

Meeting at a glance

The wireless web

— Dianne Moscrip, staff writer

Michael Prokop, a partner at *igeno consulting inc.*, presented a high-level overview of the wireless Web at the October chapter meeting. The presentation slides can be found online at www.igeno.com/events.htm.

For the wireless Web to function, four key components need to be working together: wireless networks, devices, applications, and middleware.

Wireless networks transmit data between personal computers, servers, and other network devices without the use of a physical cable or wire. And, they are all about speed! Today we're using analog with some digital; tomorrow it'll be mostly digital — and much faster.

Devices are what you use to connect to your wireless network — be it a laptop, phone, or your palm pilot. By 2003, 35% of networked people will rely on three or more devices daily.

Applications are the software used to make your device perform. Michael defines a “killer app” as providing “the right information at the right place at the right time.” Consumers want these “killer apps” to provide immediate,

spontaneous access and to be customizable.

A huge potential for growth in are business-focused applications in areas such as supply chain execution, database inquiry, and fixed telemetry (e.g., remote meter readings and minor diagnostics). Consumer-focused applications may appear in areas like account-based transactions, personal information management, and automobile platforms for navigation and safety.

Some applications, of course, will crossover into both business and consumer groups. This will provide challenges and opportunities in billing, security, intellectual property rights, and many other areas.

Finally, **middleware** is the broker for applications. This software level will provide two functions:

1. Compression, or other requirements needed for your system to run as fast as possible.
2. Security.

Once all four components are programmed and working together, we might see:

- Video phones.

- GPS phones which allow you to locate venues of interest.
- GPRS phones with a camera having three rotate out screens and an earbud attachment. ■■

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(Valerie Stevens, from page 9...)
and hi-speed Internet service at home.

The downturn in the hi-tech industry has affected the workflow for me, and so my services have found an application elsewhere in my community. In diversifying, I edit and publish a weekly newsletter, write brochures and marketing materials, provide Web content and offer expert Microsoft Office user skills to those in need. ■■

Valerie Stevens is the Active Wordsmith. She is currently on contract as an editor of training materials for a vendor to Microsoft, and also enjoys editing a local independent school's weekly newsletter.