



# Convergence of 3G and WLANs

**Kumar Balachandran**

Expert, Wireless Communication Networks

**Ericsson Research & Ericsson Mobile Platforms**

Research Triangle Park, NC

[Kumar.Balachandran@am1.ericsson.se](mailto:Kumar.Balachandran@am1.ericsson.se)

+1-919-472-7781

**Acknowledgments to Filip Lindell, Ericsson Systems AB, Stockholm**

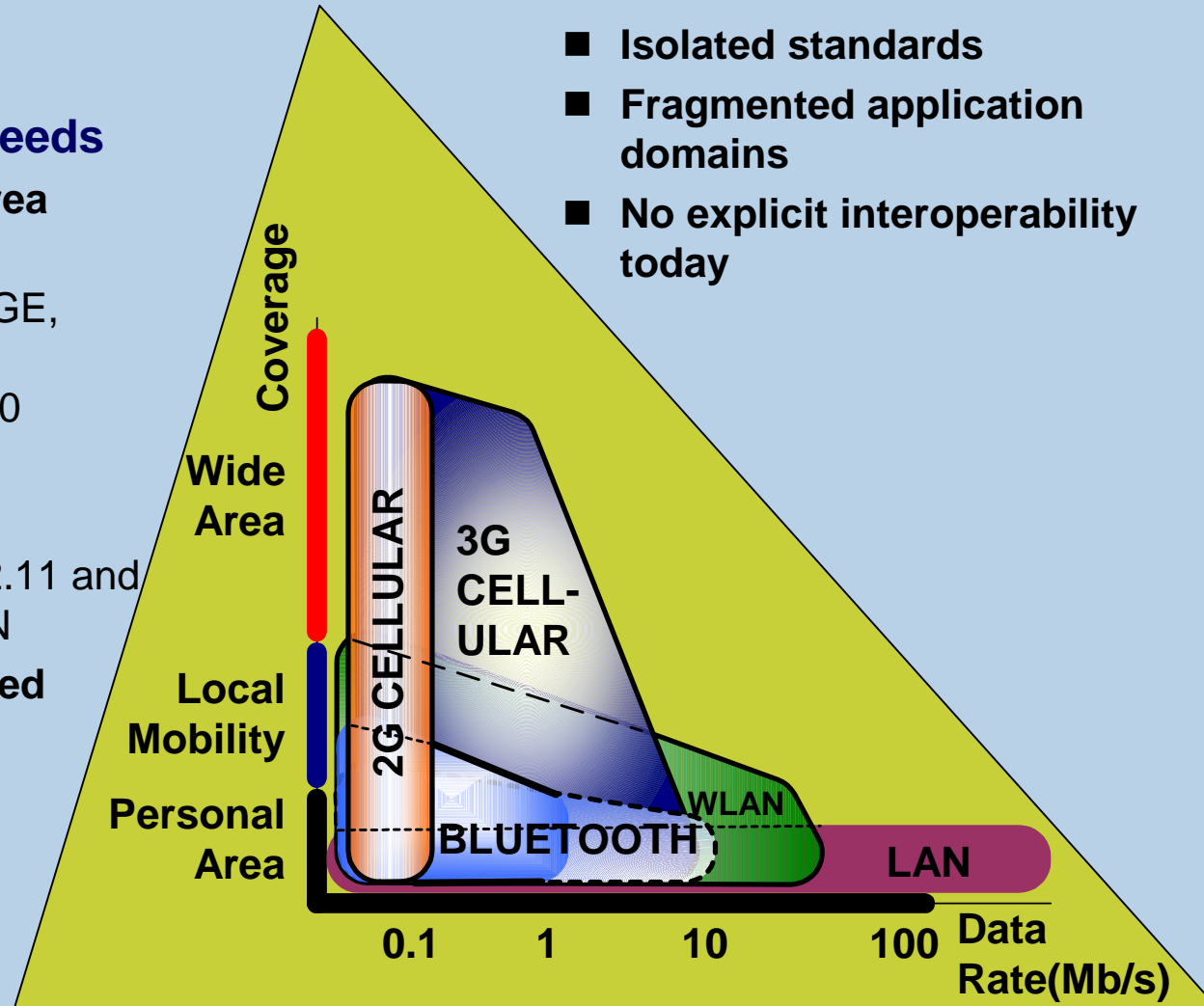
