
Concourse launches VoIP hotspot trial

By Kevin Fitchard

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Concourse Communications is launching a VoIP over Wi-Fi trial at Newark Liberty Airport to explore the possibility of launching a VoIP service throughout its network of airport hotspots.

A Concourse spokesman said the provider will initially offer the service for free to its frequent Wi-Fi data customers, offering some customers handsets and a select few Wi-Fi phones. As the trial progresses Concourse plans to expand it to the two other New York City airports.

"It's nice to do some experimentation with leading edge technology," said Joe Beatty, president of Concourse. "Right now we're treating it as an add-on service, but later we'll see if it makes sense to charge for it."

Texas Instruments also released its WiLAN IP phone this week, enabling developers to create handsets and software that make VoIP calls over corporate LANs and public hotspots. The platform uses TI's OMAP16xx technology, which is widely used in cell phones and has low talk and standby power requirements.

Vonage, which worked with TI on the development of the technology, said it would support the new products emerging from the platform over its network, providing new ways for customers to take their IP Telephony connections with them on the road.

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