

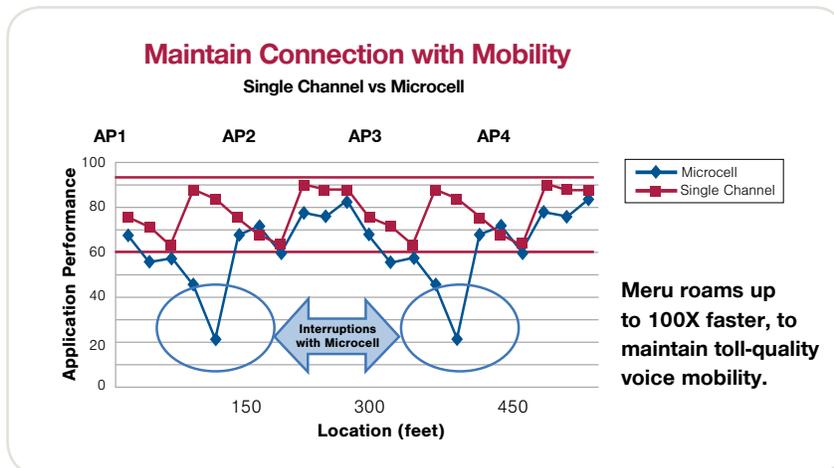
Wireless Unified Communications & Collaboration Designed for Mobility on Campus

Up to 100X Faster Roaming with Meru Networks® and Microsoft® Lync®

Students are using Internet access, cell phones, wireless computers and social networking on an ongoing basis. Being connected to their work, their classes, and their friends and family is simply expected. At the same time, many institutions are turning to Voice-over-IP (VoIP) to support their plans for Unified Communications and Collaboration (UC&C) first over wired networks, and now over wireless LANs. While toll-quality voice is a key requirement, the real benefit to delivering voice over wireless LAN is mobility.

Seamless roaming is essential.

Most legacy wireless LANs lack support for Quality of Service (QoS) per application and cannot provide "zero-handoff roaming", which enables a truly seamless experience. Rather, roaming often causes network interruption. In addition, voice density may suspend automatic RF management, thereby creating coverage gaps or excessive interference, which can ultimately lead to choppy audio, or dropped calls. While users will forgive a few extra seconds of file download time, they will not accept call disconnects and poor voice quality.



Stay Connected from Virtually Anywhere

Today, schools are looking for integrated productivity tools that enable students and faculty to communicate from anywhere in a cost-effective and secure manner. Many have chosen Microsoft Lync because it delivers mobile and seamless user experience over a robust WLAN. The Meru Networks virtualized wireless LAN was designed from the ground up for voice—to overcome QoS, roaming, and scalability challenges associated with voice over WLAN. Meru's unique single-channel architecture is designed to provide reliable voice packets delivery, fast and uninterrupted mobile handoffs QoS, even in dense environments, and Meru Service Assurance Manager proactively maintains the "dial tone" of the network, allowing students, teachers and faculty to seamlessly stay connected and productive.

Unlike other WLAN solutions where clients must re-associate on every roam, clients stay connected at the 802.11 layer and at the IP layer with Meru: there is virtually no handoff.



Solution Benefits

- **Toll-quality Voice**
With MS Lync, users can click-to-call within Microsoft applications and are assured of land line voice quality over their Meru Wi-Fi connection.
- **Up to 100X Faster Roaming**
No matter where you go around school or across campus, enjoy uninterrupted calls over Wi-Fi, thanks to Meru's zero-handoff roaming, which operates up to 100X faster than conventional WLAN.
- **Simple to Deploy**
IT can use automated planning tools and Meru E(z)RF Network Manager to have the ability to centrally manage and push configuration changes to MS Lync Server 2010 or Meru controllers and APs, respectively.
- **Easy to Scale**
Thanks to highly scalable architectures, both Meru WLAN and MS Lync can scale from a small number of users up to hundreds of thousands of users, all centrally managed by your IT team.
- **Flexible**
Both Meru and Microsoft are designed to support on-premises and hosted environments—data center deployments or private cloud.

