e.g. Sparknet & OpenSpark)
 - Internet café (Internet connection is offered besides the regular operation which is other than telecommunications)
 - campus WLAN
 - sharing of a broadband connection via WLAN (for example, neighbours, family or company).



More examples







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Regulatory issues

Guideline how the current legislation is applied:

http://www.ficora.fi/englanti/document/wireless_broadband_connection.pdf





Service classification 1/2

- Service classification and applicability of regulations
 - What services are considered to be public telecommunication services?
- Main classification criteria
 - Is the service a communication service?
 - Are users subject to prior restriction or not?
- Drawing the line is not always unambiguous and it often requires case-specific evaluation.
 - Still we were able to list some typical examples



Service classification 2/2

• Examples of public telecommunications:

- wireless Internet connections corresponding to ADSL
- WLAN hotspots provided in public outdoor or indoor environments to a set of users that is not subject to prior restriction – city WLAN
- Examples of not public telecommunications.
 - WLAN connections offered by a company (for example hotel or café) to its customers
 - WLAN connections offered by a school to its students and personnel
 - sharing of a broadband connection via WLAN
 - accidentally open WLAN networks



Security

Information security

- What requirements should be applied to WLAN?
- detection of traffic that endangers the information security or availability of the communications service
- resolve the events
 - •e.g. MAC filtering

Information security of telecom operators

- applicability of the requirements to operators of different size and service offering
 - Administrative and organisational information security, Personnel security, Communications security, Computer facilities and software security, Data security and Operations security



Other main issues

Collecting/processing and disclosure of identification information

 May be collected and processed only for certain purposes such as provision and use of a communications service, billing and technical development of services

Power supply + physical protection

- basic requirement to ensure power supply for equipment in a communications network
- basic requirement to place communications network components so that unauthorised access is prevented
- FICORA is revising the requirements to make them to fit better to the small networks, like WLAN hotspots



Mutual responsibility

Issue of responsibilities between providers of an:

Internet access service, WLAN access network and network access management

Example. Table of responsibilities in a situation where an Internet café provides its customers a WLAN access **not regarded as public telecommunications**, because the set of users is restricted to the customers of the café. The table starts from the assumption that the café has acquired an Internet access (such as ADSL) from a telecommunications operator and shares it in the café by means of a WLAN base station.

Act and responsibility	Operators' mutual relations	End user
CMA operator's responsibility for network/Internet access service	provider of network/Internet access service is responsible to the café owner	neither ISP nor café owner is responsible to the café customer
CMA operator's responsibility for communications services provided via Internet access, e.g. e- mail, VoIP		provider of the relevant communications service is responsible to its own end customer, regardless of the place where the service is used
PPEC operator's responsibility	provider of network/Internet access service is responsible to the café owner	neither ISP nor café owner is responsible to the café customer
PPEC corporate or association subscriber's responsibility		café owner is responsible to the café customer, if the café owner's practice meets the definition of section 2 paragraph 11 of the PPEC, i.e. processes messages, identification data or location data
responsibility according to the Consumer Protection Act		café owner is responsible to the café customer when the requirements of the CPA are met



Technical regulations

• All technical regulations are published in:

• http://www.ficora.fi/englanti/esittely/n2563.htm

Internet access services:

- FICORA 13/2005 M Regulation on information security and functionality of Internet access services
- http://www.ficora.fi/englanti/document/FICORA132005M.pdf

e-mail service:

- FICORA 11/2004 M Information security and functionality of e-mail services
- http://www.ficora.fi/englanti/document/FICORA112004M.pdf



Thank you!

