

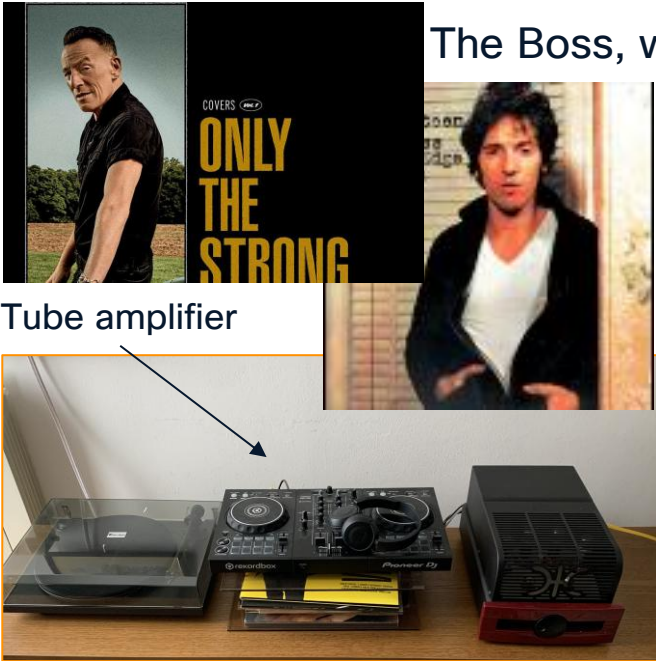
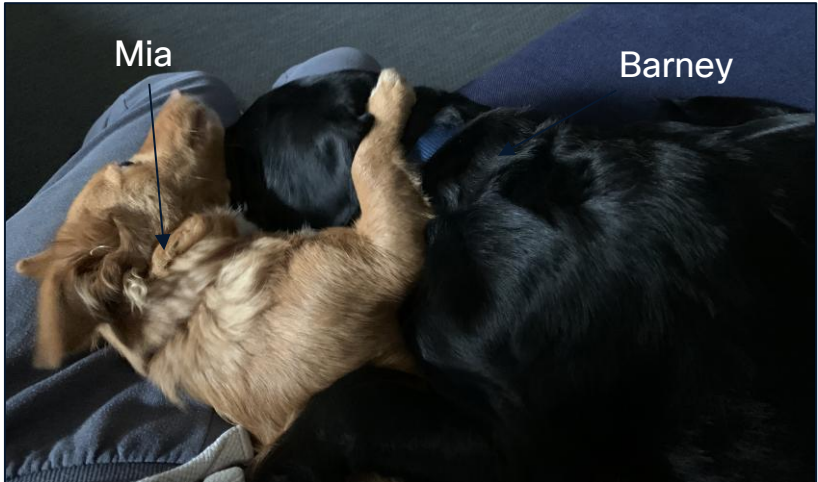
Design and Deploy Cisco Cloud Managed Enterprise Wireless Networks

cisco Live !

Simone Arena
Distinguished TME, Cisco Wireless

Session ID: BRKEWN-2046

Who Am I?



The Boss, what else??

Tube amplifier

Le Pergole Torte
Monteverte, 2020



Fiorentina soccer fan

Cisco Webex App

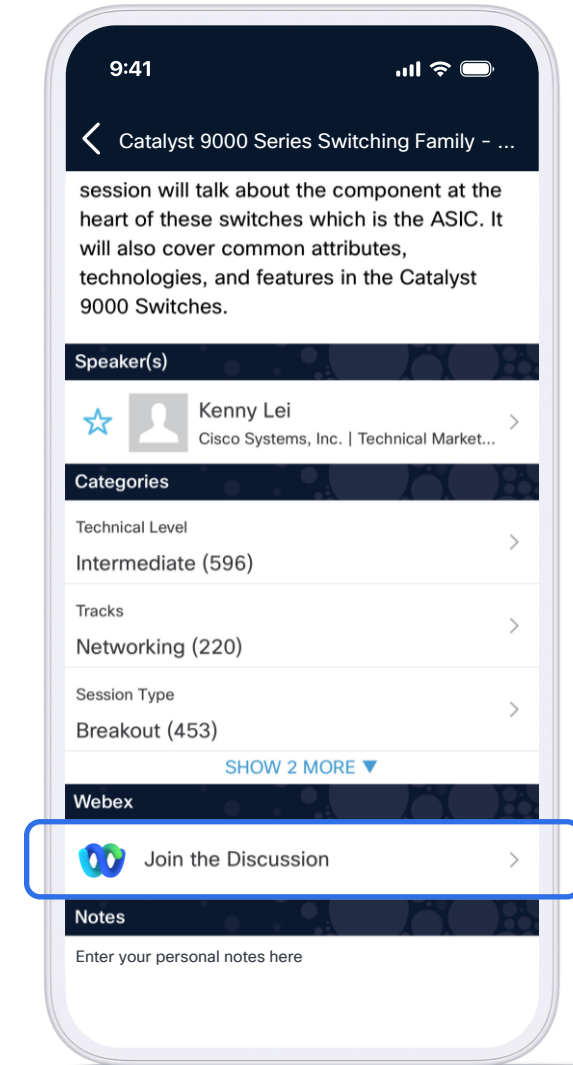
Questions?

Use Cisco Webex App to chat with the speaker after the session

How

- 1 Find this session in the Cisco Live Mobile App
- 2 Click “Join the Discussion”
- 3 Install the Webex App or go directly to the Webex space
- 4 Enter messages/questions in the Webex space

Webex spaces will be moderated by the speaker until 14 November 2025.



<https://ciscolive.ciscoevents.com/ciscolivebot/#BRKEWN-2046>

Agenda

Cisco IT use case

01 Wireless Network Deployment

1.1 APs Deployment

1.2 RF Design

1.3 WLAN Design

02 Wireless to Wired Design

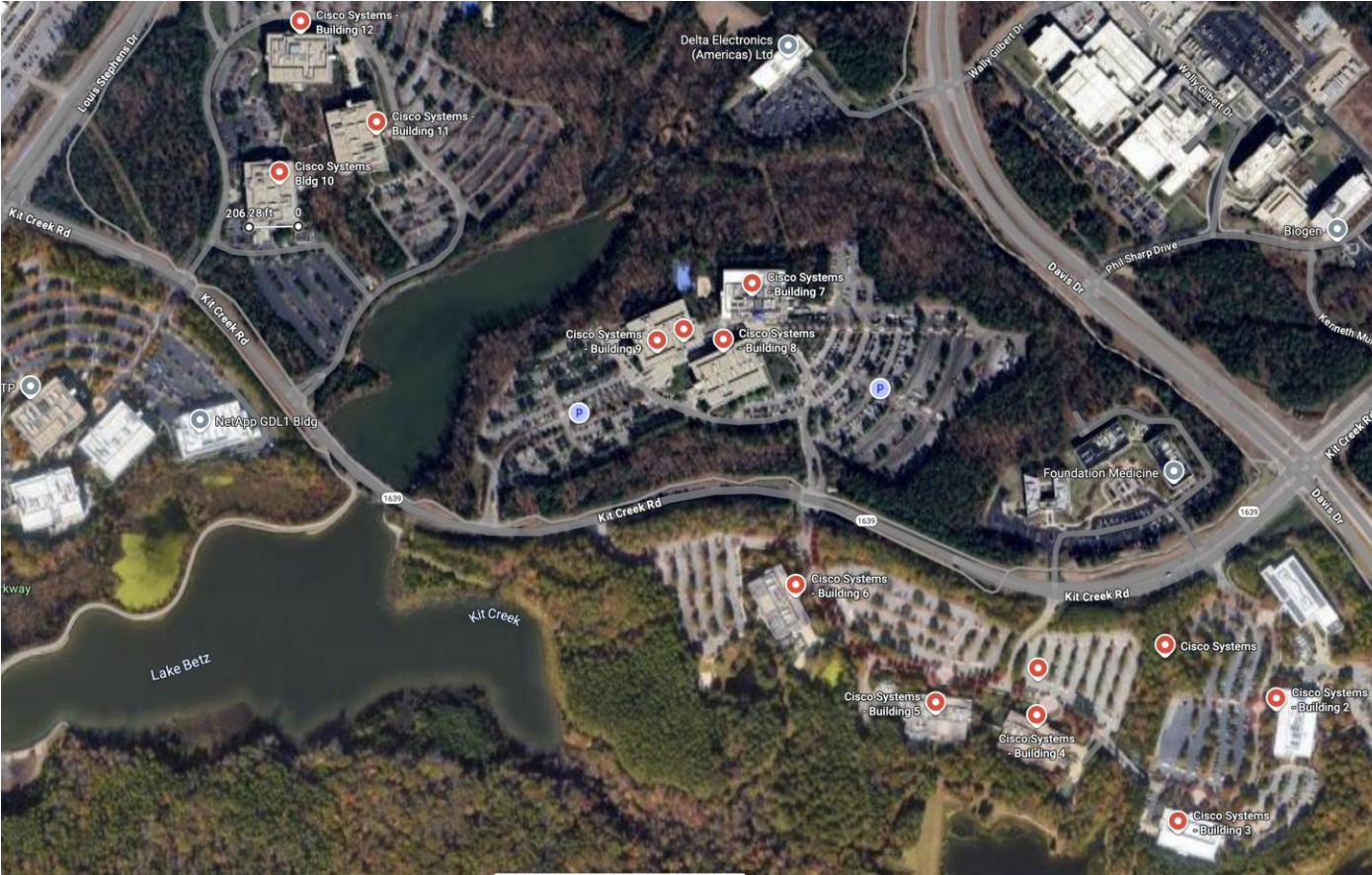
2.1 Distribute or Centralize (the data plane)?

2.2 Best Practices

03 Monitoring and Troubleshooting

02 Conclusions

Research Triangle Park (RTP) Campus



- RTP is Raleigh, North Carolina
- Second largest Campus after San Jose
- Total 10 buildings. Each building is 60k sq. ft. (5600 sq. mt) and has three floors
- 1300 APs, peak of 4k clients per day
- Two SSIDs: Corporate and Guest
- Catalyst switch infrastructure
- Cisco ISE is used as AAA server

Reference use case: RTP Campus

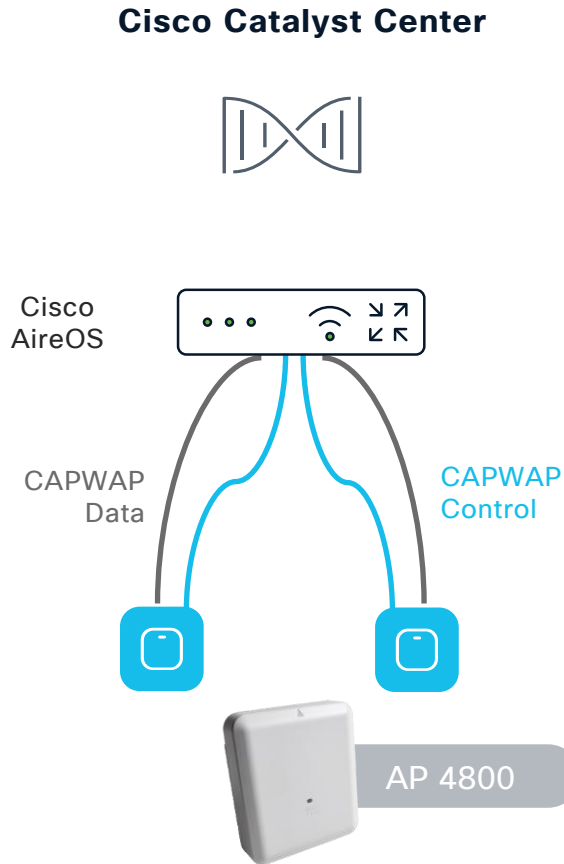
Guess who lives here? Oh yes, it's TAC and CX

Top applications by usage

Application	Usage	% Usage
iperf	8.51 TB	23.08%
Encrypted TCP (SSL)	6.81 TB	18.46%
Apple services	3.04 TB	8.25%
Webex Video	2.55 TB	6.91%
DNS	1.35 TB	3.66%
Local Network SSL	1.35 TB	3.66%

RTP Campus – Cloud Management adoption

On-Prem

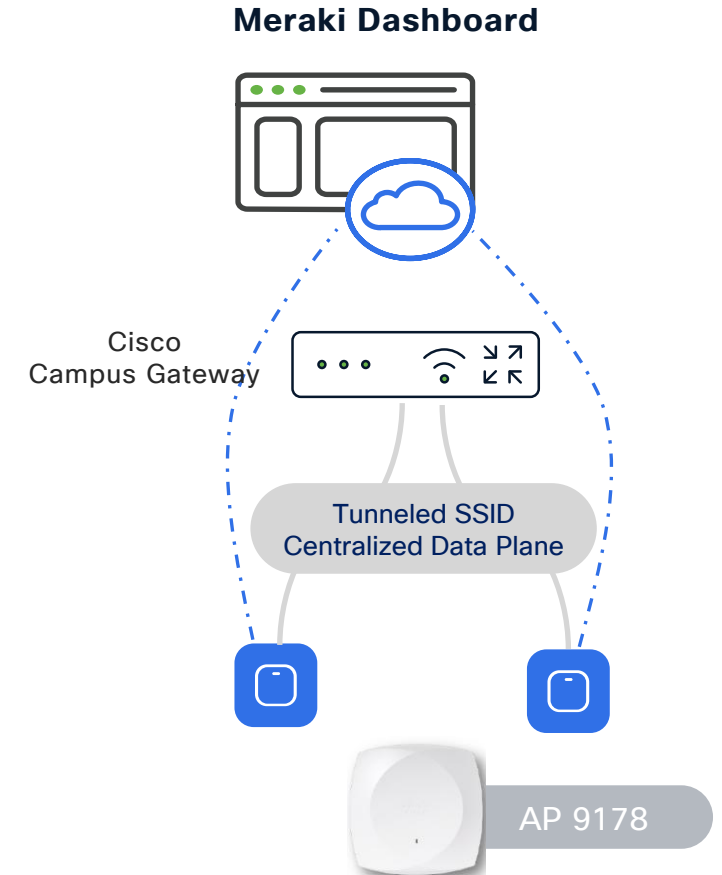


WHY? And WHY now?

- Wireless up for refresh
- Cloud Managed to streamline IT operations
- "Eating our own dog food"
- Need Campus Gateway for scale
- Need some "Enterprise" features

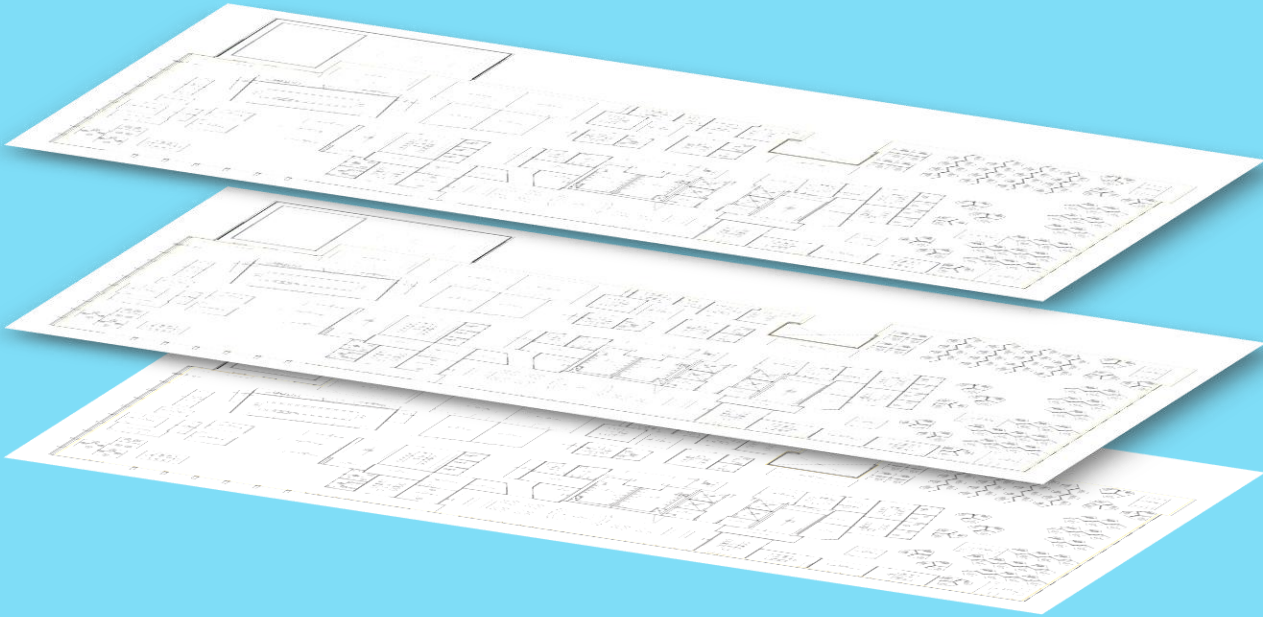


Cloud Management



Wireless Network Deployment

RTP Buildings



Typical carpeted office: mix of open spaces and offices
Three floors, very similar layout across floors. Medium client density

Wi-Fi 7: what AP model?



CW9172H

6 Spatial Streams
Hospitality



CW9174E

8/10 Spatial Streams
External antennas

Dec 2025



CW9176D1

12 Spatial Streams
Integrated Directional

UWB



CW9179F

16 Spatial Streams
LPV/Stadium



CW9171I

4 Spatial Streams
Omnidirectional

Dec 2025



CW9172I

6 Spatial Streams
Omnidirectional



CW9174I

8/10 Spatial Streams
Omnidirectional

Dec 2025



CW9176I

12 Spatial Streams
Omnidirectional

UWB



CW9178I

16 Spatial Streams
Omnidirectional

UWB

Wi-Fi 7 | Global Use AP | Unified License | AI Optimized

Cisco Wireless 9178 Access Point

Cisco® Wireless 9178

Global Use AP, Tri-Radio with 16 Spatial Streams!



Same model for Cloud and On-prem!



Hexa-Radio Architecture

- 2.4 GHz Serving Radio 4x4:4SS
 - 5 GHz Serving Radio 4x4:4SS
 - 5 GHz Serving Radio 4x4:4SS*
 - 6 GHz Serving Radio 4x4:4SS
 - Dedicated Tri-band scanning Radio (AI/ML)
 - 2.4 GHz IoT Radio
- * 5GHz – Single or Dual Radio, Default Operation – Single 5GHz Radio*



- 10 Gig Dual Ethernet
- PoE & Link Redundancy



- Omni directional: 2.4 GHz: 4dBi, 5 GHz: 5 dBi, 6GHz: 6dBi
- Built-in UWB, GPS/GNSS Location capabilities
- External GPS/GNSS Antenna Port*
- IoT: 2.4 GHz IoT Radio, Application Hosting Technology
- Built-in USB Port: 9W of output power

Cisco Wireless 9178 Access Point



Hexa-Radio Architecture



- 2.4 GHz Serving Radio 4x4:4SS
- 5 GHz Serving Radio 4x4:4SS
- 5 GHz Serving Radio 4x4:4SS*
- 6 GHz Serving Radio 4x4:4SS
- Dedicated Tri-band scanning Radio (AI/ML)
- 2.4 GHz IoT Radio

* 5GHz – Single or Dual Radio



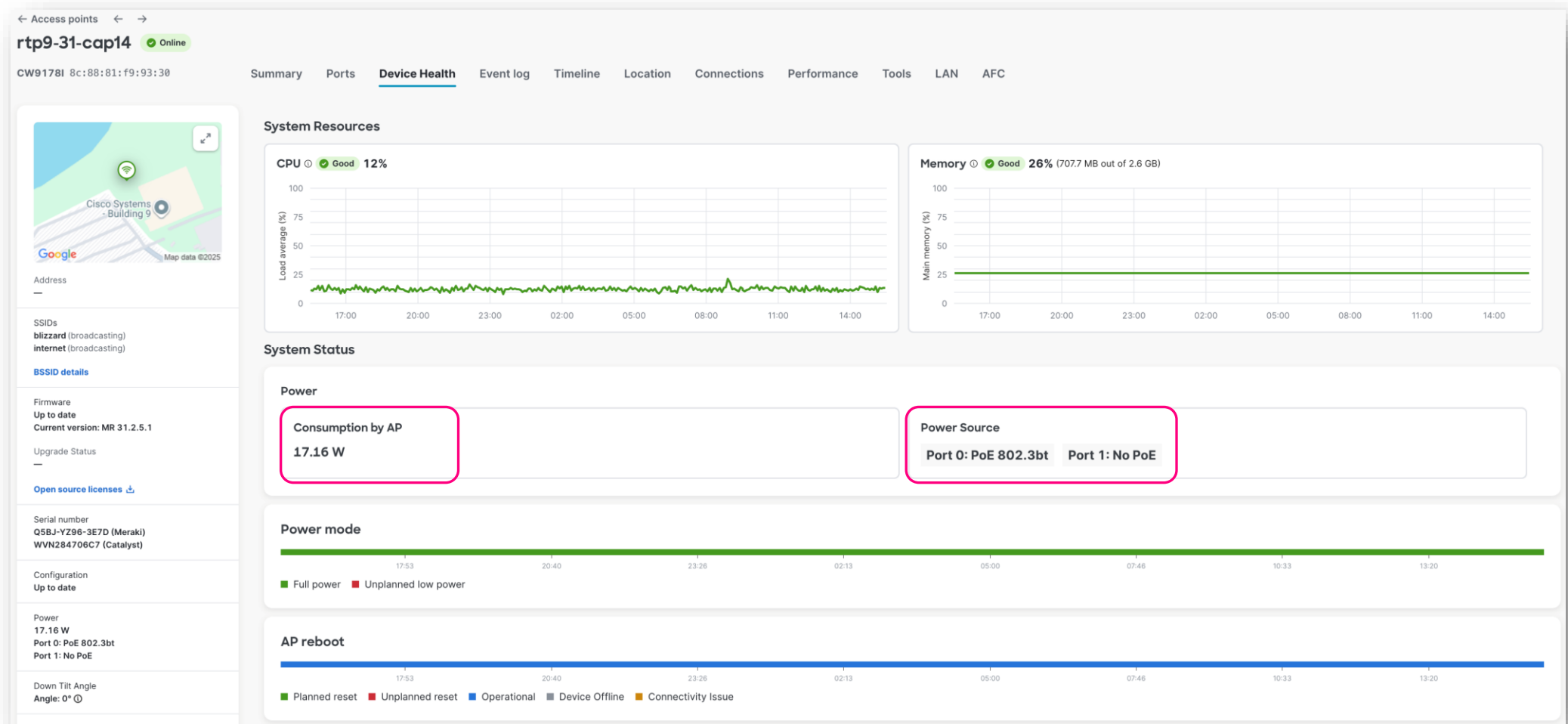
- 10 Gig Dual Ethernet
- PoE & Link Redundancy



- Omni directional: 2.4 GHz: 4dBi, 5 GHz: 5 dBi, 6GHz: 6dBi
- Built-in UWB, GPS/GNSS Location capabilities
- External GPS/GNSS Antenna Port*
- IoT: 2.4 GHz IoT Radio, Application Hosting Technology
- Built-in USB Port: 9W of output power

Wi-Fi 7: Enough power on the switch?

New Device Health tab will tell you...



CW9178I Power over Ethernet

Default Configuration (Fixed Power profile)

Power source	Number of spatial streams	2.4-GHz radio (slot 0)	Primary 5-GHz radio (slot 1)	Secondary 5-GHz radio (slot 2)	6-GHz radio (slot 3)	mGig PHY 0 link speed	mGig PHY 1 link speed	USB	IoT/GPS/UWB Scan Radio
802.3af (PoE)	NA	Disabled	Disabled		Disabled	1G	Disabled	Disabled	Y
802.3at* (PoE+) (Quad Radio)	8**	2x2	2x2 (LB)	2x2(HB)	2x2	2.5G	2.5G	Disabled	Y
802.3at* (PoE+) (Tri Radio)	8**	2x2	4x4(FB)	Disabled	2x2	2.5G	2.5G	Disabled	Y
802.3bt (PoE++/UPOE)	16	4x4	4x4(LB)	4x4(HB)	4x4	10G	10G	Yes/9W	Y

Note:

1. *For full radio operation – AP needs more than 30W of power with Type 3 IEEE 802.3bt/ Class 6
2. **Starting IOS-XE 17.15.3 release, 6 spatial streams support in IOS-XE 17.15.2, with 2x2:2 on 2.4/5/6 GHz radios
3. CW9178I can operate as a Tri-Radio with 5 GHz radio operating in 4x4 Full Band (or) operate as Quad-Radio with 5 GHz in Slot 1 as 4x4 Lower Band (UNII-1 &2) and Slot 2 as 4x4:4, Higher Band (UNII-2C&3)
4. CW-INJ-8, AIR-PWRINJ7, MA-INJ-6 are Cisco's 802.3bt power injectors

PHY = Physical layer
 PoE = Power over Ethernet
 UPOE = Universal Power over Ethernet
 FB: Full 5Ghz band
 LB: Lower 5Ghz band
 HB: Higher 5Ghz band

Wi-Fi 7 - Enough power on the switch?

If you don't have enough power, then you can use Power Profiles to decide what to power...

Wireless

Insight

Organization

Find in Menu

Monitor

Overview

Access Points

Air Marshal

Location Heatmap

Splash Logins

PCI Report

Bluetooth Clients

RF Spectrum

Health

Configure

SSIDs

Access Control

Firewall & Traffic

Splash Page

SSID Availability

IoT Radio Setting

Port Profiles

Power Settings

Power Settings

Degraded PoE

Degraded PoE Profiles

Configure the power settings for your devices when they are in a degraded state.

CW9178I CW9176I

Device defaults

Default

Devices with 4-radio configurations will use 'Quad-radio' values, while devices with 3-radio configurations will use 'Tri-radio' values.

