# Architectural Solutions for Foreign Communication in Personal Networks Martin Jacobsson, R.V. Prasad, Weidong Lu, Ignas Niemegeers

## Personal Networks (PN)

Personal Networks are all about user-centered wireless communication. Personal devices around a person form a small Personal Area Network (PAN), and will work in full cooperation with each other. We call this network a Private Personal Area Network (P-PAN). Personal devices in other places will form similar networks when direct wireless communication is possible. These networks are called 'Clusters' and facilitate local communication between personal devices. To facilitate remote communication between personal devices, tunnels are established over infrastructure networks to interconnect the Clusters and the P-PAN. This is what we call a *Personal Network* (PN).



Figure 1: Inter-connected Clusters form a Personal Network

**Gateway Node (GW):** A Personal Node within a Cluster that enables connectivity with the outside world, either directly or via an infrastructure-based network. Clusters communicate with each other over tunnels created and maintained between GW Nodes.

## Foreign Communication



Figure 3: Foreign Communication at the network level

Steps in connecting to a Foreign Node:

- 1. Find potential Foreign Nodes to communicate with.
- 2. Discover and select a 'proper' Gateway Node
- 3. Check the authenticity of the Foreign Node
- Send packets via the selected Gateway Node (Source routing can be used within the Cluster)
- 5. The Gateway Node translates addresses between the PN and the outside world. It gives an illusion of a direct connection.
- When accepting incoming connections, advertisements can be used.

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#### **The Three-Level PN Architecture**

As shown in Figure 2, a PN is composed of three *abstraction levels*, the connectivity, the network and the service abstraction levels. The connectivity abstraction level consists of various wired and wireless link layer technologies and allow two nodes implementing the same radio technology to communicate. The network level divides the nodes into Personal and Foreign Nodes, based on trust relationships. Personal Nodes that are nearby and have a long term trust relation form a Cluster. The network level also contains tunnels among the Clusters. The highest level in this architecture is the service abstraction level and it consists of servers and applications. A service discovery protocol makes applications and servers find each other at this level.



Figure 2: Three Level View of a Personal Network

At the service level Personal Node Gateway Node Foreign Server Application Laver **PN** Applications (Servers) ervice Proxy PN Vetwork Layer N Network Lave IP Lave IP Layer Connectivity Connectivity Connectivity Layer Layer Layer Personal Network (inside Cluster) Non-PN Nodes Foreign PN Node Personal Node Gateway Node Gateway Node Application Lave PN Application Laver PN Applications Applications Service Proxy Service Proxy PN PN PN Network PN Network IP Lav . FIP Laye Jetwo Layer Laye Layer Layer Connectivity Connectivity Connectivity Connectivity Layer Layer Lave Laver Personal PN Foreian PN

Figure 4: Foreign Communication at the service level

#### Conclusions

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Gateway Nodes connect the PN with the outside world and either work as network address translator at the network level or a service proxy at the service level:

- Network level provides end-to-end IP communication and makes use of only one (TCP) connection, which may provide better QoS.
- **Service level** provides a finer granularity access control since higher layer information can be used.

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The two solutions can of course work together or in parallel.

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