Examples of Radio Environment in the Factories

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This presentation is

- ■Second part of kickoff meeting of IEEE 802 Network Enhancements for the Next Decade Industry Connections Activity (NEND) and follow-up of discussions in IEEE 802.1 Interim meeting Sep. 2017.
- ☐ There were requests to see example and/or evidence data of wireless communications in factories.
- ■Introduction of next presentation
- ☐ Identify the direction of our scope

Back ground

- There are some applications to require End-to-End(E2E) reliable and robust connectivity in the factories.
- However, users would like to use wireless communications for "last hop" in their manufacturing systems.
- If there are wireless communications in the systems, it makes difficult to realize E2E reliable and robust connectivity in the systems.



This presentation shares examples of Radio Environment in the Factories.

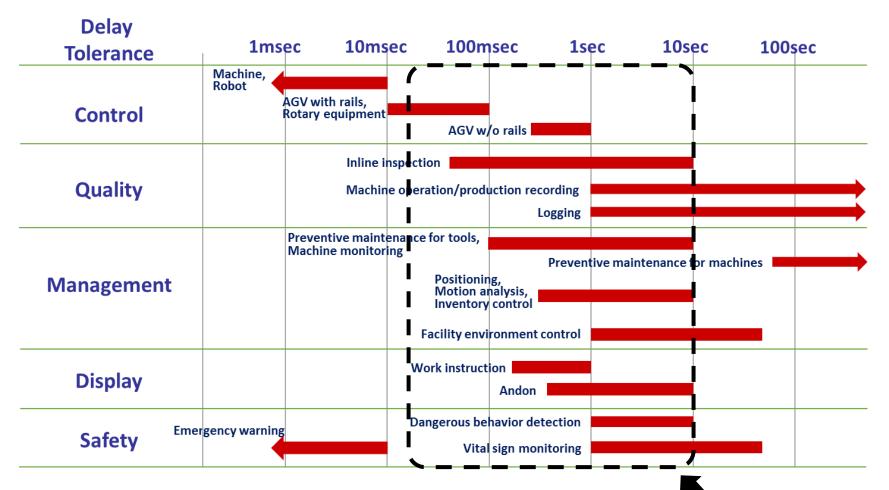
Observations

 We have evaluated wireless environment at several factories in operation and found issues to be resolved.



More Information https://www.nict.go.jp/en/press/2017/03/01-1.html

Wide Variety Wireless Applications



Difficult to ensure E2E latency

Our Target

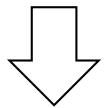
Source: Flexible Factory Project

Problems come from combination of

- A) Severe Environment for Wireless Communication
- B) Uncoordinated and Independent Systems