Interface ID

2.4 GHz

5 GHz

5 GHz

6 GHz

Ethernet 0

Ethernet 1

USB

Tri-radio

Dual-radio, Single-Ethernet

Dual-radio, Dual-Ethernet

Save Cancel

Power Settings

Degraded PoE

Degraded PoE Profiles

Configure the power settings for your devices when they are in a degraded state.

CW9178I CW9176I

Device defaults

Default

Tri-radio

Interface ID

Parameter value

2.4 GHz

2x2

5 GHz

Disabled

5 GHz

4x4

6 GHz

2x2

Ethernet 0

2500 Mbps

Ethernet 1

2500 Mbps

USB

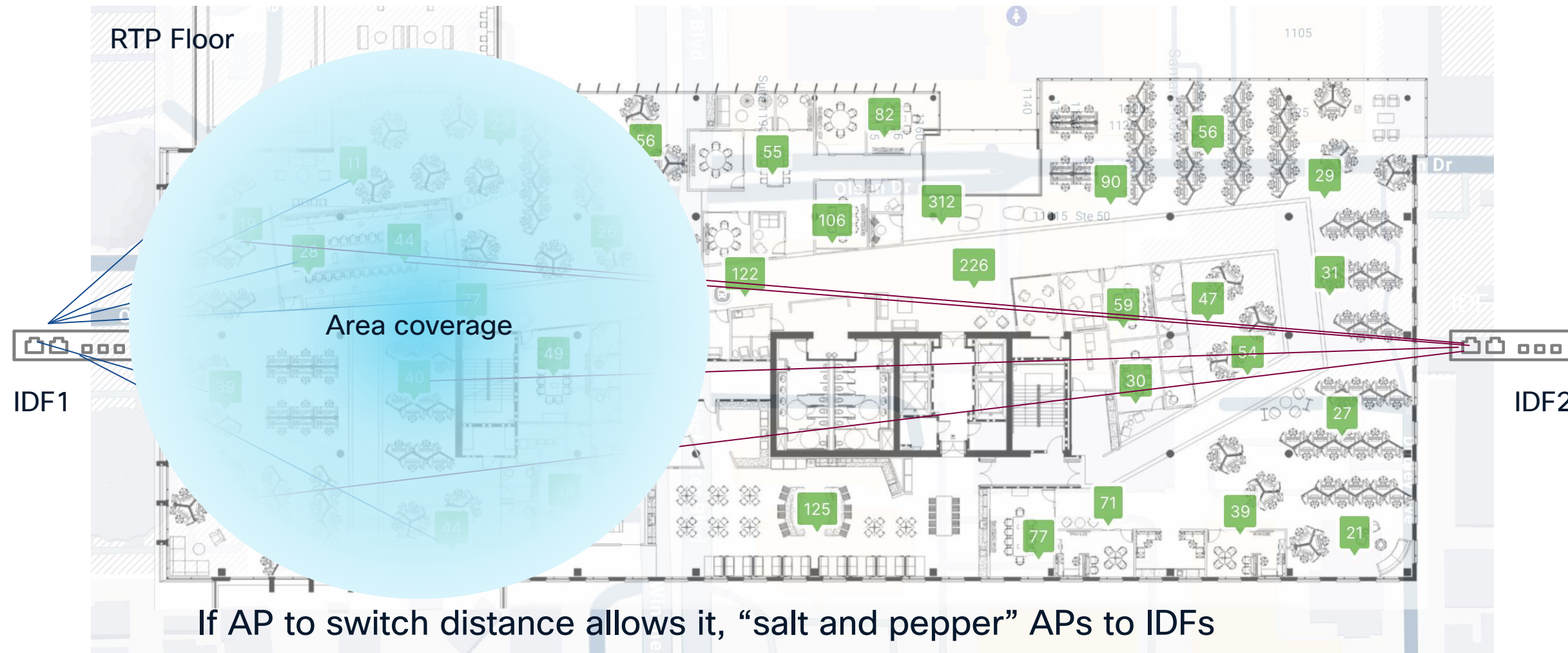
Disabled

Dual-radio, Single-Ethernet

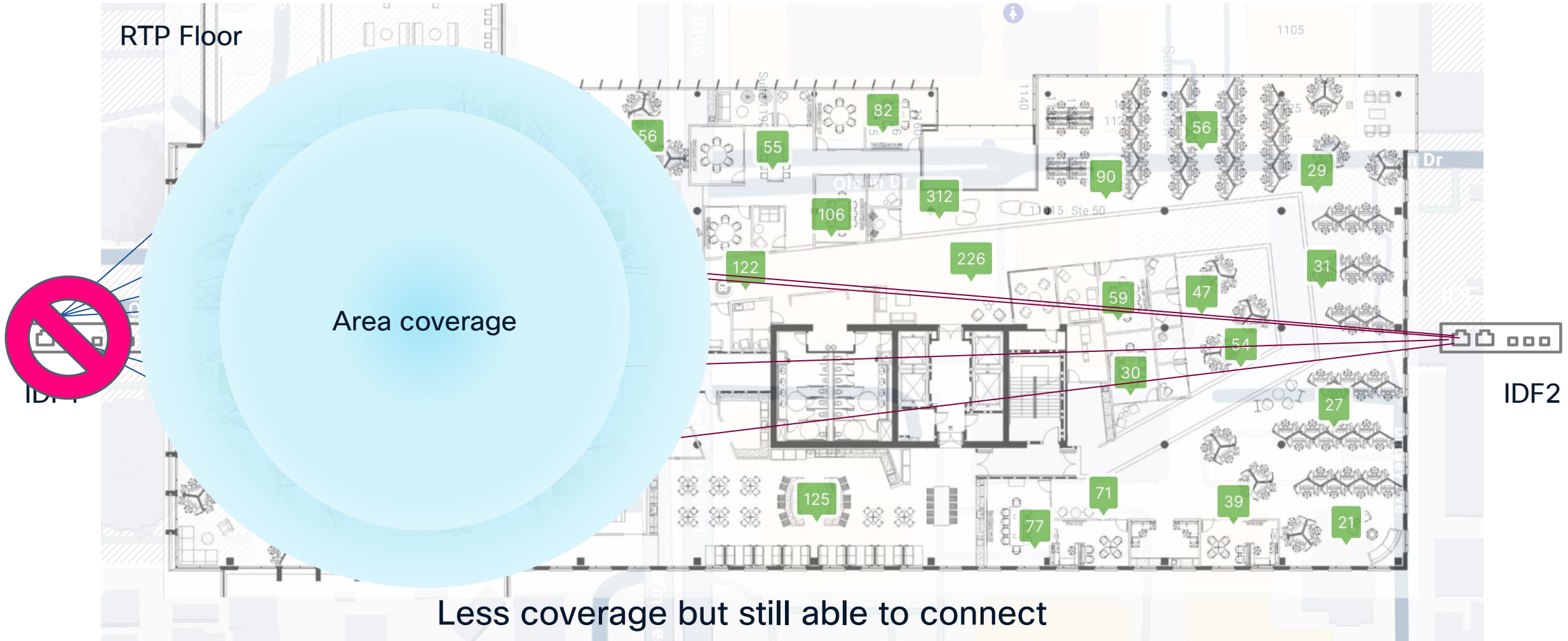
Dual-radio, Dual-Ethernet

Save Cancel Set CW9178I degraded mode defaults to "Tri-radio"

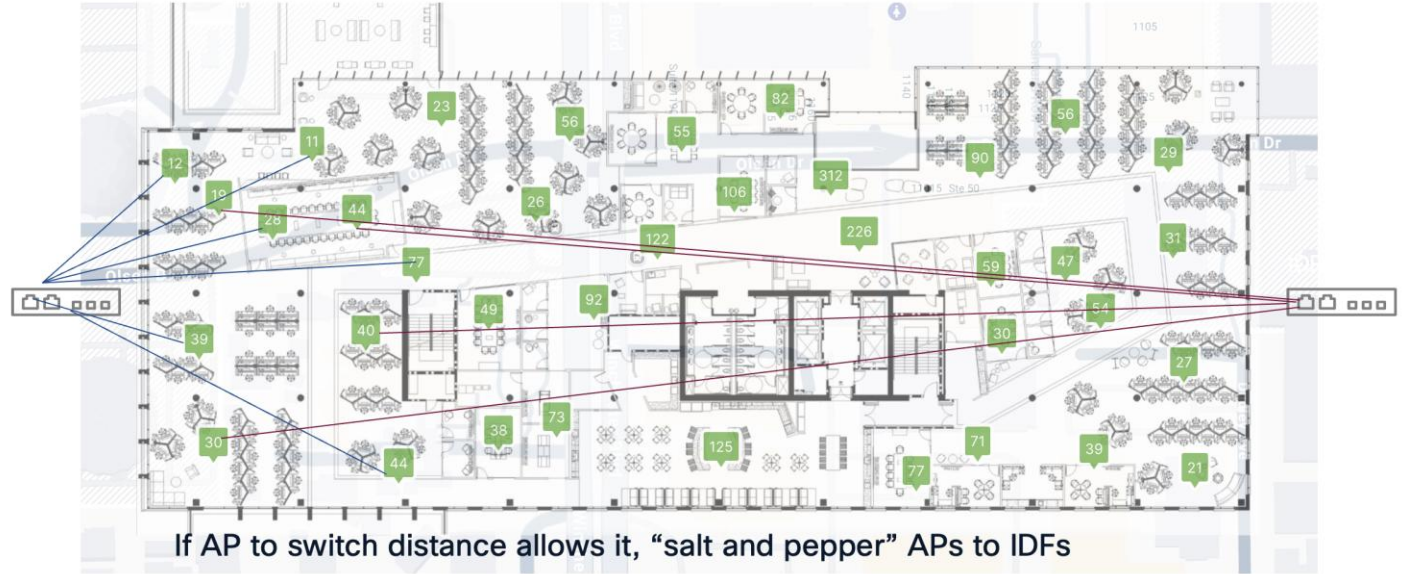
AP's connection to the access switch



AP's connection to the access switch



AP's connection to the access switch



About “Salt and Pepper”

- Every other AP connected to a different switch or IDF
- Increases overall redundancy and high availability of the solution
- If one IDF goes down, coverage in an area of the floor is not lost, but capacity is reduced
- Should consider **cable length** and cost for wiring the APs to different IDFs
- For distributed data plane design (bridge mode) need **same AP and client VLANs** in both IDFs

RF Design

Advanced RF features used

Minimum bitrate configuration

☐ Per band

Set the minimum bitrates for the 2.4 & 5 GHz radios separately below.

☒ Per SSID

Set the minimum bitrates per SSID

SSID name	Min bitrate	
Meraki	11	
casa-arena	11	
Green	11	
test	11	

Per band vs per SSID settings

Min. received power (RX-SOP)

Disabled

Enabled

Listen for clients farther away

Ignore weaker clients

-95 -94 -93 -92 -91 -90 -89 -88 -87 -86 -85 -84 -83 -82 -81 -80 -79 -78 -77 -76 -75 -74 -73 -72 -71 -70 -69 -68 -67 -66 -65

dBm

dBm

Fine tune with RX-SOP

Radio transmit power range (dBm)

Transmit shorter distance

Transmit farther

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

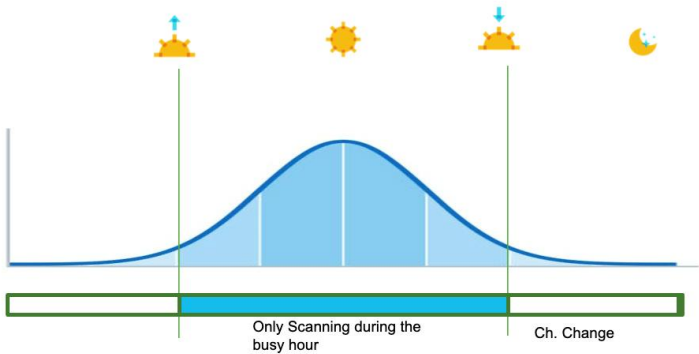
Minimum bitrate

Lower Density

Higher Density

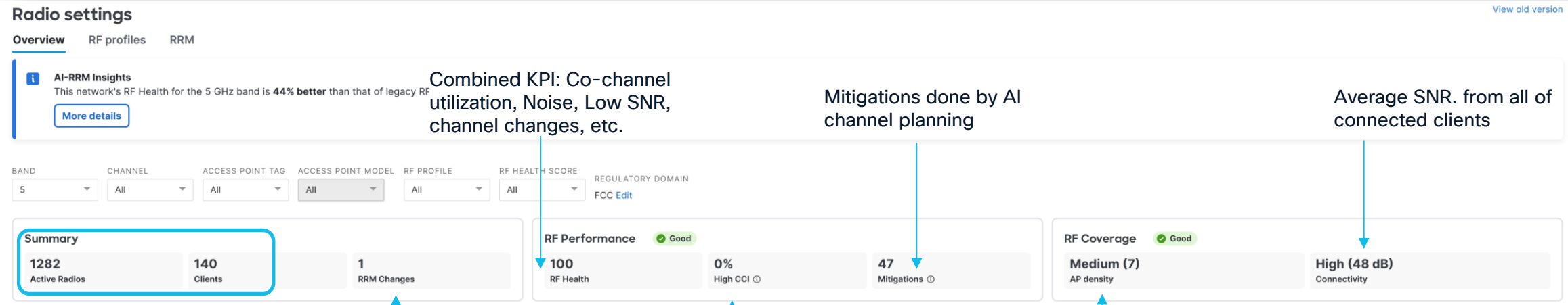
6 9 12 18 24 36 48 54

TX Power & Bit rate control



AutoRF (RMM) > AI Enhanced RRM

RTP Campus - RF Profile



AI driven RRM changes

Combined KPI: Co-channel utilization, Noise, Low SNR, channel changes, etc.

% APs with poor co-channel interference

Mitigations done by AI channel planning

Number of AP neighbors seen at or above -70 dBm

Average SNR. from all of connected clients

RTP Campus - RF Profile

Radio settings

Overview **RF profiles** RRM

AI-RRM Insights
This network's RF Health for the 5 GHz band is **44% better** than that of legacy RRM peers.
[More details](#)

BAND: 5 CHANNEL: All ACCESS POINT TAG: All ACCESS POINT MODEL: All RF PROFILE: All RF HEALTH SCORE: All REGULATORY DOMAIN: FCC [Edit](#)

Summary

1282 Active Radios	140 Clients	1 RRM Changes
------------------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------

RF Performance Good

100 RF Health	0% High CCI
-------------------------	-----------------------

- One RF profile for all indoor APs
- Band selection per SSID:
 - Employee SSID on 5/6 GHz
 - Guest on SSID on 2.4/5Ghz
- Client Load Balancing is OFF

General 2.4 GHz 5 GHz 6 GHz

General

Profile name: Standard_AI_RRM

Band selection: **All SSIDs** **Per SSID**

Name	2.4 GHz	5 GHz	6 GHz	Band steering
blizzard	☐	☒	☒	☐
internet	☒	☒	☐	☐

[Show disabled SSIDs](#)

Flex radio selection

Access point model	Band preference	Radios
MR57	5 GHz	2.4 GHz and Dual 5 GHz
CW9166I	6 GHz	2.4 GHz, 5 GHz and 6 GHz
CW9166D1	6 GHz	2.4 GHz, 5 GHz and 6 GHz
CW9178I	3 Radios	2.4 GHz, 5 GHz and 6 GHz
CW9176I	2.4 GHz	2.4 GHz, 5 GHz and 6 GHz
CW9176D1	2.4 GHz	2.4 GHz, 5 GHz and 6 GHz
CW9172I	3 Radios	2.4 GHz, 5 GHz and 6 GHz

Minimum bitrate configuration

☒ Per band
Set the minimum bitrates for the 2.4 & 5 GHz radios separately below.

☐ Per SSID
Set the minimum bitrates per SSID

Client balancing: **On** **Off**

Client Balancing uses information about the state of the network and wireless client probes to steer the client to the best available access point during association. Read more about client balancing [here](#).

RTP Campus – RF Profile

General 2.4 GHz 5 GHz **6 GHz**

Channel width

Auto **Manual**

Manual 6 GHz channel width

Disable auto channel width by manually selecting a channel width for the access points in this profile.

☐ 20 MHz (59 channels)
Recommended for High Density deployments and environments expected to encounter DFS events. More unique channels available, reducing chance of interference.

☐ 40 MHz (30 channels)
For low to medium density deployments.

☒ 80 MHz (15 channels)
For low density areas with few or zero neighboring networks. Higher bandwidth and data rates for modern devices. Increases risk of interference problems.

☐ 160 MHz (7 channels)
Wider channel width will allow higher client throughput but validate if the client device supports 160MHz as this is may not be supported by client devices.

☐ 320 MHz (3 channels)
Access points that do not support Wi-Fi 7 will use their maximum supported channel width.

Channel assignment method

Unless manually overridden, AutoChannel will assign radios to channels with low interference.
[Change channels used by AutoChannel...](#)

Radio transmit power range (dBm)

Transmit shorter distance Transmit farther

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Min. received power (RX-SOP)

Disabled **Enabled**

Listen for clients farther away Ignore weaker clients

-95 -94 -93 -92 -91 -90 -89 -88 -87 -86 -85 -84 -83 -82 -81 -80 -79 -78 -77 -76 -75 -74 -73 -72 -71 -70 -69 -68 -67 -66 -65 dBm

- Channel Width set to 40 MHz on 5GHz
- Channel Width set to 80 MHz on 6GHz
- 24 Mbps min data rate across all bands
- Min. received power (RX-SOP) at -80 dbm

AI-Enhanced RRM

AI-Enhanced RRM improves wireless reliability



Trend-Based RRM

Optimize RF with weeks of historical analysis



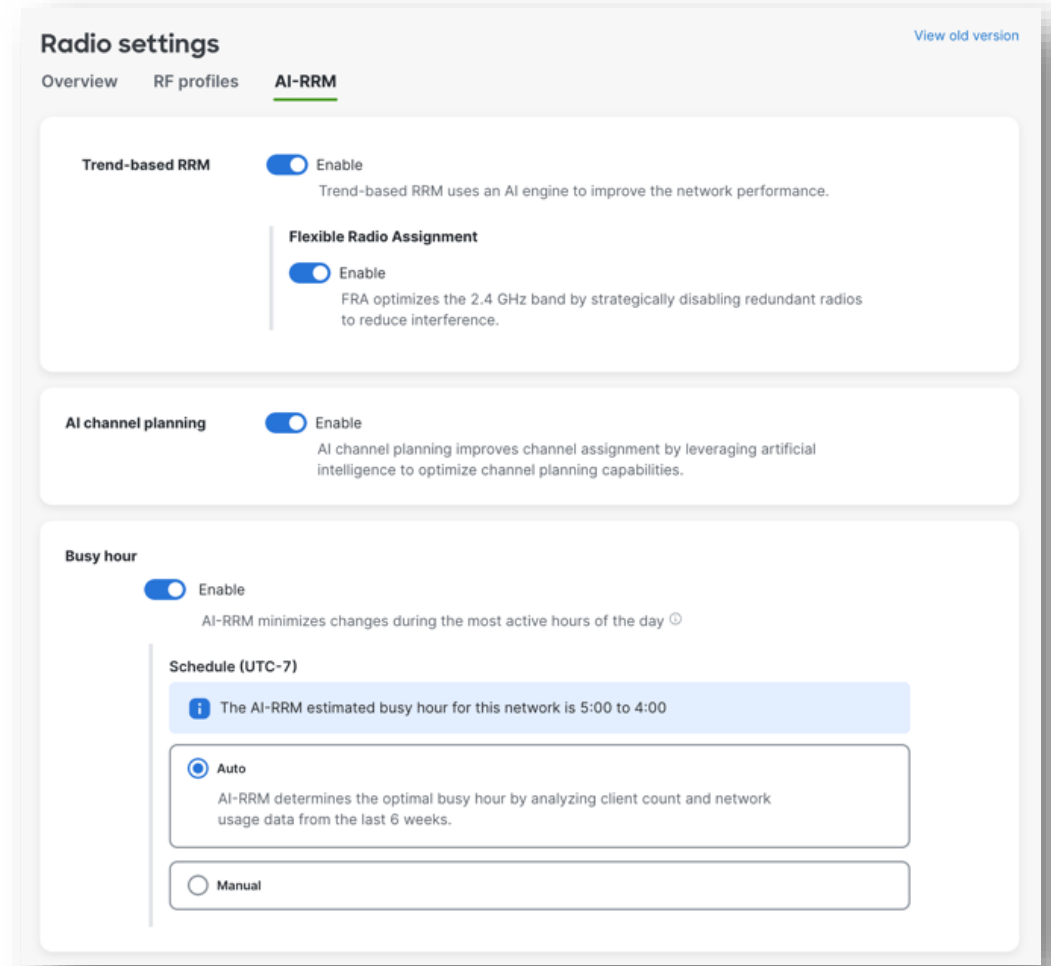
Flexible Radio Assignment

Optimize band selection to minimize 2.4 GHz interference



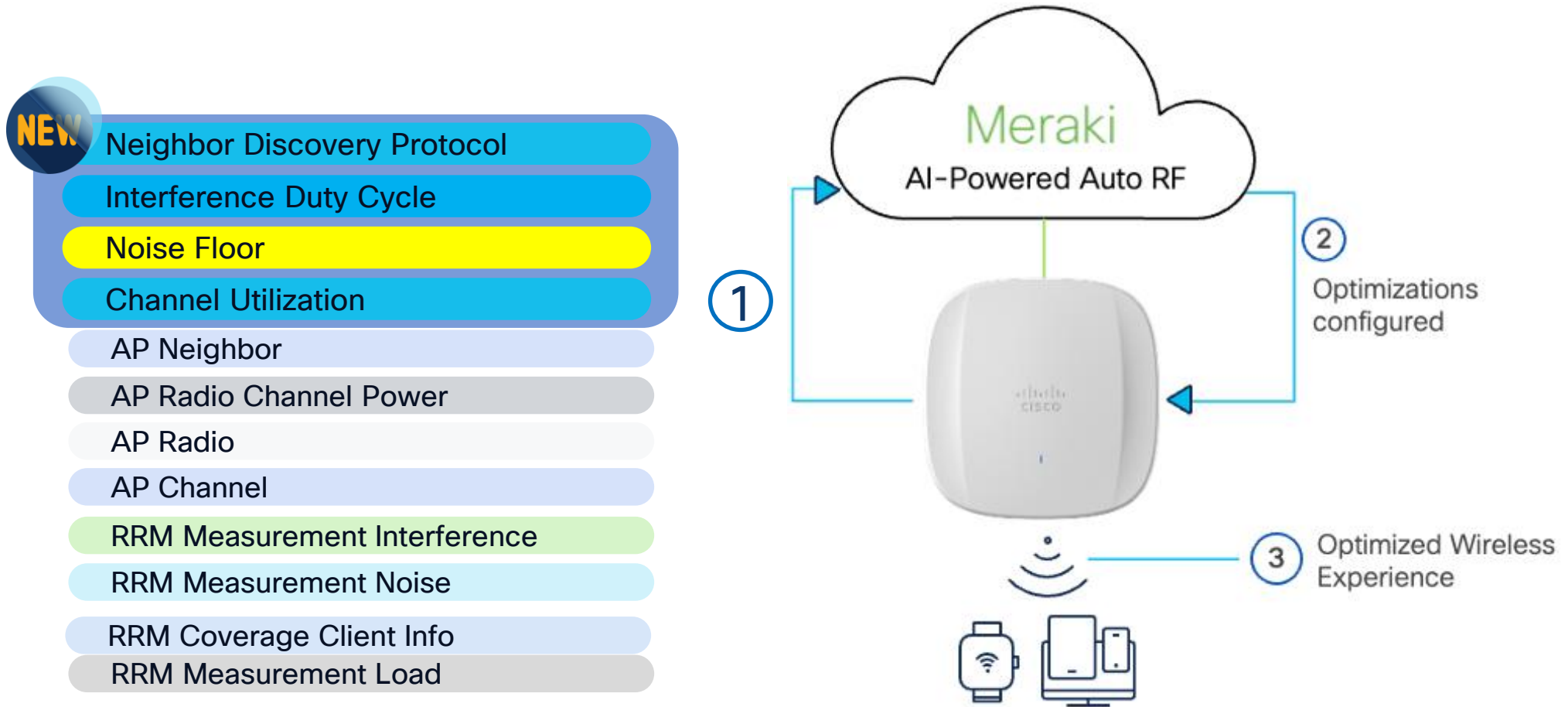
Busy Hour Aware

Minimize disruptive changes during the critical times of day



AI-Enhanced RRM: how does it work?

