

In 1971, ALOHAnet connected the Great Hawaiian Islands with a UHF wireless packet network. A 1985 ruling by the U.S. Federal Communications Commission released the ISM band for unlicensed use.[7]

These frequency bands are the same ones used by equipment such as microwave ovens and are subject to interference. ALOHAnet and the ALOHA protocol were early forerunners to Ethernet, and later the IEEE 802.11 protocols, respectively. In 1991, NCR Corporation with AT&T Corporation invented the precursor to 802.11, intended for use in cashier systems, under the name WaveLAN