# Scenarios

## Wireless communication needs

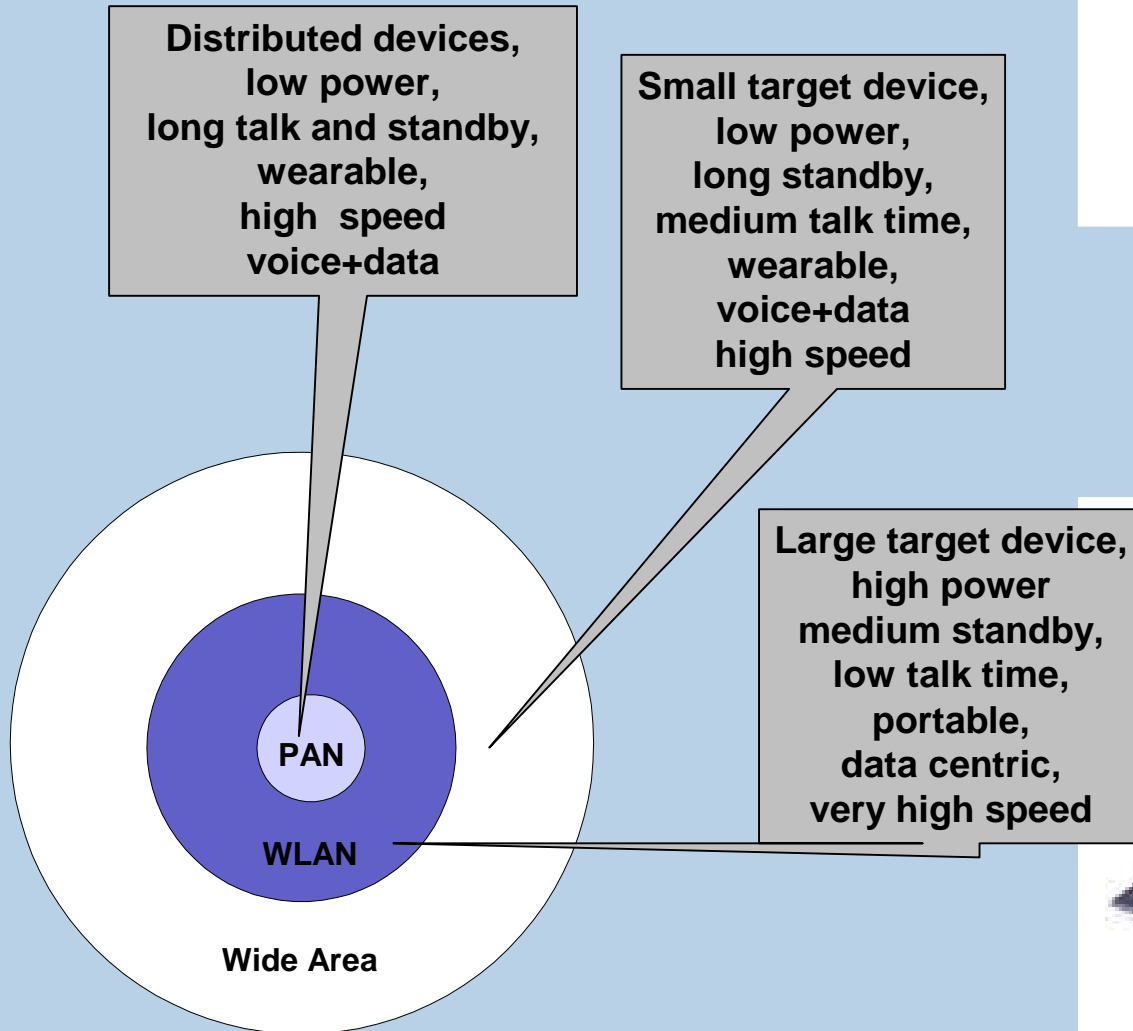
- **Medium speed wide area coverage**  
Cellular/3G: GSM/EDGE, WCDMA, cdma2000
- **High speed hot-spot coverage**  
WLANs: IEEE 802.11 and HiPerLAN
- **Low/Medium/High speed peer-to-peer networks**  
PAN: Bluetooth

