



Background Information

What is it?

open80211s is a consortium of companies who are sponsoring (and collaborating in) the creation of an open-source implementation of the emerging IEEE 802.11s wireless mesh standard. The resulting software will, in the first release, run on Linux on commodity PC hardware. See: <http://www.open80211s.org/>.

Who are the current sponsors?

Nortel is the founding sponsor. The One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) Foundation is also a sponsor. Other prospective sponsors are in the works. cozybit (<http://www.cozybit.com/>), the company that developed the mesh software on the OLPC Laptop, is driving the implementation.

Why is this project being undertaken?

- We believe that a high-quality open-source reference implementation will accelerate the creation and eventual adoption of the IEEE 802.11s mesh standard.
- An open-source implementation of a standards-based wireless mesh implementation will replace the multiple incompatible and partial Linux mesh implementations, increasing the adoption of wireless mesh.
- This project complements our involvement in the OLPC project, for example by making school servers less expensive and more accessible.

What is involved in sponsoring?

There are three sponsorship levels:

- Tier Three sponsorship (minimum contribution of \$5,000) which gives the sponsor the right to claim sponsorship of the project and have a logo displayed on web or printed project materials.
- Tier Two sponsorship (minimum contribution \$50,000 USD), which includes all the rights of Tier Three sponsorship plus the ability to track intermediate results, test data, and other non-public and pre-publication project artifacts, and the right to participate in the planning and conduct of the project.
- Tier One sponsorship (minimum contribution \$100,000 USD), which includes all the rights of Tier Two sponsorship plus the right to have the software ported to a specific piece of hardware.

How will this software be licensed?

The software will be licensed under the GNU Public License, Version 2.

Whom should I contact?

You should contact Robert Withrow at Nortel (bwithrow@nortel.com) or Javier Cardona at cozybit (javier@cozybit.com).