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Technologies from Mimos Berhad Wi-Wi

THE funny-sounding name may have you emitting peal after peal of laughter, but the Wi-Wi concept — a combination of WiMax and Wi-Fi technologies developed by Mimos Berhad's head of wireless communications cluster Dr Mazlan Abbas, is touted to be the next best thing in network technologies.

The hybrid solution to the country's digital divide issue will certainly change the way we are connected, as the birth of this technology will result in a more affordable and wider broadband access, as current technologies utilise materials and deployment methods which can run into high costs and maintenance.

How does Wi-Wi work? Mazlan explained that using the Wi-Fi concept, a user needs to have a Wi-Fi enabled device to gain access to a WiFi network while the integration of the WiMax concept enables a high speed and capacity network with the ability to transmit data to further distances. Wi-Wi takes the step further by connecting the Wi-Fi hotspots in a mesh network while extending the coverage distance and reliability of the network. The connection of multiple Wi-Wi networks is referred to as the 'Wireless Fabric' and is described as providing seamless coverage for users, even when the user has moved from one point to another.

To ensure a larger wireless coverage, Mazlan suggested that service providers install Wi-Wi devices on a street lamp or a building — the more devices are installed, the greater the coverage. More users can also connect to this network with the deployment of the IPv6 (Internet Protocol version 6), a next generation Internet Protocol, as its main protocol. Users can expect free or cheaper calls via (Voice Over IP) in a community-type setting.

Mimos has already developed the first generation Wi-Wi prototype. It is in the midst of developing the prototype for the second generation Wi-Wi, which is expected to be completed by year end.