

Special Issue

New Frontiers of IEEE 802.11 Systems

Message from the Guest Editors

The IEEE 802.11 wireless LAN family continues to evolve and satisfy new challenges arising from emerging applications (e.g., real-time gaming and video, automation control systems, etc.) and scenarios (e.g., Industrial Internet of Things, etc.). The new challenges are mainly related to the provision of extremely high data rates and ultra-low latencies. Moreover, the support of massive and heterogeneous power-limited clients for Internet of Things applications represents a new relevant challenge of the next generation of Wi-Fi technologies. The increasing demand for ubiquitous availability of Wi-Fi operating in unlicensed bands has led to the search for new unlicensed spectra, such as the 1.2 GHz spectrum in the 6 GHz band as recently ruled by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States. New unlicensed bands will create unprecedented opportunities for new applications that can leverage multi-gigabit links enabled by access to this new swathe of spectrum. The impact of the new Wi-Fi systems working at mmWave bands on new applications and scenarios requires more investigation in order to deeply understand if and when this technology can be exploited.

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