

An Entrepreneurial Approach to Wireless Mesh Networking

Brough Turner

Wed Jan 27, <times and place tbd>

No limit, but a rough head count would be appreciated (see contact below)

All participants requested to attend the opening session (the 1st hour)

An introduction and series of interactive sessions on a new approach to ubiquitous wireless Internet connectivity, based on a “Freemium” business model and next generation wireless mesh technology.

Many important social and economic changes are the direct result of action by entrepreneurs – think Google, Craigslist or Facebook. Can we have a comparable impact on wireless Internet connectivity?

After an introduction and overview, we’ll successively evaluate the technical challenges (there are many), the social issues (i.e. the market) and what it takes to build a sustainable business. Specific sessions:

1. MIMO and beamforming have a dramatic impact on the radio layer. What’s possible in next generation mesh nodes, what needs to be developed and how can we leverage mass market technology?
2. New RF technology changes the focus for mesh networking protocols. How do we have to adapt mesh routing and mesh management software?
3. The Freemium model implies specific commitments to “premium” users who underwrite the free service. What service layer software is needed to meet these needs?
4. Is there a sustainable business model? Can it operate without depending on grants? Can it be started without VC funds?

Early work suggests the technical hurdles can be overcome and the proposed business model is at least plausible. Join us to explore some interesting technology but also to learn entrepreneurial approaches to technology and business planning.

Contact: Brough Turner, 617 285-0433, rbt@alum.mit.edu

Sponsor: Dennis Baron, W92-195, 617 324-8946, dbaron@mit.edu

Co-sponsor: Kurt Keville, NE47-400, 617 324-6422, kkeville@mit.edu