Assignment: Survey of a Wireless Networking Topic
18-759 Wireless Networking, Spring 2016

For this assignment, each student must prepare a survey of particular topic in the area of wireless networking. A list of possible topics is given below. For each topic we have identified a set of initial papers that can be used to explore the topic.

What is a survey?
The goal of a survey is to give a broad, structured overview of a specific area. Here are two example scenarios in which you may have to prepare a survey after you graduate:

- You are working for a company that is exploring a new wireless technology or market, so employees and management are very not very familiar with this new area. You could be asked to prepare a 30 minute presentation to introduce to area, highlighting different approaches, challenges, opportunities, and risks.
- You decided to go to graduate school and you are writing your first paper on a research project you just finished. You need to write a short related work section that includes a survey of existing work in the areas relevant to your research.

A survey is different from a set of paper summaries. The survey should focus on presenting the “big picture” using the papers as examples. For each topic, we have identified three papers to get you started, but we generally expect that you will have to consult additional materials. Examples may be papers cited in the original papers, material found on the web, or results from online libraries, like IEEE Explorer, or the ACM portal.

Besides giving you experience in preparing a survey, this assignment should also help you sharpen your critical thinking skills. You should not blindly accept all statements you read (including in the papers cited below) simply because they appear in print in a refereed publication. While the material will generally be technically correct, parts of the papers may be biased or may ignore relevant related work (typically by accident), or the claims may overstate the results that are presented. These problems most often show up in the evaluation section of the papers. The evaluation is sometimes flawed (e.g. uses inaccurate simulators, ignores certain sources of overhead, or presents graphs in misleading ways) or may be very limited in scope (e.g. collects results on one testbed that may be atypical, but then makes broad claims). Your assessment of the accuracy of the results should be reflected in the survey, i.e. the survey must present your perspective on the state of the art in the area.

You can consult pretty much any material as long as you cite the source. However, you cannot copy text from other papers or the web, since that is plagiarism. The only exception is that you can quote short excerpts or figures from other material, assuming you make it clear that it is a quote and you cite the source.
**Deliverables**

You should prepare a 15-20 minute presentation. We will allocate 30 minute slots for each survey, leaving time for questions after each presentation. The surveys will start after spring break.

The first step is to propose three rank-ordered topics. The instructors will then assign topics to teams, considering the relevance of topics, their breadth and diversity. One of the three topics you list can be self defined, i.e. you can pick a topic that is not on the list. For self-defined topics, you must provide the initial set of papers that you propose to use as the starting point for the core. Please e-mail your rank-ordered list of topics to the instructor by Monday Feb 20.

**Milestones**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday Feb 17</td>
<td>List of proposed topics due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday Feb 19</td>
<td>Instructors announce topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March – April</td>
<td>In class presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 days before your presentation</td>
<td>Submit draft slides for feedback from instructors</td>
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**Topics for Spring 2016**

We list example topics with an initial set of papers for each topic. For some papers, you need a CMU IP address to access the paper, i.e. you need to be on campus or use a VPN.

**NOTE: some papers will be revised by Feb 19**

1. **802.11 rate adaptation**
   - Efficient channel-aware Rate Adaptation in Dynamic Environments, ACM Mobsys 2008
   - Robust rate adaptation for 802.11 wireless networks, ACM Mobicom 2006
   - Anticipatory Wireless Bitrate Control for Blocks, ACM CoNEXT 2011

2. **Channel-aware optimization**
   - CENTAUR: Realizing the Full Potential of Centralized WLANs through a Hybrid Data Path, ACM MobiCom 2009

3. WiFi network design and planning, and self-tuning MAC
   - **Optimal Design of High Density 802.11 WLANs**, CoNEXT 2006
   ✓ **Assessment of Urban-Scale Wireless Networks with a Small Number of Measurements**, Mobicom 2008

4. Mesh networking
   - **Simple Opportunistic Routing Protocol for Wireless Mesh Networks**, IEEE WiMesh 2006
   ✓ **Architecture and Evaluation of an Unplanned 802.11b Mesh Network**, Mobicom 2005

5. Diagnostics
   - **RFDump: An Architecture for Monitoring the Wireless Ether**, ACM CoNEXT 2009
   ✓ **Airshark: Detecting Non-WiFi RF Devices using Commodity WiFi Hardware**, ACM IMC 2011.
   - (optional) **Understand 802.11 Performance in Heterogeneous Environments**, HomeNets 2011.

6. Cellular handsets
   - **MAUI: Making Smartphones Last Longer with Code Offload**, ACM MobiSys 2010
   - **Diversity in Smartphone Usage**, ACM MobiSys 2010

7. Cellular infrastructure
   ✓ **Bartendr: A Practical Approach to Energy-aware Cellular Data Scheduling**, MobiCom 2010
   - **Characterizing Radio Resource Allocation for 3G Networks**, ACM IMC 2010
   - **A First Look at Traffic on Smartphones**, ACM IMC 2010

7. Localization
   ✓ **RADAR: An In-Building RF-based User Location and Tracking System**, Infocom 2000.
   - **CEASAR: Carrier Sense Ranging in Off-the-Shelf 802.11 Wireless LAN**, ACM CoNext 2011
8. Load balancing in 802.11
   ✓ Load-Aware Spectrum Distribution in Wireless LANs, ICNP 2008
   ✓ Fairness and load balancing in wireless LANs using association control, International Conference on Mobile Computing and Networking 2004

9. Sensing with WiFi (papers TBD)
   ✓ Load-Aware Spectrum Distribution in Wireless LANs, X
   ✓ Cell breathing in wireless LANs: Algorithms and Evaluation, X
   ✓ Fairness and load balancing in wireless LANs using association control, X

10. WiFi on the move
    ✓ Understanding WiFi-based Connectivity From Moving Vehicles, IMC, October 2007
    ✓ Cabernet: Vehicular Content Delivery Using WiFi, Mobicom 2008
    ✓ Interactive WiFi Connectivity for Moving Vehicles, ACM Sigcomm 2008

11. Disruption Tolerant Networking – DTN
    ✓ A delay-tolerant network architecture for challenged internets, ACM Sigcomm 2003
    ✓ A Message Ferrying Approach for Data Delivery in Sparse Mobile Ad Hoc Networks, ACM Mobicom 2004
    ✓ DTN Routing as a Resource Allocation Problem, ACM SIGCOMM 2007