

The background is a vibrant, abstract graphic. It features a central bright white light source from which numerous colorful rays emanate, creating a sunburst or starburst effect. The rays transition through a spectrum of colors including yellow, orange, red, and various shades of blue and green. Overlaid on this background are large, semi-transparent, wavy shapes in similar colors, giving the overall image a sense of motion and energy.

cisco *Live!*

Let's go

#CiscoLive



The bridge to possible

Designing Enterprise Wireless Networks

for Large Complex Environments

Alan Dumdei TSA Wireless COE

BRKEWN-2036

CISCO *Live!*

#CiscoLive

Goals for this session

- Understanding of some of the challenges of complex environments.
- Be able to relate these challenges and solutions to your network.
- Arm you with:
 - Things to watch out for
 - Solutions and work arounds
 - Tools to help you in your wireless deployment

Cisco Webex App

Questions?

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

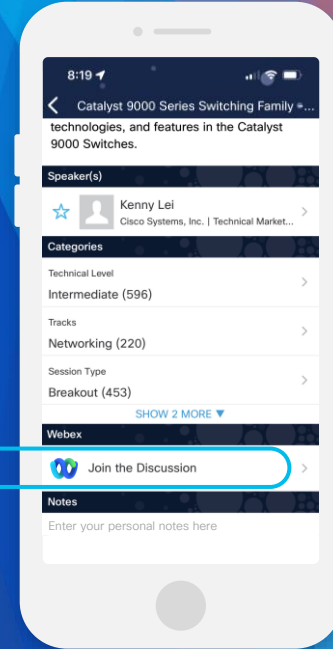
How

- 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 June 9, 2023.

aldumdei@cisco.com

CISCO *Live!*



<https://ciscolive.ciscoevents.com/ciscolivebot/#BRKEWN-2036>

Who is AI?



The important stuff!

Just fun



Build



Play

#CiscoLive

BRKEWN-2036



Running/Biking/Exploring

It's Texas...we smoke everything!

Agenda

- Introduction
- Analysis of 3 Verticals
- High Level Architectures
- High Availability
- Multicast
- RF Design
- 6GHz
- AI RRM
- Security Concerns

Analysis of 3 verticals



General requirements and use cases

Higher Ed

Scale

- 10-20K AP
- 200K+ Clients

Reliability

- Key

Cost/Performance

- Cost

Hospitality

Scale

- 20-50K AP
- 200K+ Clients

Reliability

- Key

Cost/Performance

- Balanced

Health Care

Scale

- 6-8K AP
- 40K+ Clients

Reliability

- Key++

Cost/Performance

- Performance

Architectural and use case requirements

Higher Ed

Architecture

- L3 to the buildings
- Bonjour
- Fragmented

Typical Use Cases

- Eduroam
- Dormitory & Personal Use
- BYOD

Unique Challenges

- R&D Facilities
- Multiple Campuses

Hospitality

Architecture

- L3 to MDF
- Hybrid Data Center
- Operations and guest experience

Typical Use Cases

- Guest
- RLANs
- High-Capacity Venues

Unique Challenges

- Aesthetics
- Constantly changing environment
- International operations

Health Care

Architecture

- L3 to floor w/segmentation
- Multicast
- Location Services (BLE/Wi-Fi)

Typical Use Cases

- Still have 2.4GHz only devices
- Always on
- BYOD

Unique Challenges

- Radiology
- Operating Rooms
- VoWiFi

Deployment and operational use cases

Higher Ed

Operational

- Seasonal Change Windows
- Often have coding skills on staff
- Visibility Critical

Security Challenges

- Research and Development
- Students

RF Design

- Large outdoor areas
- Areas of high capacity
- Leakage between buildings

Hospitality

Operational

- Off hours
- Relatively small staff
- Visibility Critical

Security Challenges

- Gaming
- Office/BOH

RF Design

- Arenas/Conference Space
- Metal ceiling
- High rise structures

Health Care

Operational

- Zero down time
- Consistent performance
- Visibility Critical

Security Challenges

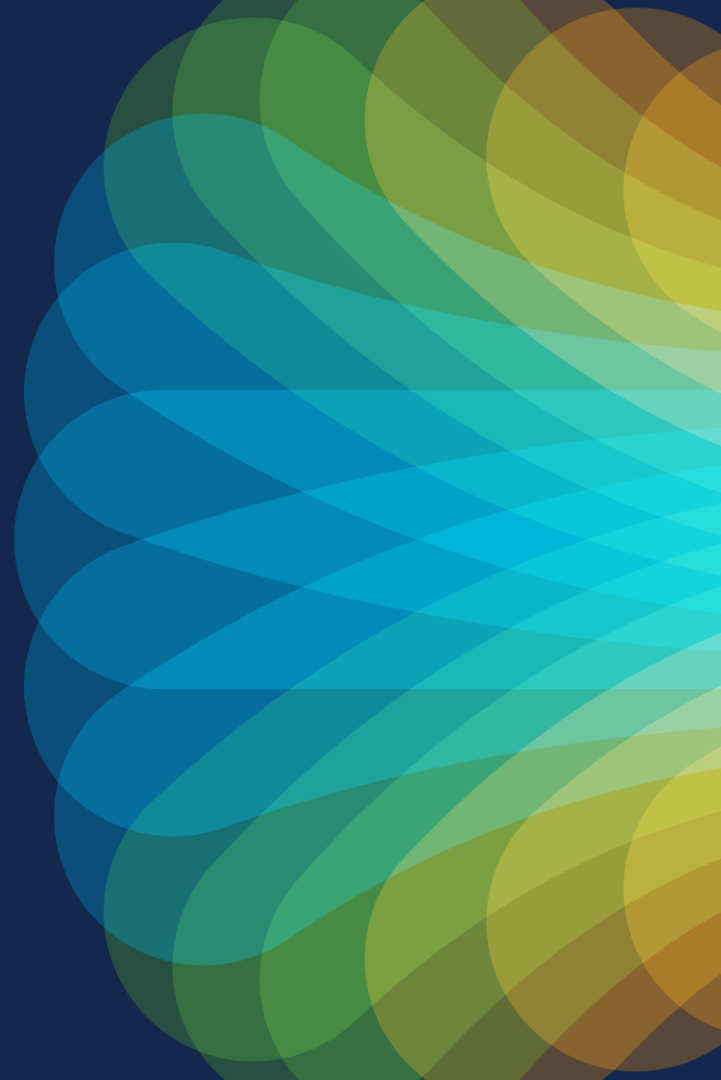
- HIPPA
- Patient monitoring devices
- Wired devices

RF Design

- Lots of cinderblock construction
- Must balance 2.4GHz with 5 and 6GHz

High Level Architectures

Considerations in
wired/wireless
architectures



Wired considerations for wireless architectures



Switching

- L3/L2 challenges
 - Switching/Routing
 - Roaming
- PoE



Segmentation

- VLAN
- VRF
- SGT



Gateway Requirements

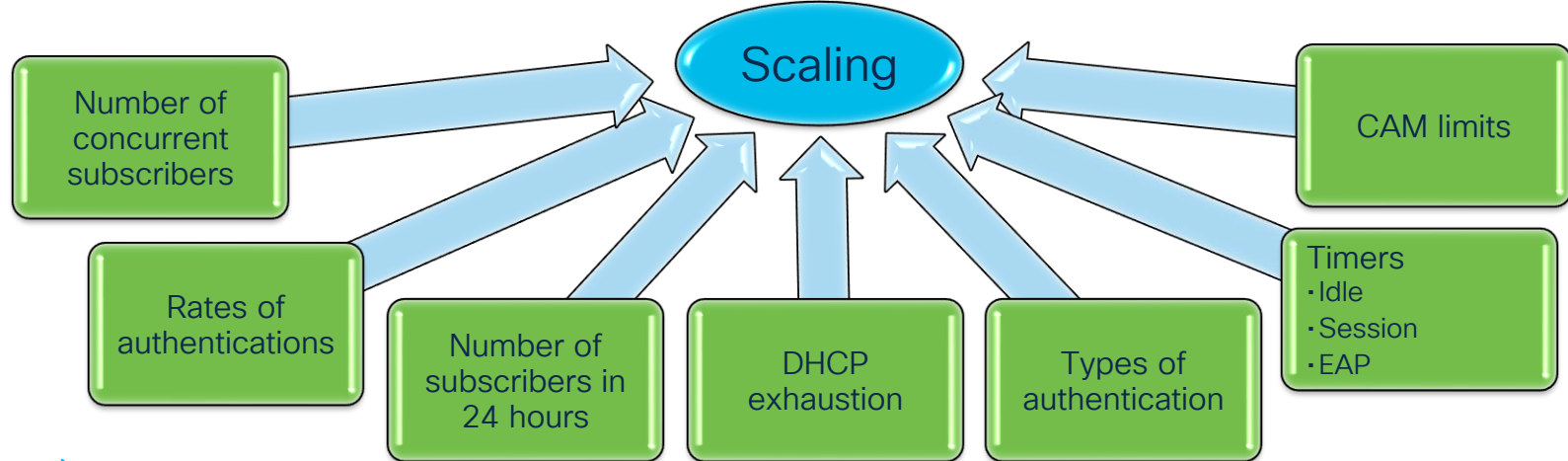
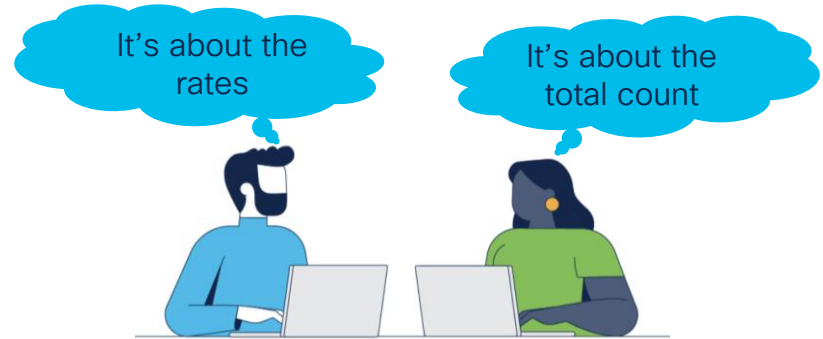
- CAM Table
- Throughput
- IP helper



Cloud Considerations

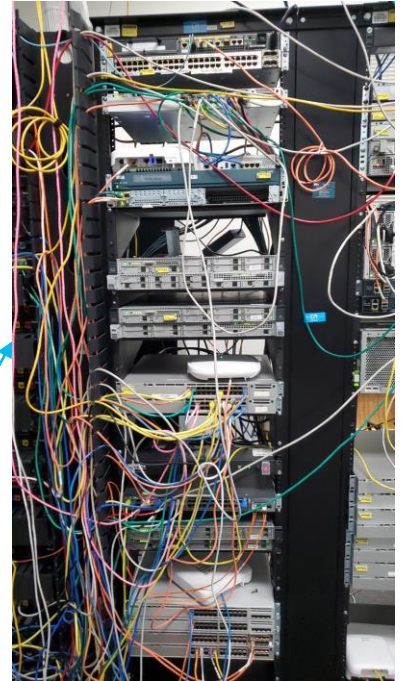
- Private vs Public
- Must be FlexConnect LS
- Manageability

Think scale!



Architecture/scale example for events center

- Conference lets out and 15K subscribers will roam from conference center to the hotel.
 - Using open SSID with Web Auth (as an example)
 - Watch out for “Pull out your phones and...”
 - RF discussion not covered here (in RF Design Section).
- Central Switching used to minimize large L2 domains (L3 to the AP) but similar design considerations are made for local switching.



Know your
requirements first!!