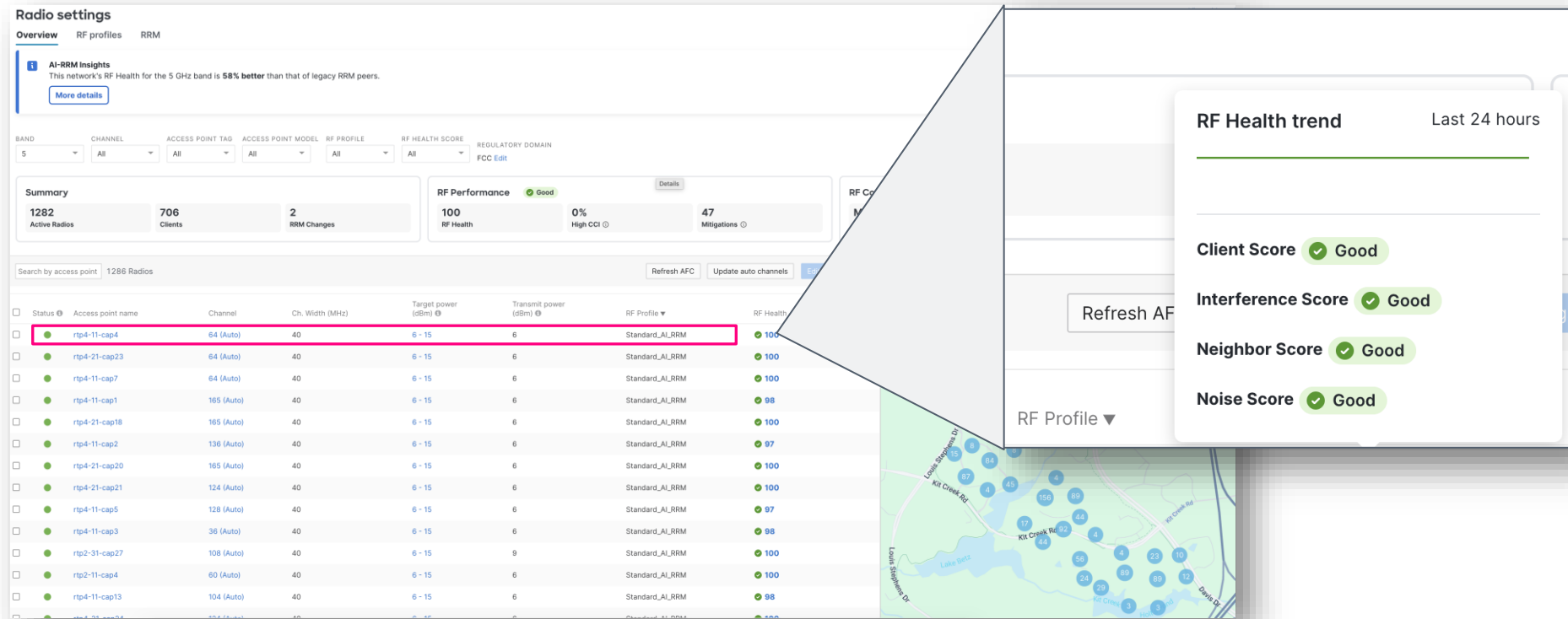
New telemetry data is now sent from APs to the Meraki Cloud for enhanced RRM decisions.



AI-RRM on Dashboard – Now GA

Wireless > Radio Settings: RF Health score

- Originated from Wireless Config Analyzer tool*
- Now available across all networks on AI-RRM and Non-AI-RRM networks

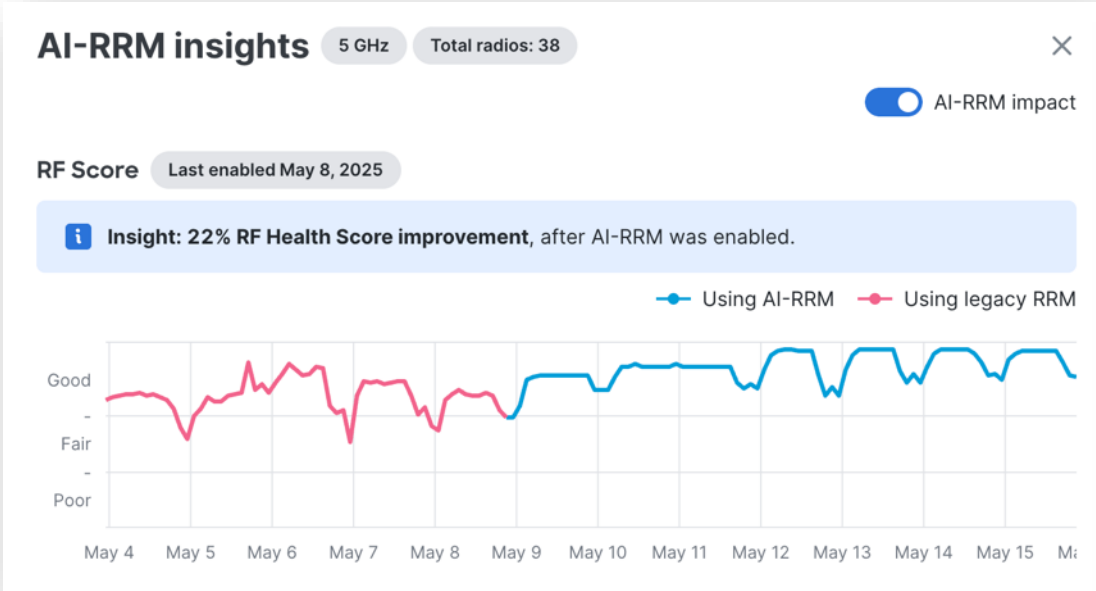


* <https://developer.cisco.com/docs/wireless-troubleshooting-tools/wireless-config-analyzer/>

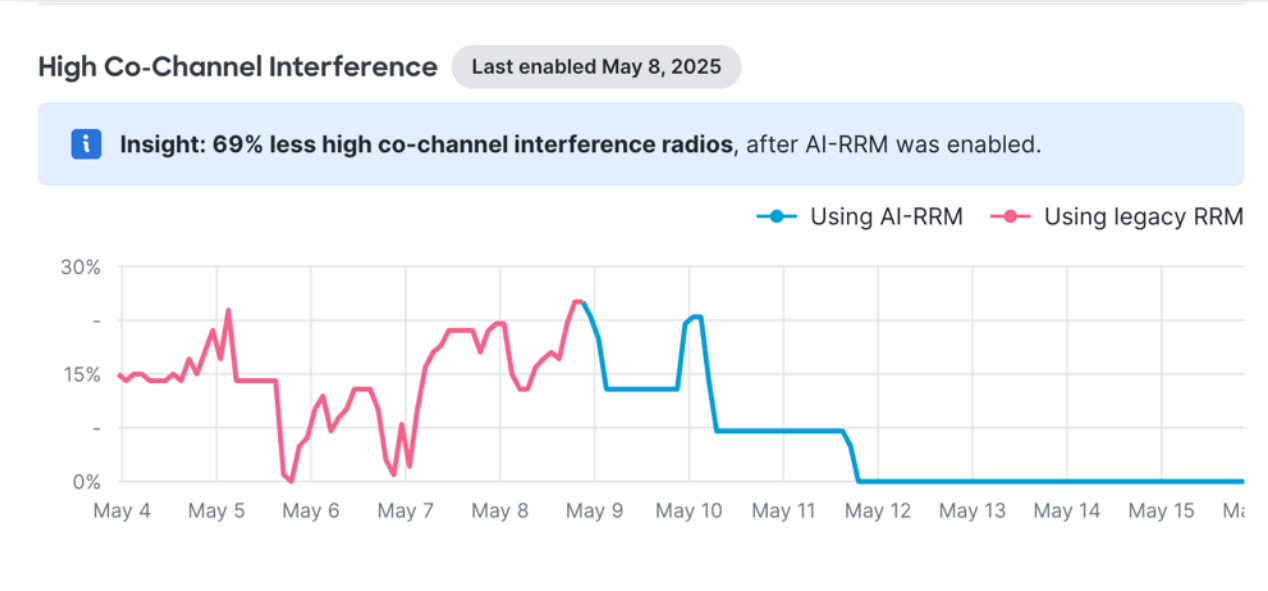
AI-RRM: Before & After – Measurable AI Advantage

Typical Network example with medium network density

22% RF health score improvements



69% less High Co-Channel Interference



Red

Before AI-RRM gets enabled, using legacy RRM (autoRF)

Blue

After customer enabled AI-RRM

AI-RRM vs RRM*: what you need to know

	RRM (AutoRF)	AI-RRM
RRM algorithm	Runs on last 15 mins of data Per-AP optimization	Trend based algorithm. 14 days augmented telemetry (NDP, Noise, Channel Utilization, etc.) per-Network optimization
AI Channel Planning	Marks and avoid DFS/RF Jammed channels	No changes
Busy hour	RF changes are based on last 15 mins of data	RF changes optimized for busy hours using trend-based telemetry. Busy hour collection, off-peak changes

**AutoRF is rebranded as RRM*

AI-RRM vs RRM*: what you need to know

	RRM (AutoRF)	AI-RRM	MR-ENT	MR-ADV
RRM algorithm	Runs on last 15 mins of data Per-AP optimization	Trend based algorithm. 14 days augmented telemetry (NDP, Noise, Channel Utilization, etc.) per-Network optimization	autoRF based	AI-RRM based
AI Channel Planning	Marks and avoid DFS/RF Jammed channels	No changes	No changes	No changes
Busy hour	RF changes are based on last 15 mins of data	RF changes optimized for busy hours using trend-based telemetry. Busy hour collection, off-peak changes	autoRF based	AI-RRM based

**AutoRF is rebranded as RRM*

WLAN Design

WLAN Design for 6Ghz (Wi-Fi 6E & 7)

6GHz
Wi-Fi 6E

WPA3/Enhanced Open
Mandatory

Protected Management
Frame (PMF) Mandatory



Wi-Fi 7
add-on

Enhanced ciphers for
WPA3-SAE & OWE*
New AKM support for
WPA3-SAE*

* (AKM: 24 & 25), (Cipher: GCMP 256)

Beacon Protection
(WPA3 mandatory for
11be MCS rates & MLO)

Wi-Fi 6E & 7 Security

Enterprise



WPA Type	AKMs*	802.11w	CCMP	GCMP256	Compatibility	Notes
WPA3 Enterprise	802.1x-SHA256	✓	✓	✓	Wi-Fi 6E Wi-Fi 7	
WPA3 Enterprise	802.1x-SHA256	✓	✓	✗	Wi-Fi 6E	
WPA3 Transition	802.1x, 802.1x-SHA256	Optional	✓	✓	Wi-Fi 6 Wi-Fi 6E Wi-Fi 7	Allows legacy clients in 2.4/5 GHz bands
WPA3 192bit Security	SUITE-B-192	✓	✗	✓	Wi-Fi 6 Wi-Fi 6E Wi-Fi 7	
WPA2	802.1x	Optional	✓	✗	Wi-Fi 6, Legacy	Allows legacy clients in 2.4/5 GHz bands

**Implicitly enabled (no explicit configuration needed)*

AP Beacon Protection enabled with 11be

*AKM = Authentication and Key Management
SHA-256 = Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA) 256 bit
CCMP (Counter Mode Cipher Block Chaining Message Authentication Protocol)
GCMP (Galois Counter Mode Protocol)*

Wi-Fi 6E & 7 Security

Personal



WPA Type	AKMs*	802.11w	CCMP	GCMP256	Compatibility	Notes
WPA3 Personal	SAE, SAE-EXT-KEY	✓	✓	✓	Wi-Fi 6 Wi-Fi 6E Wi-Fi 7	Allows Wi-Fi 6 Clients in 2.4/5 GHz
WPA3 Personal	SAE	✓	✓	✗	Wi-Fi 6 Wi-Fi 6E	Allows Wi-Fi 6 Clients in 2.4/5 GHz
WPA3 Transition	PSK, SAE, SAE-EXT-KEY	Optional	✓	✓	Wi-Fi 6 Wi-Fi 6E Wi-Fi 7	Allows PSK clients in 2.4/5 GHz bands
WPA3 Transition	PSK, SAE	Optional	✓	✗	Wi-Fi 6 Wi-Fi 6E	Allows PSK clients in 2.4/5 GHz bands
WPA2	PSK	Optional	✓	✗	Wi-Fi 6, Legacy	Allows legacy clients in 2.4/5 GHz bands

*Implicitly enabled (no explicit configuration needed)

AP Beacon Protection enabled with 11be

AKM = Authentication and Key Management
SHA-256 = Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA) 256 bit
CCMP (Counter Mode Cipher Block Chaining Message Authentication Code Protocol)
GCMP (Galois Counter Mode Protocol)

Wi-Fi 6E & 7 Security

Enhanced Open



WPA Type	AKMs	802.11w	CCMP	GCMP256	Compatibility	Notes
Enhanced Open	OWE	Required	✓	✓	Wi-Fi 6 Wi-Fi 6E Wi-Fi 7	Allows Wi-Fi 6 Clients in 2.4/5 GHz
Enhanced Open	OWE	Required	✓	✗	Wi-Fi 6 Wi-Fi 6E	6 GHz supported. Wi-Fi 6 Clients in 2.4/5 GHz
Enhanced Open (Transition)	OWE	Required	✓	NA	Wi-Fi 6	No 6 GHz, No Wi-Fi 7 Requires 2 SSIDs Legacy clients in 2.4/5 GHz

*Implicitly enabled (no explicit configuration needed)

AP Beacon Protection enabled with 11be

AKM = Authentication and Key Management
SHA-256 = Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA) 256 bit
CCMP (Counter Mode Cipher Block Chaining Message Authentication Code Protocol)
GCMP (Galois Counter Mode Protocol)

WPA3 Transition mode

```
▼ RSN Capabilities: 0x00a8
.... ..0 = RSN Pre-Auth capabilities: Transmitter does not support pre-authentication
.... ..0. = RSN No Pairwise capabilities: Transmitter can support WEP default key 0 sin
.... ..10.. = RSN PTKSA Replay Counter capabilities: 4 replay counters per PTKSA/GTKSA/S
.... ..10 .... = RSN GTKSA Replay Counter capabilities: 4 replay counters per PTKSA/GTKSA/S
.... ..0... = Management Frame Protection Required: False
.... ..1... = Management Frame Protection Capable: True
.... ..0 .... = Joint Multi-band RSNA: False
.... ..0. .... = PeerKey Enabled: False
.... ..0. .... = Extended Key ID for Individually Addressed Frames: Not supported
```

- WPA3 Transition mode is about advertising one SSID with both WPA2 and WPA3 Authentication Key Methods (AKMs) and [PMF set to optional](#), in both 2.4 and 5Ghz
- WPA3 capable clients can join using WPA3
- Note: Some older clients and OS can get confused by the multiple AKMs in the beacons. Whenever possible, important to test.

6GHz and Wi-Fi security requirements

WPA3 Encryption and Configuration Guide

Last updated: Sep 17, 2025

Click [日本語](#) for Japanese

WPA3 Overview

WPA3 is the latest and third iteration of the Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA) standard, developed by the Wi-Fi Alliance, and serves as the successor to WPA2. The WPA standard was originally created by the Wi-Fi Alliance Security Technical Task Group, chaired by Cisco's Stephen Orr, with the goal of standardizing wireless security.

WPA3 introduces advanced features for enterprise, personal, and open networks by enhancing cryptographic strength and enabling a more secure authentication process across all WPA3-supported devices.

It is designed to:

- Strengthen wireless security
- Simplify secure connectivity for users
- Provide strong protection even with weak passwords

Enhance security for public and open Wi-Fi networks

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. WPA3 Overview
 - 1.1. Supported WPA3 Modes
2. WPA3 Requirements for 6 GHz operations and Wi-Fi 7
 - 2.1. WPA3 Requirements in Wi-Fi 6E (6 GHz) :
 - 2.2. WPA3 Requirements in Wi-Fi 7:
3. Migration Considerations
4. Network preparation before enabling Wi-Fi 7
5. Configuration Workflow
 - 5.1. WPA3 Enterprise
 - 5.1.1. WPA3 Only
 - 5.1.2. WPA3 192-bit Security
 - 5.1.3. WPA3 (Enterprise) Transition Mode
 - 5.2. WPA3-Personal
 - 5.2.1. WPA3 Only (Personal)
 - 5.2.2. WPA3 Transition Mode
 - 5.3. Enhanced Open (OWE - Opportunistic Wireless Encryption)
 - 5.3.1. OWE
 - 5.3.2. OWE Transition Mode
 - 5.3.3. Limitations for OWE Transition Mode
 - 5.4. 802.11be Configuration Per SSID Group

The diagram illustrates the progression of Wi-Fi security standards over time. It features a horizontal timeline with four colored segments: blue (1997), green (2003), orange (2004), and dark blue (2018). Above the timeline, the years 1997, 2003, 2004, and 2018 are marked in boxes. Below the timeline, the corresponding standards are listed: 802.11 Ratification Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP) for 1997, Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA) for 2003, Wi-Fi Protected Access II (WPA2) for 2004, and Wi-Fi Protected Access III (WPA3) for 2018. Arrows indicate the flow from one standard to the next.

- WPA3 + Protected Management Frame (PMF, 802.11w) is mandatory for 6GHz
- Transition mode is a valid option to move clients to a more secure Wi-Fi on 2.4 and 5GHz
- **WPA3 Enterprise Transition mode** is supported starting MR 31.1.1
- **WPA3 Personal Transition mode** is supported starting MR 31.1.6
- **Note:** Transition mode is not an option for OWE as clarified in WPA3 v3.4
- Deployment guide recently updated https://documentation.meraki.com/MR/Wi-Fi_Basics_and_Best_Practices/WPA3_Encryption_and_Configuration_Guide

WLAN Design for 6Ghz and WPA3 (Wi-Fi 6E & 7)

What options would you have?

1

"All-In": Reconfigure the existing WLAN to WPA3, one SSID for all radio policies (2.4/5/6 GHz) – **Most Aggressive**

2

"Multiple SSIDs": Redesign your SSIDs, adding SSID/WLAN with specific security settings – **Most Flexible**

3

"Transition mode SSID": Use Transition Mode in 2.4 and 5GHz to support multiple security in different bands – **Most Conservative**

If you CANNOT control clients, Transition Mode is a viable option

Wi-Fi 7 security requirements

This is a valid SSID security configuration for broadcasting it in 6Ghz (Wi-Fi 6E)

SSID

CG1-WiFi7-SAE

Basic info

SSID (name)

CG1-WiFi7-SAE

SSID status

Security

WPA3 SAE configured

☐ Open (no encryption)

Any user can associate

☐ Opportunistic Wireless Encryption (OWE)

Any user can associate with data encryption

☒ Password

Users must enter this key to associate: ⓘ

.....

WPA encryption ⓘ

WPA3 only ▾

☐ Enabled (allow unsupported clients)

☒ Required (reject unsupported clients)

☐ Disabled (never use)

Mandatory DHCP

Enabled Disabled

Advanced WPA3 settings

(Cipher and AKM suite settings)

WPA3 Cipher Suite

☐ GCMP 256

WPA3 AKM Suite

☒ SAE

☐ SAE-EXT

ⓘ

Certain Cipher suite and AKMs are required for capable APs to operate in 802.11be (Wi-Fi 7) mode. Please refer to [documentation](#) for more details.

Wi-Fi 7 security requirements

This is a valid SSID security configuration for broadcasting it in 6Ghz (Wi-Fi 6E)

WPA encryption ⓘ

WPA3 only ▾

802.11w ⓘ

☐ Enabled (allow unsupported clients)

☒ Required (reject unsupported clients)

☐ Disabled (never use)

Mandatory DHCP

Enabled

Disabled

Advanced WPA3 settings ⓘ
(Cipher and AKM suite settings)

WPA3 Cipher Suite

WPA3 AKM Suite

! Certain Cipher suite and AKMs are not supported for Wi-Fi 7

WPA encryption ⓘ

WPA3 only ▾

802.11w ⓘ

☐ Enabled (allow unsupported clients)

☒ Required (reject unsupported clients)

☐ Disabled (never use)

Mandatory DHCP

Enabled

Disabled

Advanced WPA3 settings ⓘ
(Cipher and AKM suite settings)

WPA3 Cipher Suite

WPA3 AKM Suite

☒ GCMP 256

☒ SAE

☒ SAE-EXT

• Additional cipher and AKM for Wi-Fi 7

Wi-Fi 7 security compliance

Use Case	Security encryption today	Wi-Fi 7 compliant SSID
Guest access	Open	OWE
Corporate/Secure/RADIUS auth	WPA2	WPA3 OR WPA3 transition (Enterprise)
IoT/OT/Guest (PSK based)	WPA2	WPA3 OR WPA3 transition (SAE)

- **IMPORTANT:** For MR 31.1.x, all SSIDs on the Dashboard network must be Wi-Fi 7 compliant to enable Wi-Fi 7 via RF profiles
- **Workaround:** Only enabled SSIDs are considered for Wi-Fi 7 compliance. Use SSID availability tags to prevent Legacy SSIDs to be broadcasted on Wi-Fi 7 APs.
- **Note:** Support for per-SSID Wi-Fi 7 enablement is in R32.1.4 (now in Beta)

Wi-Fi 7 compliance requirements: Workaround

Access control

SSID

casa-arena

Basic info

SSID (name)

casa-arena

SSID status

Enabled

Disabled

☐ Hide SSID

Security

WPA2 PSK configured

!

This SSID will not broadcast on the 6 GHz band. Use WPA3 to enable this band.

!

Wi-Fi 7 requires high wireless security encryption. Selected encryption type does not meet the requirement. Please check [documentation](#) for more details.

This SSID is WPA2 > doesn't meet the requirement for 6GHz and Wi-Fi 7

Wi-Fi 7 SSIDs are not broadcasted on the Wi-Fi 7 AP

!

Wi-Fi 7 requires higher wireless security encryptions. Below SSIDs do not meet the minimum criteria:
SSID 2 - casa-arena

Please check [documentation](#) for more details.

802.11be

On

Off

802.11be allows capable APs to operate in 802.11be or 802.11ax mode.

Wi-Fi 7 compliance requirements: Workaround

SSID availability

SSID: casa-arena

Visibility

Advertise this SSID publicly

Per access point availability

Enabled on some access points...

Only enable on access points with any of the following tags:

WPA2

x

3 access points matched

Use device Tag to Enable WPA2 SSID only on older APs

Wi-Fi 7 SSIDs are now broadcasted on Wi-Fi 7 APs

This organization will automatically approve all temporary permission requests. Auto approval should only be enabled for non-customer, internal facing organizations.

CW9176D1

CW9176D1

Villa Lena Garden

Summary

Ports

Device Health

Event log

Timeline

Location

Connections

Performance

Tools

LAN

Live data

Ports

AP port profile

use network default (none currently set)

(see/edit all profiles)

Uplink traffic

50 Kb/s

0 Kb/s

11:34:45

11:34:50

11:34:55

11:35:00

11:35:05

11:35:10

11:35:15

11:35:20

11:35:25

11:35:30

Current clients 2

Description	IP address	VLAN	MAC address	Usage	Associated for	SSID	Channel	Current channel width	Signal strength
iPhone	10.30.0.18	native	b2:81:46:0c:49:2a	57 KB	47 seconds	wifi7-SAE	—	—	—

iPhone

Multi-Link Operation (MLO) Details:

Radio#1 - 5 GHz

MAC address: 7a:72:b2:20:43:e5

Channel Width: 80

Channel: 100

Signal strength: 0

Radio#2 - 6 GHz

MAC address: d2:74:d2:1b:19:47

Channel Width: 160

Channel: 85

Signal strength: 51

SSID

wifi7-SAE

sa-arena

wifi7-splash

wifi7-dot1x

Wifi7-WPA3-transition

RSSID Details

WPA2 SSID is NOT broadcasted

WPA3 SSIDs are broadcasted

iPhone associates with MLO

Wi-Fi 7 security compliance: what changes in 32.1.4?

- Wi-Fi 6E and Wi-Fi 7 introduced MBSSID (Multiple SSID), which allows groups of four SSIDs to be advertised within a single Beacon or Probe Response frame in the 6 GHz band.
- The dashboard supports four MBSSID groups (SSID Group), each containing four SSIDs.
- In earlier releases, all SSIDs transmitted by the AP were required to be Wi-Fi 7 compliant.

802.11be

All SSIDs

Per SSID Group **BETA**

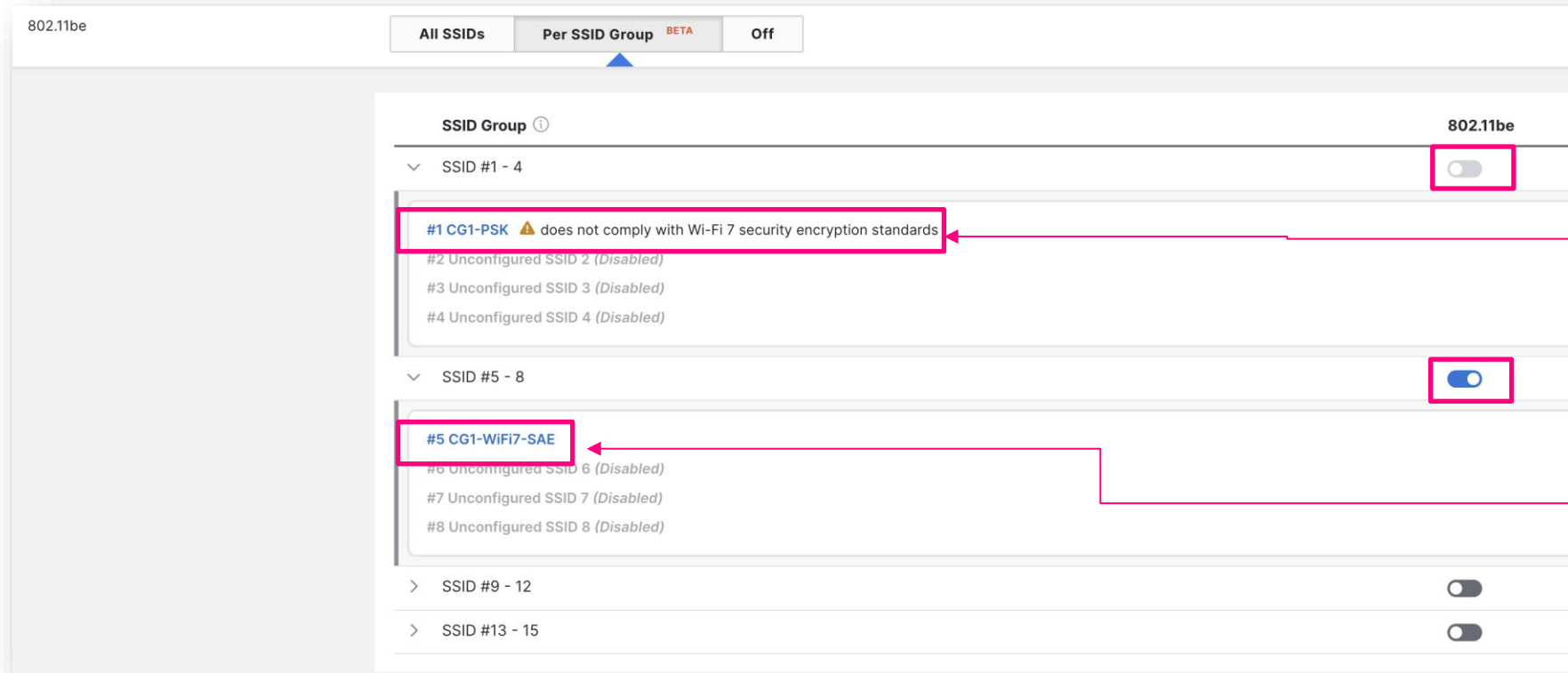
Off

 **Wi-Fi7 cannot be enabled because following SSIDs do not meet the security requirements:**
SSID 0 - CG1-PSK
Please check [documentation](#) for more details.

