**Chapter 1: Introduction**

**Section 1.1 Introduction**

Wi-Fi, one of the most widely used wireless technologies, covers over 4 million households worldwide to connect laptops, smart phones and even televisions, lights, and air-conditioners with the Internet.

LTE is a wireless communication standard developed for providing high-speed data transmission for mobile phones. It's uplink speed is up to 50 megabits per second (Mbps) and downlink speed is up to 100 Mbps. The user experience of many mobile services required fast data transmission (e.g. music and video streaming), are highly improved from the development of this technology.

For Wi-Fi services providers and communication operators providing LTE services, it is necessary to understand situations of the communication channels they are providing for the customers. There are various criteria to assess the performance of a communication channel, such as signal strength, connectivity, packet delay and packet lost,etc. Specially, signal strength, the signal power in the received end , is the most related feature to assess a communication channel. With the evaluation of the existing wireless network, these companies can decide the deployment of their Wi-Fi access points and signal towers and also conduct fault detection. This process is called Wireless Site Survey. Fundamentally, a sit survey process is to test chosen criteria in a working site. However as the performance of a channel varies significantly in different locations in the environment, the geographical information must be well recorded and associated with the evaluation data in the test.

Traditionally, there are three approaches proposed for conducting a site survey. However, they are highly labor-intensive and time-consuming. As for a large outdoor environment, these two constraints would become significantly restricted. As smartphone is one of the most common and easy-to-use platforms for most people, there are many site survey mobile applications offered in the market. They are suitable for the users requiring a fast, simple and automatic site survey. However, most them are not utilizing the GPS function embedded in most of the mobile phones nowadays. There are space to introduce more automation in the process of collecting and linking the location with the test data.

In this report, a new mobile application is proposed to accelerate and smoother the wireless site survey procedures in outdoor environment for the Wi-Fi services and communication companies. Smartphones will be used as a detection unit to generate the signal strength of a Wi-Fi/ LTE transmitter. The innovation of the project is to use the GPS function in the mobile phones to generate the geographical information automatically.

Furthermore, the architecture of the code is designed to be extensive. More different assessment for Wi-Fi and LTE channels can be added to the application easily.

**Section 1.2: Literature Review**

In order to understand the performance of existing Wi-Fi and LTE network, various solutions have been proposed and can be categorized into four main aspects: predictive survey, passive survey, active survey and site survey mobile applications. We will briefly review these four fields.

The predictive survey functions by utilizing simulation software [1]. Firstly, users need to create a virtual model of the site containing the information of material properties, which is very time-consuming. The attenuation properties of the materials will be assigned in the software. After finishing the model, users can place the transmitters and receivers in different locations in the model. By calculation with the associated algorithm, the prediction of signal strength, coverage area of a transmitter are generated. However, the accuracy heavily depends on the similarity between the model and the real environment and it takes a lot of time to improve the model.

A passive survey is an on-site listen-only survey and functions to measure transmitters’ signal strength, channels used and noise level [2]. In this method, an adapter used to receive signals is settled in the facility to listen to, but not connect to, the transmitters. However, to finish the whole process, 3 to 4 engineers have to work together for a long period of time. It is labor-intensive and not suitable for fault detection which is requiring fast identification of the problems.

An active survey is also an on-site survey which provides more information than the passive survey [4]. Instead of just listening to the transmitter, in active survey, a device is connected with the transmitter and receives messages from it. In this way, the active survey can provide extra information such as connectivity, throughput, round trip time, packet delay, packet lost, retransmission and other useful metrics. When users travel through the site, they can collect the data in different spots and finally produce a heat map. Similarly, by placing the transmitter in different places, users can find the location for the most robust coverage. However, the commercial software for this test is expensive as it cost up to 2000 US dollars. Also, the geographical data such as the floor plan of the building is not generated automatically by the system but has to be loaded into the computer by the user.

Site survey mobile applications are widely provided free in android and iOS systems. By using the embedded antennas in the phone, these applications can provide passive and active surveys with tolerable errors in a relatively small area. User can perform the whole test in relatively short time However, most of the applications are just able to collect the data from one point and are not able to associate with the location where the data is connected.

It is clear to see that the three commercial testing applications can provide accurate results of the signal strength of a site. however, they are very expensive and time consuming. On the other hand, site survey mobile applications are easy to use and are provided for free, but as there is a need for the floor plan of the site, there is improvement in this section. As such, we propose a new mobile application that can map the signal strength automatically with the geographical location where the strength data is collected.