Architecture/scale example for events center

Design considerations (PLAN!)

- Where are the L3 roaming boundaries?
- Dot1x authentication rates (75-150 Auth/sec per node depending on types)
- MAB (400+ Auth/sec per node depending on type)
- 15K concurrent subscribers (AAA/WLC/DHCP/Switch)
 - CAM table on core switch...are there multiple controllers? Multiple hops to GW?
 - Subnet sizes/VLAN Groups
- Enable Proxy ARP to minimize broadcast/unicast traffic
- Pure capacity phones (1-8Mbps streaming) target < 100 clients per AP/Radio
- Idle timer
 - Reducing this will help with WLC capacity
 - Increasing this will reduce re-authentication as clients sleep, move, etc.

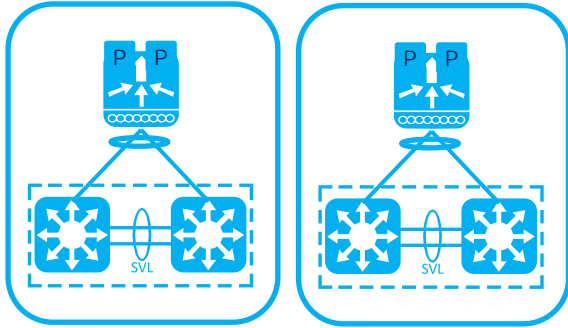


High Availability

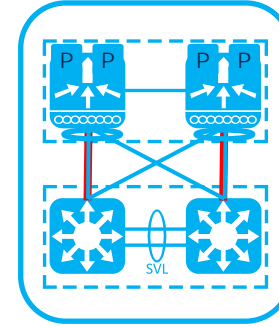
How do I include this in
my design



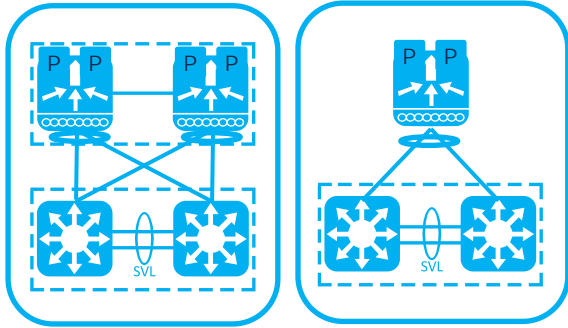
High Availability Architectures for WLCs



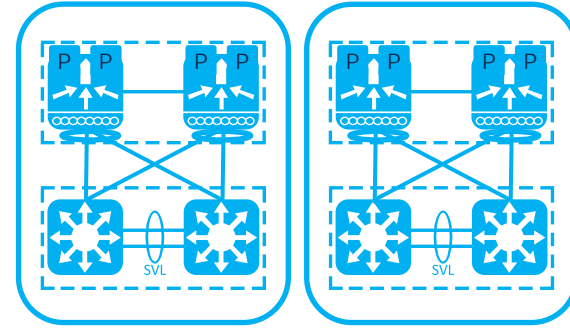
AP Fail-Over (N+1)



SSO

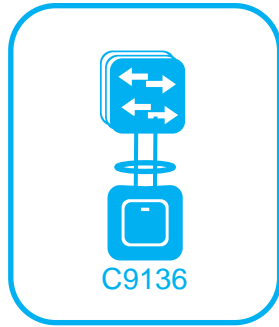


SSO + One

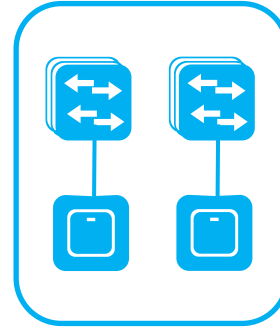


SSO + SSO

High Availability Architectures for APs



AP Dual Connection

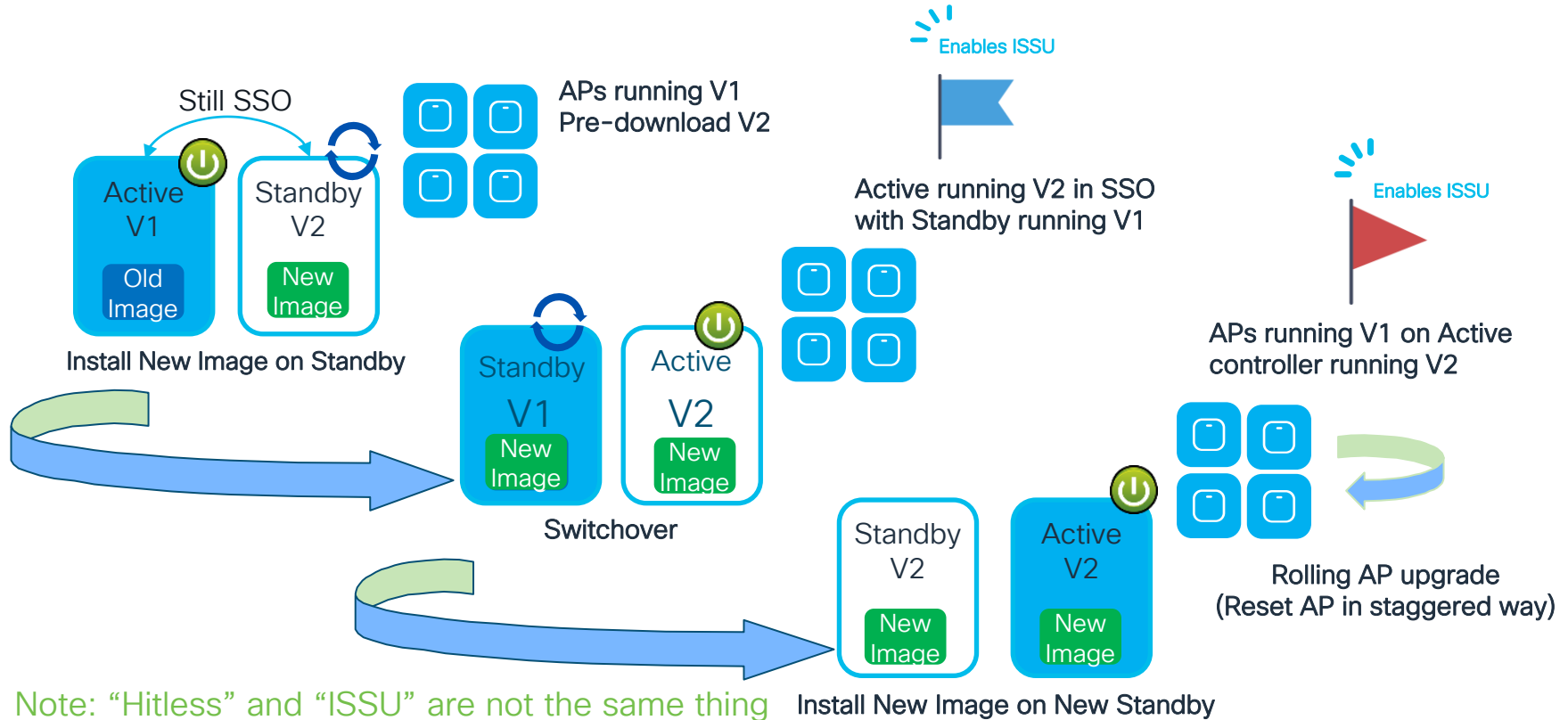


Overlapping Coverage

Switching for AP HA

- Perpetual PoE
- Fast PoE
- Stack Power
- Stackwise
- Stagger Switches

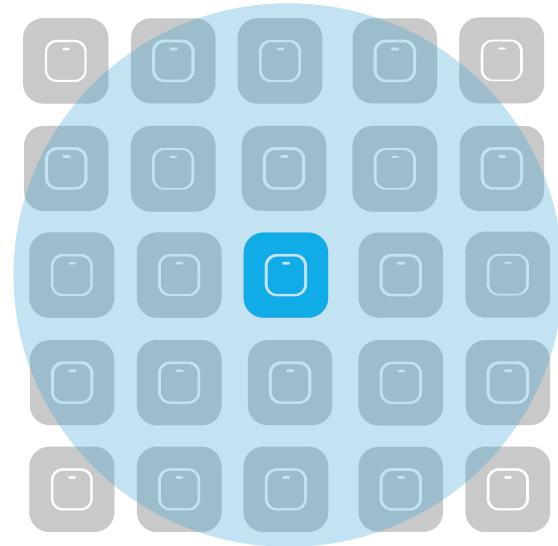
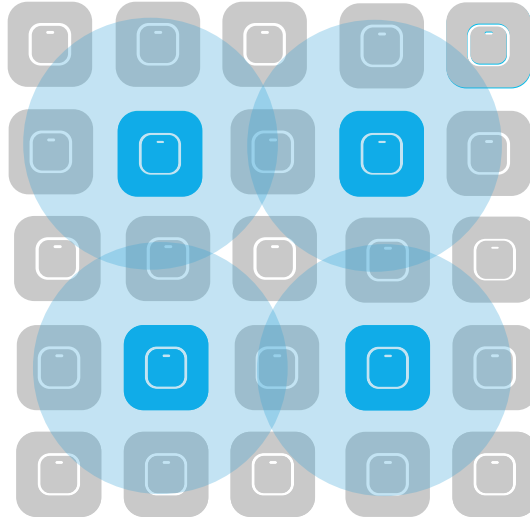
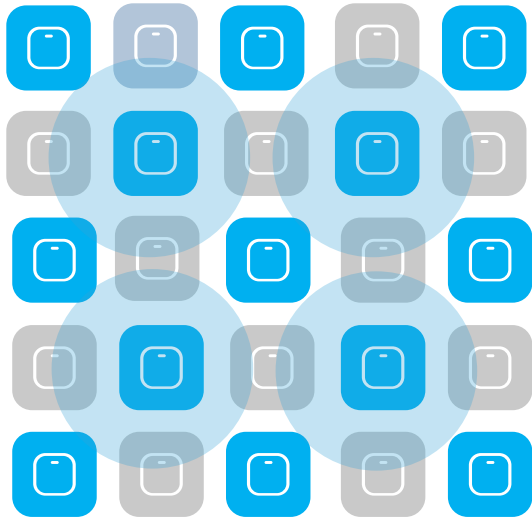
ISSU Process



Neighbor Marking for Rolling AP Upgrade

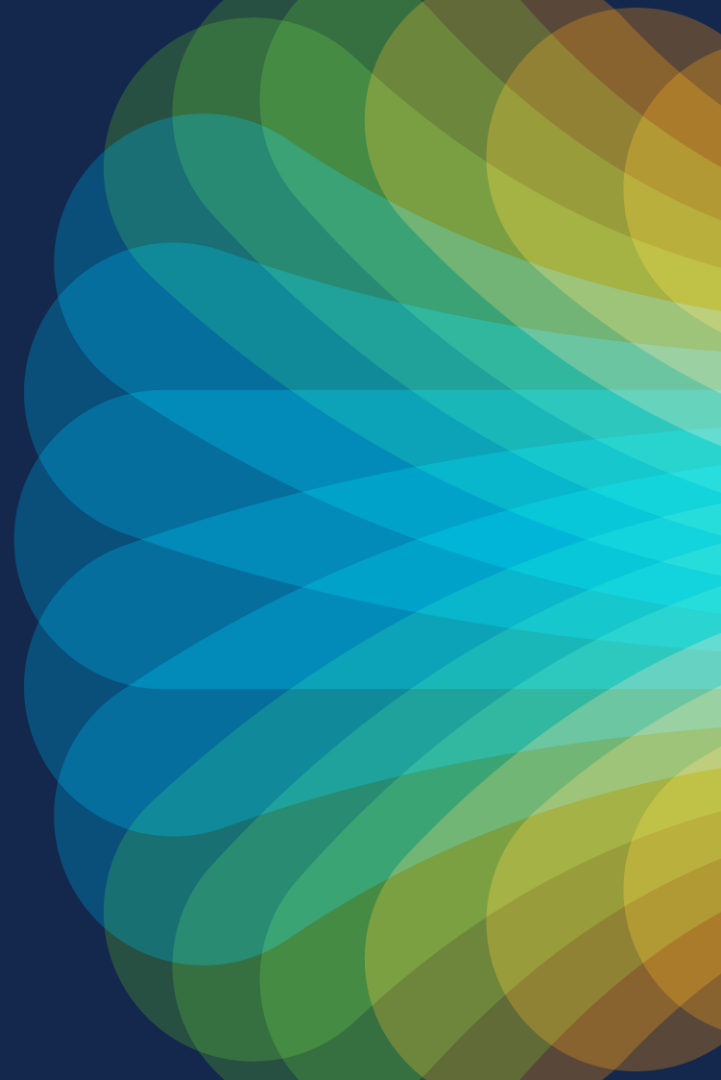
User selects % of APs to upgrade in one go [5, 15, 25]