Enable 802.11be on supported APs.

Wi-Fi 7 security compliance: what changes in 32.1.4?

- Per-group SSID configuration is available starting in MR 32.1.4.
- For an AP to advertise a group's Wi-Fi 7 capability, all SSIDs in that group must be Wi-Fi 7 compliant. If any SSID in the group is not compliant, the group's capability is reduced to Wi-Fi 6.



SSID not complaint,
Wi-Fi7 not advertised

Fully compliant, SSID
advertised as Wi-Fi 7

Wi-Fi 7 security compliance

Wi-Fi 7 capable client can now connect at 802.11be rates and with MLO (Multi Link Operations)

← Clients

WirelessTME-Win1

Client page

OverviewConnectionsPerformanceRoamingTimelineStored capturesLogs

Client connectivityLast day

AssociationAuthenticationDHCPDNSApplications

08:06:4010:53:2013:40:0016:26:4019:13:2022:00:0000:46:4003:33:2006:20:00

CurrentOnlineWirelessSep 24, 2025, 07:19 (UTC -7)

Client connections

WirelessTME-Win1LabW-AP9178-1

Client details

StatusCurrently connected since Sep 24 07:18

View location

SSIDCG1-WiFi7-SAE

Access pointLabW-AP9178-1

Link 0 signal61db

Channel 157

5GHz

Link 1 signal0db

Channel 21

6GHz

Device type, OSCLOUD Network Technology..., Windows 10

Device capable Wi-Fi standards802.11be - 2.4, 5 and 6 GHz

IPv4 address10.9.10.11

IPv6 addressUnknown

MAC address3c:0a:f3:66:45:c9

VLAN ID910

Port forwardingNone

1:1 NAT IPsNone

Device policyNormal

BandwidthUnlimited

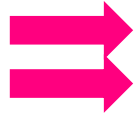
Layer 3 firewall2 rules

Layer 7 firewall0 rules

MLO info

RTP Campus - WLAN Design: #2 SSIDs

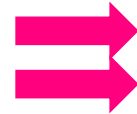
Employee



- WPA3 "All IN" approach
- WPA3 Enterprise Only
- Broadcasted on 5 & 6 GHz
- Certificate based
- No BYOD allowed
- Mandatory DHCP
- 802.11r enabled
- AAA override
- CoA enabled
- No mDNS
- QoS: Webex with DSCP 46



Guest



- CWA (MAB + ISE portal)
- Broadcasted on 2.4 & 5 GHz
- Open (no OWE yet)
- BYOD SSID
- Mandatory DHCP
- 802.11r disabled
- AAA override
- CoA Enabled
- No mDNS
- QoS: remark all to DSCP 0

RTP Campus – WLAN Design: CoA + 11r

802.11r/OKC + CoA is supported starting 32.1

SecurityWPA3 Enterprise with 2 RADIUS servers and 2 accounting servers

Enterprise with

my RADIUS server

User credentials are validated with 802.1X at association time

Identity PSK with RADIUS

MAC-based Authentication

RADIUS server is queried at association time to obtain a passphrase for a device based on its MAC address

Identity PSK without RADIUS

Devices are assigned a group policy based on its passphrase

Wi-Fi Personal Network (WPN)

Enabled

WPA encryption

WPA3 only

802.11r

Enabled

Adaptive

Disabled

RADIUS2 RADIUS servers, 2 accounting servers - CoA supported

"blizzard" SSID is proxying RADIUS traffic through a campus gateway cluster.

RADIUS servers

#	Host IP or FQDN	Auth port	Secret	Actions
1	64.100.30.149	1812		
2	173.36.46.146	1812		

Add server 3 max.

RADIUS accounting servers

#	Host IP or FQDN	Acct port	Secret	Actions
1	64.100.30.149	1813		
2	173.36.46.146	1813		

Add server 3 max.

Accounting interim interval

10

minutes

RADIUS CoA support

RADIUS attribute specifying group policy name

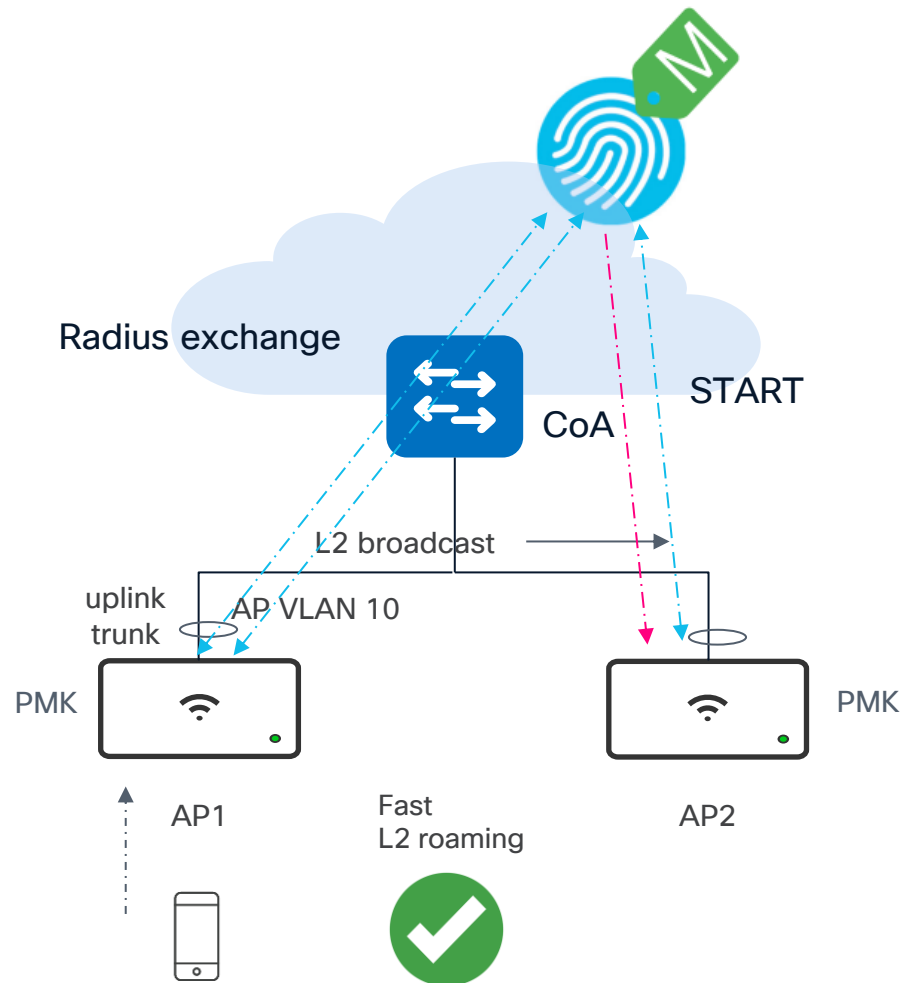
Airespace-ACL-Name

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BRKEWN-2046

RTP Campus - WLAN Design: CoA + 11r

802.11r/OKC + CoA is supported starting 32.1



How?

- Client authenticates to an SSID with 802.11r/OKC and PMK is derived > The Network Access Server (NAS) is the first AP that client authenticates with (AP1 in this case)
- PMK is shared via L2 broadcast and the client roams with 802.11r and no re-auth is sent to the AAA
- Roam-from AP sends an Accounting STOP
- Roam-to AP sends an Accounting START
- Accounting START message updates the NAS at the AAA, as it contains the same calling-station-ID (AVP Code 31)
- When, after the client roamed, AAA issues a CoA: the CoA is delivered to the roam-to AP
- Note: ISE 3.3 Patch 5 is required

Wireless to Wired Network Design

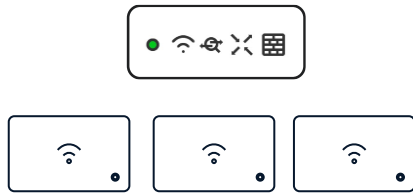


Distribute or Centralize? THAT is the Design Question

Distribute or Centralize?

Large, Medium Campus

> Centralized Data Plane architecture



km^2/mi^2

E.g., University Campus



Distribute Enterprise: Branch, Small Campus

Large, Medium Campus with Fabric

> Distributed Data Plane architecture



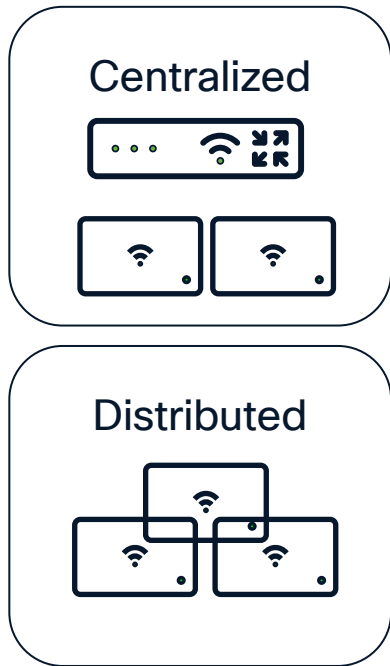
m^2/ft^2

e.g., Retail

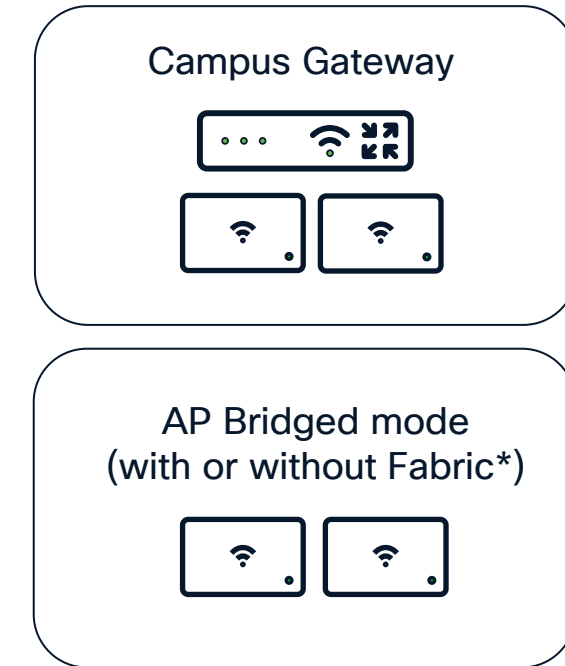


Distribute or Centralize? Cisco Architecture Flexibility

Architecture



Cloud Managed



** Public Beta at the end of Nov 2025*

Distribute or Centralize? What to consider...



Use cases/Features



Services



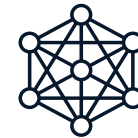
Wired Network Design



Performances

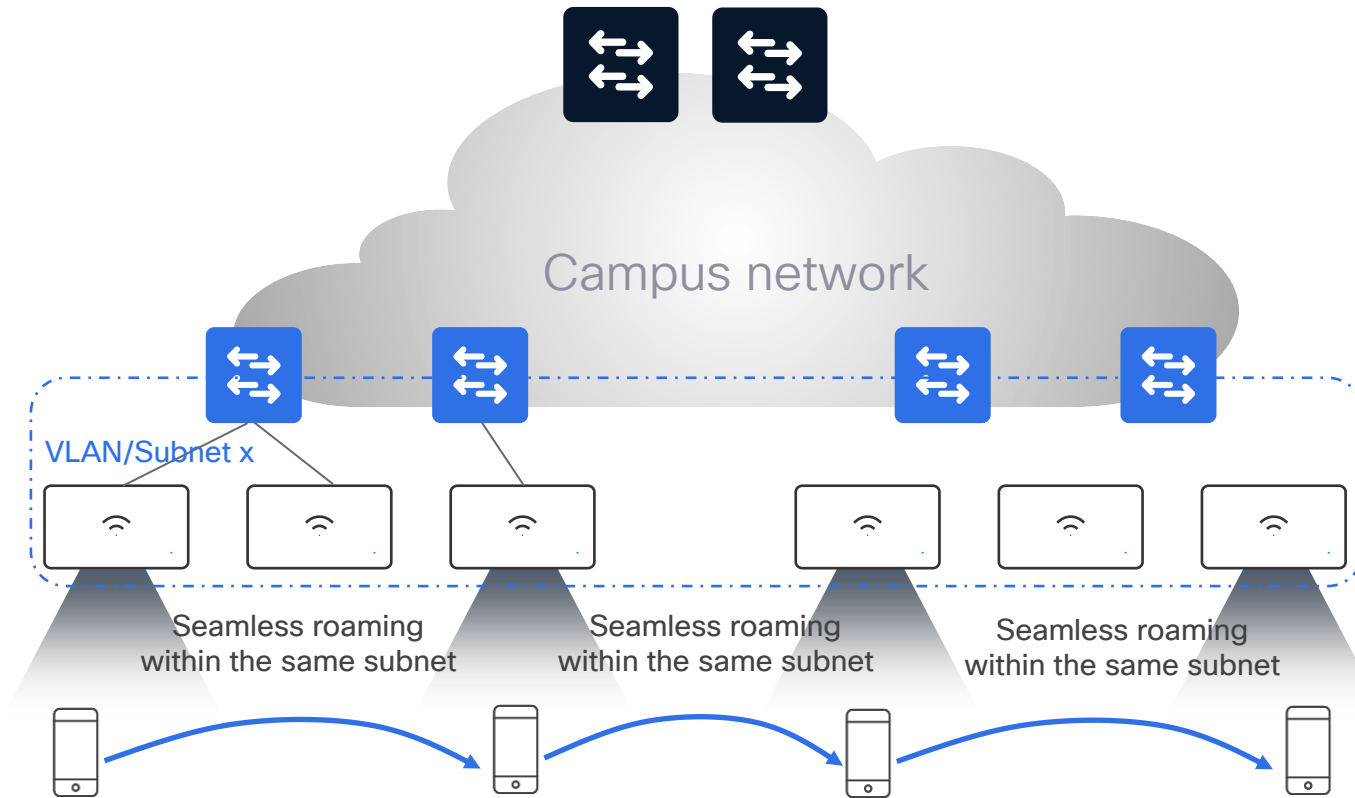


Policy



Scale

Distribute or Centralize? Seamless Roaming



Seamless roaming domain: keep same IP and policy as client roams > same VLAN/L2 broadcast domain

How can you create a L2 roaming domain?

- Spanning VLAN everywhere

Q: How big can be the L2 roaming domain?

A: Need to consider the type of layer 2 and Layer 3 switches and their MAC/ARP tables size, the impact of spanning tree (SPT), the DHCP scope design, etc.

How big can be the L2 roaming domain?

Let's start with client considerations:



A **Single Dual Stack Host** will have **1 x IPv4** address, and
at least 3 x IPv6 Addresses

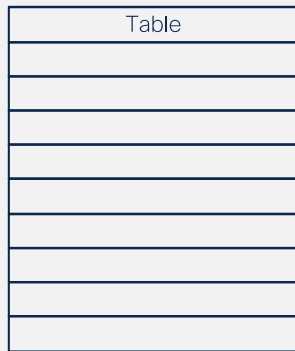
(IPv4 Unicast, IPv6 Link Local, IPv6 Unique Local, IPv6 Global Unicast)

Windows 11: up to 16 IPv6 IP addresses (!!)

How big can be the L2 roaming domain?

Let's identify a roaming domain in terms the number of APs:

Layer 2 switch = Catalyst 9200L (or MS equivalent)



Table



MAC addresses table limit: 16,000

- Each wireless device will take a MAC address entry
- If we consider Random MAC, this number can be higher
- If we assume 40 clients per AP > $16,000/40 = \text{max } 400 \text{ APs per L2 roaming domain}$

How big can be the L2 roaming domain?

Let's identify a roaming domain in terms the number of APs:

Layer 3 switch = Catalyst 9300 (or MS equivalent)

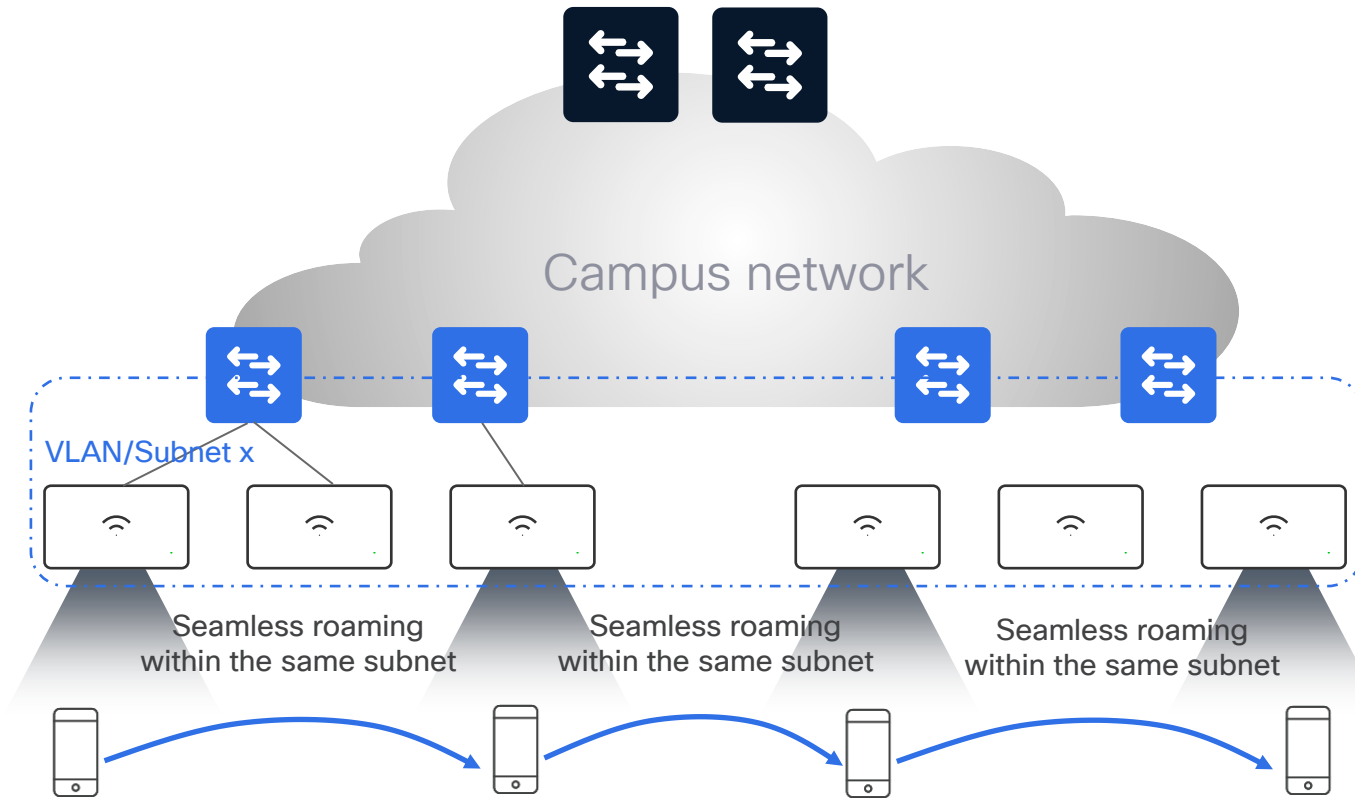
Table



ARP entries: 32,000

- For dual stack clients, the scale numbers are divided by at least 4 (one entry for IPV4 and three entries for IPv6) > For 9300 the max number of clients is $32k/4 = 8k$
- If we assume 40 clients per AP > $8,000/40 = \text{max } 200 \text{ APs L2 roaming domain}$

Distribute or Centralize? Seamless Roaming



Seamless roaming domain: keep same IP and policy as client roams > same VLAN/L2 broadcast domain

How can you create a L2 roaming domain?

- Spanning VLAN everywhere

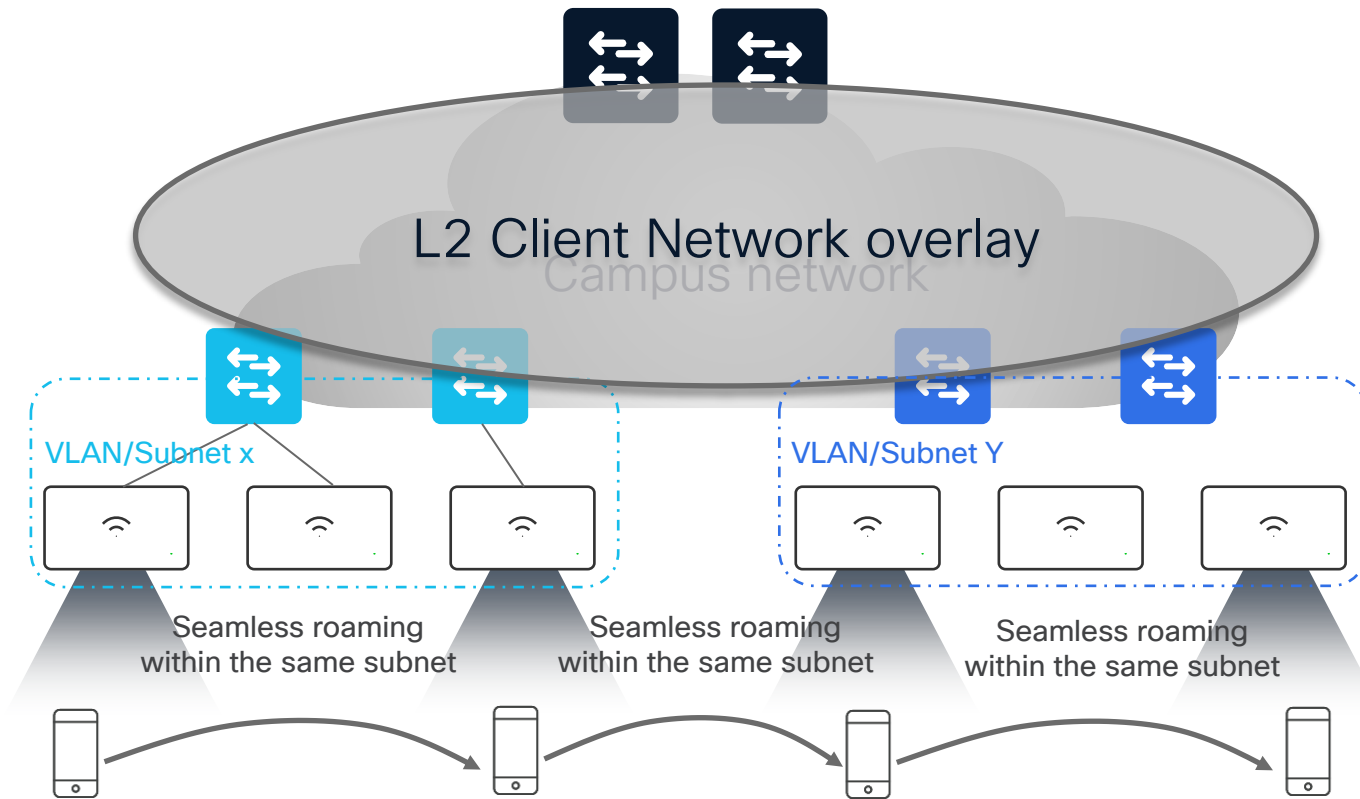
Q: How big can be the L2 roaming domain?

A: 200/300 APs, 8k clients as a reference, but anyway there is a limit...

Q: How to scale more?

A: you need seamless roaming across L3 boundaries > create L2 overlay

Distribute or Centralize? Seamless Roaming



How can you create the L2 overlay?

