

In Brief: BT developing business WiFi convergence

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British Telecom has awarded a contract to Alcatel for development of a fixed-and-wireless convergence system for major business customers.

The service will use WiFi wireless technology to access fixed business networks from the home and BT hotspots as well as at the office.

"Large customers told us what they wanted and we have listened," said Steven Evans, head of BT's wireless broadband department. "This new service will harness the power of wireless broadband on customer's existing fixed infrastructure, as well as BT's 21st Century network and a new generation of dual mode WiFi / GSM mobile phones."

Alcatel's role will involve the design and testing of the new product. BT hopes to begin pilot projects with major clients sometime next year.

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