

WiFi-First - The New Market Disrupter

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Abstracts

The WiFi-first concept emerged in 2014. It uses Wifi in conjunction with cellular connections. Wifi has always been considered as disruptive by the cellular industry because it is a low-cost solution to provide nomadic access. Despite remaining technological hurdles, Wifi has gained traction for many players willing to eat into MNOs' revenues by jumping into the cellular-nomadic business. This report presents the state-of-the art on WiFi-first and highlights strategies at play in a business that unites companies from three distinct worlds: Mobile - Fixed - OTT

International expansion is on-going or planned by WiFi-first players. Europe and Asia are the main target locations.

In Europe, the MVNO FreedomPop, which mimics the WiFi-first model, announced plans with KPN in Belgium as a test-bed in 2014. One year later, FreedomPop has reported that it has five host-MNOs in five different countries and it plans to enter a large European market.

WiFi-first service seems less suited to the European market than to the US market.



Contents

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Understanding Wifi and WiFi-first
- 1.1.1. Beyond throughputs: integration features
- 1.1.2. The technical challenges around WiFi-first strategy
- 1.2. Wifi market and player strategies
- 1.2.1. The status of Wifi and its market
- 1.2.2. Wifi players strategies
- 1.3. Impacts of WiFi-first on the cellular business
 - 1.3.1. Small WiFi-first companies in a growing US market
 - 1.3.2. Initiatives by large cablecos and OTT companies could potentially make a dent
 - 1.3.3. Mobile ARPU decline in the USA is not due to WiFi-first
 - 1.3.4. Challenges remain
 - 1.3.5. First plans outside the USA
 - 1.3.6. MNOs ready to counter-attack WiFi-based services

2. METHODOLOGY & DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. General methodology of IDATE's reports
- 2.2. Definitions

3. UNDERSTANDING WIFI AND WIFI-FIRST

- 3.1. Evolution of Wifi standards
 - 3.1.1. 802.11a and 802.11b
 - 3.1.2. 802.11g
 - 3.1.3. 802.11n
 - 3.1.4. 802.11ac
 - 3.1.5. What happens next?
- 3.2. Beyond throughputs: integration features
 - 3.2.1. Seamless authentication and connection
 - 3.2.2. Toward increased collaboration with cellular networks
 - 3.2.3. Provision of cellular/legacy services over Wifi
- 3.3. Technical challenges

4. WIFI MARKET AND PLAYER STRATEGIES



- 4.1. The status of Wifi and its market
 - 4.1.1. Wifi status
 - 4.1.2. Wifi market
- 4.2. Wifi player strategies
- 4.2.1. WiFi-first players
- 4.2.2. Pure Wifi players
- 4.2.3. Cablecos (Multi-System Operators or MSOs)
- 4.2.4. OTTs (Over-The-Top)
- 4.2.5. Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) and integrated players

5. HOW WIFI-FIRST IMPACTS THE CELLULAR BUSINESS

- 5.1. WiFi-first companies still small players in a growing US market
- 5.2. Decline of mobile ARPU in USA is not due to WiFi-first service
- 5.3. Challenges to overtake
- 5.4. First plans outside the USA
- 5.5. MNOs are ready to counter-attack WiFi-based services

6. GLOSSARY



Tables & Figures

TABLES & FIGURES

- Table 1: Wifi generations
- Table 2: Wifi and mobile network characteristics
- Table 3: Wifi generations
- Table 4: Relation between channel width and spatial streams with 802.11ac
- Table 5: Scratch Wireless cellular passes
- Table 7: OTT communication services provided by OTTs
- Table 6: FreedomPop price plans
- Table 8: VoLTE launches by MNOs
- Table 10: Examples of Wifi access plans in the UK and France
- Table 11: Wifi-calling launches by MNOs
- Figure 1: The battle for 'free' communication services
- Figure 2: Player strategies
- Figure 3: Lowest market potential for WiFi-first in Europe compared to the USA
- Figure 4: Wifi evolution path
- Figure 5: Wifi roaming standards and trials
- Figure 6: Passpoint seamless 3G/4G/Wifi roaming
- Figure 7: Hotspot 2.0 Release 2 components
- Figure 8: Phases of development of Hotspot 2.0
- Figure 9: NGH deployments as of Q1 2015

Figure 10: World&You brings unlimited calling and messaging abroad to Bouygues customers

- Figure 11: Evolution of Wifi calling
- Figure 12: Installed base of carrier-grade hotspots by region to 2018
- Figure 13: Player strategies
- Figure 14: FON telco deals and users
- Figure 15: Examples of major OTT initiatives
- Figure 16: Evolution of market shares of four largest US MNOs (2012-2014)
- Figure 17: Major changes to pricing of postpaid service plans (2013-2014)
- Figure 18: Lowest market potential for WiFi-first in Europe compared to the USA
- Figure 19: LTE in the 5 GHz band



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