1. Wired Fabric

- Need to create a L2 overlay on top of the underlay campus network
- How? For example, with the new Cloud Managed Campus Fabric
- APs can be in bridge mode, distributed data plane

Cisco Cloud-Managed Campus Fabric

Multi-Network Cloud-Managed Fabric

Beta



Simplified management as a single logical entity



Focused on brownfield migration



Flexible deployment and staging



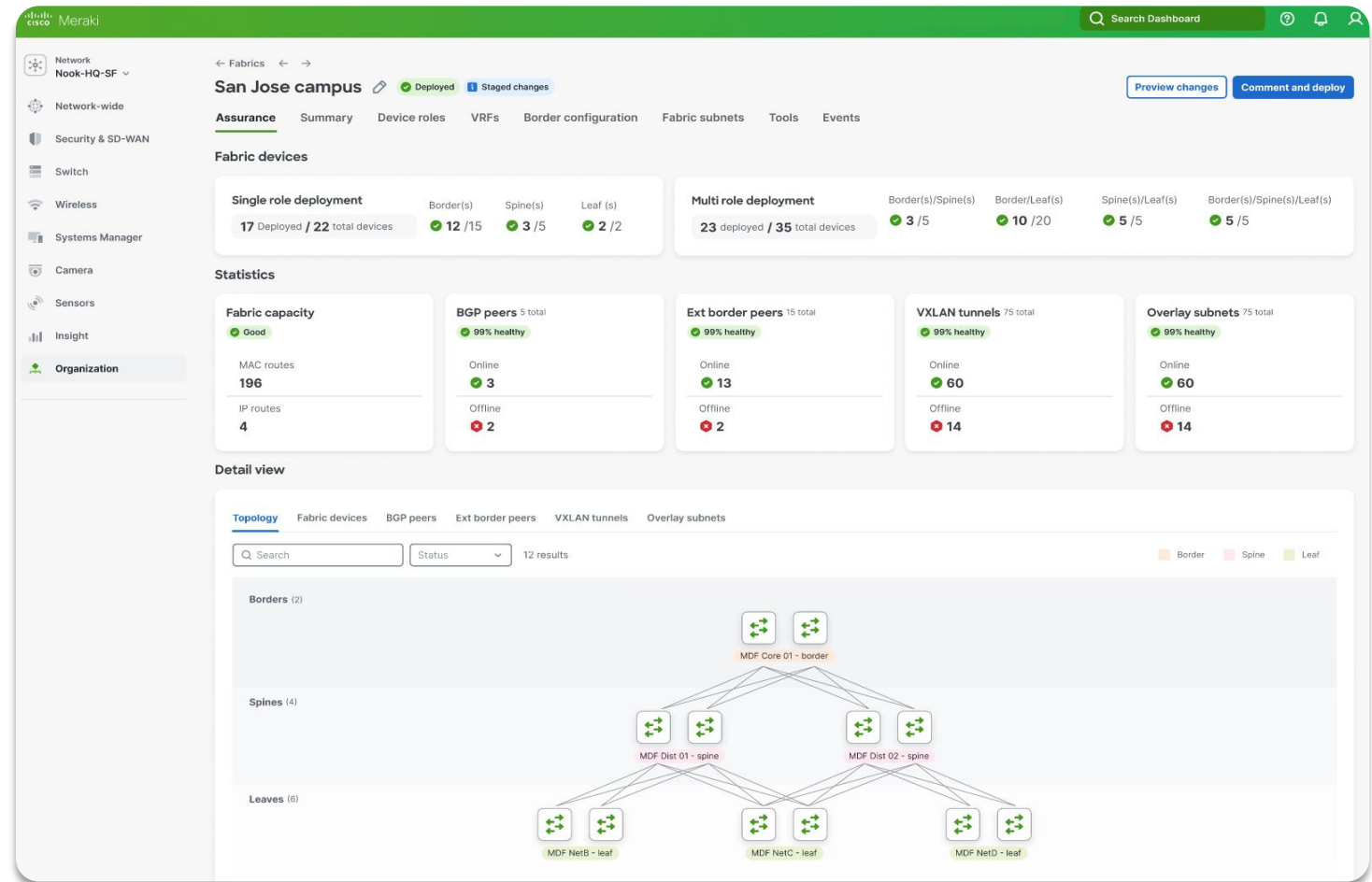
Securing the network with Adaptive Policy



Optimized L2 extension

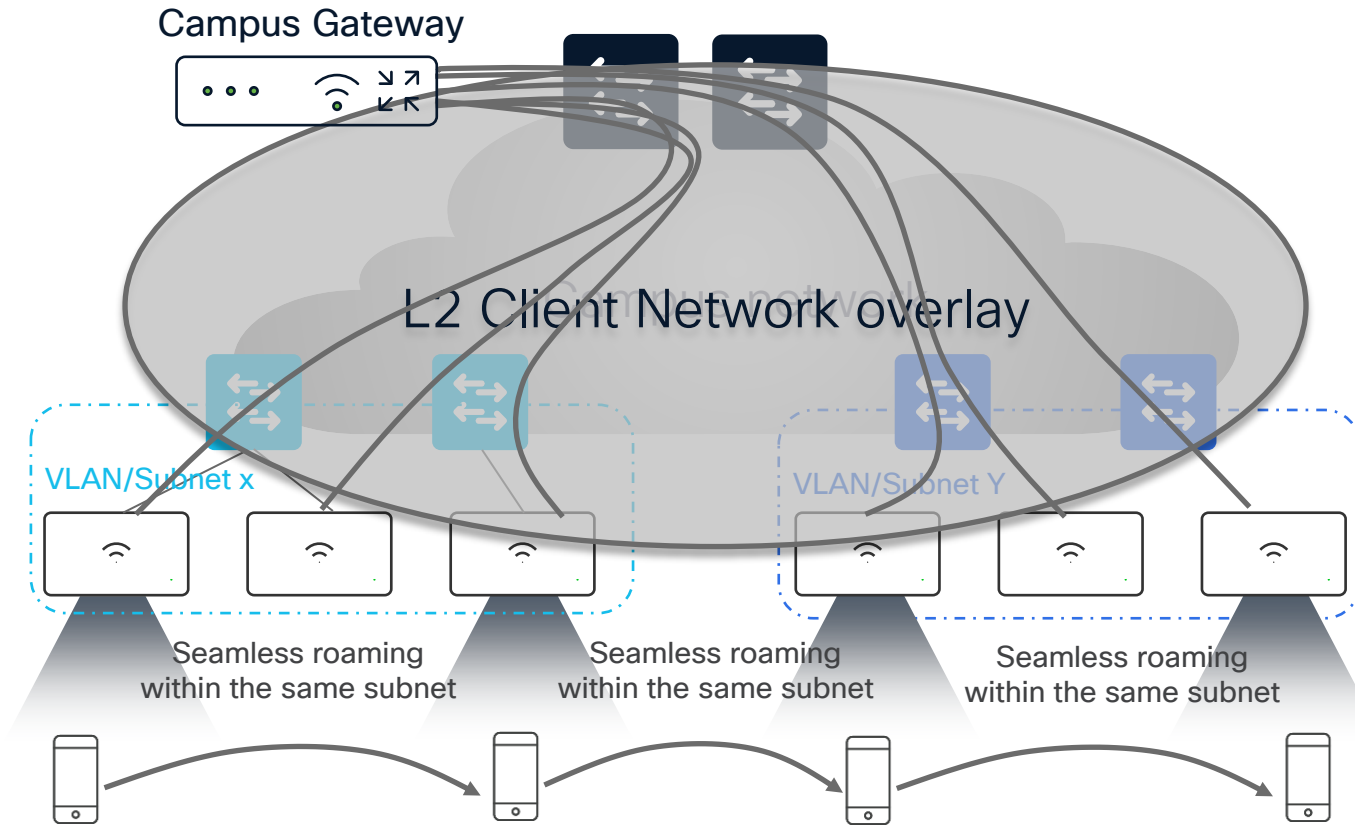


Day-2 Operational Assurance



More info? TechField Day session <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I80zINv3Zyk>

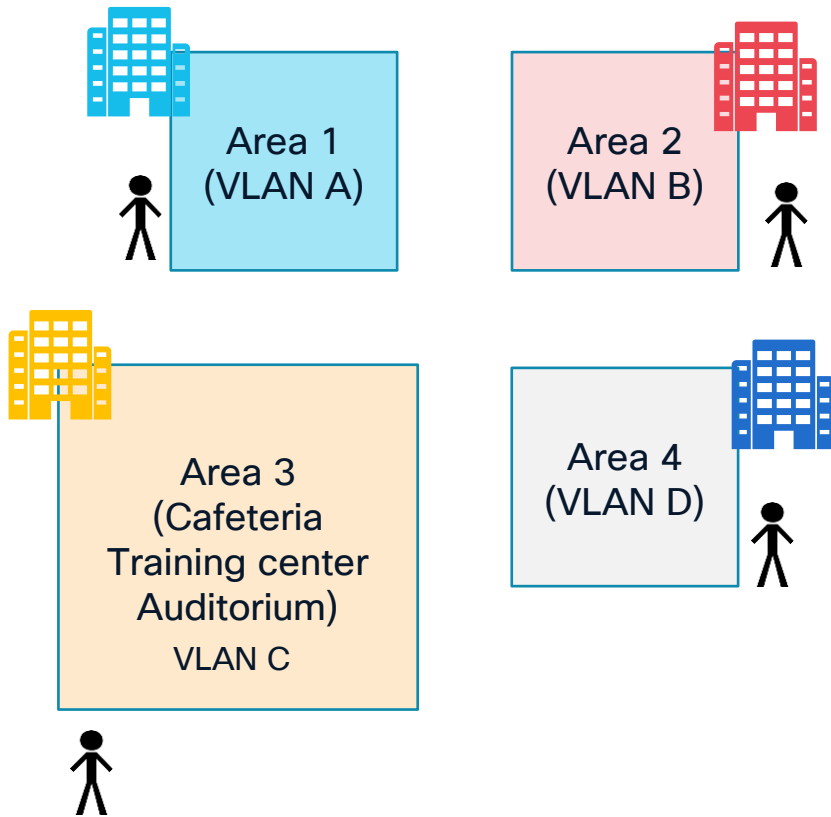
Distribute or Centralize? Seamless Roaming



How can you create the L2 overlay?

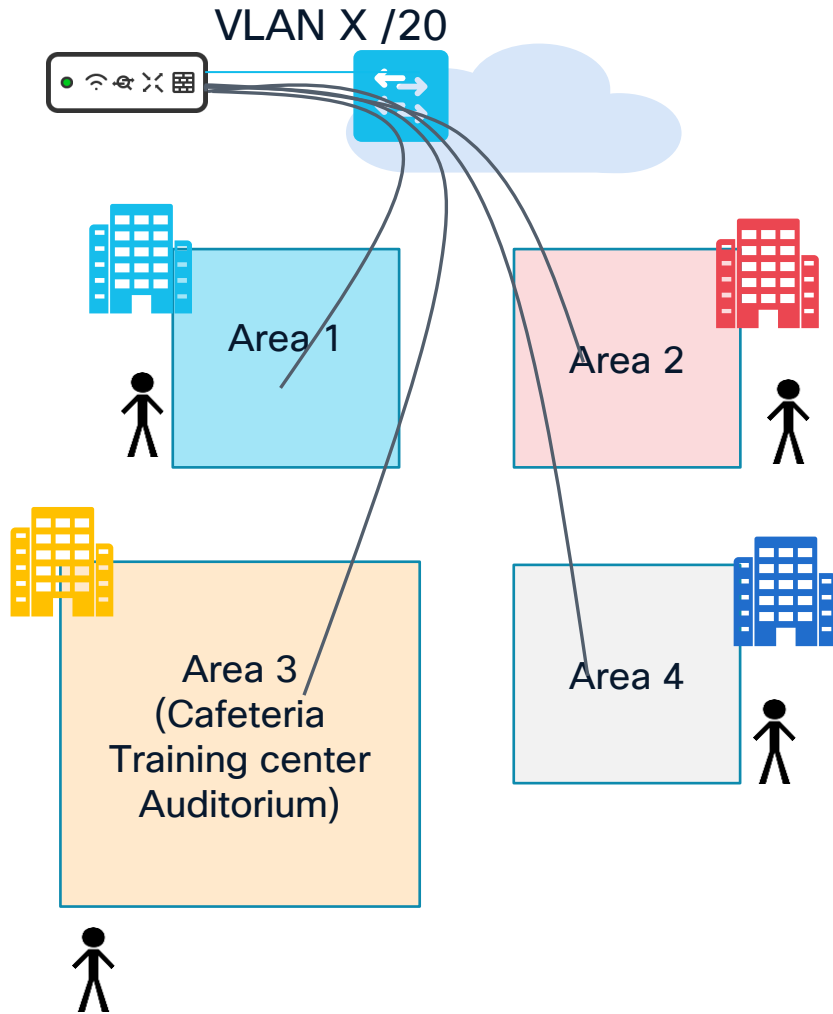
1. Wired Fabric
 2. Centralized Tunneling (VXLAN)
- Traffic is centralized, client VLANs exist only between Campus Gateway and distribution/core switch

Distribute or Centralize? VLAN/DHCP considerations



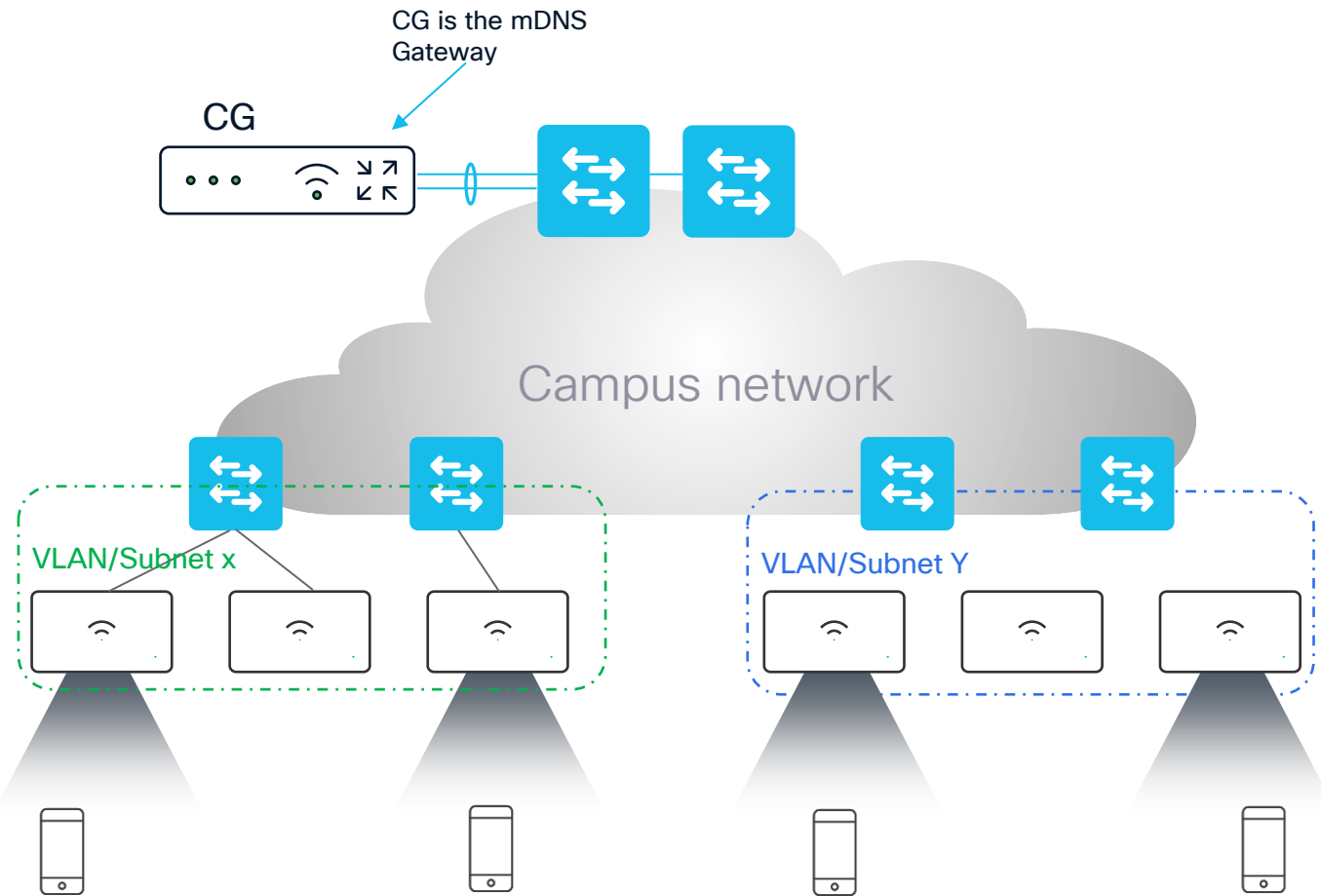
- For **Distributed data plane** deployment consider that any new SSID means new VLAN/Subnet that you need to add on the trunk port for every AP
- Also additional VLAN/subnet means defining the L3 interface, routing and the related DHCP scope
- Size your **DHCP scope** considering all the possible devices that could join in that area but also roaming devices from other areas. This is important to prevent **DHCP scope starvation**

Distribute or Centralize? VLAN/DHCP considerations



- For **Distributed data plane** deployment consider that any new SSID means new VLAN/Subnet that you need to add on the trunk port for every AP
- Also additional VLAN/subnet means defining the L3 interface, routing and the related DHCP scope
- Size your **DHCP scope** considering all the possible devices that could join in that area but also roaming devices from other areas. This is important to prevent **DHCP scope starvation**
- For **Centralized data plane** it's easier as as you just need to add the VLANs in one place, on the connection between edge and distribution switch
- For DHCP scope, you can simply have one large subnet (/20, /16 are typical in high scale deployments) and call it the day
- Of course, you need to make sure that the distribution/core switch/es can scale to the number of MAC and ARP entries for the clients supported by Campus Gateway.

Distribute or Centralize? mDNS considerations



mDNS

- If you need mDNS at scale, you need to work across VLANs and you need a filtering function
> You need mDNS Gateway function
- There is no mDNS gateway function for Meraki Bridged mode
- To scale, you need to deploy mDNS Gateway as a centralized function in Campus Gateway

Campus Gateway

Campus Gateway

Available now!



Enterprise-class cloud functionality

Support critical campus wireless services with cloud management and real-time control plane



Deploy without redesign

Deploy Campus Gateway with little to no redesign of the on-premises wireless network architecture



Seamless roaming at scale

Scale for up to 50,000 client devices and 5,000 access points with a single Campus Gateway



Campus Gateway: Feature set at launch

Infrastructure

ARP proxy
Active- Active Redundancy
LAG support
VLAN pooling
Tunnel configuration per SSID
Client isolation/P2P Blocking
BUM traffic blocking
IPv6 client support

Performance & Scale

Scale to 5,000 APs and 50,000 Clients
100Gbps throughput & 200Gbps Clustered

Security

Radius Proxy
AAA Override & CoA
Named VLAN override
L3 and URL ACLs
Adaptive Policy(SGTs)

Services

QoS (DSCP marking UP/DW)
Traffic Inspection & Classification at AP
mDNS Gateway
Wi-Fi Personal Network (WPN)

Campus Gateway: Hardware Platform



SKU	CW9800H1-MCG	
Throughput	up to 100 Gbps	
Number of APs	5,000	
Number of clients	50,000	
Data ports	8 x 1 GE / 10 GE SFP	4 x 25 GE ports

Campus Gateway – Supported Access Points

Supported Access Points

Wi-Fi 6

MR44, MR36, MR36H MR46, MR46E, MR56, MR76, MR78, MR86

Wi-Fi 6E

MR57, CW9162, CW9163, CW9164, CW9166

Wi-Fi 7

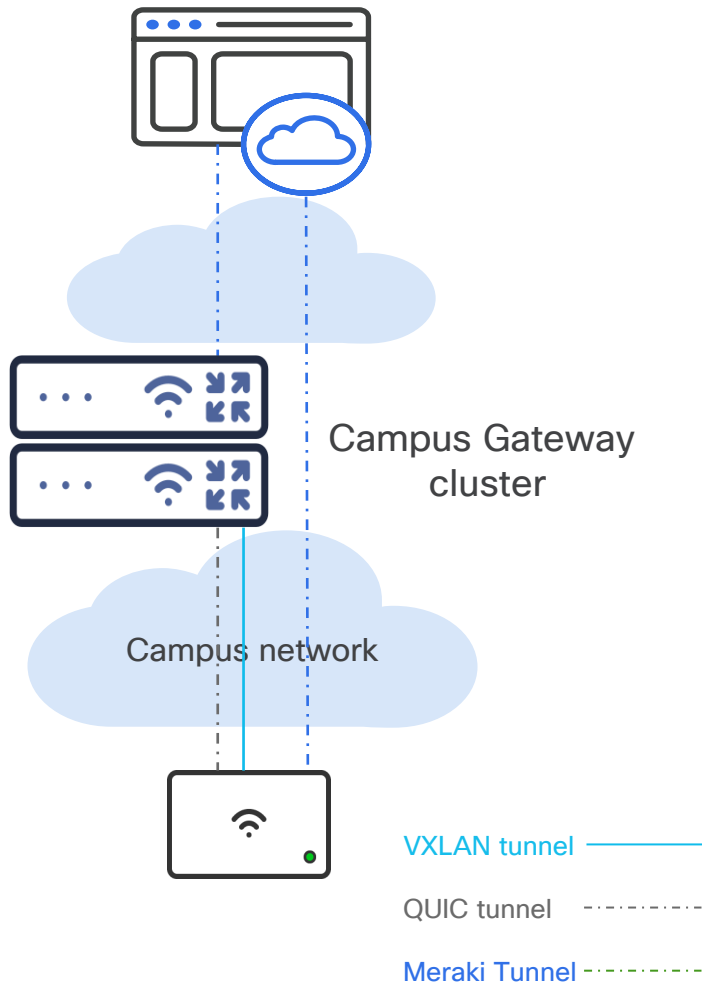
CW9178, CW9176, CW9172i, CW9172H



Minimum Software

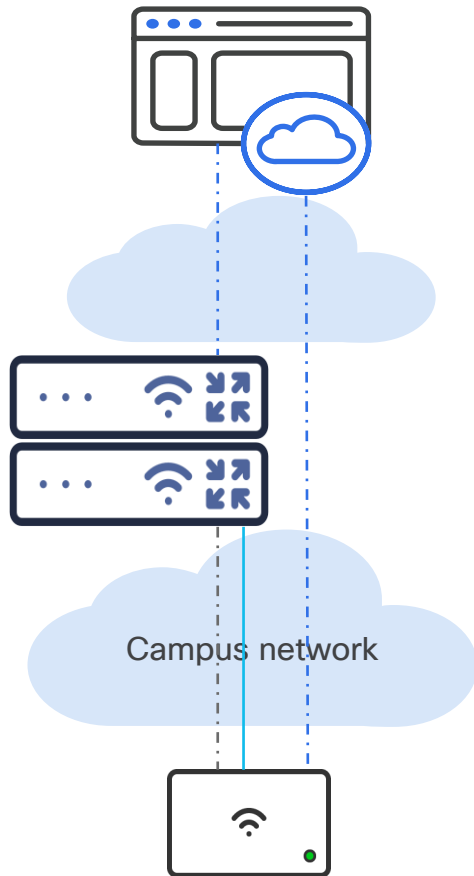
MR Release R31.2

Campus Gateway Architecture



- Campus Gateway and AP are directly managed by Meraki Dashboard like any other cloud managed node
- Campus Gateway adopt a centrally switched architecture, using tunneling, to create a L2 overlay for client traffic
- Tunneling to CG is configured on a per SSID basis
- At FCS, some architecture limitations apply:
 - Campus Gateway and AP need to be part of the same Meraki Network (new or existing Network)
 - Campus Gateway and AP should be part of the same geo location (RTT<20ms) > Focus at FCS is on Campus deployments
 - Only one Campus Gateway cluster is supported per Meraki Network
 - Two Campus Gateway nodes per Cluster

Campus Gateway Architecture



Meraki Dashboard

Management Plane

- Configuration management
- Monitoring & Troubleshooting
- Software management
- Licensing. etc.
- Serviceability/debugging

Non-real time Control Plane

- RRM (AI-RRM)
- AirMarshall
- Rogues
- etc.

