AMP Devices in WLAN

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**Authors:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yinan Qi</td>
<td>OPPO</td>
<td><a href="mailto:v-qiyinan@oppo.com">v-qiyinan@oppo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weijie Xu</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:xuweijie@oppo.com">xuweijie@oppo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Shellhammer</td>
<td>Qualcomm</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shellhammer@ieee.org">shellhammer@ieee.org</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bo Sun</td>
<td>Sanechips</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Sun.bo1@sanechips.com.cn">Sun.bo1@sanechips.com.cn</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joerg ROBERT</td>
<td>TU</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joerg.robert@tu-ilmenau.de">joerg.robert@tu-ilmenau.de</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vytas Kezys</td>
<td>HaiLa Technologies</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vytas@haila.io">vytas@haila.io</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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Outline

- Motivation
  - Why support AMP WLAN device in 802.11?

- Use cases
  - Requirements
  - Gap analysis

- Feasibility
  - Technical feasibility
  - Prototypes

- Overall design
  - Design target
  - Direction for the Study Group

- Summary
Motivation: Battery-less and Maintenance-free Devices

- The Wi-Fi IoT network is competitive from deployment cost perspective, thanks to widespread deployment and use of unlicensed frequency band.

- However, there remain lots of use cases and applications that can not be addressed using existing Wi-Fi IoT technologies:
  - a device powered by a conventional battery is not applicable, e.g., under extreme environmental conditions (e.g., high pressure, extremely high/low temperature, humid environment) or maintenance-free devices are required (e.g., no need to replace a conventional battery for the device)
  - ultra-low complexity, very small device size/form factor (e.g., thickness of mm), and longer life cycle etc. are required
Solution: AMP WLAN Devices

- A new type of WLAN devices, which is powered by ambient power such as radio waves, solar, heat, vibration etc., is a promising way to fulfill the unmet requirement and enable many to-B and to-C applications.
  - The device is powered by energy harvested from a variety of ambient power sources including radio waves, light (sunlight), motion, heat, etc. → the conventional battery can be removed
  - Ultra-low power consumption: typical peak power less than 1 mw due to the low ambient power density
  - Smaller size and ultra-low complexity → low cost massive deployment

- SoTA development in industry: ambient power tags showcased in MWC 2023 expo from multiple companies [16],[17]

Note: The standardization of AMP devices have begun in global standardization organizations, e.g., 3GPP begin to study ambient power-enabled IoT since Rel-19 [S1-220192 New SID: Study on Ambient power-enabled Internet of Things, OPPO]
Why support AMP WLAN device in 802.11

- From technical perspective, there are many advantages to support AMP IoT in 802.11
  - Many emerging implementations in 802.11 network demonstrating both feasibility and technical/business potentials [15]
  - With potential enhancement, the legacy infrastructure can be reused [13]
  - Easy for AMP function design by building upon the existing 802.11 features, such as 802.11ba, 802.11ah and legacy 802.11 power management mechanism.
    - Minimize design efforts by reusing the existing mechanism, e.g. 802.11ba WUR and OOK, simplified 802.11ah MAC, access control mechanism, power management mechanism, etc.

- From business perspective, AMP devices and Wi-Fi eco-system are mutually beneficial
  - Create new IoT service opportunities in many to-Business and to-Customer areas by enriching WLAN IoT applications
  - Explore the high WLAN market share and further expand Wi-Fi ecosystem market portfolio
  - Achieve much lower CapEx and OpEx for the verticals with unlicenced frequency band and existing deployment
  - Good matching to the local area deployment requirement
Use Cases (1/2)

- **Use case 1 Smart manufacturing**: inventory, asset tracking/positioning, and environment/production line sensing and monitoring
- **Use case 2 Data Center**: environmental monitoring, facility monitoring and asset management
- **Use case 3 Smart home**: asset management, home environment monitoring and home security.
- **Use case 4 Logistics and warehouse**: goods tracking and inventory check
- **Use case 5 Smart agriculture**: monitoring of soil moisture, soil fertility, temperature, wind speed, plant growth etc., and controlling of the agricultural facilities
- **Use case 6 Indoor positioning**: positioning in giant shopping mall, factories, warehouses, etc.
- **Use case 7 Smart Power Grid**: sensing of sound, heat, pressure, etc., smart meter to achieve awareness of device/equipment status
- **Use case 8 Fresh Food supply chain**: Route the RTI, sense temperature etc.
Use Case: Smart Home (2/2)