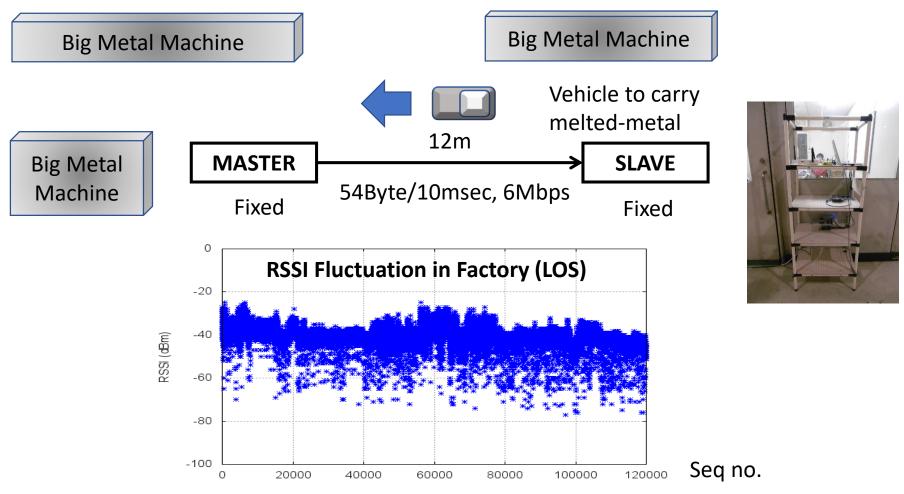
A) Severe Wireless Environment

- 1 Fluctuation of Signal Strength
- 2 Noises at 1.9GHz and 2.4GHz



Dynamic change of channel capacity

Example 1: Fluctuation of Signal Strength



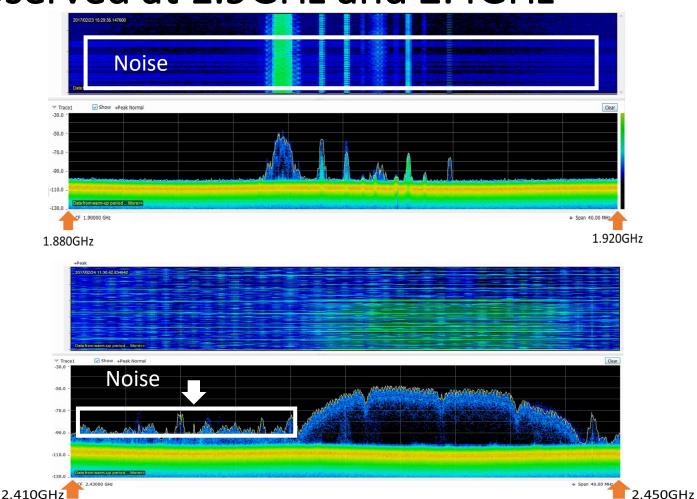
Motions of materials, parts, products, and carriers in a closed space.

Example²: Noises observed at 1.9GHz and 2.4GHz

1.9GHz

Problem: Beside a particular machine, internal tel. using 1.9GHz is not good for communication

2.4GHz

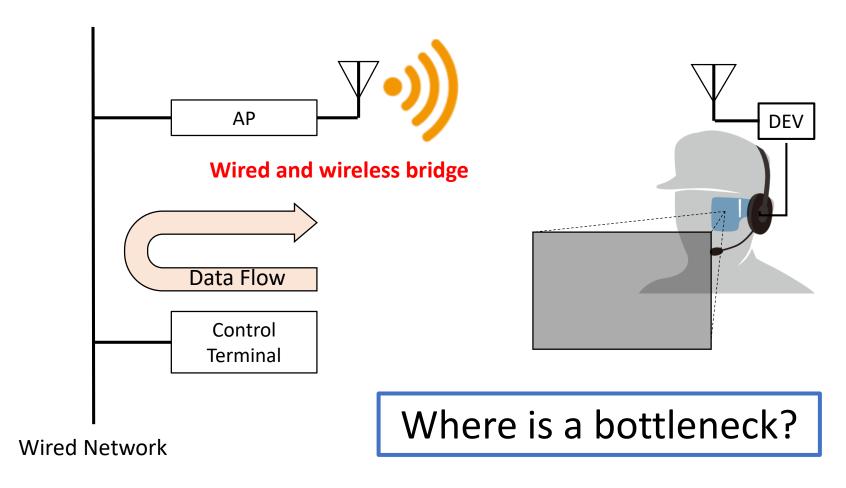


Some kinds of manufacturing machines may be interference sources for wireless communications

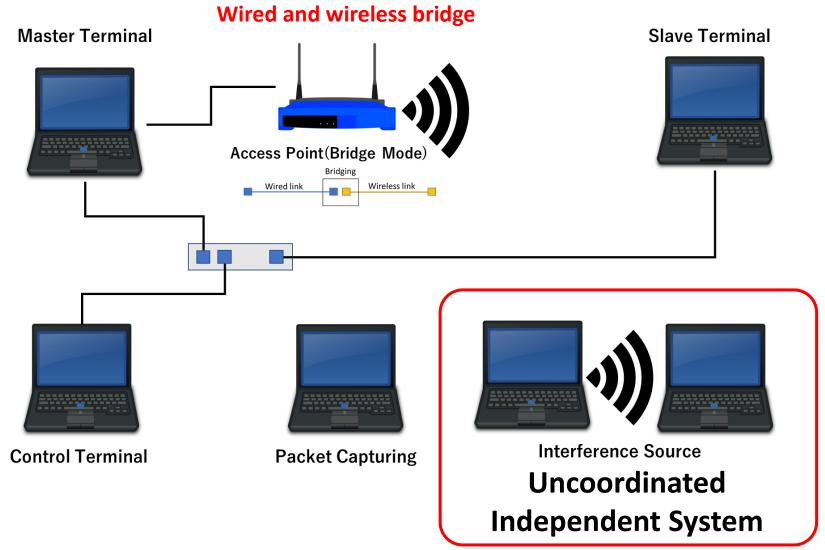
B) Uncoordinated Independent Systems

- Step-by-step installation
- Coexistence of heterogeneous and legacy devices/systems.

