

Wireless Metropolitan Network @Fes

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Profile of project area

- In its initial phase the project will serve the city of Fez. The city of Fez is in the Moroccan context a middle to low income area with about a 1 million population
- Although the city is well served in terms of basic infrastructure (electricity, GSM network), it lacks any community owned communications infrastructure
- The terrain is hilly. The city of Fez administration will be customer and partner for the project.
- Area GPS coordinates are between (34°04'09.73"; 5°03'21.37"W) and (34°01'01.02"; 4°59'29.42"W)

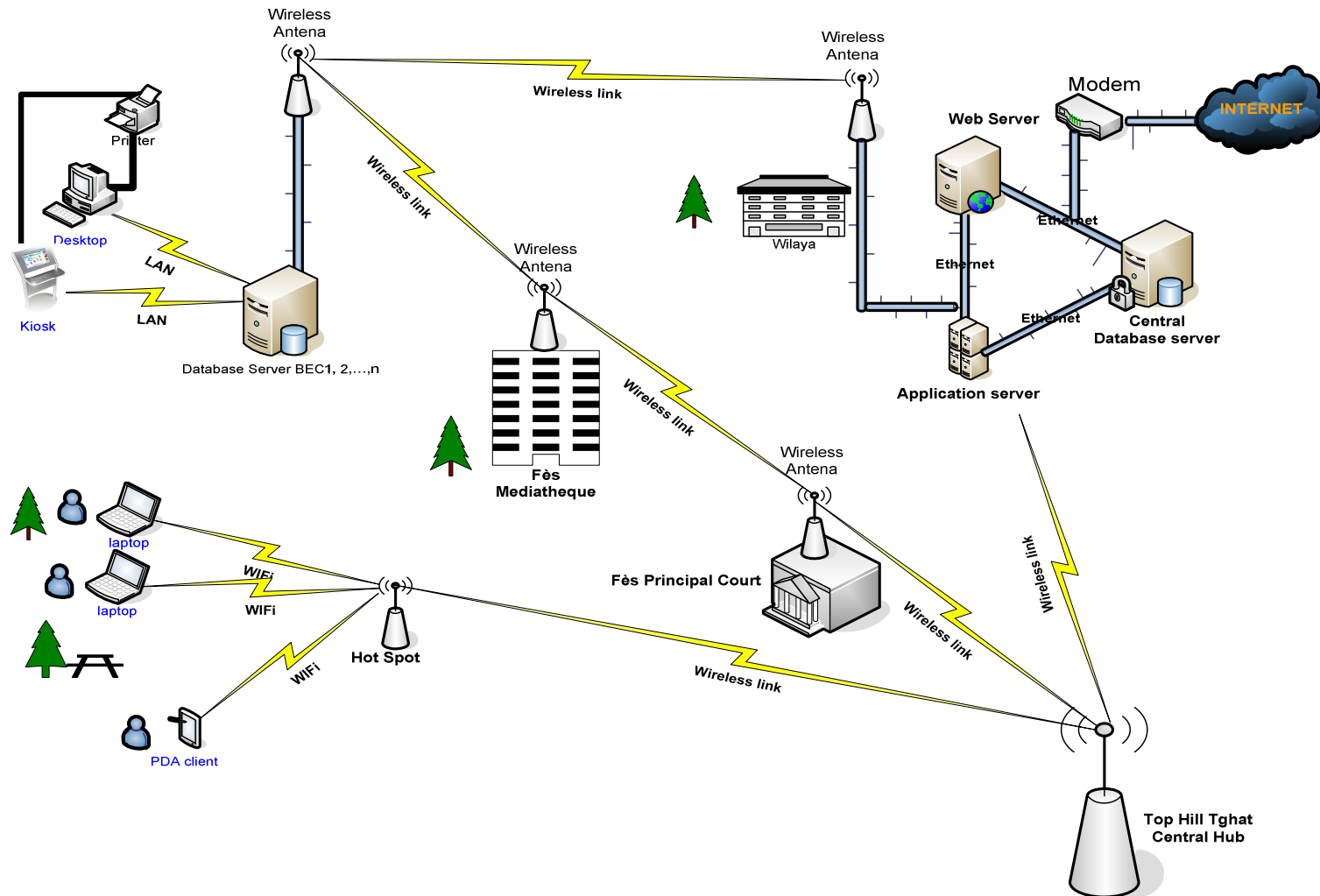
Site selection

- The general population's ICT Awareness is low and this is a topic the project will be addressing
- The main objective of our project is to use ICT to simplify and make more accessible administrative services to citizens which was deemed a development necessity
- In this project local government is the main actor. The infrastructure being put in place will serve as the main communication backbone of a complete strategy
- Other actors involved in the project are the national telecommunication regulator and the Ministry of interior who is considering this as a pilot project

Description of project network

- The project is a complete network set-up including connection to the internet, backhaul and wireless links
- The project is partially funded through an IDRC grant
- Although the local government does not currently have the needed skills to deploy or to run the projected network, the collaboration with AUI will fulfil this need
- Given that the project is to benefit the government a request for an experimental set up has been granted by ANRT. This grant includes wireless links and VoIP

Network diagram



WMAN@Fes, Morocco

Business models

- At this pilot stage, the cost of equipment is fully taken up by the IDRC funding
- Once this stage is completed, the local government, through local taxes will cover all running expenses of the network
- Our initial estimates are that 11 area access points will be connected and a total of 100 users will be served

Challenges & Lessons learned

- The main lessons learned from this project are that a first pilot phase helps ease worries
- Although strict regulations from national agency do apply, if project holders can demonstrate a developmental outcome, exceptions can be granted
- Getting local authorities involved early in the project proved to be a strong point for the project

Way forward

- There are a number of options forward:
 - Allowing public access to the network through appropriate business model
 - Duplicate this experience in other cities
 - Integrate VoIP solution in that network

Thank you!