

COUNTDOWN TO TRUE WIRELESS BROADBAND

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What does Maxis, DiGi, Celcom, U Mobile have in common?

All four offer always-on mobile internet connection, be it on broadband USB dongle that you plug to your PC or simply online from your smartphone.

Mobile internet has become common in Malaysia, but the current generation of 2G and 2.5G hardly classify as broadband. While 3G and 3.5G technologies do mark as beginning, the upcoming 4G technologies – namely 802.16m WiMAX (Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access) and LTE (3GPP Long Term Evolution) re-

lease 10 – are truly broadband wireless access (BWA). BWA is the evolution of 20 years plus of mobile technology, starting from first generation communication or 1G which purely on voice without broadband data then comes 2G with Global Packet Radio Service (GPRS) and Enhanced Data rates for GSM Evolution (EDGE) as the basic of data service offering. At current trend, every telco company in

Malaysia is shouting loud on how superior their 3rd generation (3G) network is. Jargons such as High Speed Packet Access (HSPA) and High-Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA) is used to clearly state how different 3G from 2G. Lastly, due in few month times, we will soon be able to taste the latest generation of 4G mobile technology.

With the aggressive marketing campaign by mobile broadband providers, inexperienced users will find it hard to differentiate the technologies behind each provider. Questions such as “Is WiMAX technology similar to LTE?”, “What is the different between P-ONE and YES technology compare to Maxis, DiGi, Celcom and Umobile?” are the common questions lingering around these users. If we look at the graph above by NQ



Logic, it clearly shows that LTE is the current standard for telco company, in Malaysia context that will be Maxis, Celcom, Digi and Umobile while WIMAX is the evolution from WiFi technology, which in this case the technology uses by P-One and Yes technology. In summary, Both LTE and WIMAX are 4th generation BWA but uses different underlying technology.

THE EVOLUTIONS OF THE G'S, 2G, 3G, 4G... WHAT NEXT?



Telecom standard

Telecom standard is governed by GSM World; a body consists that represents the interests of mobile operators worldwide. Spanning 219 countries, the GSMA unites nearly 800 of the world's mobile operators, as well as more than 200 companies in the broader mobile ecosystem, including handset makers, software companies,