- **Smart home**
  - AMP devices can be used in the following applications:
    - Home monitoring for house environment
      - Temperature sensors;
      - Humidity sensors;
      - Gas leakage alarms.
    - Home security: intruders detection,
    - Asset management: locate items, e.g., wallet, keys, etc.
  - APs/Smartphones can communicate with AMP devices
  - Requirements of the devices:
    - Ultra-low power consumption, e.g., less than 1mW
    - Battery-less and no need to replace a battery
    - Low complexity and small size, e.g., thickness of 1mm and area of several cm$^2$
## Requirements of the Use Cases (1/2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use case</th>
<th>Coverage</th>
<th>Peak Data rate</th>
<th>Positioning accuracy</th>
<th>Other requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1 Smart manufacturing</td>
<td>30m indoor</td>
<td>100k bps</td>
<td>1~3 m Horizontal indoor</td>
<td>Battery-less, Maintenance-free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100m outdoor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2 Data center</td>
<td>30m indoor</td>
<td>100k bps</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Battery-less, Maintenance-free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100m outdoor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3 Logistics/Warehouse</td>
<td>10-30 m for indoor case</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1~3 m Horizontal indoor</td>
<td>Battery-less, Maintenance-free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indoor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>99.5% identification accuracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outdoor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ultra-low cost and ultra-small size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4 Smart Home</td>
<td>10m</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1~3 m Horizontal indoor</td>
<td>Maintenance-free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Battery-less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Long service life., e.g., more than 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Low complexity and small size</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Requirements of the Use Cases (1/2)

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<th>Use case</th>
<th>Coverage</th>
<th>Peak Data rate</th>
<th>Positioning accuracy</th>
<th>Other requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#5 Smart Agriculture</td>
<td>30m indoor, 200m outdoor</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Battery-less, Low complexity and small size, Processing (i.e., reading IDs) hundreds to thousands of devices per second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6 Indoor positioning</td>
<td>10-30 meters indoor</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1<del>3 m horizontal accuracy and 1</del>2 m vertical accuracy</td>
<td>Small size, maintenance-free, battery-free, and ultra-low-cost IoT devices; Moving speed: 1.5-2 m/s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#7 Smart Grid</td>
<td>10-30 m indoor, up to 200 m outdoor</td>
<td>20kbps for sub-station, 3kbps for high voltage transmission line.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Maintenance-free and battery-less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#8 Fresh Food Supply Chain</td>
<td>10-20m</td>
<td>0.12bps</td>
<td></td>
<td>Maintenance-free, ultra low cost, sticker form factor with low BOM Traffic interval =15 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Gap Analysis for the Use Cases (1/2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use cases</th>
<th>Issues for state-of-the-art solutions</th>
<th>Benefits of AMP IoT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1 Smart manufacturing</td>
<td>1. Manual scanning of labels of barcode or RFID tags for inventory/attendance check</td>
<td>1. Automatic scanning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2 Data center</td>
<td>2. Massive deployment of readers due to short communication distance</td>
<td>2. Lower density deployment of APs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3 Logistics/Warehouse</td>
<td>3. Limited performance on communication distance, system efficiency</td>
<td>3. Improved performance in terms of communication distance, sensitivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#8 Fresh Food Supply Chain</td>
<td>4. No IP stack is defined.</td>
<td>4. Battery-less and Maintenance free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4 Smart Home</td>
<td>1. Need to replace battery for many devices</td>
<td>5. Inherent, standardized and secured internet connectivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. High cost/larger size for applications such as finding small items at home</td>
<td>6. Location services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Support positioning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Enable communication between non-AP STA (e.g., smart phone) and AMP IoT devices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Gap Analysis for the Use Cases (2/2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use cases</th>
<th>Issues for state-of-the-art solutions</th>
<th>Benefits of AMP IoT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| #6 Indoor positioning      | 1. High deployment cost for indoor navigation and positioning systems  
2. High maintenance cost  | 1. Small size/low deployment cost  
2. Enable positioning by non-AP STA (e.g., smart phone), with 1~3m horizontal positioning accuracy  
3. Battery-less and Maintenance free |
| #5 Smart Agriculture       | 1. Power supply with wire cable or battery is needed for sensors  
2. High maintenance cost  
3. Inaccessible in case of and hazardous operation conditions | 1. Battery-less so that deployment of AMP IoT devices can be flexible and low deployment cost  
2. Maintenance free  
3. Lower device cost |
| #7 Smart Grid              |                                                                                                                |                                                                                  |
Ambient Power and Energy Storage

- **Ambient power**
  - RF
  - Solar
  - Thermal
  - Vibration

The ambient power lacks of stability and the power density is limited.

- Energy storage element is needed for some AMP IoT devices.