Campus Gateway

Data Plane

- Data plane termination
- VLAN termination
- mDNS Gateway

Real time Control Plane

- AAA Proxy
- Roaming - Key management
- Dstore (client DB)

Access Point

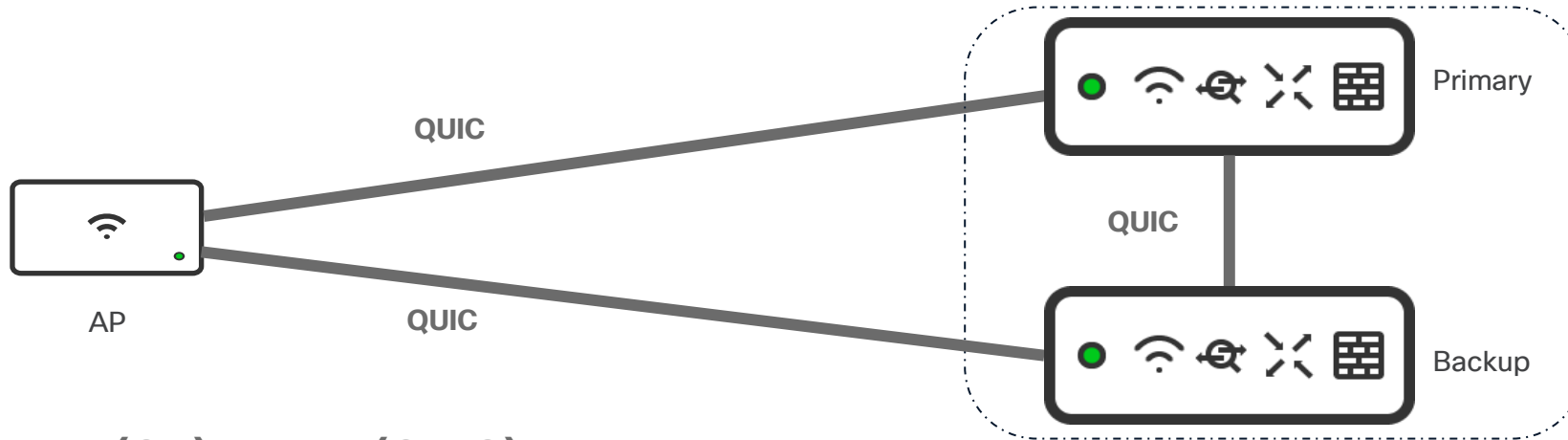
Data Plane

- Bridge local SSIDs
- Tunnel central SSIDs
- QoS
- Rate Limit
- Adaptive policy tagging

Real time Control Plane

- Client Authentication
- Client state machine
- Telemetry

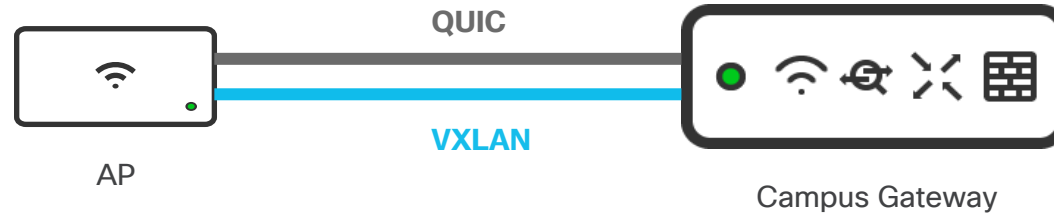
Campus Gateway -> Control Plane Tunnel



Control Plane (CP) tunnel (QUIC)

- Each AP establishes **two QUIC tunnels** to both **Primary and Backup Campus Gateway**
- CP tunnel is based on **QUIC protocol**. **UDP based**, **Reliable tunnel** (keepalives to check reachability)
- CP traffic is **always encrypted (TLS 1.3)** using Dashboard-provisioned keys or certificates
- Used for carrying CP messages such as AP registration, client anchoring, etc.
- Also used for special packets such as HA messages and inter-Campus Gateway control messages
- On a stable network, the **QUIC tunnel is expected to consume few kbps**

Campus Gateway -> Data Plane Tunnel

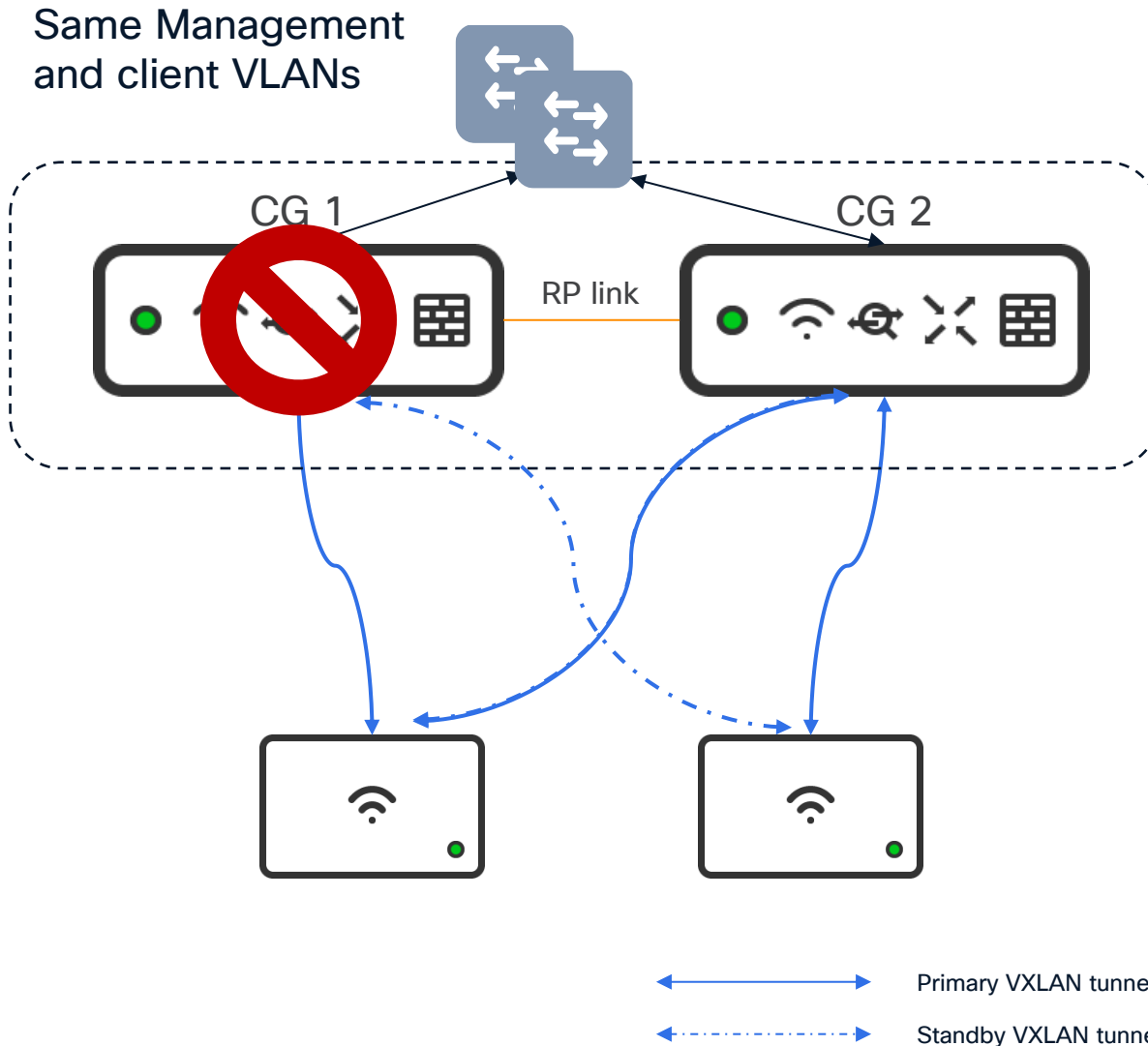


Data Plane (DP) tunnel (VXLAN)

- Each AP has one VXLAN tunnel to the primary Campus Gateway
- Used for carrying client data packets which are bridged onto the client VLANs at Campus Gateway
- Leverages standard VXLAN encapsulation
- QoS and policy information (e.g., DSCP, SGT, VRF) carried in the tunnel header
- RADIUS messages are also carried inside VXLAN tunnel

At FCS, only SGT segmentation is supported via Adaptive Policy. VRF support is not yet on a committed roadmap

Campus Gateway - Active/Active High Availability



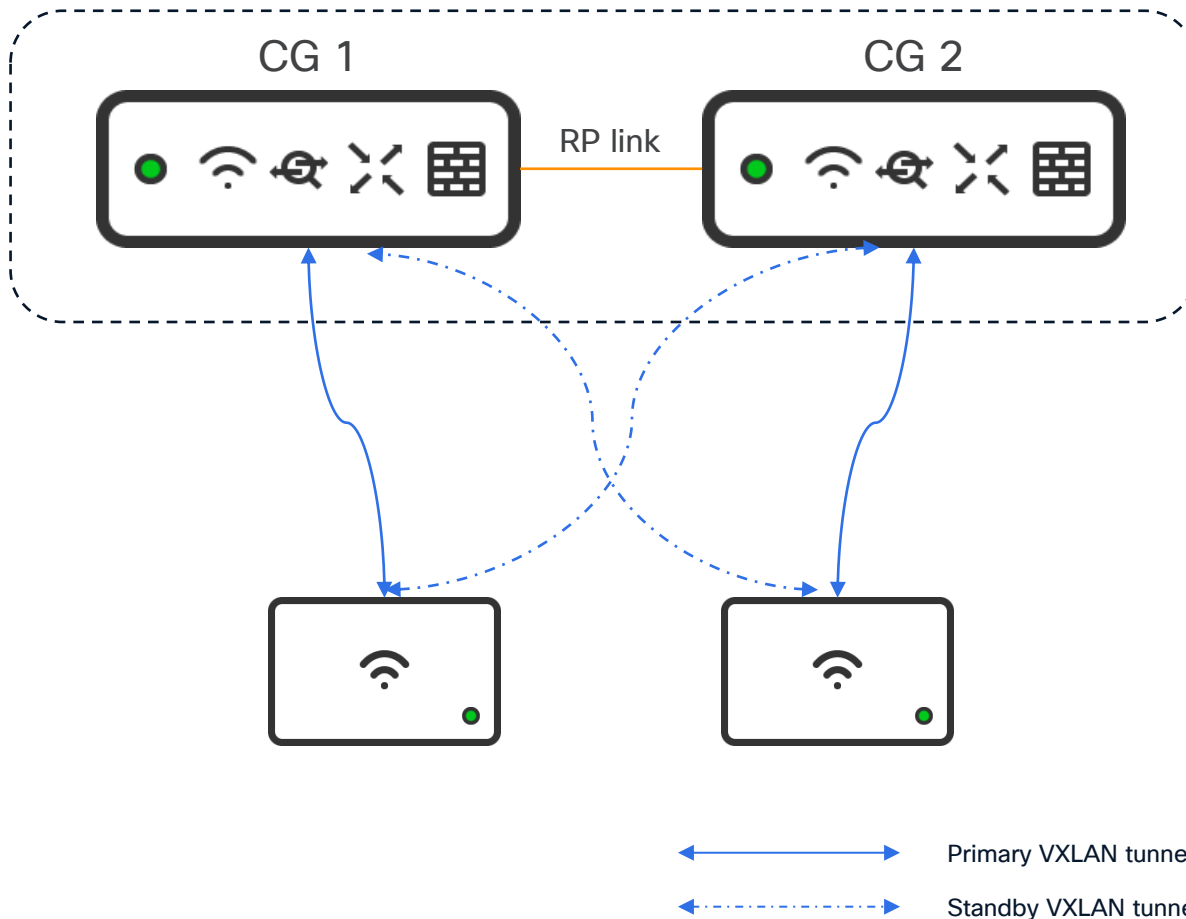
A cluster represents a group of CG with connectivity to a common set of VLANs.

Active-Active High Availability, with APs load balanced across the CGs in the cluster

Each AP is configured with a Primary and Preferred Backup Campus Gateways

When Primary CG node fails, the connected APs automatically failover to the Backup CG

Campus Gateway - Active/Active High Availability



Campus Gateway supports stateful, zero downtime failover for single node failure

If the dedicated Redundancy Port (RP) port is connected, Client and AP state are statefully synced between the CGs

RP port need to be connected via a L2 link (copper or fiber), either direct or through a dedicated VLAN

RP link is also used for fast keepalives 100ms. RP link latency <80 ms, Bandwidth > 60 Mbps and MTU >= 1500B

When should you consider a Campus Gateway?



Services @scale

- Roaming across L3 boundaries
- Fast Roaming across a large domain (> 200/300 APs)
- mDNS Gateway function



Wired Network Design

- Want to simplify VLAN/Subnet design at the access layer
- Want to simplify DHCP scope design
- Don't want to touch the underlay wired design



Policy

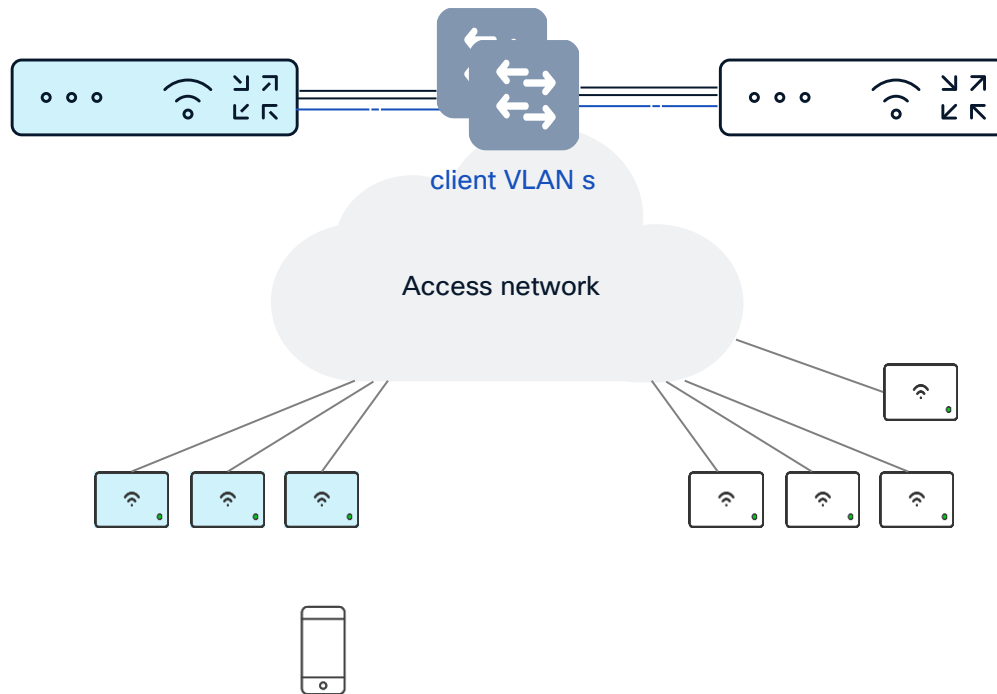
- Single policy (QoS, ACL, etc.) enforcement point for wireless traffic
- Single NAS to be configured in AAA server
- Simple way to handle BUM traffic



Performance

- Optimized for North-South traffic
- Centralized aggregator is not a bottleneck
- No latency impact for the “trombone” network effect

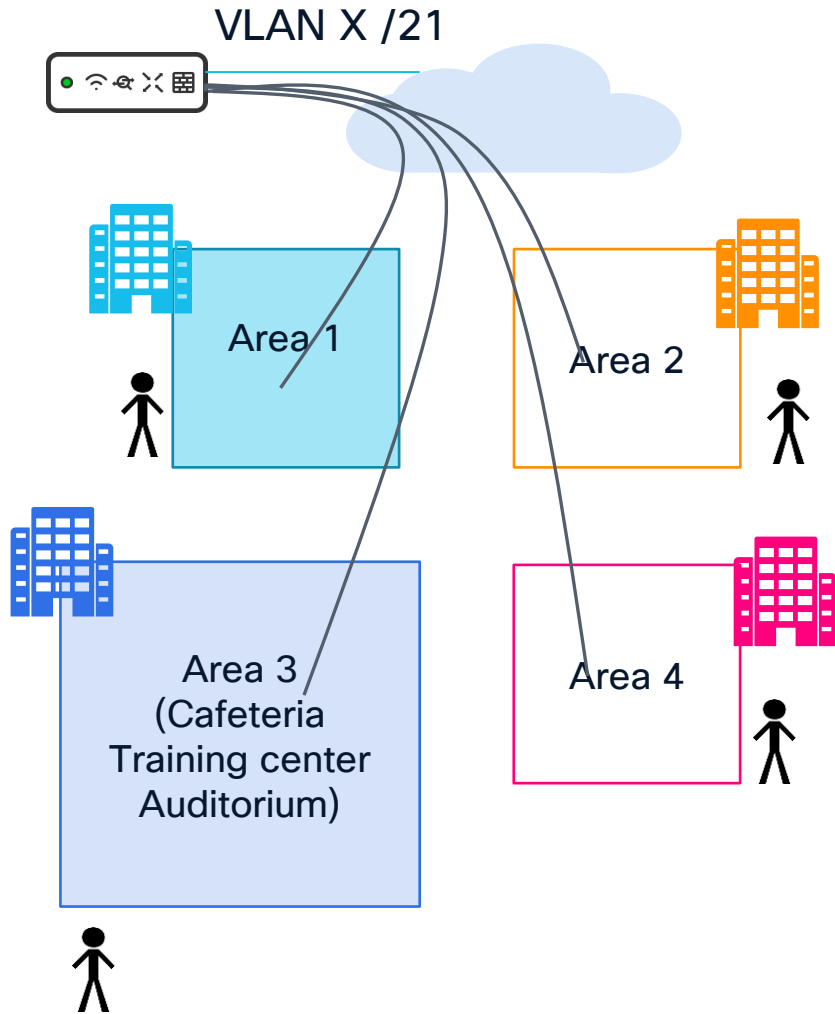
WLC to Campus Gateway migration



- Customers have a WLC deployment with Wi-Fi 6/6E and 7 and older APs. How to deploy Campus Gateway to migrate to a cloud native solution?
- Steps to migrate:
 - Install CG into the network: use same client VLANs > connect to the same L3 distribution switch. Add Campus Gateway as NAS in AAA server
 - Migrate compatible APs to the same Meraki Network as Campus Gateway. Refresh older APs and add the new ones to Campus Gateway network
- Recommendations:
 - Use same SSIDs mapped to the same VLANs (statically or dynamically) to allow for seamless roaming
 - Roaming will require a full re-auth so it will not be fast roam
 - Migrate an area/roaming domain at the time (if possible)
 - Disable DHCP Required / Mandatory DHCP for the roaming to be faster

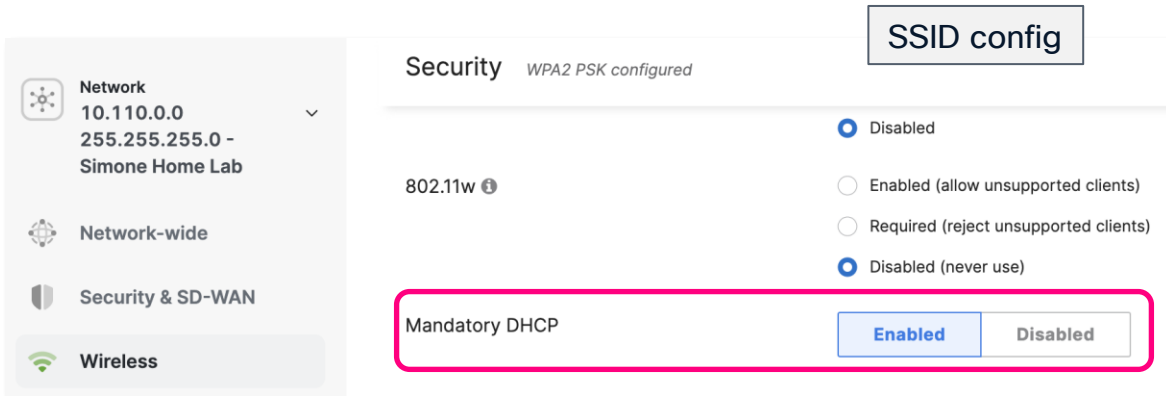
Design Best Practices

DHCP Lease design considerations



- Independently of Distributed or Centralized data plane deployment **DHCP Lease** is very important to reduce the load on DHCP server, prevent starvation and security issues.
- The **recommendation** for DHCP lease: Align it to the the average dwell time in that environment. For example:
 - Set it to 12 hours for normal office deployments
 - Set it to 8 hours for Universities
 - Set it to 1 hour for Retailers
 - Set it very low (e.g., 30 mins) for security reasons (reduced unauthorized time) but there is an impact on the DHCP server. Also consider Random MAC > keep DHCP lease lower to avoid starvation

DHCP Mandatory



- Set **DHCP Mandatory** on your SSID access policy, if you don't need Static IP assignment.
 - DHCP Mandatory is a good security practice as system learns and records IP to MAC binding for each client
 - DHCP Mandatory automatically turns on **Dynamic ARP inspection (DAI)** and **IP Source Guard** which help in protecting the network from certain “man-in-the-middle” attacks and IP spoofing, respectively.
 - If few clients with static IPs need to be supported, consider DHCP reservation on the DHCP server
- **Important:** Not supported for IPv6 only clients. For dual stack IPv4/v6 please deploy r32.1.x or above
- **Note:** Fixed in Dashboard starting June 2024. For existing SSIDs please disable and re-enable the feature. Fix is automatically applied for new created SSIDs

Did you disable Mandatory DHCP because you saw roaming issues? ➡

Security design considerations

Network Devices List > MR_NAS

ISE configuration

Network Devices

* Name

Description

IP Address /

RADIUS 3 RADIUS servers

SSID config

RADIUS servers

#	Host IP or FQDN	Port	Secret	Test	Actions
1	10.12.34.5		*****	Test	...
2	10.12.35.5		*****	Test	...
3	10.12.36.5		*****	Test	...

You are using the maximum number of servers

- For **Bridged SSIDs**, each AP talks to AAA server for 802.1x authentication and must be configured as Network Access Server (NAS); to avoid entering each AP's IP address, majority of the AAA servers on the market allow the definition of a subnet as NAS. **Recommendation**: Make sure you design the APs subnets to be summarized in a larger one
- Meraki has a limit of max #3 AAA servers per SSID. Usually this is not a constrain. For large, high-density deployments, you might consider placing a **load balancer in front of the AAA** servers. Configure **source based sticky load balance**, to make sure that each client session always talk to the same AAA if alive.

Security design considerations

Radius server load balancing policy

APs support only strict priority order load balancing policy

RADIUS

3 RADIUS servers - Testing enabled

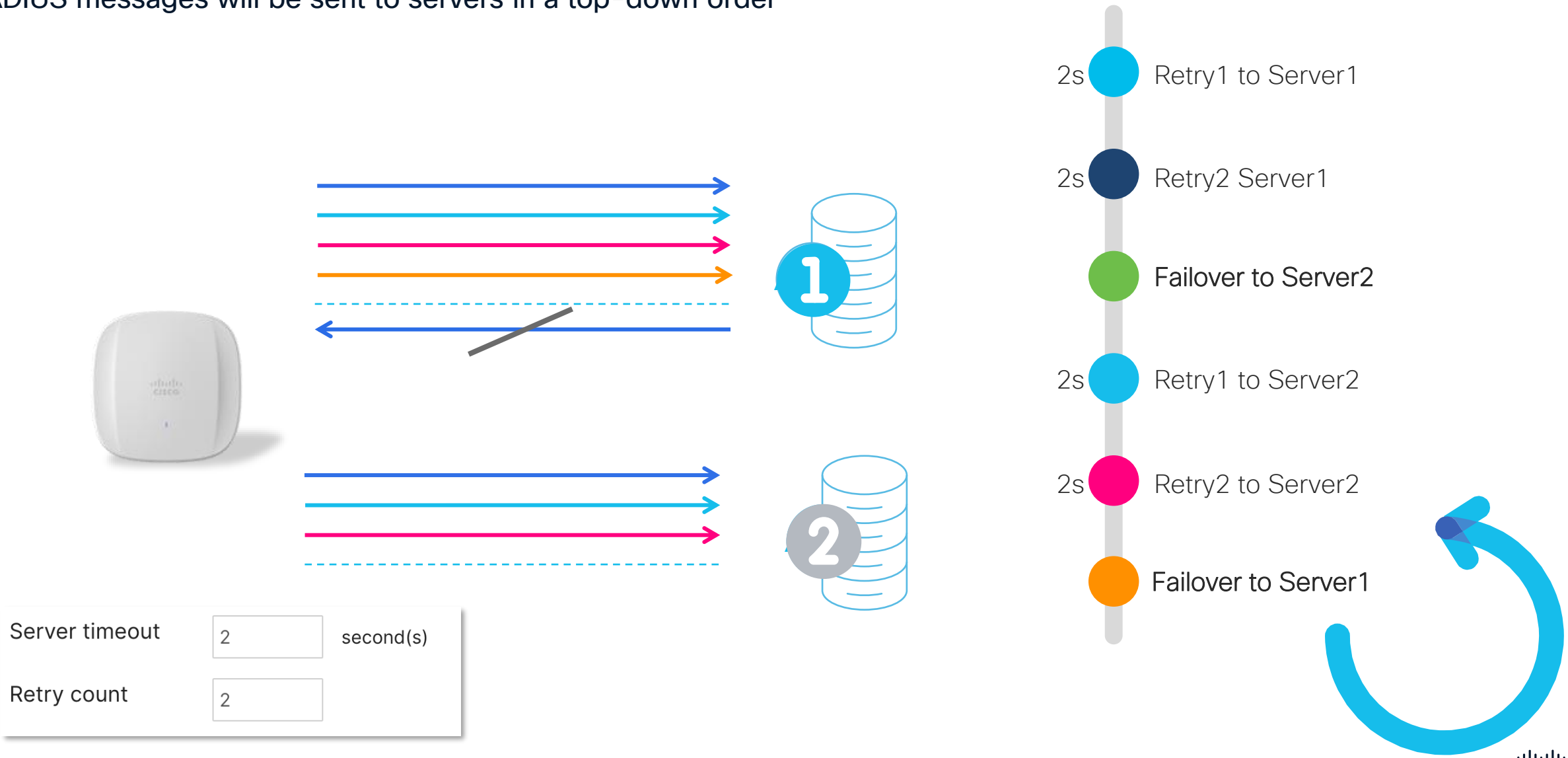
RADIUS servers

#	Host IP or FQDN	Auth port	Secret	RadSec i	Test	Actions
1	173.36.144.158	1812		☐	Test	...
2	173.36.46.146	1812		☐	Test	...
3	64.100.30.149	1812		☐	Test	...

You are using the maximum number of servers

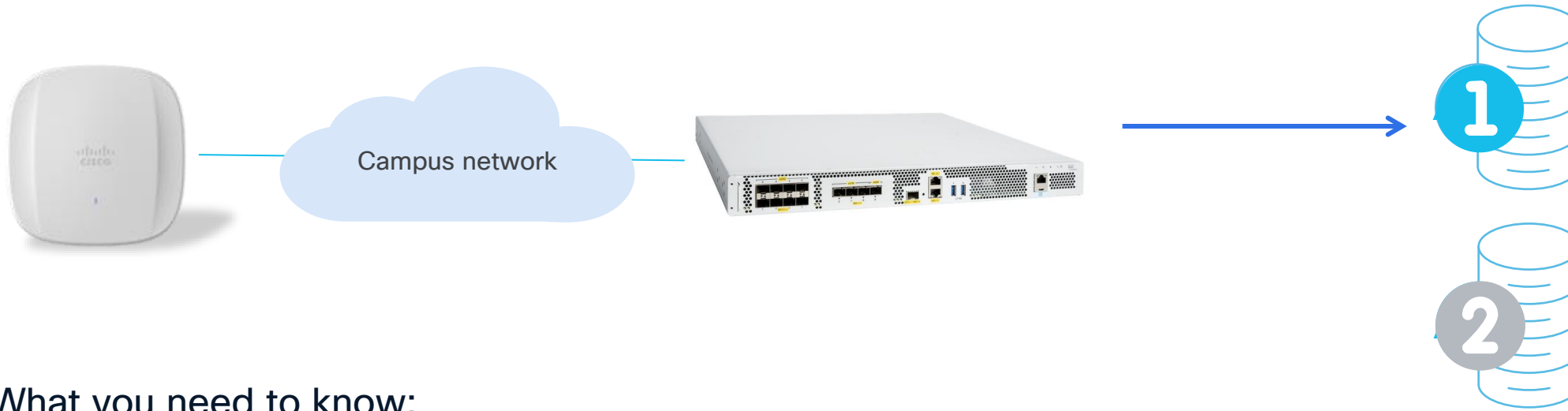
Security design considerations

RADIUS messages will be sent to servers in a top-down order



Security design considerations

CG as Radius proxy



What you need to know:

- APs always talk Radius to CG, doesn't do any load balancing and doesn't know about the external servers
- CG acts as proxy Radius > one NAS for the entire Network
- By default, CG has the same load balancing mechanism of APs, priority order. Round-robin load balancing can be configured via Meraki Support
- Since there is only one AAA server per CG, if you have multiple SSIDs with different Advanced RADIUS settings (NAS ID, Called-station-ID, timers, etc.), the settings from the first defined AAA server would be honored
- Note: at FCS, the test command to verify user credentials is not available on SSID with CG

Security design considerations

Network Devices List > MR_NAS

ISE configuration

Network Devices

* Name

Description

IP Address /

RADIUS 3 RADIUS servers

SSID config

RADIUS servers

#	Host IP or FQDN	Port	Secret	Test	Actions
1	10.12.34.5		*****	Test	...
2	10.12.35.5		*****	Test	...
3	10.12.36.5		*****	Test	...

