



Portable Computer and  
Communications Association

<http://www.pcca.org>

# *Newsletter*

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## NEXT MEETING - AUGUST 23

The next meeting of the PCCA standards and architecture committee will be on August 23 in Redmond, Washington, and will be hosted by AT&T Wireless Services. One of the topics we plan to examine is wireless interface and application issues associated with handheld and palm-size computers. As in previous meetings in Redmond, we will invite Microsoft to present their wireless architecture plans. Prior meetings in Redmond have been very well attended, and have proven valuable to participants.

We plan to hold another interoperability workshop in conjunction with the MDI-ng on August 22, using AT&T's GPRS network.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Gloria Kowalski.

The PCCA would like to take this opportunity to thank its members for their support and participation in the PCCA. We would also like to suggest that non-members receiving this newsletter consider joining the PCCA. The PCCA can only do its work through the active participation and financial support of its members. Members also enjoy a number of benefits, including access to the Members Only section of the web page. This section contains valuable information, including copies of presentations and unabridged versions of the minutes going back to 1999. Member companies can also send as many people as they wish to meetings, whereas non-members are charged \$300 per person.

The PCCA welcomes three new members since the last issue of this newsletter:

- ❑ **Ecutel, Inc.** Associate level. <http://www.ecutel.com>. Representative: Dzung Tran, CTO.
- ❑ **Xybec Solutions Inc.** Associate level. <http://www.xybec.com>. Representative: Clive Wright, President.
- ❑ **Ulrich Wallor.** Individual level.

Xybec Solutions Inc. has submitted information about their company for publication in this newsletter:

Xybec Solutions Inc. is a leading-edge provider of customer-oriented software to the wireless data industry. Their customers include some of the largest and most distinguished telephone companies in the United States, Canada, and around the world. Their expertise includes 3rd generation (GPRS, EDGE, UMTS, WCDMA) wireless data systems and beyond.

Xybec Solutions Wireless Internet Connection Kit product is software that takes the user from "box-to-Internet" in the shortest time and aims to do that with the carrier receiving no customer service calls. Target platforms include Windows,



PalmOS, and Windows CE (PocketPC & H/PC). MacOS and Psion versions are under development. Xybec will soon be making important announcements regarding additional products specific to the wireless data market. Quality, customer confidentiality, timeliness, and high ethical standards are of paramount importance to Xybec, and have led to a high level of customer satisfaction with our work. Xybec Solutions is incorporated in British Columbia, Canada and is based in Vancouver.

## **SUMMARY OF MEETING MAY 23**

This meeting, held in Boynton Beach, Florida, and hosted by Motorola, focused on GPRS interoperability. The following companies participated in the meeting, with thirty-four people attending:

Advanced Wireless, Cingular, Compaq, Ecutel, Ericsson, Intel, MCCI, Megisto Systems, Metricom, Microsoft, Motorola, NetMotion, Novatel Wireless, Rogers AT&T Wireless, Rysavy Research, Siemens, Sierra Wireless, Sonera, Strix Systems, Toshiba, VoiceStream, and Xybec Solutions.

Presentations included:

- ❑ Motorola Accompli 009, Finbarr O'Carroll, Motorola
- ❑ Update on Workshops, Ron Smith, Intel
- ❑ PCCA GPRS objects for NDIS, Emil Sturniolo, NetMotion Wireless
- ❑ AT Commands via IP, Motorola
- ❑ SIM AT Commands for PIN/PUK, Tom Kurata, VoiceStream
- ❑ GPRS Network Deployment, Shaukat Mulla, Rogers Wireless

We had an extensive discussion about GPRS interoperability concerns and issues. We also formed a new subcommittee, chaired by Motorola, to explore the transport of AT commands via IP protocols.

Complete minutes of the meeting and copies of these presentations are available in the Members Only area of the PCCA Web page at <http://www.pcca.org/private/members.htm>. People from PCCA member companies needing a user ID and password should send e-mail to the PCCA. If you don't know whether your company is a member, please refer to <http://www.pcca.org/membership/members.htm>.

## **WIRELESS WORKSHOP TASK FORCE (WWTF) UPDATE**

By Ron Smith, WWTF chairman.



On May 25 in Boynton Beach, Florida, we completed the first joint PCCA/MDI-ng Wireless Workshop. Our thanks to Motorola for hosting the event, and to VoiceStream for hosting their GPRS network. Twenty-two people from fifteen companies spent a day and a half testing their products together, using the GPRS network. Aside from a slow start Thursday morning getting hardware ready, and a slow start Thursday afternoon waiting on pizza delivery, testing went entirely as planned and achieved useful results.