Stay connected with Meru WLAN and Microsoft Lync

Toll-quality Voice

Meru's Air Traffic Control® technology schedules client access to the air, virtually eliminating client contention and co-channel interference. The result is designed to provide predictably low latency, jitter, and packet loss, so users experience MS Lync calls that sound as clear as a land line. Meru's System Director OS can automatically identify, isolate and prioritize real-time SIP traffic.

It also assigns wired DiffServ code-point (DSCP) tags and WMM tags so you can configure end-to-end QoS over wired and wireless networks. This ability helps eliminate the need for separate VLANs, simplifies network operations, and reduces IT tasks.

Up to 100X Faster Roaming

No longer must users sacrifice mobility just to stay connected.

Meru System Director OS manages client roaming and is designed for zero-handoff speed while ensuring clients are associated to the optimum access points. Unlike other WLAN solutions where clients must re-associate on every roam, Meru allows clients to stay connected at the 802.11 layer and IP layer, so there is virtually no handoff.

Meru reduces problems associated with sticky or promiscuous client devices so that voice communication continues uninterrupted, improving user satisfaction. Meru roams are ~3mS compared to 300mS (or even 3 seconds under real-world conditions) on legacy WLAN.

Simple to Manage

For Microsoft customers, automated tools not only simplify capacity planning and topology design, but also automatically push configuration information and changes to all servers in the network. For Meru customers, E(z)RF Network Manager also provides a centralized management solution to consistently update a group of local or distributed wireless controllers. This way, your IT team benefits by greatly eliminating or reducing manual work and the associated chance for errors.

With Meru, give your IT managers a client's-eye view of your network remotely, enabling them to find and fix problems before they affect users. With Meru Service Assurance Manager, you can proactively maintain a reliable network "dial tone"—without extra sensors, which greatly reduces the need for manual troubleshooting. Using virtual clients that reside on your access points, Service Assurance Manager sends simulated voice traffic, making it possible to monitor both MS Lync and overall network performance.

Easy Scalability

Meru's Air Traffic Control technology enables a Meru wireless LAN to support high density—up to 30 simultaneous voice calls on a single access point. Call Admission Control and Band Steering either limit or move calls as needed to maximize call capacity while preserving voice quality.

Lync Server 2010 can support institutions of literally any size, with up to 10,000 users per server, 100,000 users per pool, and an unlimited number of pools.

Flexible Deployment

Lync Server 2010 can be deployed on-premises, in a service-based (hosted) environment, or in a hybrid environment. It offers full and seamless integration with Exchange Online and SharePoint Online, allowing customers to choose how to best deliver enterprise messaging and collaboration capabilities to end users.

A Meru WLAN can be flexibly deployed on dedicated services appliances, as virtualized instances in the data center on x86 hardware, or in a private cloud deployment for cost-effective management.

About Microsoft Lync Server 2010

Microsoft Lync Server 2010 ushers in a new connected user experience that transforms every communication into an interaction that is more collaborative and engaging, and that is accessible from anywhere. For IT, the benefits are equally powerful, with a highly secure and reliable communications system that works with existing tools and systems for easier management, lower cost of ownership, smoother deployment and migration, and greater choice and flexibility.

For more information about Microsoft Lync Server 2010, go to:
www.microsoft.com/lync

About Meru Networks

Meru Networks (MERU) designs, develops, and distributes virtualized wireless LAN solutions that provide enterprises with the performance, reliability, predictability and operational simplicity of a wired network with the advantages of mobility. Meru's innovative network-in-control architecture virtualizes wireless access and produces an intelligent, self-monitoring WLAN. Moving to Meru lets enterprises migrate business-critical applications from wired networks to an all-wireless network able to handle the diversity and density of mobile communication devices. Meru's unique "network-in-control" wireless architecture is used by all major vertical industries including Fortune 500 businesses, health care, education, retail, manufacturing, hospitality, and government. Founded in 2002, Meru is headquartered in Sunnyvale, CA, and operates worldwide.

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