IoT Glossary

What is HSDPA?

High Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA) boosted what's possible on the 3G network.

What is HSDPA?

High Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA) is sometimes referred to as 3.5G, 3G+, or Turbo 3G. When it was first rolled out in the early 2000s, it significantly enhanced the third generation (3G) cellular telecommunication system.

What is HSDPA?

The Universal Mobile Telecommunications Service (UMTS) – also known as the 3G standard – first arrived in 1999, and operators first started rolling out 3G services a couple of years later. At the time, the existing 2G protocol was fine for handling basic functions (e.g. calls, SMS and browsing). However, business users and ordinary consumers alike were starting to expect a lot more from cellular networks.

3G opened the door to higher capacity tasks: video calls being a prime example. It also opened up new possibilities for businesses exploring connected technologies for the first time, such as connecting with and tracking fleet vehicles when on the road.

HSDPA was one of several initiatives designed to improve the 3G system, so it could keep up with advancements in mobile and IoT technology.

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The benefits of HSDPA

Performance

Compared to the standard 3G protocol, HSDPA improves the data transfer rate by a factor of at least five. Particularly relevant in real-time business applications, HSDPA delivers significantly lower latency than standard 3G. It means fewer dropped data packets and less laggy performance: highly useful in areas such as time-sensitive industrial automation.

More advanced projects

HSDPA (and HSPA in general) opened up new possibilities for delivering IoT projects using cellular networks. Examples included advanced fleet telematics and tracking services in **transport and logistics (https://wirelesslogic.com/sectors/transport-and-logistics/?)**, as well as real-time **video surveillance (https://wirelesslogic.com/sectors/security/?)**.

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Disadvantages of HSDPA

Suitability

High performance cellular networks like 3.5G (as well as 4G and **5G (https://wirelesslogic.com/iot-solutions/5g/?)**) are often a good choice for complex, time-sensitive, data-heavy applications; especially where users and devices are on the move. However, for other uses (e.g. asset tracking, facility management and basic performance monitoring), alternative wireless technologies such as LTE-M or NB-IoT might be a better fit.

For any project, it is important to weigh up your options to match your specific use cases with the most suitable and cost-effective technologies.

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Find out more

For an expert assessment of your connectivity needs and to discover the best fit M2M options for your business, speak to Wireless Logic today.

Learn more about 2G/3G Sunsetting here (https://wirelesslogic.com/white-paper/2g-3g-sunset/?).

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