Capacitor and solid-state battery can be considered as the possible energy storage elements.
Candidate Techniques

- Narrow bandwidth operation
- Simpler waveform/modulation/coding scheme: OOK/FSK, Manchester coding, etc.
- Backscattering
- Light-weight MAC protocol design and enhanced power saving/management:
  - Coexistence schemes with legacy devices

Potential Techniques combinations:

- Ultra-low power receiver + Backscattering/Ultra-low power active transmitter + Simplified MAC+ Enhance power saving
Feasibility of Supporting AMP WLAN Devices

- Preliminary link budget for different AMP WLAN device types
  - Communication distance of up to 180 meters can be achieved in Sub-1 GHz and up to 50 meters for 2.4 GHz [Section 4.4.1, 12]

- Co-existence with legacy 802.11 systems
  - AMP device can co-exist with legacy devices in both Sub-1 GHz and 2.4 GHz

- Carrier generation for backscattering
  - Wideband carrier signal spanning the whole channel bandwidth, e.g., the signal spanning across the 20 MHz channel bandwidth at 2.4 GHz

- Regulation considerations
  - Based on the review of the frequency regulation in US, EU, China, etc., the intended use-cases can be covered.
Prototypes (1/2)

- Many prototypes have been developed to show the potential communication techniques, the applicable ambient powers and the achieved performance.
  - Prototype using RF power and backscattering (Figure 1/2) [11]
  - Prototype using thermal energy (Figure 3) [11]
  - Prototype using induced current (Figure 4) [11]
Prototypes (2/2)

- 802.11 compatible backscatter prototype (Figure 5) [15]
- RF energized ultra-low power ambient device

Demo (Figure 6) [14]

- Ultra-low power transmitter and high sensitivity RF energy harvester

Figure 5

Figure 6
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RFID</th>
<th>AMP WLAN device</th>
<th>Existing WLAN IoT (e.g. 802.11 ah)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coverage</strong></td>
<td>&lt;10 m</td>
<td>10m~30m (RF power); Up to 200m (other ambient power)</td>
<td>&gt;=1000m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Power Source</strong></td>
<td>RF power only</td>
<td>Various ambient power</td>
<td>Battery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Techniques</strong></td>
<td>RF power harvesting Backscattering</td>
<td>Backscattering/Active transmitter WUR receiver Enhanced power saving Power management</td>
<td>OFDM Narrow bandwidth Relaxed processing eDRX (TWT) PS-Poll Energy limited operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Power Consumption</strong></td>
<td>1uw~10uw</td>
<td>&lt;1mw</td>
<td>100x mw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Device Cost (Relatively)</strong></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maintenance/operation cost</strong></td>
<td>Labor cost for operation</td>
<td>Maintenance-free Automated operation</td>
<td>Replace/Recharge the battery/Automated operation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Logistics, Retail, Supply chain, Clothing etc.
Manufacturing, Supply chain, Sensors, Smart Grid, Agriculture, Indoor positioning, Smart Home etc.
Remote metering, Sensors, Agriculture, Alarming, Security etc.

Weijie Xu (OPPO)
Overview of AMP WLAN Device Design

**Design targets:** support both the communication between AP and the AMP devices and the communication between mobile AP and the AMP devices.

Battery-less  
Small size  
Ultra-low cost
Direction for the Study Group (1/3)

- To support an ultra-low-power-consumption AMP device in WLAN, e.g. peak power consumption for transmission and reception is lower than 1mW.

  ◆ **PHY: WUR(100x uW) + Simplified UL PHY (10x uW~100x uW)**
    - In the DL, WUR(802.11ba) like design as the starting point.
      - Reuse legacy design as much as possible, such as OOK, channel structure, waveform, PPDU formats, etc.
      - Additional signaling in WUR to transmit additional signaling or payload data.
      - Some re-design may be necessary if AMP in WLAN is implemented in frequency band other than 2.4GHz, e.g., Sub-1 GHz.

Note: Other schemes than 802.11ba are not precluded if useful.
Direction for the Study Group (2/3)

- In the UL, legacy design as a starting point for the UL PHY, e.g., 802.11ba OOK, 802.11b DSSS modulation, etc.
  - Both active transmitter and backscatter transmitter can be supported.
    - The carrier for backscattering shall be specified considering the regulation requirement
    - Optimizations for full-duplex operation in case of backscatter modulation can be considered
  
  Note: other schemes, e.g., FSK/PSK are not precluded if useful.

- The carrier and bandwidth of backscattering signal should be specified including signal of narrow bandwidth or wide bandwidth and carrier signal using the existing signal can also be considered.
Direction for the Study Group (3/3)

◆ MAC: Simplified MAC + Enhanced power saving/ power management

• Efficient PLCP and MAC for limited payload message sizes, e.g., 100bits.
• Coordination of AMP device channel access (e.g., may not be able to use conventional CSMA-like approaches since backscattering devices potentially undetectable by other devices)

Note: Other issues such as additions to the optimized security measures to enable battery free operation will also be considered if necessary.
Summary

- This presentation introduces the study of AMP WLAN devices, including:
  - Motivation, solution and why support AMP WLAN device in 802.11?
  - Use cases, requirements and gap analysis of AMP WLAN device
  - Technical feasibility of AMP WLAN device and prototypes
  - Overall design target and scope for future study

- AMP WLAN has enormous technical and business potentials, making it a highly promising technique!

- The study on AMP will continue and a vote for SG formation will be casted in closing plenary on Friday.

Your support would be greatly appreciated 😊
Reference

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