You are using the maximum number of servers

- For **Bridged SSIDs**, each AP talks to AAA server for 802.1x authentication and must be configured as Network Access Server (NAS); to avoid entering each AP's IP address, majority of the AAA servers on the market allow the definition of a subnet as NAS. **Recommendation**: Make sure you design the APs subnets to be summarized in a larger one
- Meraki has a limit of max #3 AAA servers per SSID. Usually this is not a constrain. For large, high-density deployments, you might consider placing a **load balancer in front of the AAA** servers. Configure **source based sticky load balance**, to make sure that each client session always talk to the same AAA if alive.
- Session timeout** is the maximum time for a client session to remain active before requiring reauthorization.
- This is set to **2 days** (172800s) and cannot be changed in Dashboard. Call Meraki support if need to change it on the SSID
- Or use AAA to set it dynamically on a per user/client session

Session timeout

Monitoring and Troubleshooting

Simplify, Accelerated NetOps through AI

Cisco AI Assistant and AI Canvas

Context-aware conversational interfaces, universal interface across multi-domain Cisco solutions

Automated RCA

Proactive, Systematic RCA and remediation

AI Packet Analyzer

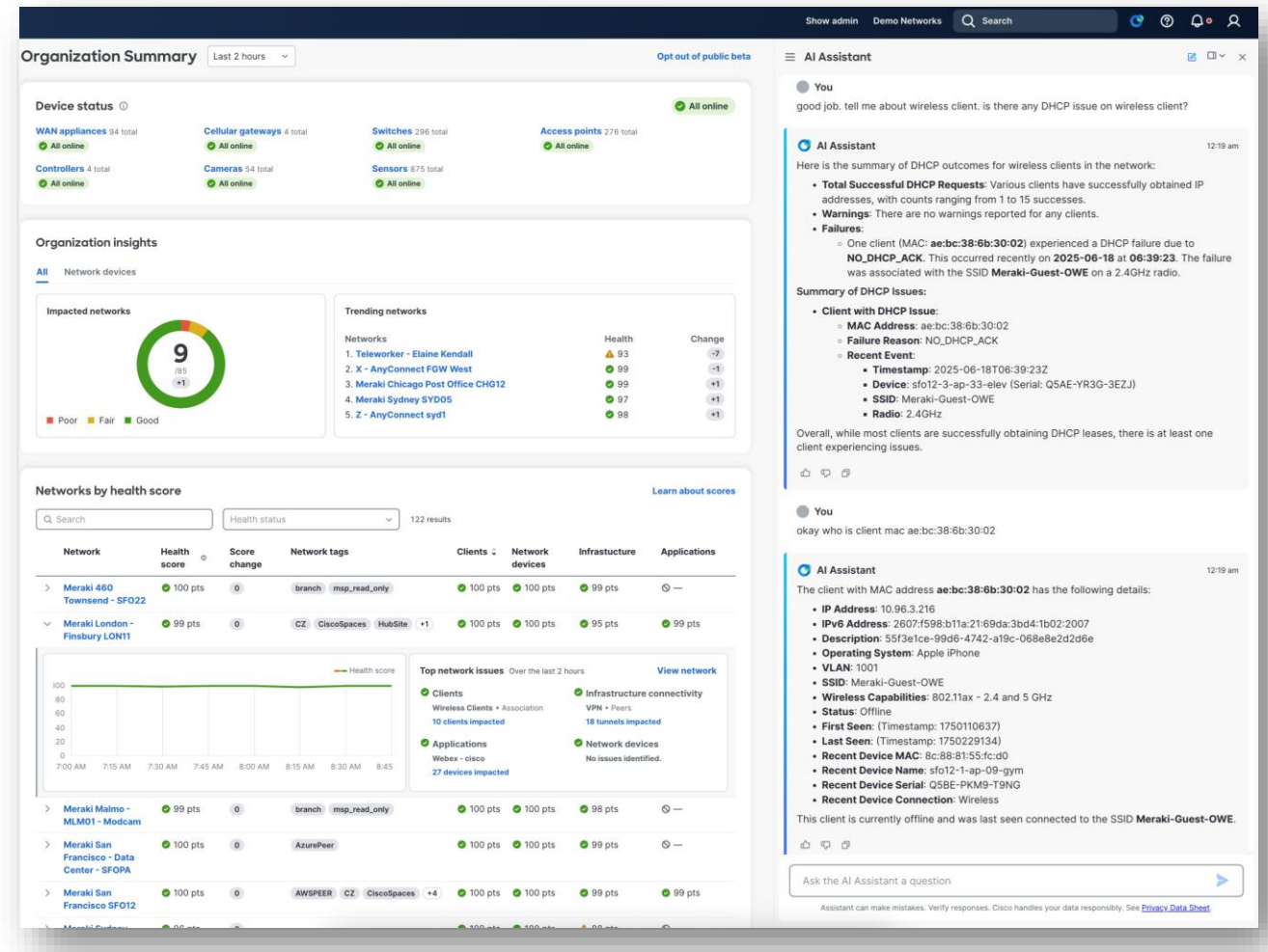
Root Cause Analysis (RCA) for failed client connection

Wireless Synthetic client

Proactive Issue detection from client perspective E2E Visibility

AI Radio Resource Mgmt.

Optimize RF for better wireless performance by reducing interference and channel changes



Cisco AI Assistant

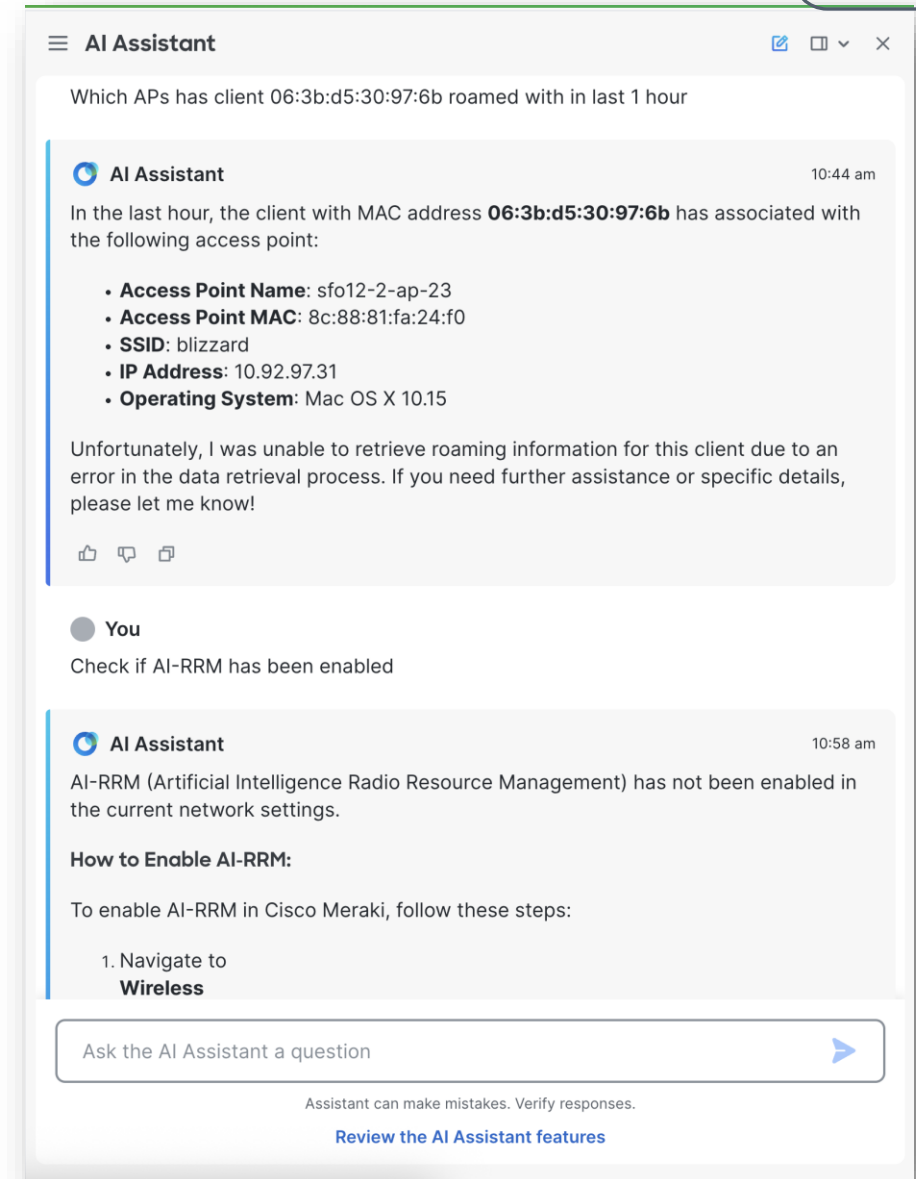
MR-ENT

Native, GenAI-based Agentic Network Interface

- Understand Wireless, Wired, WAN and Internet networking experience
- Understand unique network contexts such as Network Telemetry, Configuration, Firmware
- Answers dynamic network inquiries and answers
- Dynamic query parameter derivations and composite

Documentation and Best Practice Recommendations

- Acknowledge existing network configuration and provide the best practice network configuration



Cisco AI Canvas

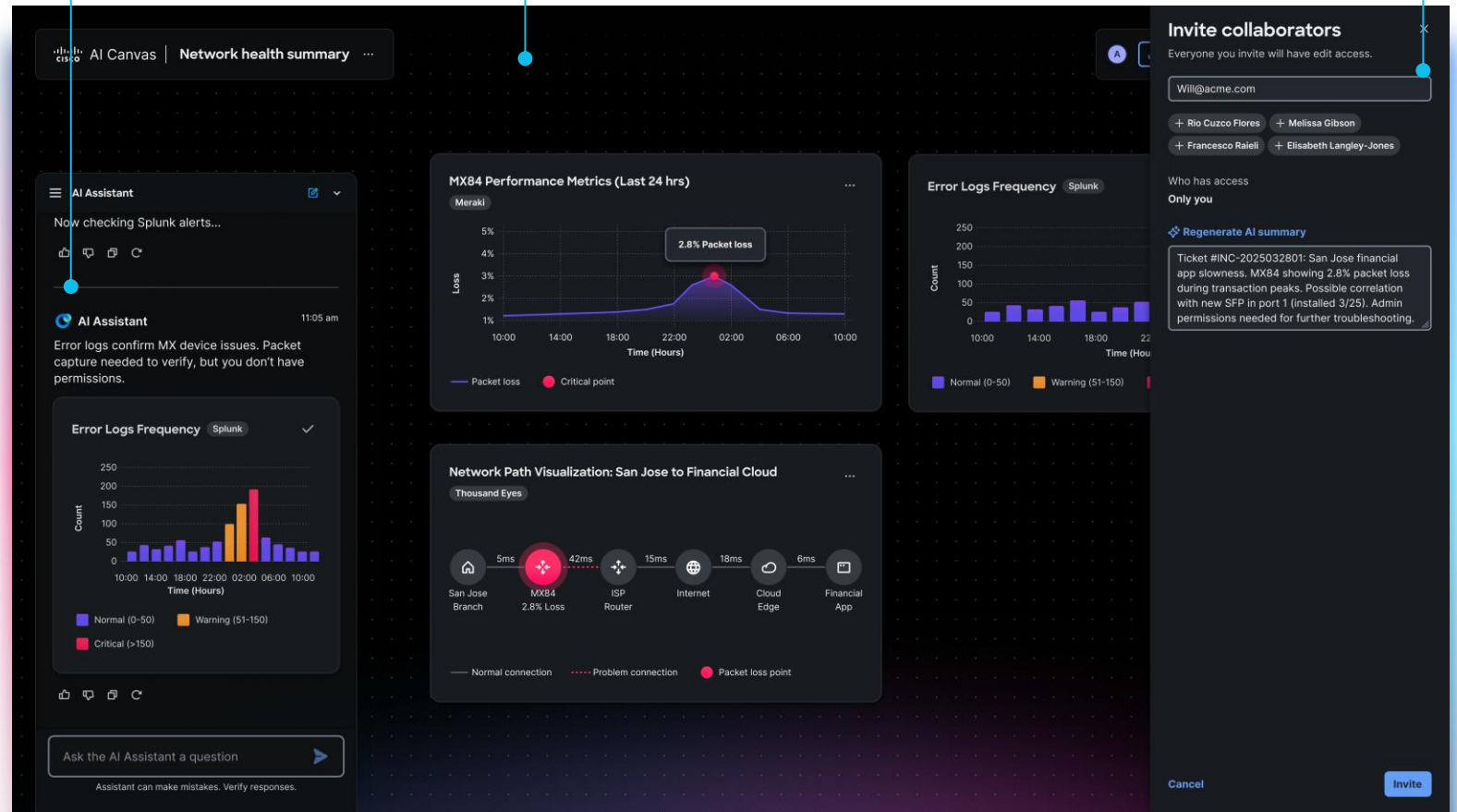
Oct.2025

AI Assistant

Shared Workspace

Users

- Single canvas for cross domain troubleshooting
- Generative UI with reasoning built-in
- Keeps NetOps, SecOps, IT and execs on the same page
- Cross-domain telemetry
- Topology and timeline awareness
- AI-powered insights
- Automated runbooks



Products and features described herein remain in varying stages of development and will be offered on a when-and-if-available basis.

Automated Root Cause Analysis (RCA)

The image displays three overlapping screenshots of the RCA Framework interface, illustrating the workflow for resolving network issues.

Top Screenshot: "Unplanned low power mode"

- Header:** < ⚠️ Unplanned low power mode (Active) X
- Context:** OC-Yamaha-PoE-Interop_CW62_802.3af-PoE-Injector · OC-Yamaha-PoE-Interop · Jun 6 2025 at 22:07 PDT
- Tabs:** Details | Suggested actions 1
- Step 1:** 1. Check PoE budget

Middle Screenshot: "Ethernet uplink speed degrade"

- Header:** < ⚠️ Ethernet uplink speed degrade
- Context:** The data rate from MS120-1/3 is capped at 100 Mbps · MR36H-Office / 0 · Futureishere · May 28 2025 at 21:5
- Tabs:** Details | Suggested actions 3
- Step 2:** 2. Update link negotiation settings
- Details:** The link negotiation is set to 100 Megabit half duplex (forced). may solve the problem.
- Warning:** ⚠️ A manual override of the link negotiation on the switch on the wired uplink.
- Device Info:**
 - Device Name: MS120-1
 - Port: 3
 - Capability: 1000 Mbps
 - Link Negotiation: 100 Megabit half duplex (forced) → 100 Megabit half duplex (forced)
- Buttons:** View port configuration ⓘ | Confirm changes

Bottom Screenshot: "Unplanned low power mode"

- Header:** < ⚠️ Unplanned low power mode (Active) X
- Tabs:** Details | Suggested actions 5
- Text:** These steps are prioritized, but can be done in any order.
- Steps:**
 1. Cable test
 2. Check that LLDP is running
 3. Cycle port on switch
 4. Check PoE budget
 5. Run LLDP packet capture
- Warning:** ⚠️ Certain admin privileges are required to perform this action. Please contact your admin or support team.
- Text:** Run a packet capture to collect forensics of LLDP negotiation failures.
- Button:** Run packet capture

RCA Framework features

- Automated RCA workflows eliminated unlikely root causes
- Support MS Switches for integrated remediations steps
 - Cable test
 - Switch port config check
 - PoE type check
 - Port cycle
 - LLDP packet capture
- 3rd Party switch LLDP Packet Analysis

AI Packet CAPture (PACAP) Analysis

MR-ADV

- **AI PCAP analyzer**

Uses multi-modal AI models using contextualized PCAP model, Client events and configuration data

- **Intelligent capture**

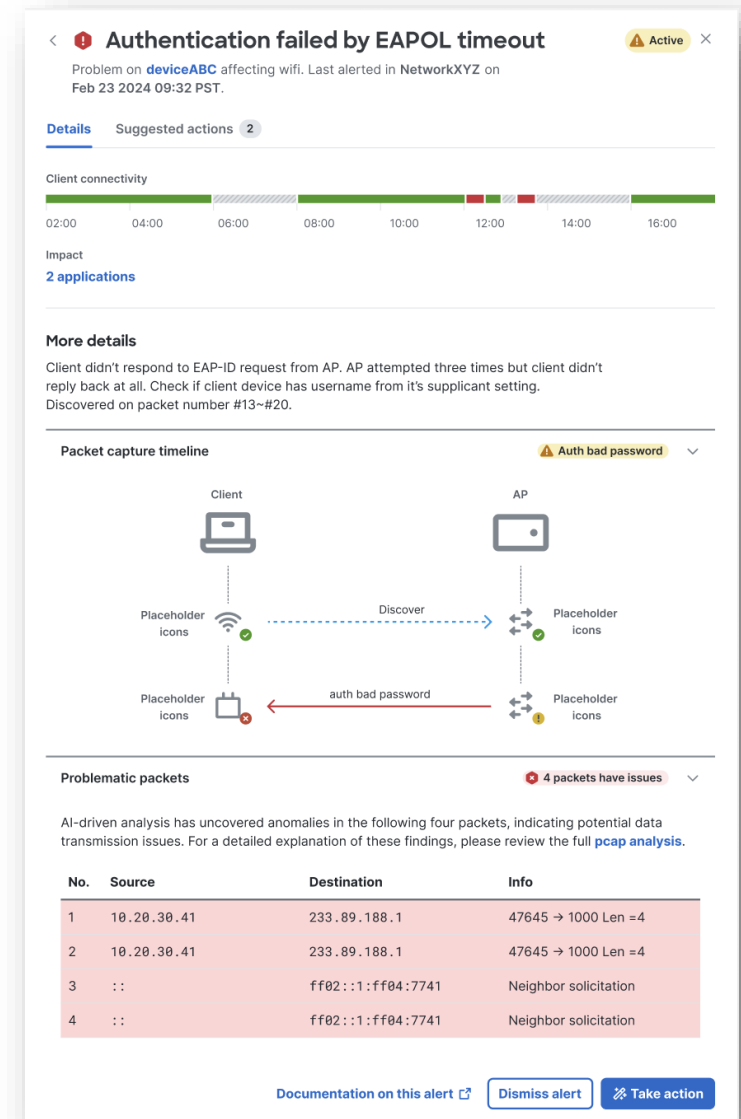
Automatically seize the moments of client failure and upload PCAP files to AI Cloud

- **AI PCAP model**

Uses supervised fine-tuning and RLHF to analysis client packet exchanges

- **Generative AI**

Translate & summarize dozens of PCAP exchanges into human-readable text



🌐

Network

alice_sim_network - wireless

⌵

🌐

Network-wide

📶

Assurance

📶

Wireless

🏢

Organization

🔍

Find in Menu

This is a Cisco internal organization.

View old version

← Clients

My Phone

Client connectivity

Jun 17 2025 00:04 PDT → Jun 17 2025 05:11 PDT

☑ Association

☑ Authentication

☑ DHCP

☑ DNS

☑ Applications

06:40

00:40:00

01:13:20

01:46:40

02:20:00

02:53:20

03:26:40

04:00:00

04:33:20

05:06:40

Current

Offline

Wireless

Jun 17, 2025, 16:23 (UTC -7)

Client connections

📶

My Phone

📶

c4:d6:66:62:9b:d0

Client details

Status

Last seen Jun 17 16:21

[View location](#)

SSID

alice_sim_network

Access point

[c4:d6:66:62:9b:d0](#)

[Topology](#)

Signal

55db

IPv4 address

10.4.45.243

IPv6 address

Unknown

MAC address

b8:27:eb:63:11:e7

VLAN ID

Unknown

BRKEWN-2046

Port forwarding

None

Device policy

Normal

Bandwidth

unlimited

Layer3 firewall

Unknown

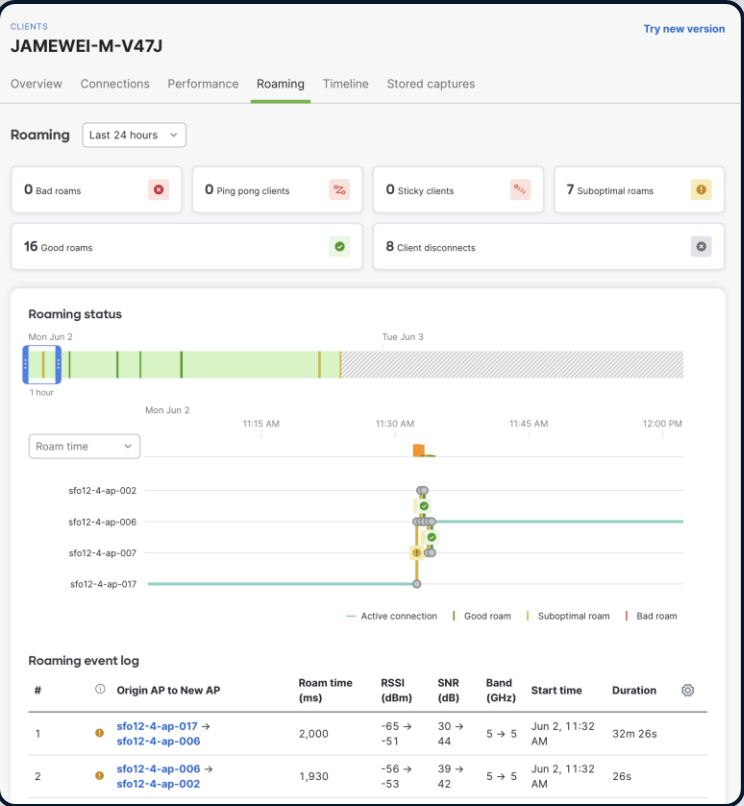
Layer7 firewall

Unknown

English

Meraki

- Tools for per-device and network-wide troubleshooting



Per-Client Roaming Timeline



Network-wide Roaming Health
(coming soon)

Cloud Full stack solution

Early Access – Q4 CY25

Automated network experience monitoring



Integrated
Service
Assurance

Transform your APs, switches and routers to test network availability and connectivity

End-to-end
tests

Client onboarding, connectivity (Wireless, LAN, WAN) and network services tests

100% coverage

Automated test coverage across your entire network

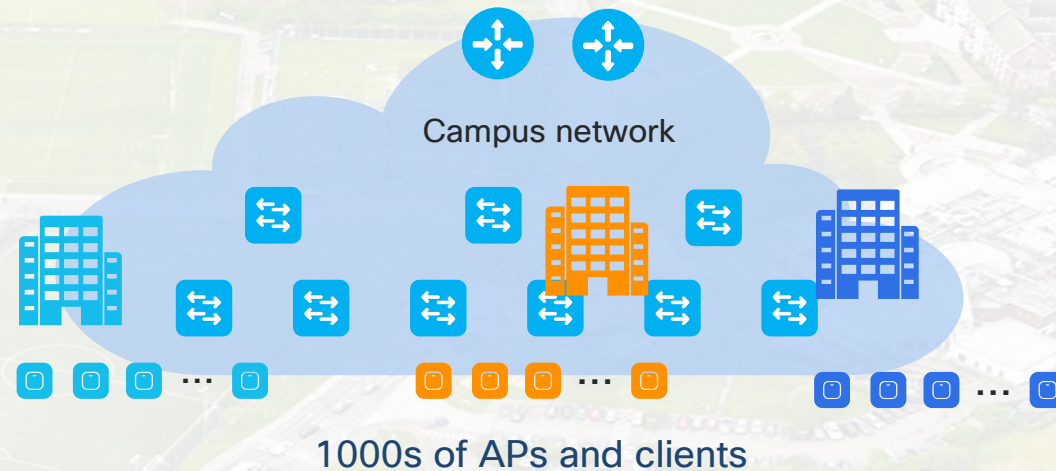
No additional
HW or cable
pulls

Supported on existing infrastructure you have deployed

Conclusions

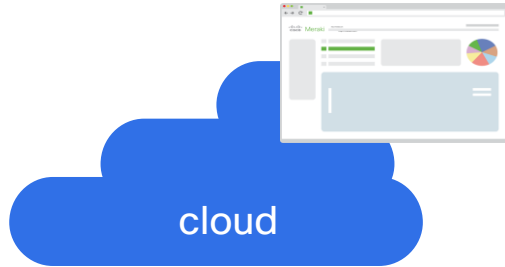
Network Architecture: Cloud Managed Campus

- Follow recommendations for AP placement, RF and WLAN Design
- Distributed vs. centralized: multiple design criteria to determine if adopting a data plane design. Start from the customer requirements (seamless roaming, scale, services needed, wired infra, app requirements).
- With the introduction of Campus Gateway, you now have the option to centralize

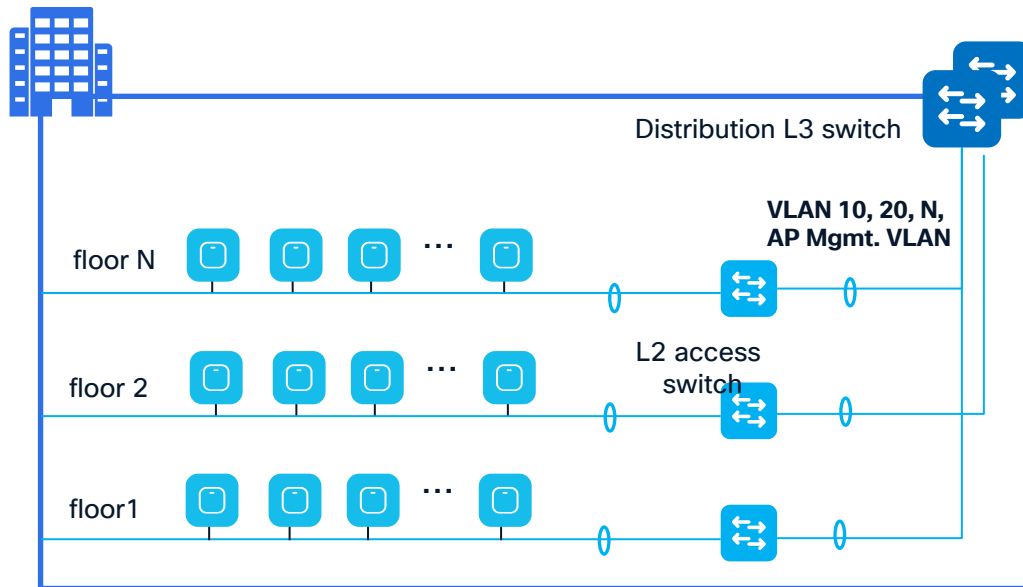


Small/Medium Campus deployment

Scenario 1



On prem



L2 roaming Deployment:

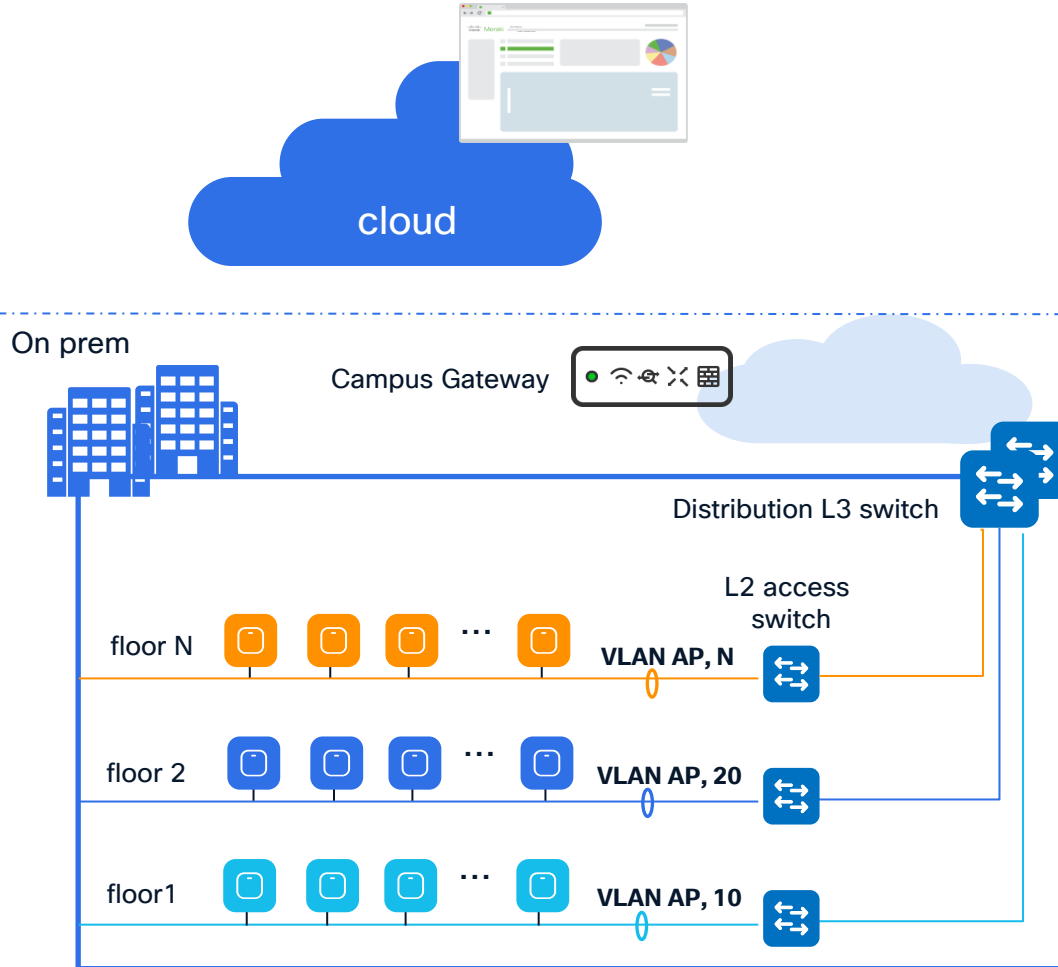
- Roaming domain = building = Meraki Network
- AP per roaming domain < 200/300
- VLAN design = VLANs span the whole building

Design Recommendations:

- SSIDs in bridge mode
- L2 broadcast boundary at the building distribution switch
- AP switchports configured as trunks (common AP management VLAN and client VLANs on all switches)
- Choose subnet mask to accommodate the expected # of devices per VLAN per building (VLAN pooling in R30)
- Use Stack/VSL technology at L3 switch to reduce impact of spanning tree
- Configure regular **Layer 2 distributed roaming**

Medium/Large Campus deployment

Scenario 2



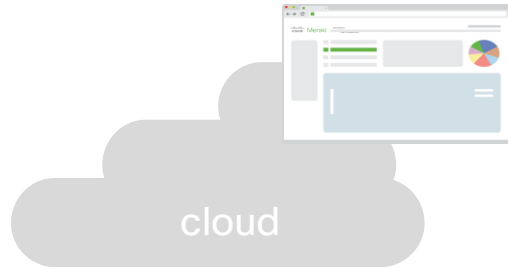
L3 roaming across floors/building Deployment:

- Roaming domain = floors/building/multiple buildings
- AP per roaming domain > 200/300
- VLAN design = **VLANs span only single floor/wiring closet**

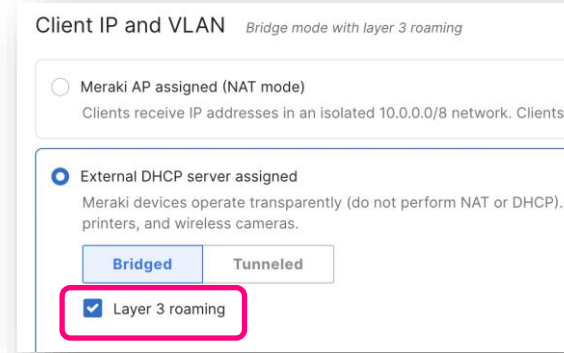
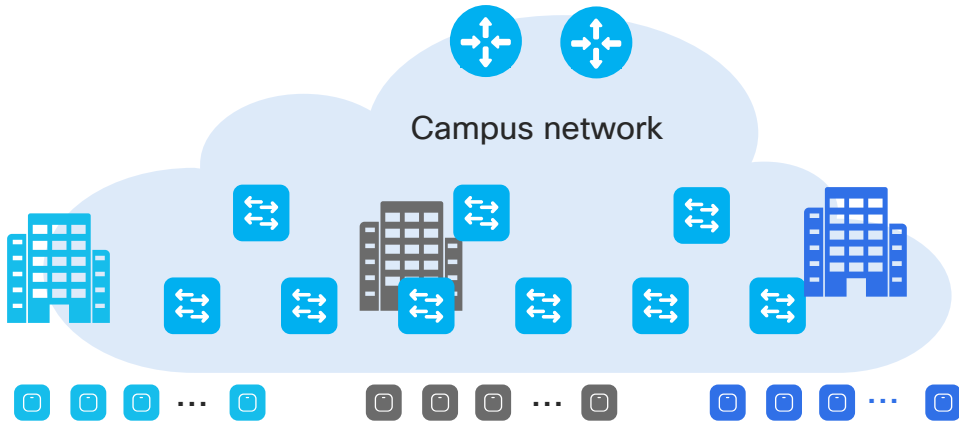
Design Recommendations:

- L2 broadcast boundary at the building distribution switch
- SSIDs in Tunnel mode to Campus Gateway
- AP switchports configured as access port
- Centralized client VLANs
- Choose centralized subnet mask to accommodate the expected # of devices per VLAN per roaming domain
- Connect Campus Gateway to distribution switch or data center switch that can handle the MAC and ARP scale

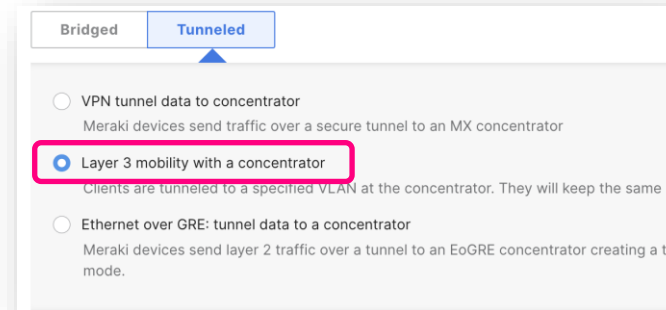
Large scale deployments – Not recommended



On prem



~~Distributed L3 Roaming (DL3R)~~



~~L3 Mobility with MX concentrator~~

Both these solutions are NOT recommended for a scale deployments

Complete your session evaluations



Complete a minimum of 4 session surveys and the Overall Event Survey to claim a Cisco Live T-Shirt.



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Thank you

CISCO Live !

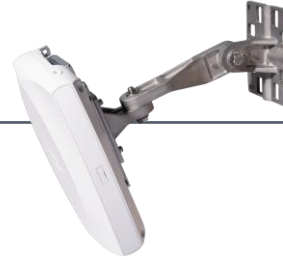


The Wi-Fi 7 portfolio



CW9176I

12 Spatial Streams
4x4: 4 MU-MIMO
across 3 radios, 3 bands
(2.4/5GHz (XOR), 5 GHz, 6GHz)
BLE/IoT radio
Single 10Gbps multigigabit
Ultra Wide Band (UWB)
USB 2.0 – 9W
Accelerometer
Built-in GPS/GNSS, w/ support
for ext. antenna
Integrated Omnidirectional
Antenna



CW9176D1

12 Spatial Streams
4x4: 4 MU-MIMO
across 3 radios, 3 bands
(2.4/5GHz (XOR), 5 GHz, 6GHz)
BLE/IoT radio
Single 10Gbps multigigabit
Ultra Wide Band (UWB)
USB 2.0 – 9W
Accelerometer
Built-in GPS/GNSS, w/ support
for ext. antenna
Integrated Directional Antenna
(70x70)



CW9178I

16 Spatial Streams
4x4: 4 MU-MIMO
across 4 radios, 3 bands
(2.4 GHz, dual 5GHz, 6GHz)
BLE/IoT radio
Dual 10Gbps multigigabit
Ultra Wide Band (UWB)
USB 2.0 – 9W
Accelerometer
Built-in GPS/GNSS, w/ support
for ext. antenna
Integrated Omnidirectional
Antenna

Same brackets as always > Reduced Time, Reduced Waste

The Wi-Fi 7 portfolio



CW9172I

6 Spatial Streams
2x2:2 across 3 radios, 3 bands
(2.4GHz, 5GHz, 6GHz)
-or-
2x2:2 on 2.4GHz and 4x4:4 on
5GHz
BLE/IoT radio
Single 2.5Gbps multigigabit uplink
USB 2.0 – 4.5W
DC Power Jack
Integrated Omnidirectional Antenna



CW9172H

6 Spatial Streams
2x2:2 across 3 radios, 3 bands
(2.4GHz, 5GHz, 6GHz)
BLE/IoT radio
Single 2.5Gbps multigigabit uplink
3x 1Gbps LAN port with 1x POE out
1x Passthrough port
Integrated Omnidirectional Antenna

Same brackets as always.
9172H compatible with Meraki or Catalyst brackets

Wi-Fi 7: New indoor APs



CW9171I

4 Spatial Streams

2x2:2 across 2 radios, 3 bands
(2.4GHz and 5GHz
-or-
2.4GHz and 6GHz)

BLE/IoT and dedicated scan radio

Single 2.5Gbps multigigabit uplink

USB 2.0 – 4.5W

DC Power Jack

Integrated Omnidirectional Antenna

Global Use AP

Same bracket as always, AIR-AP-BRACKET-1 and AIR-AP-BRACKET-2



CW9174I/E

10 Spatial Streams

2x2:2 on 2.4GHz and 4x4:4 on 5GHz and 6GHz
-or-
4x4:4 on 2.4GHz and 5GHz

BLE/IoT and dedicated scan radio

Single 5Gbps multigigabit uplink

USB 2.0 – 9W

DC Power Jack

Integrated Omnidirectional or
DART-8 External Antenna

Global Use AP

Same brackets as always, AIR-AP-BRACKET-1 and AIR-AP-BRACKET-2

CW9174E Antennas and Accessories



CW-ANT-T-O2-D8

Omnidirectional ceiling mounted antenna with DART8 connector



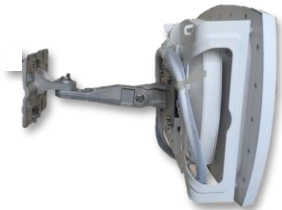
CW-ANT-T-D2-D8

Directional patch antenna with DART8 connector, CW-MNT-ART2 mount included



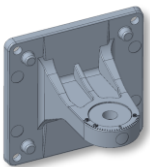
CW-ANT-T-O4-R

Omnidirectional dipole antenna with RP-TNC connector. Requires AIR-CAB002-D8-R=. Qty: 8 antennas per AP (2.4+5+6 GHz mode), or 4 antennas (2.4+5 GHz mode)



CW-MNT-9

Integrated AP mount. Integrates CW9174E and CW-ANT-T-D2-D8 into one unit



CW-ACC-ADPT1

Adapter to use CW-ANT-T-D2-D8 with C-ANT9103 mount for brown field upgrades

Legacy Antennas Supported

AIR-ANT2524V4C-R/RS
AIR-ANT2544V4M-R/RS
AIR-ANT2566P4W-R/RS
AIR-ANT2566D4M-R/RS
AIR-ANT2513P4M-N/NS
C-ANT9101
C-ANT9102
C-ANT9103
MA-ANT-3-C6
MA-ANT-3-D6
MA-ANT-3-E6
MA-ANT-3-F6

Supports existing DART8 cables and accessories

WLAN design

RTP Campus – WLAN Design: No mDNS Policy

Firewall & traffic shaping

SSID: guest

Block IPs and ports

Layer 2 LAN isolation Disabled (bridge mode only)

Allow Bonjour forwarding exception

DHCP guard Disabled

RA guard Enabled

RA allowed routers
one IP6 address per line

Outbound rules

Search...

#	Policy	IP Version	Protocol	Destination	Dst port	Rule description
1	Deny	Any	UDP	Any	5353	Block-mDNS
	Allow	IPv4	Any	Local LAN	Any	Wireless clients accessing LAN
	Allow	IPv4	Any	Any	Any	Default rule

RTP Campus - WLAN Design: QoS policy

Corporate

Rule #1

Definition

This rule will be enforced on traffic matching any of these expressions.

WebEx

Add

Per-client bandwidth limit

Ignore SSID per-client limit (unlimited)

PCP / DSCP tagging

Do not set PCP tag

/

46 (EF - Expedited Forwarding, Voice)

Guest

Rule #1

Definition

This rule will be enforced on traffic matching any of these expressions.

net 10.0.0.0/8

Add

Per-client bandwidth limit

Ignore SSID per-client limit (unlimited)

PCP / DSCP tagging

Do not set PCP tag

/

0 (CS0/DF - Best Effort/Default Forwarding)

Subnet/VLAN Design considerations

VLAN profiles

Network/VLAN Profiles config

Edit profile

Profile name: Default Profile

Iname: Default

VLAN name

#	VLAN name	VLAN ID	Actions
1	default	1	
2	Wireless1	10	
3	Wireless2	20	
4	Wireless3	30	
5	Wireless4	40	

Group name

#	Group name	VLAN list	Actions
1	Employee	10,20,30,40	

Wireless/Access Control/SSID

VLAN tagging

Named VLAN

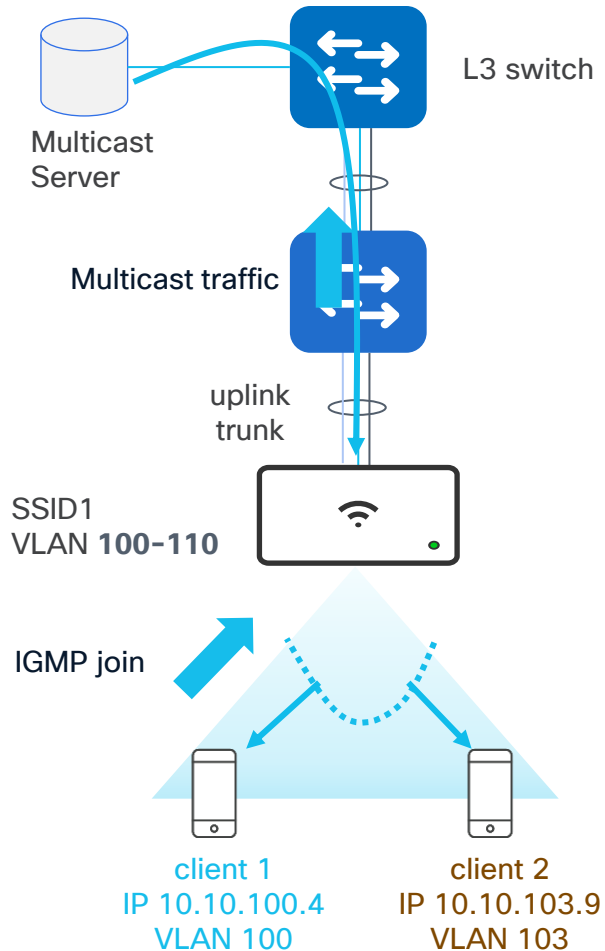
#	Access point tags	Named VLAN
	Default	employee

+ Add Named VLAN

- Problem:** You may be forced to use a certain subnet size and hence DHCP scope size (e.g., /24 subnets). Possible reasons:
 - Subnet design and summarization at the distribution level
 - Public IPs: can't really increase/change the subnet size
- Solution:** R30 introduces **VLAN pooling**, this feature allows you to assign multiple VLANs to a single SSID.
- Please note:** VLAN pooling in Dashboard leverages an existing feature called **VLAN profiles**. The doc says "VLAN profiles can work along with 802.1X, MAB.."
- Even if VLAN profiles were created to work with Radius based authentication, **VLAN pooling is supported with any security settings**, including OPEN, PSK, SAE, Webauth 😊

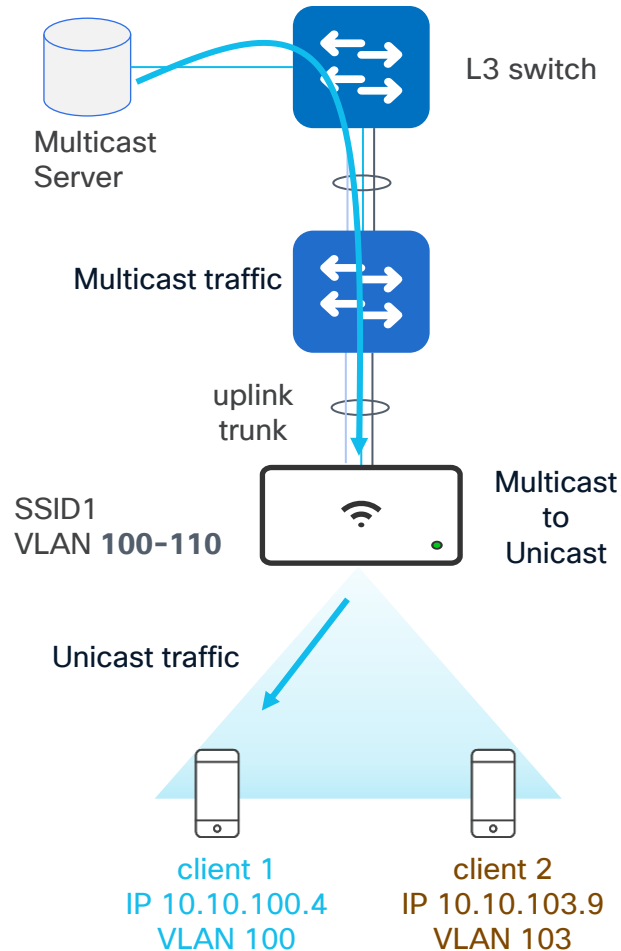
Best Practices

Multicast + AAA VLAN override



- **What (Requirement):** Single SSID mapped to multiple client VLANs via AAA policy. IP **Multicast separation** is required **across client VLANs**
- **Problem:** Clients belong to the same SSID. Client 1 requests IP multicast, IGMP query goes on VLAN 100, multicast traffic is received in VLAN 100; in the air, since #1 SSID <> #1 Group Temporal Key (GTK), AP sends it as broadcast and traffic is received by client 2 (on VLAN 103) as well. There is no multicast or broadcast segmentation in air. This applies to IPv4 and IPv6.

Multicast + AAA VLAN override



- **What (Requirement):** Single SSID mapped to multiple client VLANs via AAA policy. IP Multicast separation is required across client VLANs
- **Problem:** Clients belong to the same SSID. Client 1 requests IP multicast, IGMP query goes on VLAN 100, multicast traffic is received in VLAN 100; in the air, since #1 SSID <> #1 Group Temporal Key (GTK), AP sends it as broadcast and traffic is received by client 2 (on VLAN 103) as well. There is no multicast or broadcast segmentation in air. This applies to IPv4 and IPv6.
- **Solution:** Make sure **multicast to unicast** feature is enabled: Network-wide > General > Wireless Multicast to Unicast Conversion. With this feature, APs “demulticast” traffic over the air, thereby preserving VLAN segmentation. There is a threshold of max 20 clients per multicast group (GV: Group-VLAN), beyond which traffic is sent as multicast.
- **Note:** From MR29 this is also supported for IPv6 clients
- **Note2:** multicast IP traffic is not supported on Campus Gateway

IPv6 support

Network/Monitor/Clients

Network

IPv4 address: dynamic ▾ 10.110.0.5

IPv6 address (link-local): fe80:0:0:0:ec3f:28ff:fe14:86e3

MAC address: ee:3f:28:14:86:e3

VLAN: 1

Port forwarding: none

1:1 NAT IPs: none

Wireless/Access Points

LAN IPv6
Not configured

SERIAL NUMBER

TAGS

ALT MGMT LAN IPV6
Not configured

SERIAL NUMBER

TAGS

recently-added

NOTES

LEGAL & REGULATORY
Regulatory certification

FIRMWARE
Up to date
Current version: MR 29.5.1
[Open source licenses](#)

CONFIG
Up to date

IPv6 Type

Static IPv6 ▾

IPv6

2001:db8:1234:abcd::2223

/ Prefix len

22

Gateway

2001:db8:1234:abcd::2

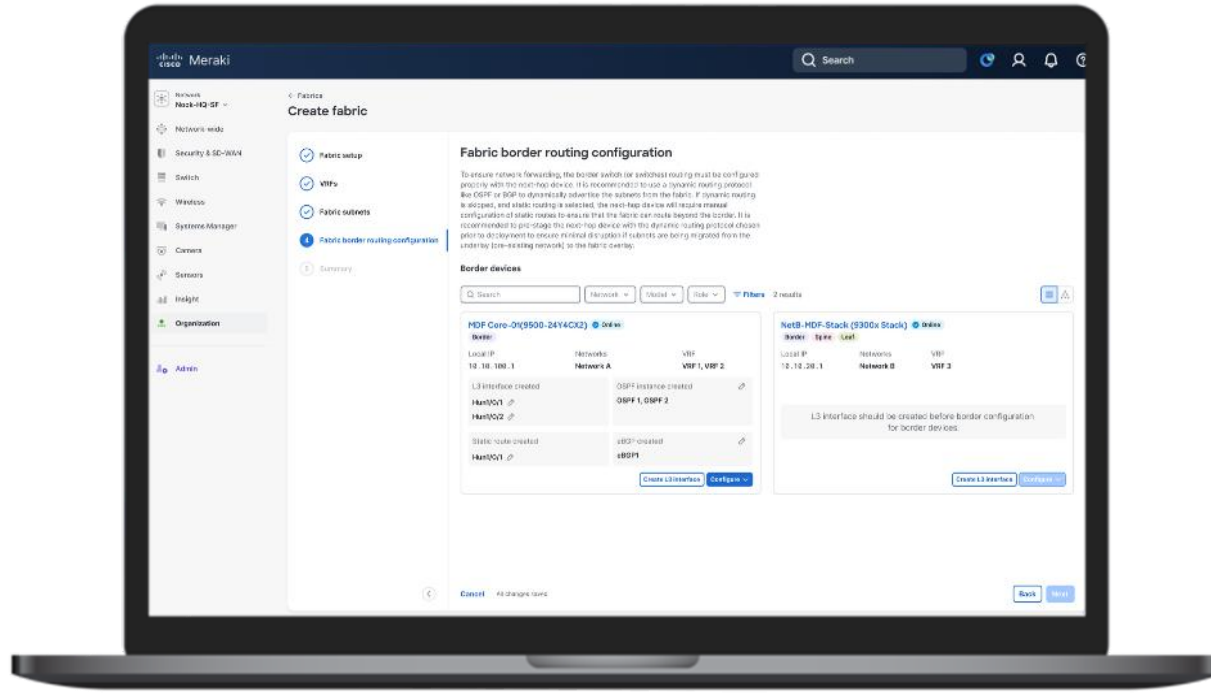
Clients:

- **Additional IPv6 support in R30:** Support for 802.11r/OKC over IPV6 infra (dual-stack was already supported), client IPv6 DL3R over IPv4 infra and WPN fragmentation.

Access Points:

- **Infrastructure IPv6:** AP supports Static and SLAAC (no DHCPv6)
- **Alternate Management Interface** supports for IPv6 in R30

Cisco Cloud-Managed Campus Fabric



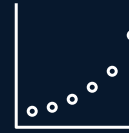
Benefit from Cloud Simplicity

Build and manage large sites from an intuitive cloud networking platform



Leverage Existing Investments

Modernize the network while utilizing existing C9K infrastructure



Migrate at Your Own Pace

Incrementally migrate devices and subnets to the cloud over time

Beta: Nov 5, 2025 | Limited Availability: December 2025 (IOS XE 17.18.2)

Cisco Cloud-Managed Campus Fabric

Reduce the number of steps it takes to provision, manage, and troubleshoot sites

Build and enforce segmentation policies that adapt to your network based on the intent of the user

Deploy in a non-disruptive way on top of the devices you already own