- For 25%, Neighbors marked = 6 [Expected number of iterations ~ 5]
- For 15%, Neighbors marked = 12 [Expected number of iterations ~ 12]
- For 5%, Neighbors marked = 24 [Expected number of iterations ~ 22]



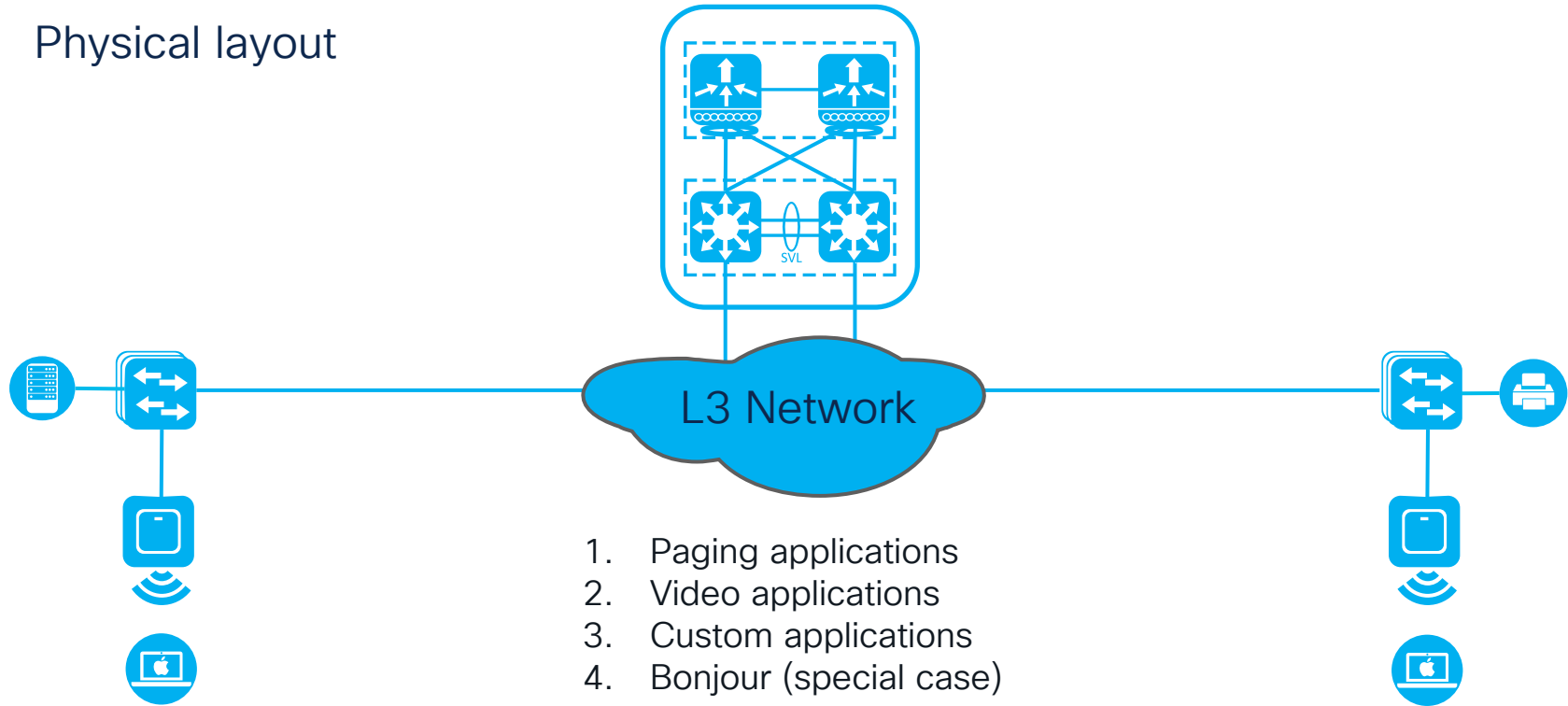
Multicast

What is it and how does
it affect my design



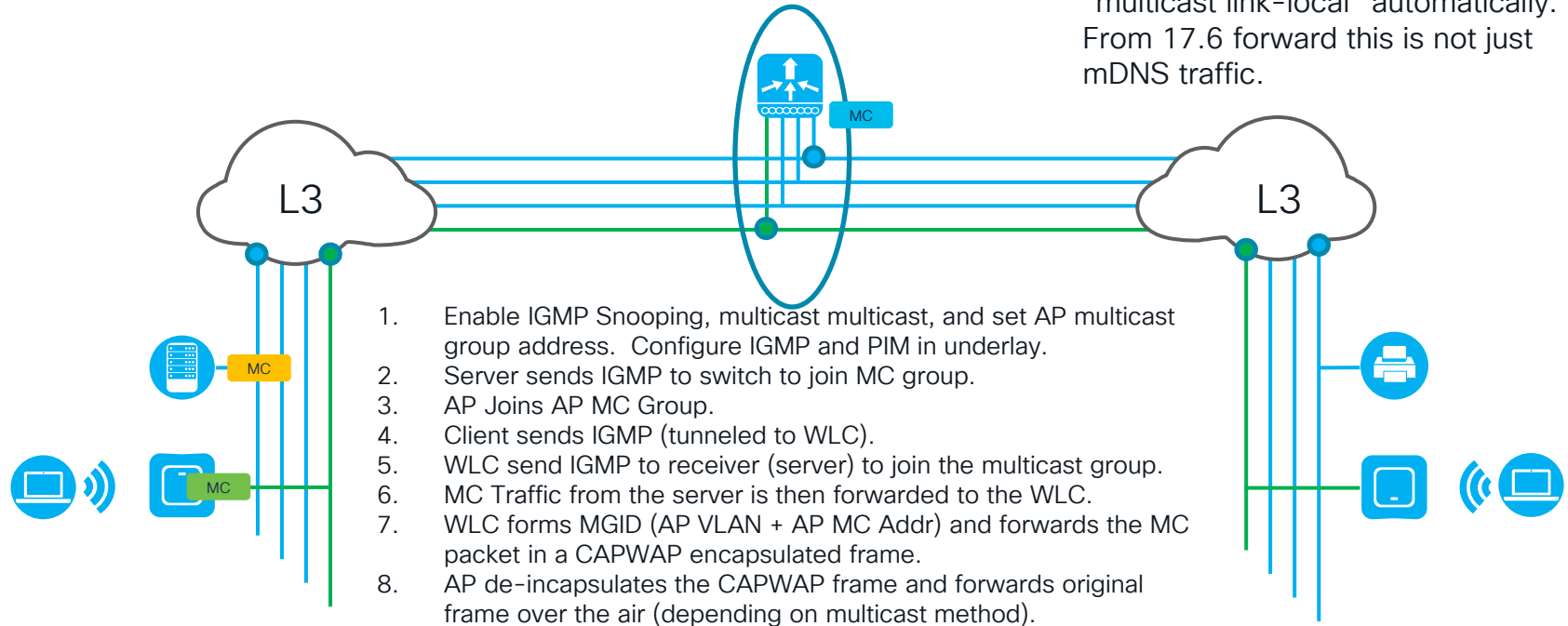
Multicast

Physical layout



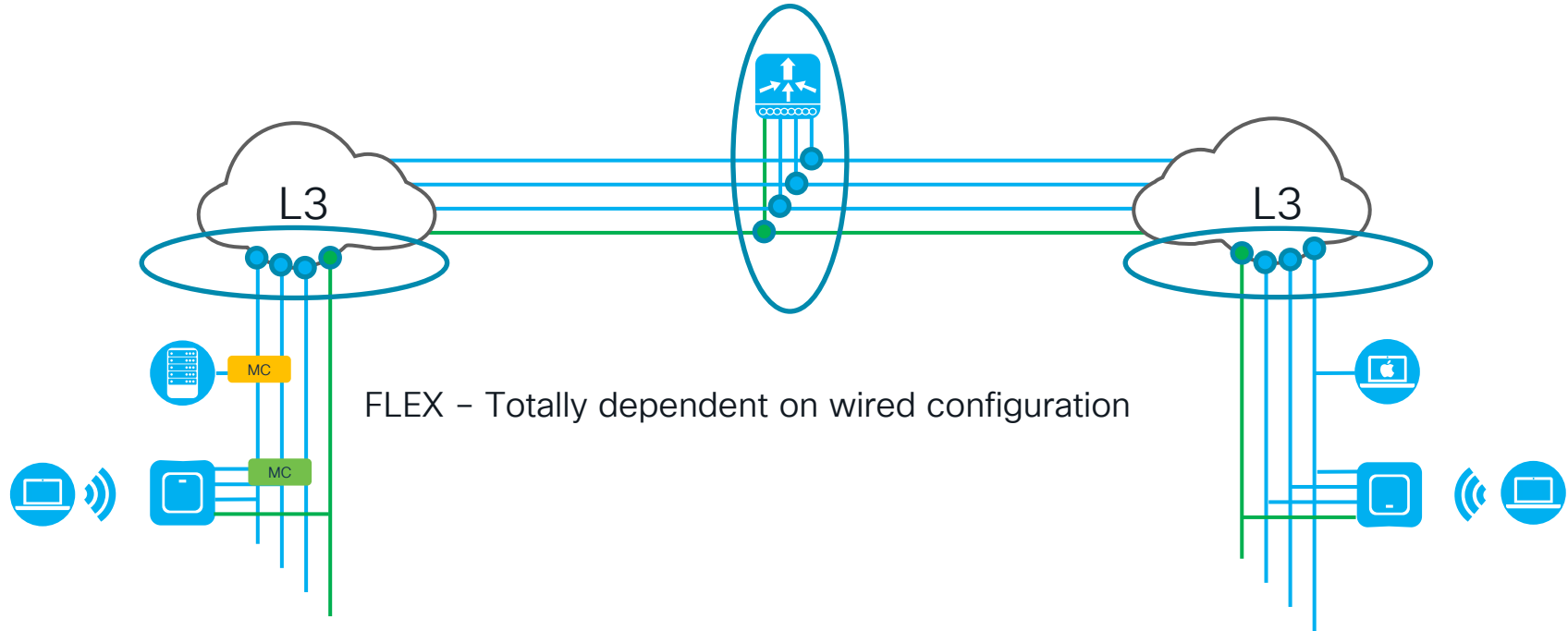
Multicast-Multicast vs Multicast-Unicast

Note: Enabling Multicast enables “multicast link-local” automatically. From 17.6 forward this is not just mDNS traffic.



