WIRELESS APPLICATION PROTOCOL

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ABSTRACT

It seems that just about everywhere you look, someone is talking on a mobile phone. For those who curse under there breath just at the sight of someone with a phone stuck in their ear, hold on to your 4-letter words, because cell phones are here to stay. In fact, instead of watching people talk on their mobile phone, you will see them staring into the display on that phone, PDA (personal digital assistant) or pager. What are they looking at? Why, the Internet of course. It can now officially be said that the Internet has penetrated every single aspect of our lives. The wireless Internet, and the magic behind it: WAP (wireless application protocol) is expected to be a large part of the technological future.

INTRODUCTION TO WAP

Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) is a standardized global bridge between a mobile device and the Internet. It allows you to access the wealth of information on the World Wide Web, from your palm-sized cell phone. This technology is not intended for web surfing, but instead for people on the go, who want to send an email, check the weather or even purchase a book or CD online.

WAP HISTORY

The WAP Forum began in 1997 when the U.S. Network provider Omnipoint issued a bid for the supply of mobile information services, and got numerous responses from several industry leaders. Omnipoint stated it would not accept proprietary standards and suggested the respondents get together and create a common standard. [2] It was then that Ericsson, Motorola, Nokia and Openwave (formerly Unwired Planet) combined efforts to establish a global standard, not controlled by any one company, to be used to filter information from the Internet into mobile devices. Today, the WAP Forum is made up of over 600 industry wide companies. Their primary goal is to foster the wireless industry using a combined effort among companies, ensuring compatibility of all wireless devices. [1]

WHY CHOOSE WAP?

WAP technology is enjoying so much success due to the fact that "almost every mobile device manufacturer has agreed to include a WAP browser on most handsets produced". [1] Any phone, whether it has a one-line display or is a smart phone, can use the WAP standard.

REFERENCES

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