

Tech News: Wireless USB

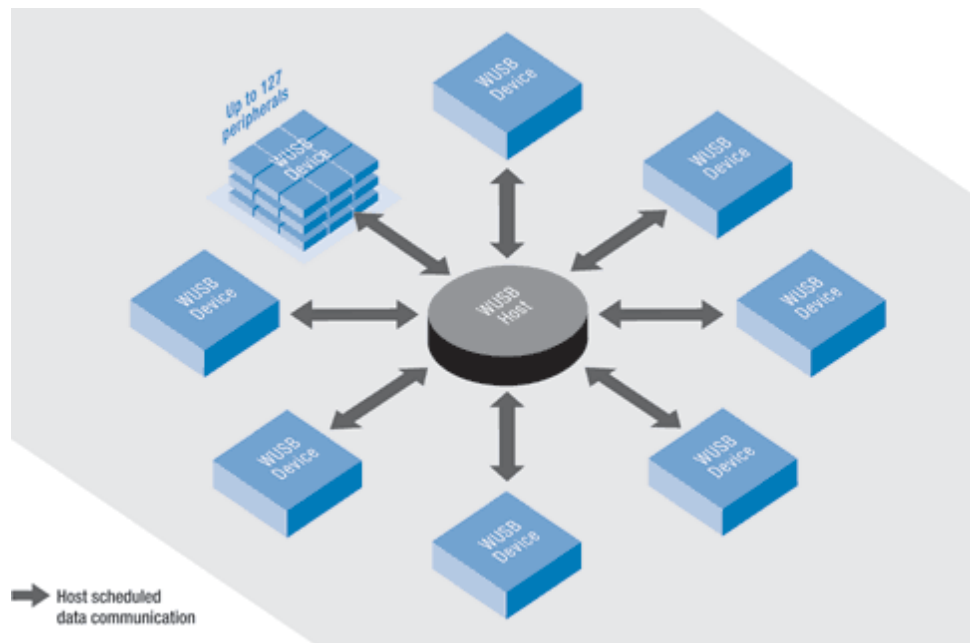
What is Wireless USB?

Wireless USB is a short-distance, high-bandwidth wireless radio transmission technology. It will preserve the functionality of wired USB while also unwiring the cable connection and enhancing support for audio / video streaming. With a single wireless USB host controller, you can link multiple (up to 127, to be exact) peripherals including printers, scanners, digital cameras, MP3 players, game controllers, external drive enclosures and flash memory drives.



Technology behind Wireless USB

WUSB technology will be based on ultra wideband (UWB) specifications from the WiMedia Alliance. Operating in the 3.1 to 10.6 GHz frequency range, WUSB is capable of sending 480 Mbit/s at distances up to 3 metres and 100 Mbit/s up to 10 metres.



WUSB and existing USB devices

Fortunately, wireless USB is backward-compatible with wired USB and provides a bridge to wired USB devices. WUSB will ensure as high a level of security as its wired counterpart. Existing USB devices will be able to be used wirelessly by connecting them to a Device Wire Adaptor (DWA) which will enable them to become WUSB devices. An existing PC will be able to become a WUSB host and communicate with WUSB devices by fitting a Host Wire Adaptor (HWA).

Implementations and future of WUSB

Given the large bandwidth provided by wireless USB, it can easily manage multiple HDTV data streams between 19 and 24 Mbit/s. Business applications for WUSB have endless possibilities. Scanners, projectors, hard drives and printers could all be connected to each other wirelessly as if they were using wired USB. As for the consumer market, high-definition video and audio will be streamed wirelessly across the room instantly. Pictures taken by a digital camera can be downloaded to any computer system in the room wirelessly.

Wireless USB is backed by some of the most influential corporations in the world, including Microsoft, Intel, HP and Samsung. Manufacturers are starting to incorporate wireless USB into their products or services. In short, wireless USB will become the de-facto standard in short-range wireless communication.



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