In Spain, gas stations are obliged by law to publish their prices and the ones of their near–rivals (the fact is they never publish rival’s prices).

How could this be solved? Well, I think wi–fi and a small receiver could help.

**Wi–Fi in the gas station**

The gas station would have a wi–fi access point with a DHCP server and an server–application emitting some information (gas prices, gas–oil prices, which value–added services do they offer, aso) in a protocol designed for that goal. They would broadcast this information, so cars driving on the roads near to it could receive the signal.

**A receiver in the car**

Cars would have a small receiver device, something like a radio with an small display (two or three lines would suffice) and would be always receiving wi–fi signals. Receivers would automatically get an IP from the DHCP server which they would be receiving the more power. When the device would be properly set up with that IP, the device would display the information it is receiving.

**Problems**

Of course, the would be some problems. Here are the two I think could smash my invention:

– An evil gas–station emitting with a lot of power for darkening neighbour gas–stations (this would only harm near gas–stations)

– Danger of wi–fi power causing a spark, then provoking fire or even explosions (I think this has never happened in the World, but here in Spain laws disallow you from using your handy near gas–stations just in case).

Feel free to work on this and let me know if you ever come up with something useful.

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1. I’m afraid that current legislation doesn’t allow the use of WiFi on gas stations.

Comment by xavier caballe – Friday 03rd of September 2004 @ 19:55:22 | Edit This

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