## Results Summary

Overall, testing showed a high degree of interoperability among products and with the GPRS network:

- ❑ Adapters successfully installed/uninstalled on the mobile computers and functioned as GPRS data pipes for mobile applications.
- ❑ Performance was good with download rates in excess of 24.5Kbps observed.
- ❑ A client-to-enterprise VPN successfully provided remote corporate access.

There were some issues:

- ❑ Installation was generally at the “hacker” level. (However, this was mostly because some of the installation wizards were not available at the workshop.)
- ❑ There are a number of wireless support and standardization issues at the OS level.
- ❑ Software vendors identified areas where they need to tune their products to overcome? withstand? GPRS latencies.

The full report is available in the Members Only area of the web site at <http://www.pcca.org/private/members.htm>.

## What's Next

Planning has already started for the next GPRS workshop, in conjunction with the August PCCA meeting. Some new issues to be addressed at this workshop include:

- ❑ Network Transparency: Public vs. private IP addressing, IP address assignment, Network Address Translation (NAT), Network Address and Protocol Translation (NAPT), test for IPSEC compatibility.
- ❑ End-user Apps (Outlook, Notes, NetMeeting, etc.): Which ones can be used effectively over GPRS? What are their optimal configurations?
- ❑ Roaming: Effect of roaming in another network on latency, throughput, how IP packets are actually routed, and value-added services.
- ❑ Understanding inherent and implementation-variant latencies of GPRS networks.



Please check the [www.mdi-ng.org](http://www.mdi-ng.org) and [www.pcca.org](http://www.pcca.org) websites regularly for the specific date and place. In the meantime, send me feedback on areas of testing you would like to see.

Regards,  
Ron

[Ronald.m.smith@intel.com](mailto:Ronald.m.smith@intel.com)

tel: 1-503-456-1649

mobile: 1-503-515-3090

## FUTURE MEETINGS

Future meetings of the standards and architecture committee (beyond those discussed above) are currently scheduled as follows:

- ❑ November 8, 2001. Tentative date subject to no major conflicts. Tentative location is Houston, Texas. Proposed topic: Java for mobile platforms: interfaces, application considerations, interoperability.
- ❑ 2002 Schedule to be determined. We currently meet once per quarter, and are likely to meet February, May, August and November. Any company wishing to host a meeting, please send an e-mail to the PCCA.

For the latest information on PCCA meetings and other events, see <http://www.pcca.org/news/news.htm>.

## SUMMARY OF CURRENT WORK

This section summarizes the work currently underway by the standards and architecture committee.

- ❑ **Quarterly Meetings.** These meetings are used to plan our work, provide updates on work projects, and then focus in depth on technical issues facing the industry. At each meeting we analyze one major topic using a symposium format that consists of technical presentations and discussion.
- ❑ **Interoperability Workshops.** Working with the MDI-ng, the PCCA regularly holds interoperability workshops that address usage, development, and deployment of mobile devices, networks, and applications. Current workshops are on GPRS. Future workshops will be on CDMA2000 and UMTS.
- ❑ **Wireless Extensions to NDIS.** These objects, which now include support for GPRS, are available in Microsoft Windows. We are working with Microsoft to examine how the OS, protocol stacks, and applications can best take advantage of these objects. The next planned appendix for this PCCA standard (STD-201) will define support for CDMA2000 devices.



- ❑ **Apply STD-201 Wireless Objects to USB Control Plane.** We are working with the USB Device Working Group to determine how our work with wireless extensions to NDIS can be applied to the USB framework.
- ❑ **AT Commands via IP (ATVIP).** We have formed a technical subcommittee, chaired by Atis Freimanis of Motorola, to examine how AT commands can be transported over IP protocols between a computer and modem. This is important because standards define AT commands for control, but most user sessions are IP based. An ATVIP mechanism will allow in-band signaling.

## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This is the newsletter of the Portable Computer and Communications Association. Effective 2000, this newsletter has been distributed via e-mail. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep PCCA members current with the activities and directions of the PCCA. This newsletter is published on a quarterly basis. This newsletter is distributed to everybody on the PCCA mailing list, including both PCCA members and non-members. Prior copies of this newsletter are available at <http://www.pcca.org/news/news.htm>.

We welcome contributions. If you have any topics or articles you would like to contribute, please contact us. The editor of this newsletter and chair of the PCCA Standards and Architecture Committee is Peter Rysavy, <http://www.rysavy.com>, 1-541-386-7475. For questions about PCCA membership, please contact PCCA Director Gloria Kowalski, <http://www.pcca.org>, 1-541-490-5140.