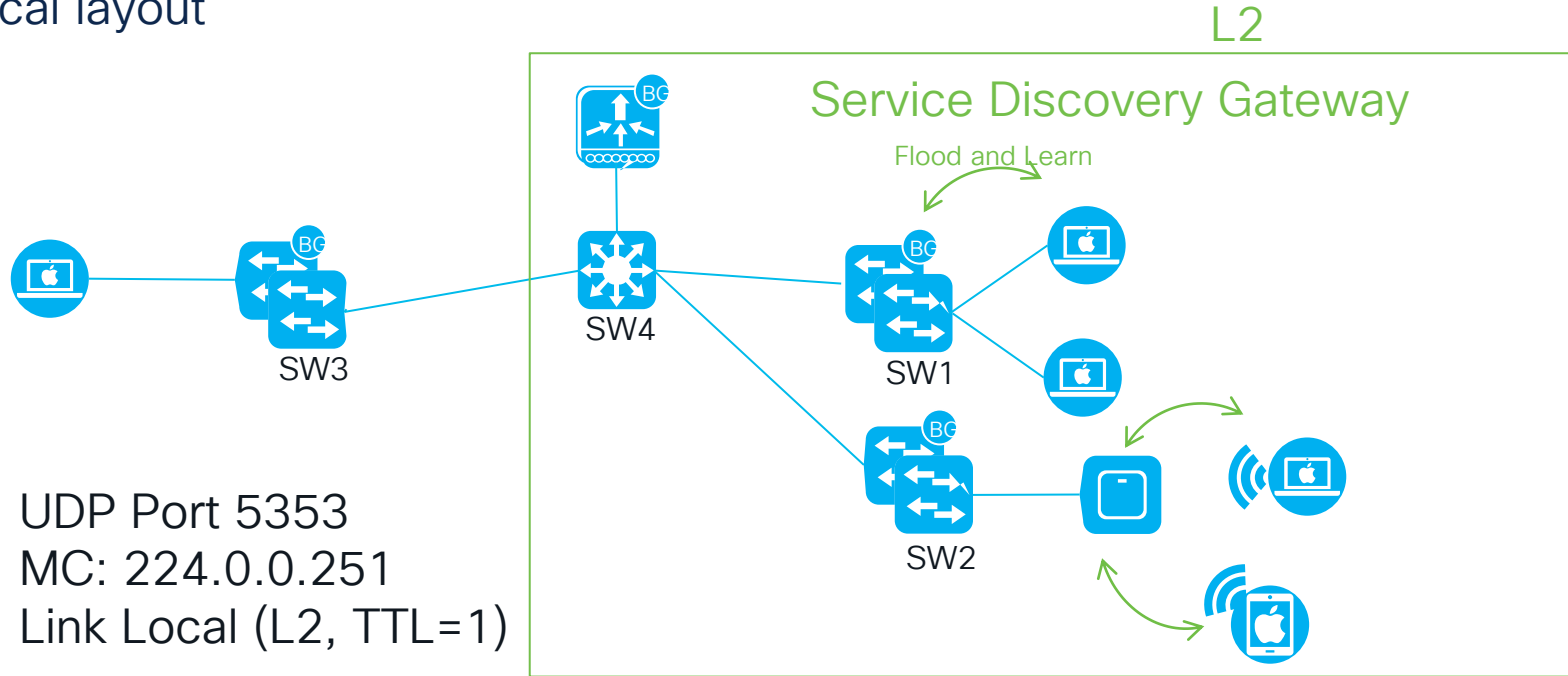
What is directed multicast?

Multicast-Multicast vs Multicast-Unicast



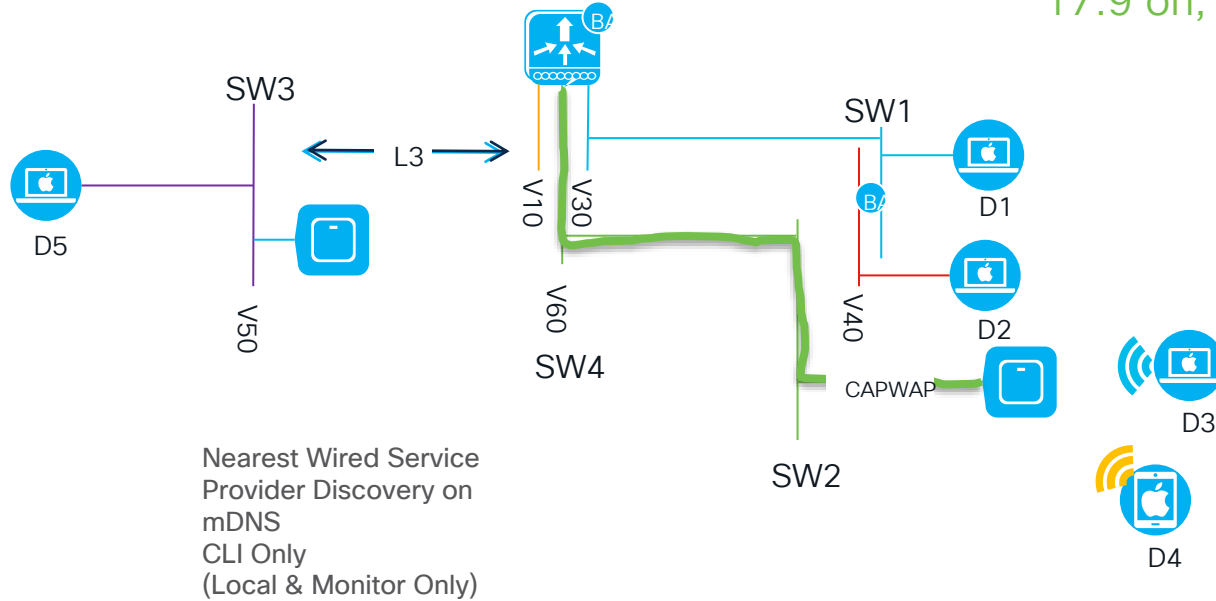
Bonjour/mDNS Example

Physical layout



Logical layout

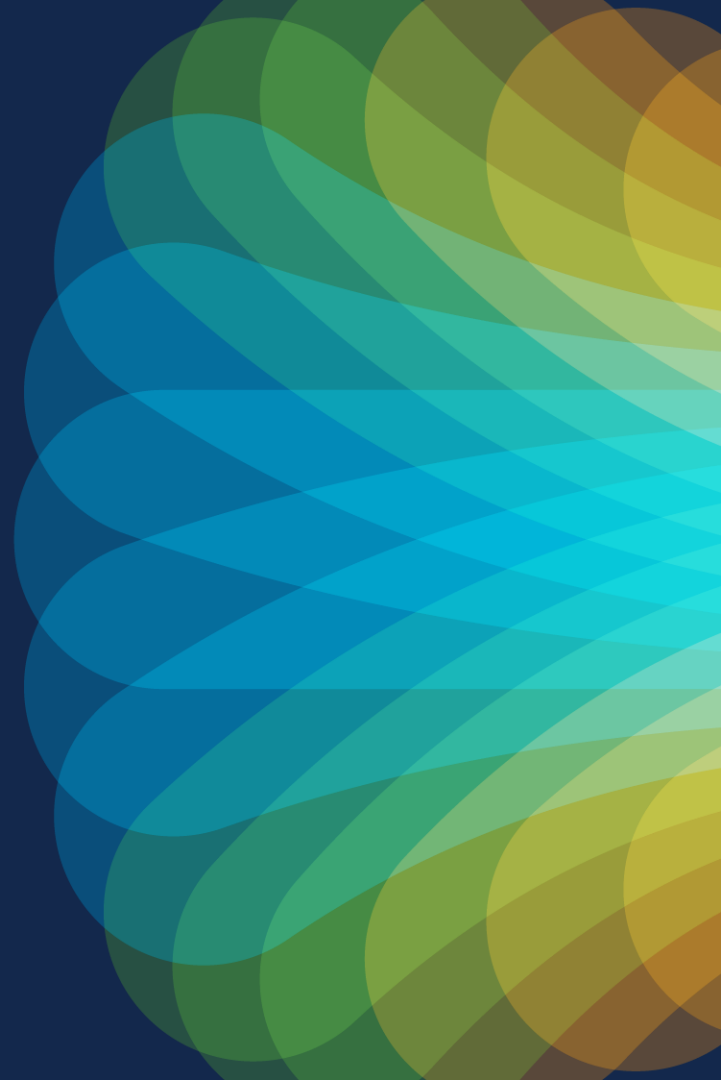
Effects Control Plane/CPU
Use location
17.9 on, no SVI required



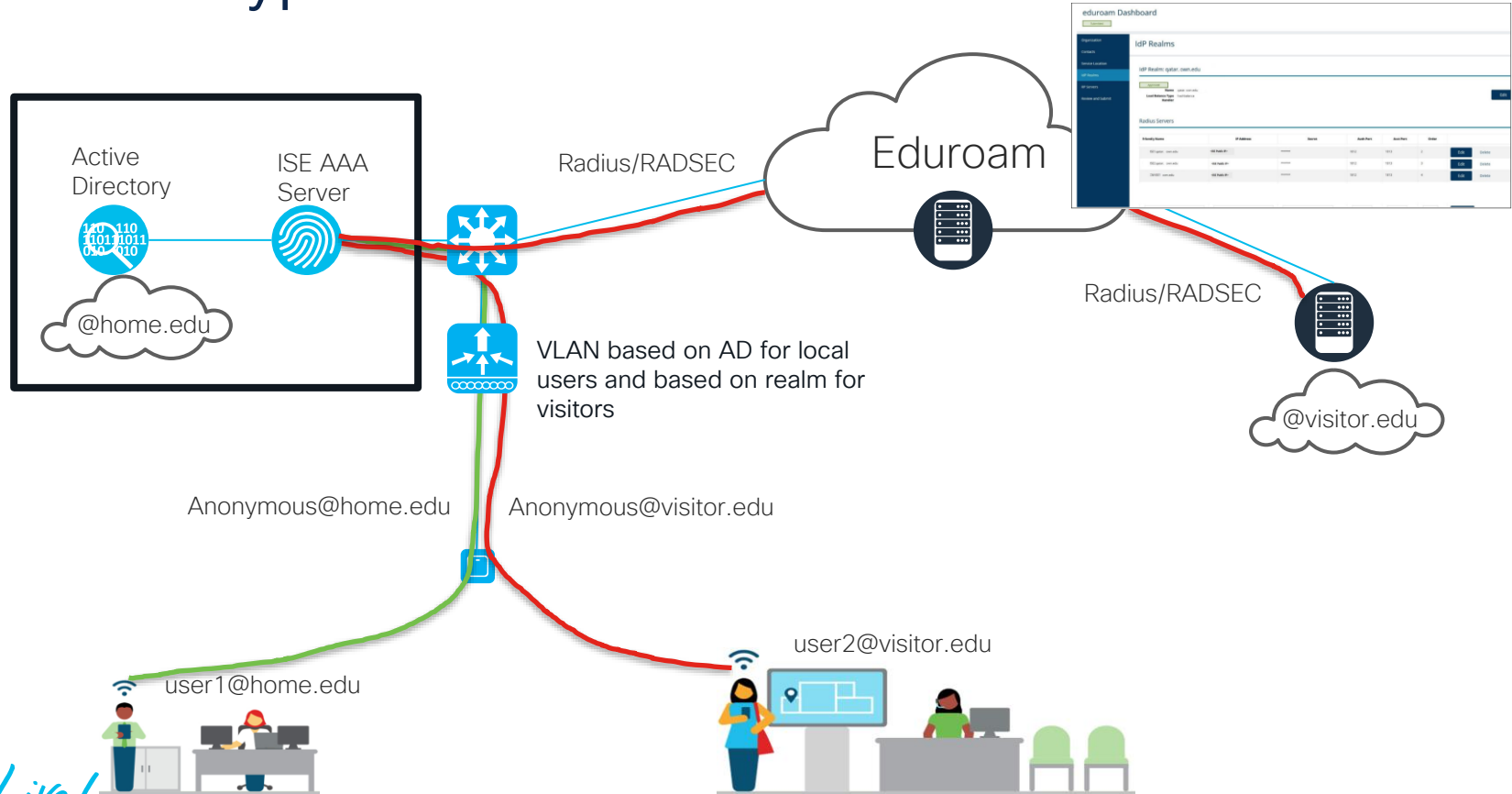
UDP Port 5353
MC: 224.0.0.251
Link Local (L2, TTL=1)
BA = Bonjour Agent