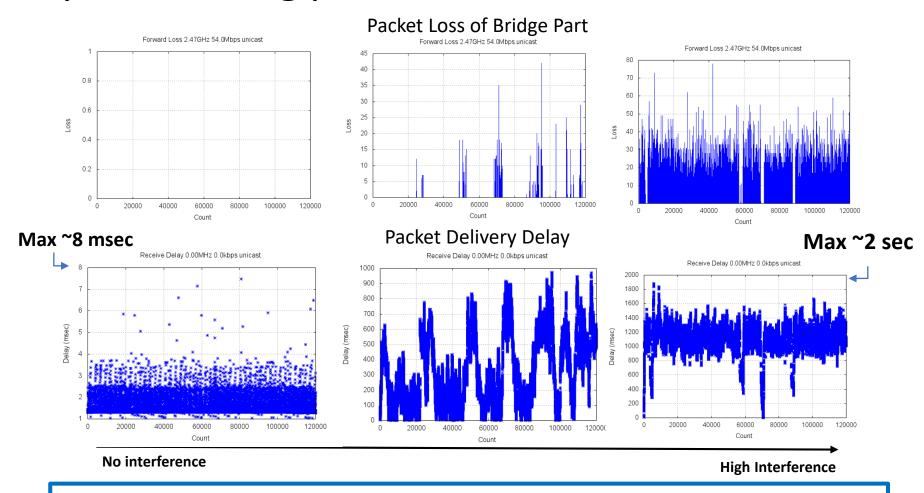
Scenario of using wireless technology in the factory (one example)



Test System Setup (wi-fi)

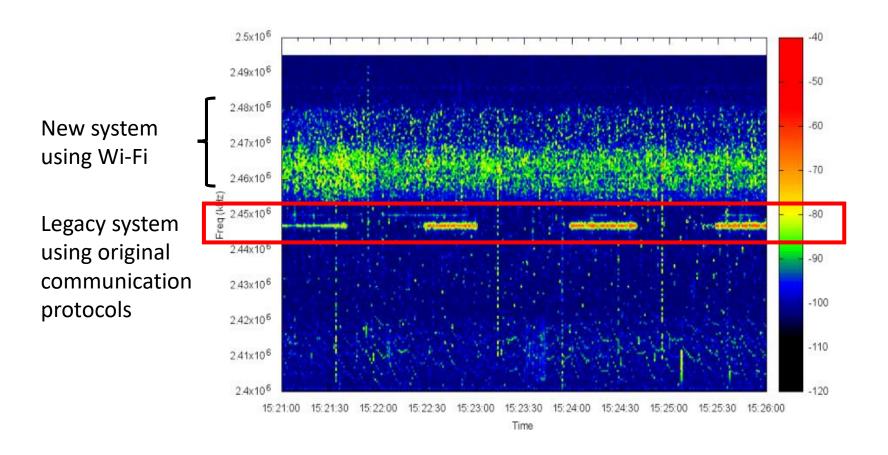


Coexistence of uncoordinated wireless systems bring problems



The wireless environment is worsened by Bluetooth, Zigbee, legacy wireless communications, etc.

Coexistence of different wireless technologies



Legacy wireless communication does worse to Wi-Fi

Our Motivation

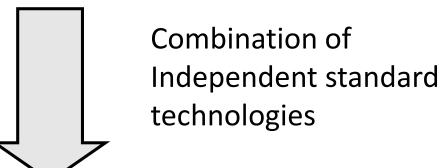
Use Cases



Integration and coordination of multiple streams from different applications

Special Wireless Environment In Factories

- Dynamic change of link capacity
- Not isolated systems, and mixed use of standard technologies in single system
- Interference of heterogeneous technologies





How to realize reliable systems using wireless communication in the factories?

- From requirements of applications and resourceconstrained environments, we should consider the following combined situations
 - (1) End-to-end(E2E) reliable and robust connectivity required by factory applications
 - (2) Dynamically changing wireless environment
 - (3) Wired and wireless bridge in heterogenous networks

To be continued