

FAQ: Amenity and Community Hotspots - Devicescape and Fon Partnerships

Over the past few years, the profile of devices connecting to iPass has drastically changed. Smartphones and tablets now represent 75 percent of network use, with laptops the remaining 25 percent. Handheld devices demand more and more “casual and unplanned” connections. The diversification in iPass’ global footprint to include more community and amenity Wi-Fi locations gives users of those handheld devices more connection options, particularly in metropolitan areas.

Q: How many hotspots are in the iPass network? And how did iPass get to that number?

A: Driven by rapid growth in its community and amenity Wi-Fi footprint, iPass now provides access to 62 million Wi-Fi hotspots.

In 2015, iPass entered into strategic partnerships with Fon Technology and Devicescape to expand its network footprint to 62 million hotspots; iPass’ partnership with Devicescape provides an additional 20 amenity Wi-Fi locations; its Fon partnership gives iPass another 10 million hotspots.

Q. What is Devicescape?

A: Devicescape develops software for wireless networking and supports a Curated Virtual Network (CVN), a crowdsourced network of more than 20 million Amenity Wi-Fi locations worldwide.



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Q: What is Amenity Wi-Fi? Where is it available?

A: Amenity Wi-Fi is shared, complimentary Wi-Fi intended for guests and customers of businesses and public spaces. Amenity Wi-Fi is available all over the world in shops, cafés, restaurants, banks, malls, stadiums, on transport networks as well as in numerous other public spaces.

Q. What is Devicescape's curation process?

A: Devicescape crowdsources the best available Amenity Wi-Fi locations, through a curation process that verifies access points and speed before the hotspot is included in the Curated Virtual Network.

Q: What is Fon Technology?

A: Fon provides wireless Internet services. Fon's unique crowdsourcing approach started from residential Wi-Fi. Fon now provides solutions that span residential, small and medium enterprise as well as large venues. The Fon network meets state of the art security and scalability requirements. Fon increases iPass' coverage in the following countries: France, Brazil, Portugal, Poland, South Africa, Japan, Greece, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Q: What is a community hotspot? How does it differ from a commercial hotspot?

A: A community hotspot consists of a Wi-Fi router that broadcasts two different SSIDs, one for the private owner and another for public "community members." By broadcasting two SSIDs, the router is logically and securely separated between the two groups. Community hotspots tend to be located in metropolitan areas.

In contrast, a commercial hotspot is a Wi-Fi access point dedicated to commercial use only.

Q: What are the benefits of a community hotspot?

A: Most community hotspots are located in metropolitan areas.

Q. Will Devicescape and Fon networks be available on all iPass platforms?

A: Devicescape and Fon networks are available for iOS and Android. Support for other platforms will follow in April.



ABOUT IPASS

iPass is a leading global provider of mobile connectivity, offering convenient, secure, always-on Wi-Fi access on any mobile device. Built on a software-as-a-service (SaaS) platform, the iPass cloud-based service keeps its customers connected by providing unlimited Wi-Fi connectivity on unlimited devices. iPass has 62 million hotspots in more than 180 countries, at airports, hotels, train stations, convention centers, outdoor venues, inflight, and more. Using patented technology, iPass SmartConnect takes the guesswork out of Wi-Fi, automatically connecting customers to the best hotspot for their needs. Customers simply download the iPass app to experience *unlimited*, *everywhere*, and *invisible* Wi-Fi.

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Q. Is the Windows client update to support Devicescape and Fon networks a profile update only, or do Devicescape and Fon directory updates require a client version upgrade?

A: Directory updates will require a client version update.

Q. Does iPass have plans to acquire additional footprint besides Devicescape and Fon?

A: iPass is always looking to expand its footprint. iPass seeks to be everywhere a mobile user would want to connect.

Q. Will connections to Devicescape or Fon locations trigger a chargeable event for the connection?

A: No.

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