4. Eduroam

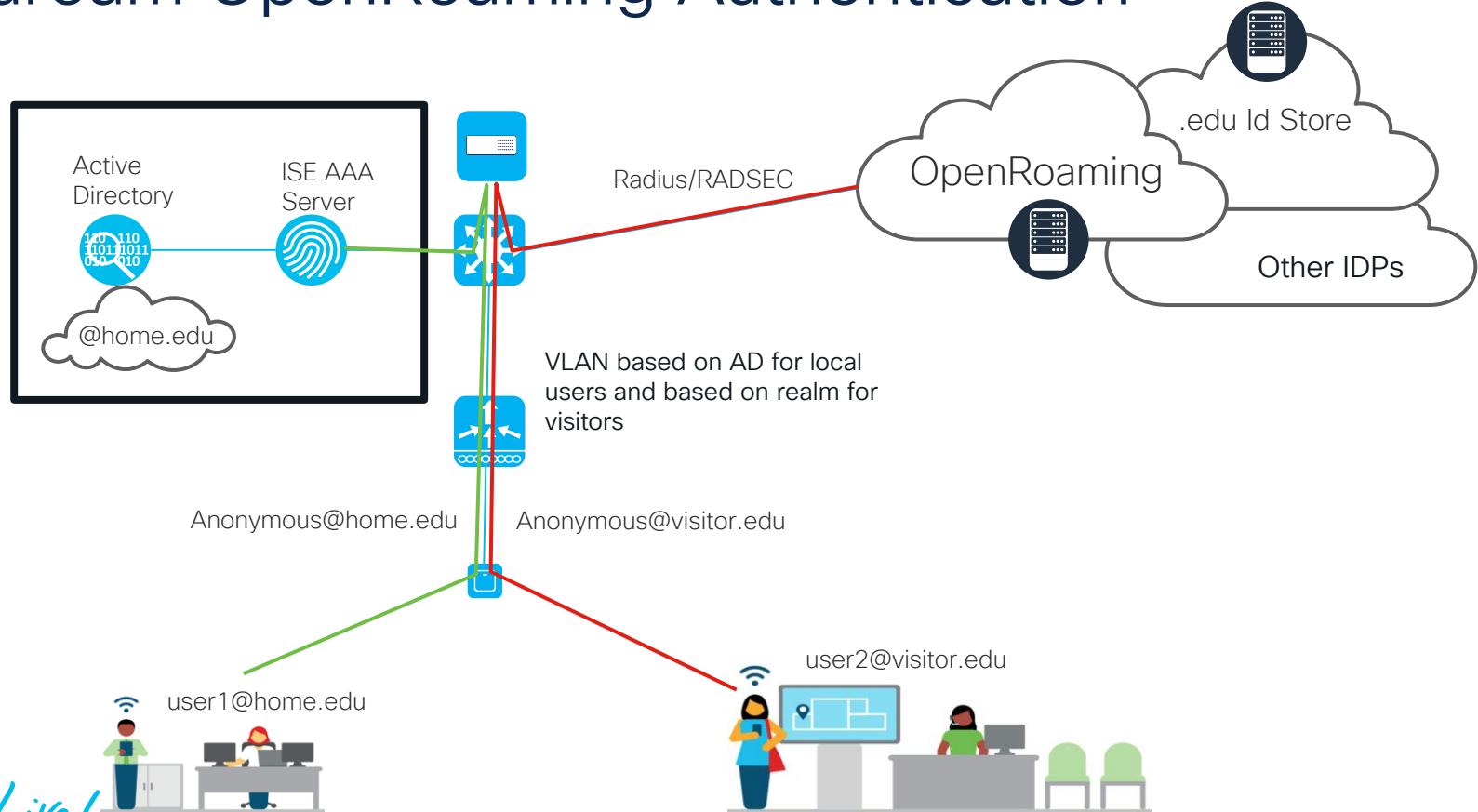
A different approach to
an old requirement



Eduroam Typical Authentication



Eduroam OpenRoaming Authentication





* 17.12 adds support for Transition Mode

Eduroam Considerations

- Be sure network is sized to support additional Eduroam users
- Local AAA (ISE) is authenticating server for local Eduroam users.
- Visitors AAA is authenticating server for visiting Eduroam users.
- Outer identities are anonymous and routed.
- Can use standard forms of EAP:
 - PEAP
 - EAP-TLS
 - EAP-TTLS
 - EAP-FAST
- Can use configuration assistance tool (CAT) for client to simplify onboarding.
- Typical process is to create 2 WLANs with the same name for 2.4 & 5, and 6GHz. *

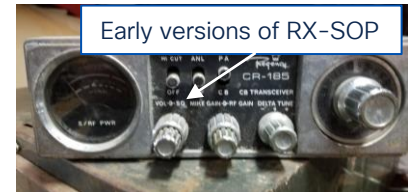
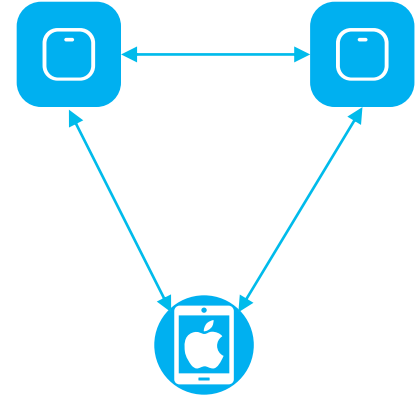
RF Design

Legacy bands and 6GHz



General design guidelines

- Three things to watch
 - AP Downlink
 - Client Uplink
 - AP Neighbors
- It's all about SNR and time
 - Directional antennas help to reduce interference in high-capacity areas.
 - Increase basic rates, decrease SSID count
 - RX SOP can be your friend
 - Use of .11v & .11k action frames are good but do take airtime
 - .11K can cause high CPU.
 - .11r very helpful for 11r compatible clients (especially .1x like Open Roaming)



High Density RF Design

- You cannot compensate for poor RF design with optimization!
- The challenge is more what do the APs not hear than what they hear.
- Find APs with highest client counts (DNA Assurance Network Health)
 - Adjust TPC for more even distribution
 - Band Select and Load balancing are secondary effects
- The 9104s make sure you understand orientation
 - Portrait or Landscape
 - DCA/TPC not useful as sidelobes are very low and hence very little AP2AP
 - Manual RF plan
 - Use a RF design tool to help with this.

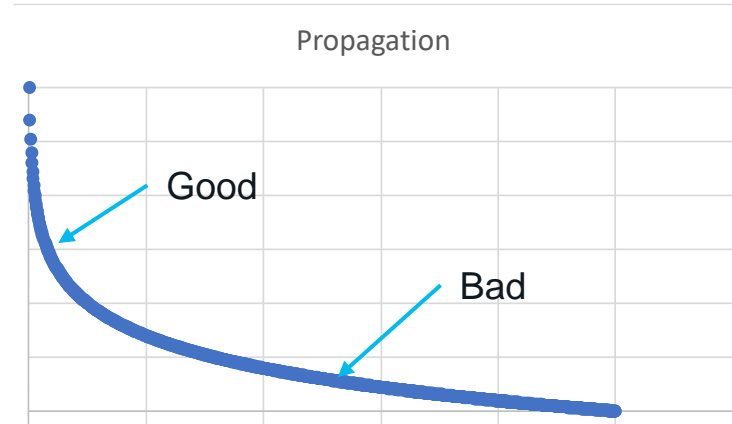


Things that make design challenging

- Fire walls and beams (especially behind walls)
- Stair wells and elevators
- Esthetics
- Clean room/OR
- Small rooms with cinder block construction
- Building/Classrooms that are very close together

Designing for location

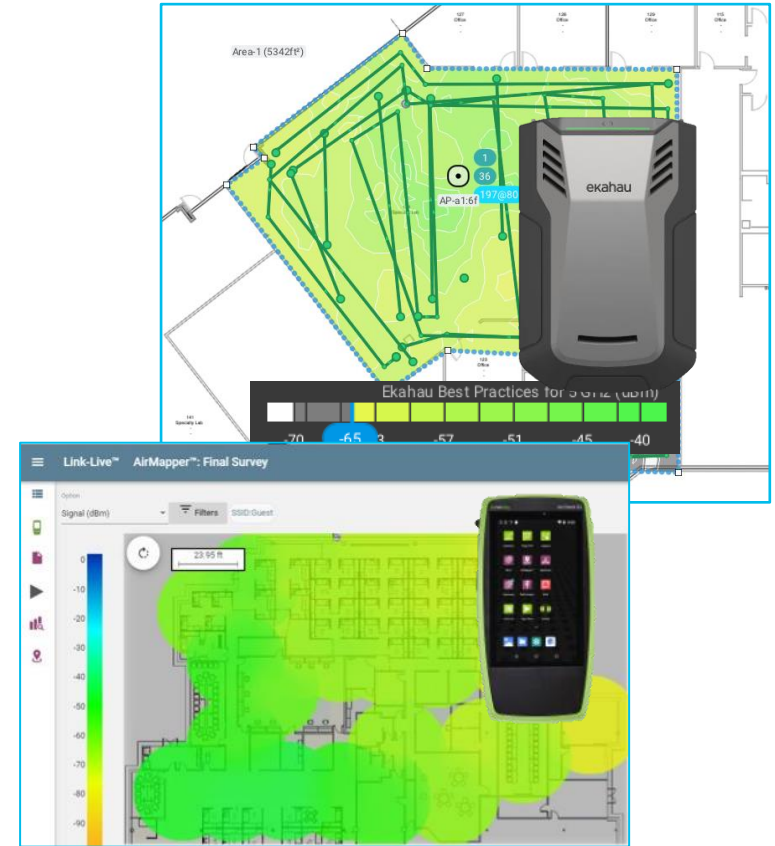
- For RSSI based location what is desirable is a small change in distance is a big change in RSSI
- Need APs dispersed angles (-75dBm)
- Location only with within AP perimeter.
- Walls and floors add distance
- Directional antennas:
 - Directional antenna help the rate of signal change between APs.
 - Important that you get the right AP MAC addresses in the right location and the right direction for the antenna.



Predictive vs Measured

When is good enough, good enough?

- A Measured Site Survey is an actual measurement of the RF Coverage in each space
- Ekahau and NetAlly both have Instruments specifically for measuring Wi-Fi
- Predictive Surveys often good enough
 - Garbage in, garbage out
 - Bound predictive with measurements



6GHz

How do I use it in my
design



Things to note about 6GHz LPI

- FCC 5dBm/MHz, 30dBm Max, ETSI 10dBm/MHz, 23dBm Max.
- Typically, 1:1 overlay if existing APs at power level 3 or higher.
- 6GHz Mandates WPA 3 which include PMF mandatory.
- Only “permanently attached integrated” antennas can be used.
- No wildcard probing allowed.
- Introduces 4 new methods of discovery:
 - Reduced Neighbor Report (RNR) Out-of-Band discovery.
 - Preferred Scanning Channels (PSC) In-Band discovery.
 - Fast Initial Link Setup (FILS) In band discovery.
 - Unsolicited Probe Response (UPR) In band discovery.

