

**Global Wi-Fi Offload
Traffic Forecast, 2014
– 2019: An
*Alternative to LTE***

Market Study
First Quarter, 2015





Global Wi-Fi Offload Traffic Forecast, 2014 – 2019: An *Alternative to LTE*

A Market Study

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Abstract

Most mobile operators around the world are experimenting with Wi-Fi networks in some way. AT&T in the U.S., for example, has rolled out Wi-Fi hotzones in congested metro areas. SK Telekom offloads a massive amount of data traffic each month to Wi-Fi, as do NTT DoCoMo and Softbank in Japan. However, in the Middle East and Africa Wi-Fi networks are really just getting started. Wi-Fi is a little more advanced in Latin America, depending on the country, but deployments still lag those in more mature wireless markets.

The reasons behind regional differences in Wi-Fi deployments are as much due to differences in GDP, regulation and taxation, as they are to availability of licensed cellular spectrum, affordability of devices relative to median income, reliable access to power, literacy levels, population and population densities.

This report presents *iGR*'s model for Wi-Fi Offload, which include:

1. **Wi-Fi Only:** This is data traffic that occurs on a Wi-Fi network outside of the home or office on Wi-Fi-only devices.
2. **Wi-Fi Offload (User Driven):** A subscriber/end user who chooses a Wi-Fi connection (except one inside the home or office) rather than use their 3G/4G mobile broadband connection. If the non-home/non-work Wi-Fi network did not exist, this traffic would have gone over the mobile operator's cellular data network.
3. **Wi-Fi Offload (Carrier Driven):** This is user-generated data traffic that the operator diverts from its 3G/4G RAN to a carrier-managed Wi-Fi network. This is data the subscriber would have used regardless of the type of RAN they are on (Wi-Fi or cellular). This type of Wi-Fi offload is not widespread today, but *iGR* believes it will become more common over time.

Key questions addressed:

- What is Wi-Fi?
- Where is the Wi-Fi standard headed?
- How is Wi-Fi used?
- What is Wi-Fi offload?
- What is the difference between user-driven Wi-Fi offload and carrier-driven Wi-Fi offload?
- What are some of the key standards efforts associated with Wi-Fi offload?

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- What are the potential benefits associated with Wi-Fi offload?
- What are the potential issues associated with Wi-Fi offload?
- What is Wi-Fi only? How is it commonly used?
- How much Wi-Fi offload traffic is expected through 2019 both globally and in each region of the world?
- How much Wi-Fi only traffic is expected through 2019 both globally and in each region of the world?
- What percentage of total “mobile” data traffic is Wi-Fi traffic both globally and in each region of the world?

Who should read this report?

- Mobile operators, including those with Wi-Fi networks
- Device OEMs
- Content providers and distributors
- Cable MSOs and those offering Wi-Fi services
- Financial analysts and investors.

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