

Data Through Flickering Office Lights

Written by Marco Attard
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LVX System relieves wireless congestion through what's normally thought of as a nuisance-- flickering ceiling lights.



LED clusters in a ceiling light fixture transmit messages by flickering faster than the eye can see. Special modems "read" the messages and flicker messages back to the fixture's sensor-- connecting a computer to the internet.

The system's first generation transmits data at around 3 Mbps.

So far the US-based company is just about to install its first light fixtures in 6 municipal buildings.

LVX says its second generation should roll out in 2011-- and have speeds comparable to commercial wifi networks. It will also lead to colour- and intensity-changing lights, with "smart" fixtures dimming according to sunlight intensity.

What makes the system attractive is electricity and maintenance cost-- with LEDs being very energy efficient and more durable than regular than standard lighting.

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