9166D1 Wi-Fi 6 Access Point

Cisco® Catalyst® 9166D1-x

Directional, Tri-Radio with 12 Spatial Streams!



Orderability in FY '24 Q1



Penta-Radio Architecture

1. 2.4 GHz Client Radio: 4x4:4SS
2. 5 GHz Client Radio: 4x4:4SS
3. 6 GHz Client Radio 4x4:4SS (XOR to 5GHz)
4. Dedicated tri-band auxiliary radio
5. 2.4 GHz IoT Radio



Directional antenna architecture

- 2.4+5 GHz: 6 dBi gain (70x70 deg), 6 GHz: 8 dBi (60x60)*
- Same X,Y as CW9166I – and only 0.1cm taller!
- Wide support for pan/tilt combinations



Internet of Things Capabilities

- Built-In Environmental Sensors
- Application Hosting Technology
- USB port with 4.5 W power output



5 Multigigabit (mGig) PoE Port

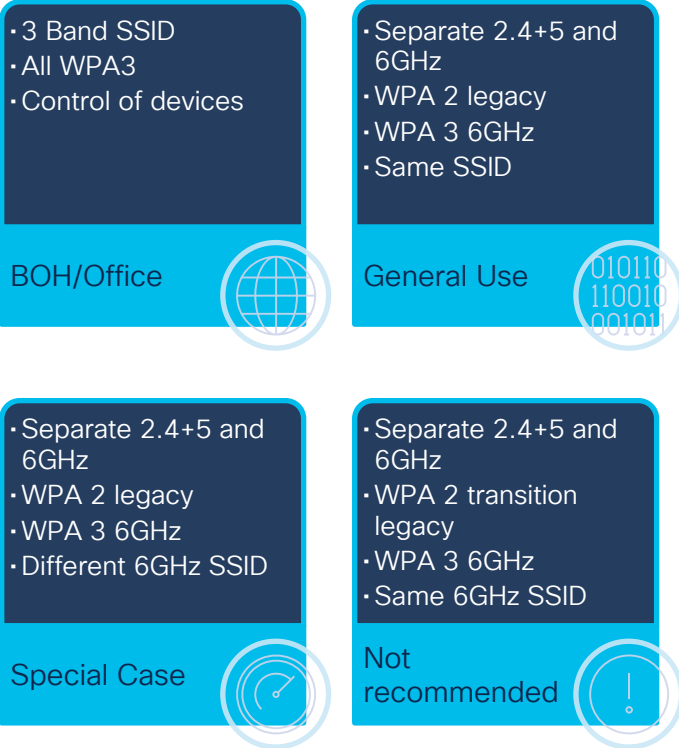
- Optional DC Power

Subject to change
*2/5/6 mode
* SW support post-FCS

Design Considerations

- No external antennas options for high ceiling designs
- Wide variety of clients behavior
 - Some clients only use RNR which means you must transmit legacy bands.
 - Roaming from WPA 2 to WPA 3 is reauthentication
 - Roaming between WLANs with different policy profiles requires reauthentication.
 - Clients are often looking for strong signals at 6GHz to join ($> -65\text{dBm}$)
 - Can have RNR with PSC and FILS or UBR

Use Cases

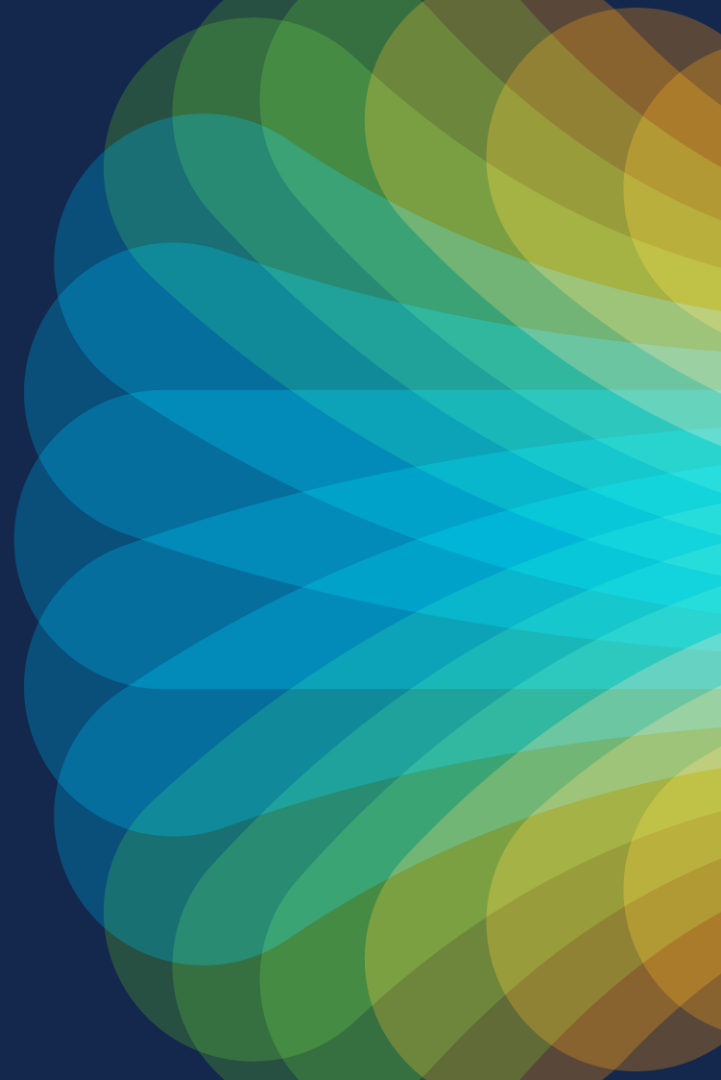


17.12 adds support for Transition Mode 1 profile to rule them all!

- BOH/Office
 - If you can control the devices.
 - Cisco has this deployed in certain offices
 - Fast roaming works across bands
- General use
 - Accommodates legacy clients
 - Not fast roaming between bands
 - Some clients may “bounce” causing disruption to client and network loading.
 - Typically recommended for Eduroam
- Special Case
 - Like General Use
 - Can help reduce the bounce in general use
 - RNR is still effective
 - Clients will often stay at 5GHz
- Not recommended
 - It works
 - Client may think they are on WPA3 when on WPA2

AI RRM

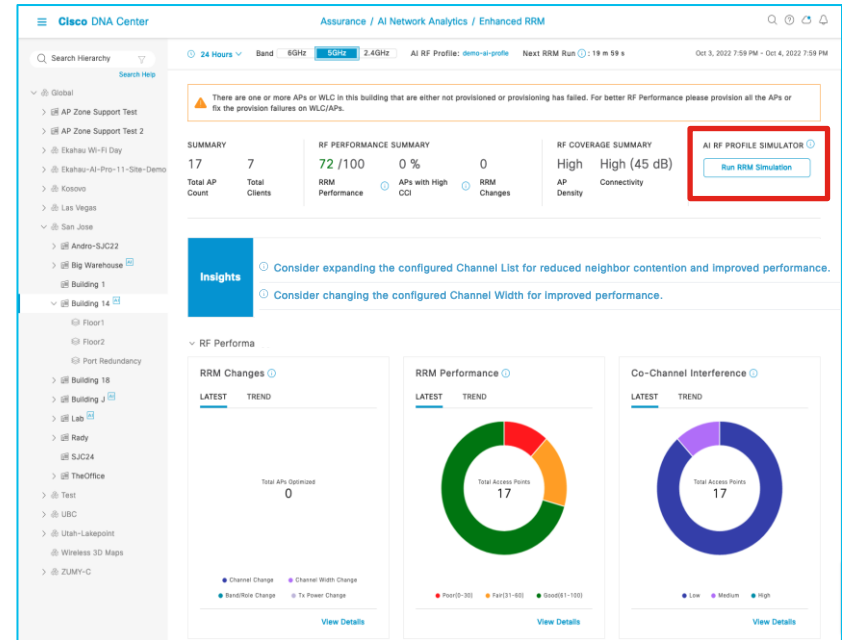
The next generation of
RF management



AI Enhanced RRM

NEW! In Cisco DNAC 2.3.4

- What is RRM?
- The goal for AI Enhanced RRM since the beginning has been to provide clear, and actionable information
- Insights give Actionable suggestions on how to improve the configurations
- AI RF Profile Simulator – allows the Admin to model the suggestions in a safe environment using their own data from the Analytics Cloud



[Wireless](#) / [Edit AI RF Profile](#)

Edit AI Radio Frequency Profile

Profile Name
demo-ai-profile

Basic Settings

Radio Frequency Settings

☒ 2.4 GHz ☒ 5 GHz ☒ 6 GHz ⓘ

Busy Hours ⓘ

Start Time
9:00End Time
17:00

Busy Hour Sensitivity ⓘ

☐ Low ☒ Medium ☐ High

Enable RF Settings

Flexible Radio Assignment ⓘ

☒☒☐

Dynamic Channel Assignment ⓘ

☒☒☒

Dynamic Bandwidth Selection ⓘ

☐☒☒

Transmit Power Control ⓘ

☒☒☒

Cancel

Save

8. WNCd

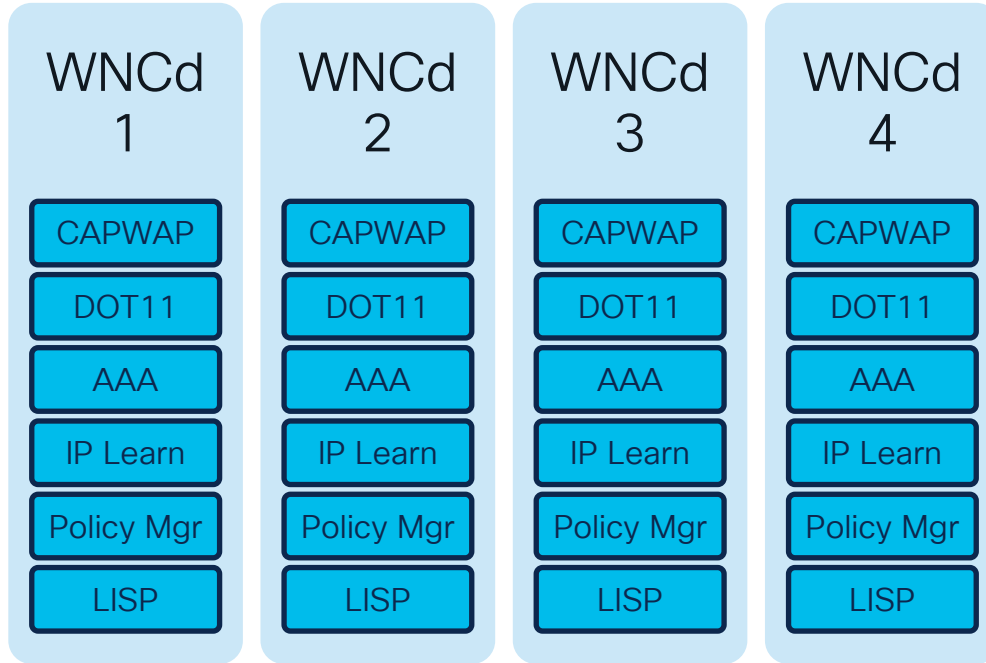
What is it and how does it affect my design