## Problems

- Isolated standards
- Fragmented application domains
- No explicit interoperability today



# Device Characteristics



# Bluetooth Technology



## Strengths

- Robust to interference
- Microsoft, Apple backing will propel adoption by PC industry
- Number of Bluetooth modules shipped now exceeds 802.11b (TDK Systems Europe information)
- Good peer-to-peer communication system
- 10 Mb/s system will use 1 Mb/s channel as a fallback

## Opportunities

- Good integration and coexistence with 5GHz WLANs
- Every 3G phone will support Bluetooth
  - Large scope for new applications
- Low cost is finally reality

# WLAN Technology



## Strengths

- 802.11b has had initial success in the home and the enterprise

- Evolution to 802.11a

- Enterprise will likely accept

- Standards process addresses most weaknesses

Public

Hotel & Conference

Airport

Train Station

## Opportunities

- Integration with cellular for unified mobility and authentication

- Wireless ISPs have a choice for collaboration

- Cellular and broadband

Office

Home

# Third Generation Cellular

## Strengths

- Cellular is successful
- Strong consumer channels for services
- Real profits for operators
- Wide area coverage is important
- Voice, voice and voice!
- Cellular evolution to high data rates

## Opportunities

- High rate services ensure service continuity with WLANs
- Cellular operators are able to make money from differentiated services -- WLANs can hop on
- Bluetooth and 3G extend the personal network into the Internet





# Approaches for 3G+WLAN

## Two options

### **ONE: integrate WLAN with the UMTS core network**

- Complicated, needs new hardware

### **TWO: connect billing and subscriber profile alone**

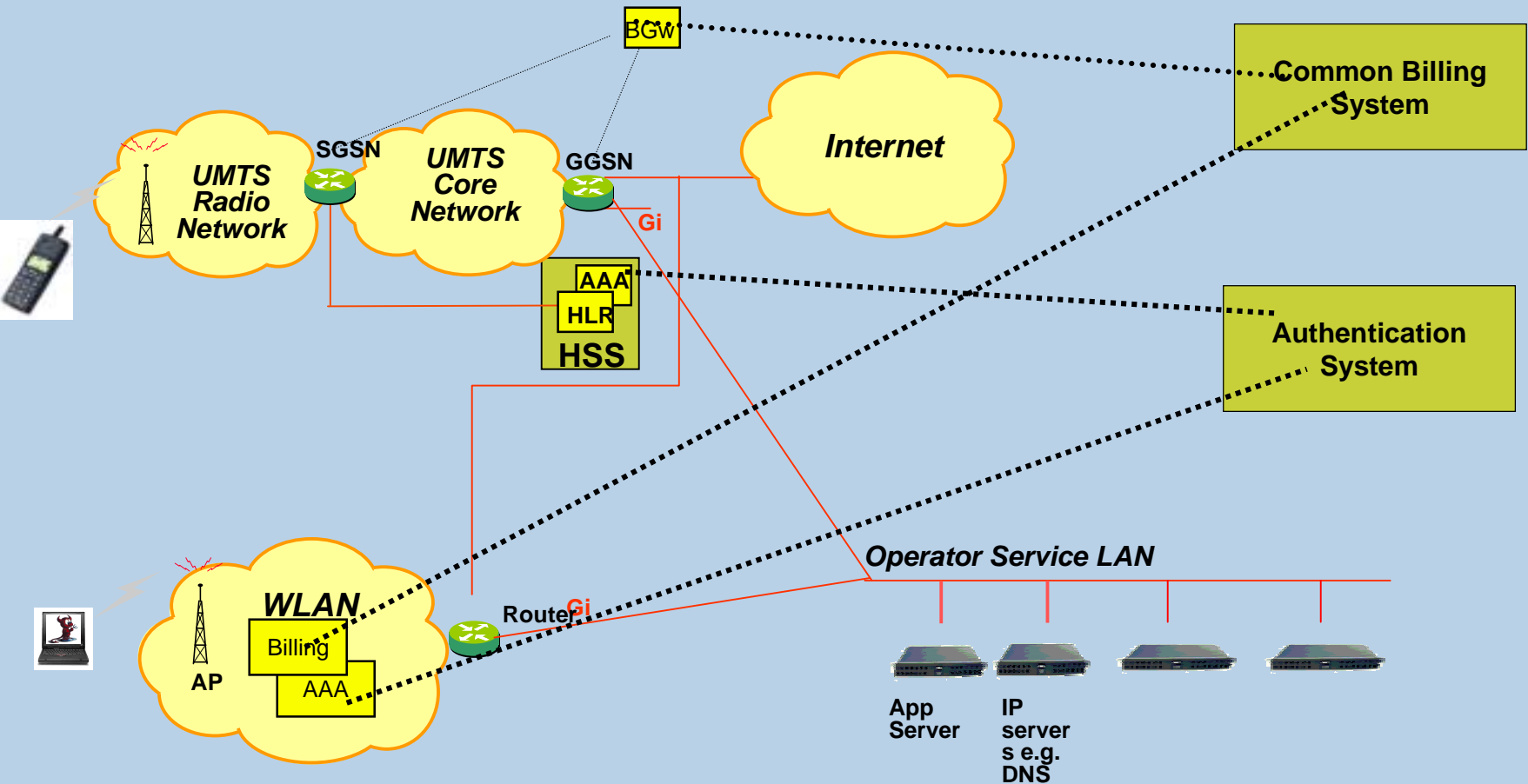
- Easy security and mobility for users cellular techniques
  - 3G HSS supports IETF AAA as well as HLR
- Unified billing

