



The impact of Li-Fi on internet service provider infrastructure: network architecture, operational costs, and user experience.

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Summary

This article analyzes the technical and economic impacts of the introduction of Li-Fi (Light Fidelity) technology on the operation of Internet service providers (ISPs). Given the accelerated growth in data consumption and the pressure on the radio frequency (RF) spectrum, Li-Fi emerges as a complementary connectivity layer based on visible light modulation.

The study examines the infrastructural requirements necessary for the adoption of the technology, assesses its impacts on user experience in terms of latency and security, and discusses the economic challenges related to large-scale implementation in the telecommunications sector.

Keywords: Li-Fi. ISPs. Internet Service Providers. Network Infrastructure.

Telecommunications. Optical Networks.

1. Introduction

The continued growth of the Internet of Things (IoT), of computing applications in cloud computing, industrial automation, and the consumption of high-resolution media have expanded.

The demand for bandwidth in modern networks has significantly increased. This scenario has raised the... pressure on the radio frequency spectrum used by Wi-Fi technologies and networks conventional furniture.

In this context, Li-Fi (Light Fidelity) emerges as a complementary alternative to data transmission in indoor environments. The technology uses modulation of the light emitted by LEDs for transmitting information at high speed, employing communication principles. Wireless optical. Recent studies indicate that Li-Fi can achieve transmission rates superior to traditional Wi-Fi technologies in specific and controlled scenarios.

Unlike proposals that suggest the complete replacement of wireless networks Conventional technologies, Li-Fi tends to operate as a complementary technology to Wi-Fi, especially in high-density device environments, in mission-critical enterprise applications, and in locations where electromagnetic interference represents a significant operational limitation.

This work seeks to analyze the impacts of Li-Fi adoption on ISP infrastructure. in operational costs and end-user experience, considering technical limitations and existing economic factors.



2. The Infrastructure Required of ISPs for the Adoption of Li-Fi

The implementation of Li-Fi requires Internet service providers to... Robust, high-capacity transport infrastructure. The efficiency of optical distribution without The wire's performance depends directly on the quality of the power grid supplying the light transmission points.

In this scenario, FTTH (Fiber to the Home) architectures become fundamental for To guarantee low latency and high traffic capacity. Technologies such as XGS-PON and future ones. Evolutions in passive optical networks offer suitable conditions to support applications of high data density associated with Li-Fi.

In addition to the optical layer, ISPs need to operate resilient routing infrastructures. with redundancy based on protocols such as BGP and direct interconnection with Access Points Traffic Exchange (IX.br) and content delivery networks (CDNs). These elements They reduce latency, improve stability, and prevent bottlenecks that would compromise gains. Potential of wireless optical communication.

Internally, residential or corporate infrastructure also requires adaptations. Local area networks based on Cat6A cabling, indoor fiber optics, or hybrid systems. Distribution becomes important to avoid limitations imposed by metal structures. legacies.

3. The Operational Impact and the New Service Model of ISPs

The adoption of Li-Fi could significantly change the operational role of ISPs. In addition to delivering connectivity, providers are now operating in a more integrated way with Intelligent lighting systems and automated environments.

In corporate and industrial applications, luminaires equipped with Li-Fi transmitters. They can be integrated into the operator's monitoring ecosystem, which requires new routines for Technical support and preventive maintenance. This increases the need for training. professional in areas related to photonics, optical communication and network integration hybrids.

Another significant impact relates to the reduction of interference typical of Wi-Fi networks. conventional, especially in environments densely populated with wireless devices. In corporate and residential condominiums, the reduction of competition between channels of Radio frequency can improve the overall stability of connectivity.

At the same time, Li-Fi creates business opportunities for ISPs, including



specialized contracts focused on secure connectivity in hospitals, industrial centers, Government environments and highly critical corporate facilities.

4. The End Customer Experience: Speed, Security, and Limitations

The main advantage perceived by the user in Li-Fi networks is related to high... Data transmission capability in controlled indoor environments. The use of light. Visible lighting reduces problems associated with electromagnetic interference present in networks. traditional radiofrequency based.

Another important benefit is related to the physical security of communication. Like the Light has a limited reach within the illuminated environment and does not pass through opaque barriers within it. Unlike radio waves, Li-Fi can significantly reduce the surface area exposed to External interceptions in specific scenarios.

This characteristic makes the technology especially relevant for applications in hospital, military, industrial and corporate environments that require high levels of Control of access to information.

However, Li-Fi also has significant technical limitations. The performance of Communication depends on the proper propagation of light and can degrade when there are blockages. physical factors, excessive movement, or inadequate lighting conditions. Therefore, Efficient handover systems between light points become necessary to ensure the continuity of connection during user mobility. For this reason, experts at Industry leaders believe that, at least in the medium term, Li-Fi should coexist with Wi-Fi. traditional in hybrid connectivity architectures.

5. The Economic Challenge and Current Adoption Verticals

Despite technological advancements, the mass adoption of Li-Fi still faces significant challenges. Economic barriers. The production of compatible chipsets, optical sensors, and transceivers. It remains more expensive than that of traditional equipment used in Wi-Fi networks. conventional.

Currently, the technology is more viable in highly competitive environments. specialized sectors where radio frequency represents an operational risk or technical limitation. significant. Hospitals, industrial laboratories, military environments and strategic centers of Data is among the main scenarios for initial adoption.

In addition, companies specializing in wireless optical communication are coming. Developing solutions for industrial applications, critical automation, and environments. corporations with high demands for data security.

The medium- and long-term trend is that the production chain will mature and increase The scale of manufacturing progressively reduces the costs of the technology, allowing its Gradual expansion into commercial and residential applications.

Conclusion

Li-Fi represents a significant evolution in the field of wireless optical communications. and has the potential to complement traditional radio frequency-based networks in Specific scenarios requiring high density, low interference, and enhanced security control.

However, its widespread adoption depends directly on the existence of Robust optical infrastructure, reduced hardware costs, and device evolution. compatible with illuminated communication.

For ISPs, the potential expansion of Li-Fi requires investments in high-performance FTTH networks. capacity, in resilient data transport architecture and in technical capabilities geared towards Integration between connectivity and intelligent lighting systems.

From the current economic perspective of the telecommunications sector, implementation in The mass adoption of Li-Fi for residential customers is not yet financially viable for the... Most internet providers will be leaving in the coming years. The high cost of equipment, the Low commercial standardization of end devices and the need for structural adaptation. The environments limit its scalability in the short-term domestic market.

In this context, the most likely trend for the next five years is that Li-Fi Remain focused on highly critical corporate and institutional applications. especially in operations that demand additional levels of security, stability and Information access control. Among the environments with the greatest potential for adoption, the following stand out: whether hospitals, financial institutions, sensitive research centers, police departments, judicial forums, strategic government facilities, industrial laboratories and large Companies that operate highly secure dedicated links.

Therefore, the most plausible scenario for the near future does not involve replacement. It's not a complete replacement of traditional Wi-Fi, but rather the consolidation of hybrid architectures, in which Different connectivity technologies coexist according to technical and economic requirements. and operational aspects of each environment.



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