WNCd, what is it

- AireOS was single threaded, a task was received, scheduled and processed.
 - This worked ok but when it became busy it affected everything.
 - Sort of all or nothing approach
- IOS-XE (C9800) added multithreaded support
 - The Wireless Network Control daemon (WNCd) was created
 - The number of WNCd processes varied from 1 to 8 based on the size of the Wireless Lan Controller.
 - Each process runs independent of the other processes.
 - The processes are responsible for managing AP and Client sessions

More about WNCd



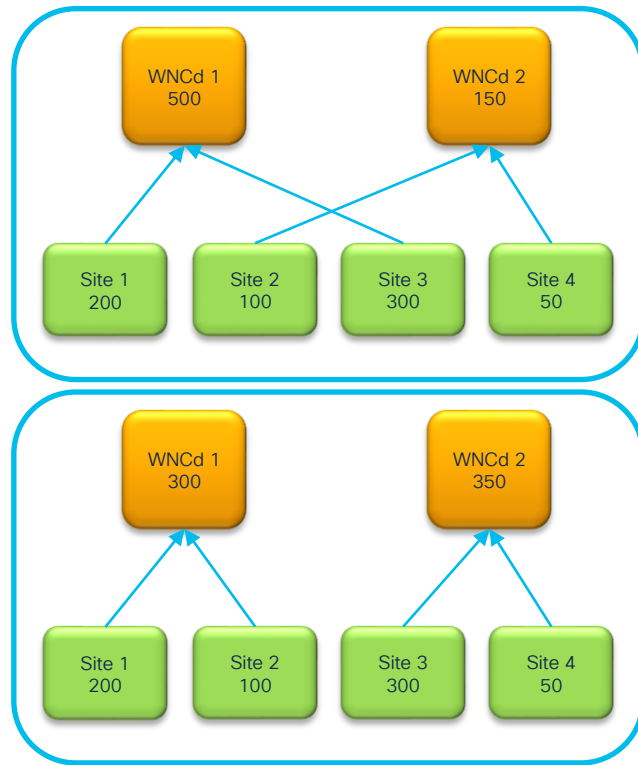
Platform	WNCd Instances
EWC (AP or C9k switch)	1
C9800-L	1
C9800-CL (S)	1
C9800-CL (M)	3
C9800-40	5
C9800-CL (L)	7
C9800-80	8

How does this affect my design



17.12 Automatic WNCd Load Balancing

- High CPU can cause APs to drop.
- Target less than 500 APs per WNCd.
- Roaming between APs on different WNCd process will add latency to the roam.
- Site Tags are used to map APs to WNCd process.
- Two methods of assigning Site Tags to WNCd processes.
 - Old – round robin
 - New – weighted grouping



WNCd Example #1

- High probe count can cause high WNCd CPU.
 - Poor coverage can drive up client probe rates
 - Coverage between buildings in campus
 - Areas where clients are entering and exiting
 - Outdoor areas
 - High roaming can increase client probe rates
 - Class lets out
 - Event starting or ending
 - If an AP goes offline this cascades

Solution

- Fix the coverage issues
- Reduce probe queue depth



WNCd Example #2

- High volumes of mDNS traffic cause WNCd CPU
 - mDNS gateway should be enable to limit mDNS
 - Enabling Apple Continuity cause high volumes of mDNS
 - Typically meant for home use.
 - Dormitory student use
 - Guest rooms guest use
 - Monterey update allows MacBook to advertise as TV
 - Classrooms
 - Meeting/conference rooms

Solution

- With mDNS gateway enabled, removed any service not required for the venue.
- For services that are enabled assign them to specific locations.



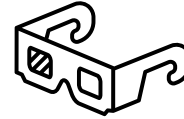
Security Concerns

Basic Concepts in Wireless Security



Wireless Security

What's your policy!!



Manage the Environment



Rogue Management

Basic Wireless Security



WIPS

Advanced Wireless Security



Cisco CleanAir

Visibility of non-WiFi interferers



Switch-port Tracing



RLDP

Protection



PMF or MFP (RMF)

Secure the control



Authentication

Access



Authorization

To what?



RBAC

Least required, TACACs



Encryption

AES, CCMP, GCMP



PSIRTS

Vulnerabilities



Key Management

802.1x, PSK, SAE, OWE



DHCP Spoofing

Hide GiAddr, DNCP Snooping

Segmentation



Tagging

VLAN, SGT



ACL

IP ACL, SG ACL, dACL, URL ACL



Routing

PBR, VRF, P2P



Fabric

Macro/Micro

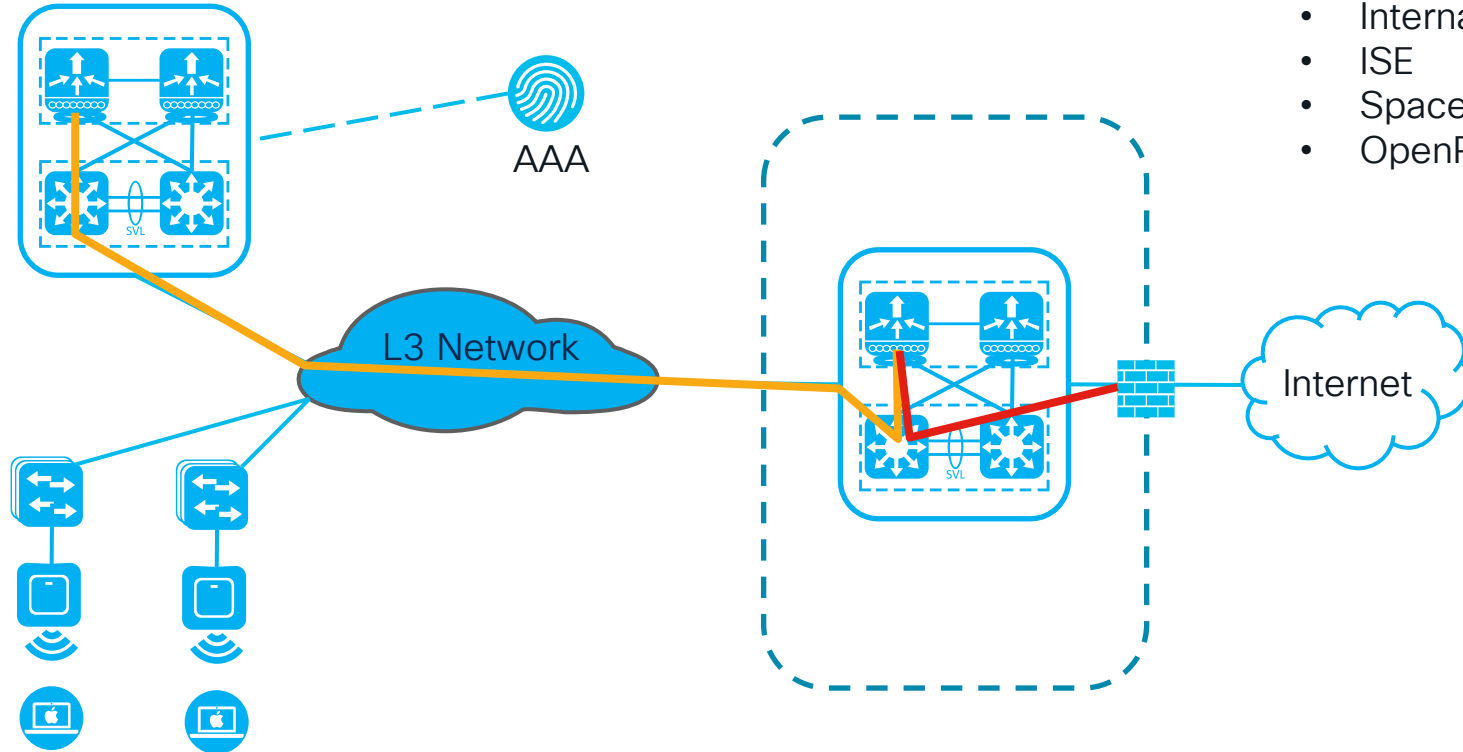
8. Other Design Considerations

Considerations often overlooked



Guest Architectures (Anchor)