## Increased data use in wide area because of hot-spot

## Issues

- **Service continuity to the wide area for multimedia**
  - Demand from operators exists
  - Mobile IP based solution possible
- **Billing**
  - Wide area connectivity costs more than local area connectivity
- **Service architecture integration is difficult**

# Integrated 3G and WLAN Example





# Conclusions

## **PANs, WLANs and cellular extend the users connectivity in a complementary and hierarchical manner**

- Vision: Integrated Services Multimedia Network

## **WLAN systems and 3G cellular offer each other opportunities for success**

- Encourages users to continue in the wide area
- Easy glue for the WLAN provider
  - Security, roaming and mobility possible today

## **PANs offer convenience to access services**

- Take an “always connected” principle to the personal space
- Decouple the terminal and the application from the access method

## **Service positioning for WLAN and 3G**

- Bundling of services with unified billing
- Emphasize roaming, security and mobility advantages of cellular
- Integrated service offering not easy but applications will naturally adapt

# Abbreviations

|                  |                                                 |               |                                                          |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3G:</b>       | <b>Third Generation</b>                         | <b>IETF:</b>  | <b>Internet Engineering Task Force</b>                   |
| <b>AAA:</b>      | <b>Authentication and Authorization</b>         | <b>IEEE:</b>  | <b>Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers</b> |
| <b>BGw:</b>      | <b>Billing Gateway</b>                          | <b>IP:</b>    | <b>Internet Protocol</b>                                 |
| <b>DNS:</b>      | <b>Domain Name Service</b>                      | <b>LAN:</b>   | <b>Local Area Network</b>                                |
| <b>GHz:</b>      | <b>Billion (Giga) cycles per second</b>         | <b>Mb/s:</b>  | <b>Millions of (mega) bits per second</b>                |
| <b>GGSN:</b>     | <b>Gateway GPRS Support Node</b>                | <b>PAN:</b>   | <b>Personal Area Network</b>                             |
| <b>GPRS:</b>     | <b>General Packet Radio Service</b>             | <b>PC:</b>    | <b>Personal Computer</b>                                 |
| <b>GSM:</b>      | <b>Global System for Mobile Communications</b>  | <b>SGSN:</b>  | <b>Serving GPRS Support Node</b>                         |
| <b>EDGE:</b>     | <b>Enhanced data Rates for Global Evolution</b> | <b>UMTS:</b>  | <b>Universal Mobile Telecommunications System</b>        |
| <b>HiPerLAN:</b> | <b>High Performance wireless LAN</b>            | <b>WCDMA:</b> | <b>Wideband Code Division Multiple Access</b>            |
| <b>HLR:</b>      | <b>Home Location Register</b>                   | <b>WLAN:</b>  | <b>Wireless LAN</b>                                      |
| <b>HSS:</b>      | <b>Home Subscriber System</b>                   |               |                                                          |