

IoT Connectivity

...and more

Name of Standard	Weightless			Sigfox	LoRaWAN	LTE Cat M	IEEE 802.11ah (Low power WiFi)	Cash? Alliance Protocol 1.0	Ingenu RPWA	nWave
	-W	-R	-P							
Frequency Band	TV white space (400-800 MHz)	Sub-GHz ISM	Sub-GHz ISM	868 MHz/900 MHz ISM	433/868/900/915 MHz ISM	Cellular	License-exempt bands below 1 GHz, excluding the TV White Spaces	433, 868, 915 MHz ISM/FSRD	2.4 GHz ISM	Sub-GHz ISM
Channel Width	5 MHz	Ultra narrow band (200 Hz)	12.5 kHz	Ultra narrow band	DL: 8k/12.5 kHz, US: 8.4k/12.5 kHz/9k/12.5 kHz, Modulation: Chirp Spread Spectrum	1.4 MHz	1/2/4/8/16 MHz	25 kHz or 200 kHz	1 MHz (40 channels available)	Ultra narrow band
Range	5km (urban)	5km (urban)	5km (urban)	30-50km (rural), 5-20km (urban), 1000m LoS	2-5km (urban), 15km (rural)	2.5-5km	Up to 15km (outdoor)	0 - 5 km	>500km LoS	10km (urban), 30-50km (rural)
End Node Transmit Power	17 dBm	17 dBm	17 dBm	10µW to 100 mW	EU: <14dBm, US: <27dBm	100 mW	Dependent on Regional Regulations (from 1 mW to 1 W)	Depending on FCC/ETSI regulations	to 20 dBm	25-100 mW
Packet Size	10 byte min.	Up to 20 bytes	10 byte min.	12 bytes	Defined by User	~100-~1000 bytes typical	Up to 7,961 Bytes (w/o Aggregation), up to 55,535 Bytes (with Aggregation)	256 bytes max / packet	Flexible (6 bytes to 10 kbytes)	12 byte header, 2-22 byte payload
Uplink Data Rate	1 kbps to 10 Mbps	100bps	200 bps to 100 kbps	100 bps to 140 messages/day	EU: 500 bps to 50 kbps, US: 500-100kbps	~200kbps	150 kbps ~ 346,666 kbps	9.6 kbps, 55.55 kbps or 166,667 kbps	AP aggregates to 634 kbps per Sector (Assumes 8 channel Access Point)	100 kbps
Downlink Data Rate	1 kbps to 10 Mbps	No downlink	200 bps to 100 kbps	Max 4 messages of 8 bytes/day	EU: 100 bps to 50 kbps, US: 500-100kbps	~200kbps	150 kbps ~ 346,666 kbps	9.6 kbps, 55.55 kbps or 166,667 kbps	AP aggregates to 156 kbps per Sector (Assumes 8 channel Access Point)	--
Devices per Access Point	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	1M	Appl: >1M, Downlink: >100k	20k+	8191	N/A (connection not communication)	Up to 384,000 per sector	1M
Topology	Star	Star	Star	Star	Star or Star	Star	Star, Tree	Node-to-node, Star, Tree	Typically Star, Tree supported with an RPWA standard	Star
End node roaming allowed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Allowed by other IEEE 802.11 amendments (e.g., IEEE 802.11n)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Governing Body	Weightless SIG			Sigfox	LoRa Alliance	3GPP	IEEE 802.11 working group	Cash? Alliance	Ingenu (formerly Onlamp)	Weightless G
Status	Limited deployment awaiting spectrum availability	Deployment beginning	Standard in development. Scheduled release 4Q 2015	In deployment	Spec released June 2015, in deployment	Release 13 expected 2015	Targeting 2016 release	Released May 2015	In Deployment	In Deployment

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Source: http://www.cnx-software.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/LPWAN_Comparison_Table.png

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The best connectivity solution for an IoT use case in terms of power and resources will very often be a "sometimes" connected strategy.

If that is the case, how do we programmatically interact with an IoT device when it is usually offline or disconnected?