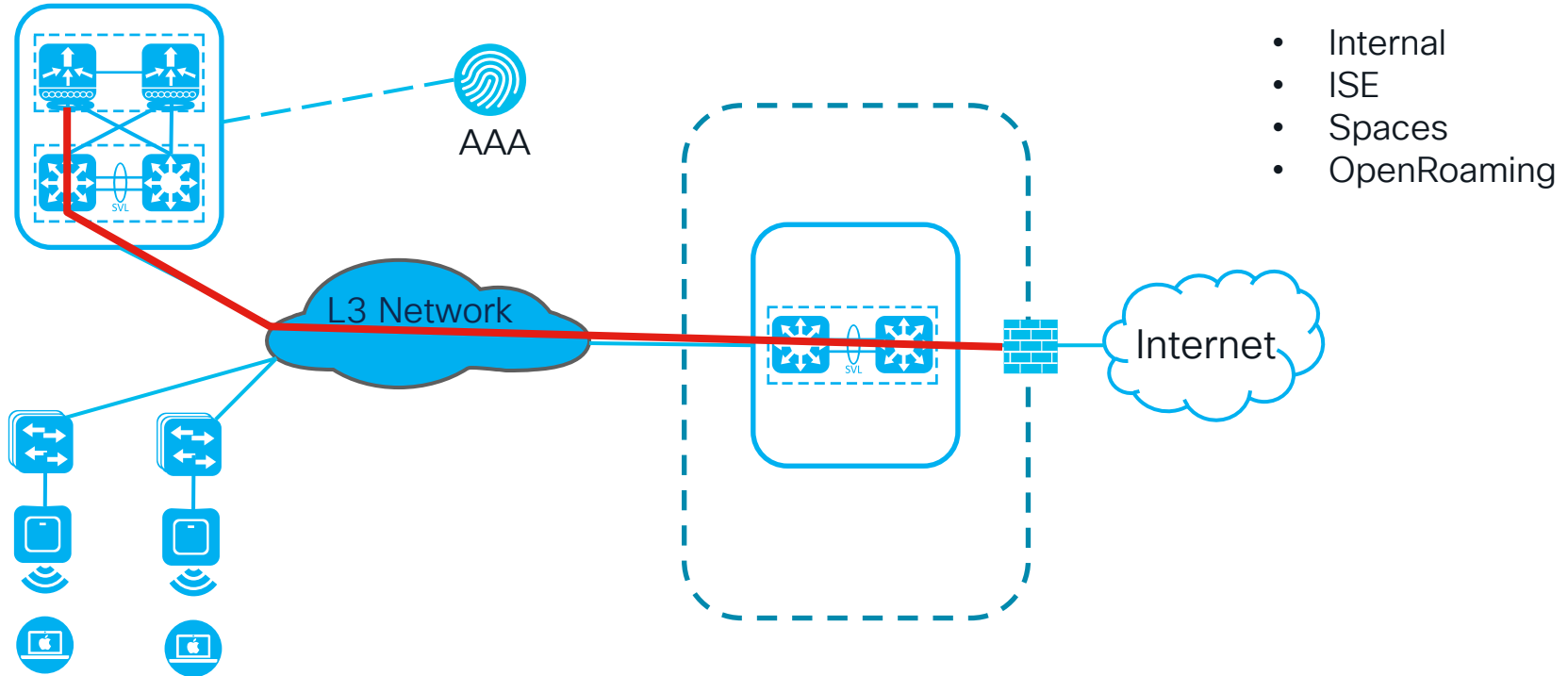
- Internal
- ISE
- Spaces
- OpenRoaming





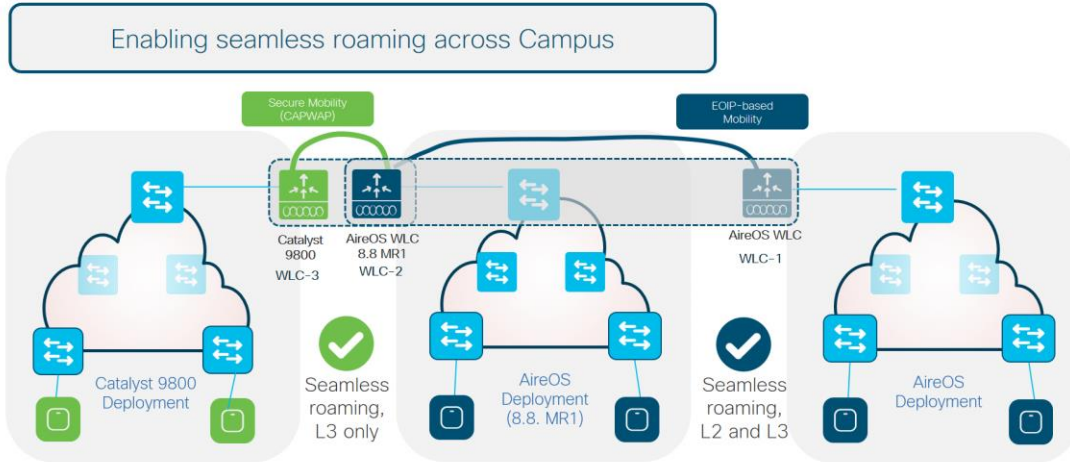
17.12 VRF from the WLC

Guest Architectures



Inter-Release Controller Mobility

IRCM: AireOS and Cisco Catalyst 9800



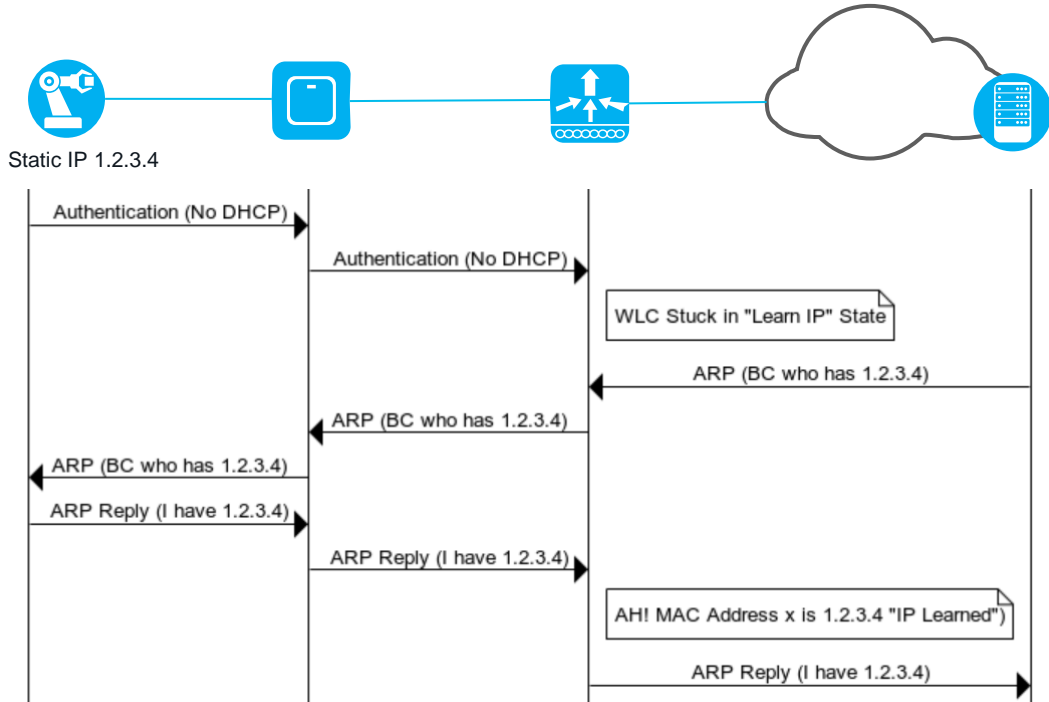
This will work for areas where you have both AireOS and IOS-XE controllers but:

- 9800 to/from AireOS is L3 Only!
- This uses a session on both controllers.
- Hits WNCd process.

Other Solutions:

- Minimize areas for roaming, no salt & pepper.
- 17.9.3 now allows for X700 series APs to coexist with X800 and all Catalyst APs.

Sleeping Clients



- Certain static IP devices such as:
 - Printers
 - IOT
 - Medical devices
- Without this enabled, devices time out with DHCP policy timeout
- Enabled per WLAN
- But: when enabled unknown ARP requests are broadcast!

11. Typical Use Cases

Example design requirements and solutions



University Campus (requirements)

- Periodic High Roaming times (Class Break)
 - High authentication/AAA
 - High dot11 activity
 - High probing
 - mDNS

University Campus

- Design strategies
 - Group dorm and classrooms in the same WNCd
 - Reduce probe queue depth
 - Enable fast roaming/key caching
 - If local AAA (ISE) use distributed architecture with load balancing
 - Ensure good coverage where roaming will occur
 - See WNCd Example 2 for mDNS solutions
 - Clean Air shows hundreds of thousands of interferers...disable that band on Clean Air

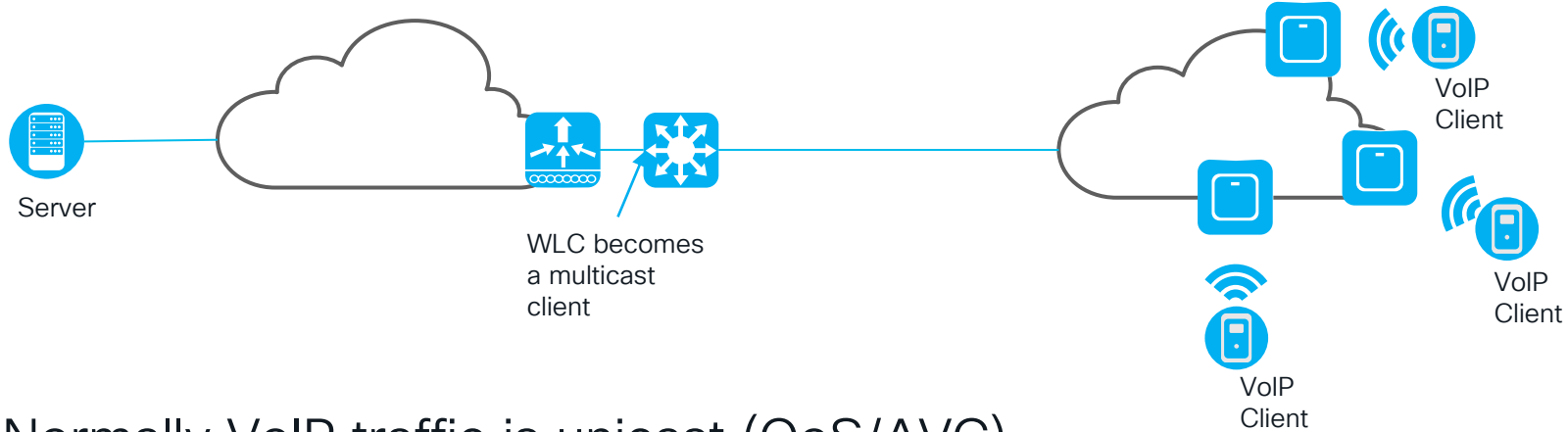
Event Center (Requirements)

- Coverage is good but:
 - High client counts (>200)
 - High roaming loads at certain times
 - Wide range of clients and client behavior

Event Center

- Design Solutions
 - Disable .11K as this is only useful at peak times and hit WNCd CPU
 - Watch out for high numbers of clients in authenticating state
 - May need to decrease EAP timeout to flush sessions not established (default is good)
 - Look for APs set to abnormally high-power levels.
 - Consider more directional antennas and APs
 - Do not enable passive client
 - Check for high ARP rates and police (>2000 Packets/sec)
 - In the case of multiple controllers on one core switch mac address capacity (CAM) is a concern.

Hospital VoIP/Badge Paging



- Normally VoIP traffic is unicast (QoS/AVC)
- Paging is multicast
 - Server send message to clients which Multicast Group to join
 - All members join the group and get page from one of the clients

Hospital VoIP/Badge Paging

- Design solutions
 - Enable snooping
 - Enabled Multicast-Multicast mode on the WLC
 - PIM Sparse Mode is used
 - L3 interfaces for AP management need PIM
 - L3 interfaces on the switch connecting to the WLC need PIM.

Useful References

Things to use later for
your designs



Really good tools

- <https://developer.cisco.com/docs/wireless-troubleshooting-tools/#!/wireless-troubleshooting-tools/wireless-troubleshooting-tools>
 - [Wireless Config Analyzer Express – WCAE](#)
 - [WLAN Poller](#)
 - [WiFi Hawk](#)
 - [Wireless Debug Analyzer](#)
 - [WLC Config Converter BETA](#)

Useful References

- WiFi 6E 6GHz WW allocations: <https://www.wi-fi.org/countries-enabling-wi-fi-in-6-ghz-wi-fi-6e>
- 9800 Best Practices: <https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/products/collateral/wireless/catalyst-9800-series-wireless-controllers/guide-c07-743627.html>
- 6GHz Deployment Paper: <https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/products/collateral/wireless/catalyst-9100ax-access-points/ghz-unlicensed-spectrum-reg-wp.html>
- Blog part 1: <https://blogs.cisco.com/networking/wi-fi-6e-something-old-something-new-something-borrowed-something-blue-part-1>
- Blog part 2: <https://spaces.at.internet2.edu/display/eduroam/eduroam-US+Knowledge+Base>
- ISE Scale Documents:
https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/td/docs/security/ise/performance_and_scalability/b_ise_perf_and_scale.html

Fill out your session surveys!



Attendees who fill out a minimum of four session surveys and the overall event survey will get **Cisco Live-branded socks** (while supplies last)!



Attendees will also earn 100 points in the **Cisco Live Challenge** for every survey completed.



These points help you get on the leaderboard and increase your chances of winning daily and grand prizes

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CISCO *Live!*

- BRKEWN-2087 – High Density Wi-Fi Design, Deployment, and Optimization
- BRKEWN-2846 – High Availability Design with Cisco Catalyst 9800 Controllers
- BRKEWN-2031 – Design and deployment of Modern Wireless Networks
- BRKEWN-2000 – Design/Deployment and tuning of Outdoor Wi-Fi & Work Group Bridges
- BRKEWN-3413 – Advanced RF Tuning for Wi-Fi 6E with Catalyst Wireless: Become an Expert, while getting a little help from AI
- BRKEWN-1053 – Troubleshoot Cisco Wireless using Cisco DNA at a University
- BRKEWN-2658 – Implement and Troubleshoot New Features from Cisco DNA Spaces to Deliver Next Generation Location Base Solutions
- BRKEWN-2926 – Cisco Wi-Fi: how to tune your design and configurations for your most demanding clients and applications

Continue your education



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- Book your one-on-one Meet the Engineer meeting
- Attend the interactive education with DevNet, Capture the Flag, and Walk-in Labs
- Visit the On-Demand Library for more sessions at www.CiscoLive.com/on-demand



The bridge to possible

Thank you

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The background is a vibrant, abstract graphic. It features a central bright white light source from which numerous colorful rays emanate, creating a sunburst or starburst effect. The rays transition through a spectrum of colors: yellow, orange, red, and then various shades of blue and green. Overlaid on this are large, soft, wavy shapes in similar colors, giving the overall image a sense of motion and energy.

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Let's go

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