

Wireless Security

The IEEE 802.1x standard defines a client-server-based access control and authentication protocol that prevents unauthorized clients from connecting to a LAN through publicly accessible ports unless they are properly authenticated. The authentication server authenticates each client connected to a switch port before making available any services offered by the switch or the LAN. Until the client is authenticated, 802.1x access control allows only Extensible Authentication Protocol over LAN (EAPOL), Cisco Discovery Protocol (CDP), and Spanning Tree Protocol (STP) traffic through the port to which the client is connected. After authentication is successful, normal traffic can pass through the port.

- **Supplicant:** The client device that is requesting access
- **Authenticator:** The network device that provides access to the network (usually a wireless LAN controller [WLC])
- **Authentication server (AS):** The device that takes user or client credentials and permits or denies network access based on a user database and policies (usually a RADIUS server)

```
graph LR
    S[Supplicant] ---|802.11 Open Authentication| A[Authenticator: AP/WLC]
    A ---|EAP-Based Authentication| AS[Authentication Server AS]
```

	WEP	WPA-Personal	WPA-Enterprise	WPA2-Personal	WPA2-Enterprise	WPA3-Pers/Ent
Encryption	uses RC4 w/ WEP 24-bit IV 40-bit key / 128-bit key w/ TKIP	uses RC4 w/ TKIP 48-bit IV 128-bit key	uses RC4 w/ TKIP 48-bit IV 128-bit key	AES-CCMP 48-bit IV 128-bit key	AES-CCMP 48-bit IV 128-bit key	AES-GCMP
Authentication	Optional Shared Key OAS, SKA	PSK (Pre-Shared Key) 802.1x, EAP (RADIUS)	802.1x Various EAP-Types	PSK (Pre-Shared Key) 802.1x, EAP, RSNA	802.1x Various EAP-Types	PSK (Personal) 802.1x, EAP (Enterprise)
Integrity	Checksum / CRC	MIC (64-bit)	MIC (64-bit)	CBC-MAC 128-bit key	CBC-MAC 128-bit key	GMAC (Galois Msg Auth Code)

Table 28-2 Comparing WPA, WPA2, and WPA3

Authentication and Encryption Feature Support	WPA	WPA2	WPA3*
Authentication with Pre-Shared Keys?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Authentication with 802.1x?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Encryption and MIC with TKIP?	Yes	No	No
Encryption and MIC with AES and CCMP?	Yes	Yes	No
Encryption and MIC with AES and GCMP?	No	No	Yes

* WPA3 includes other features beyond WPA and WPA2, such as Simultaneous Authentication of Equals (SAE), Forward secrecy, and Protected management frames (PMF).

Table 28-3 Review of Wireless Security Mechanisms and Options

Security Mechanism	Type	Type Expansion	Credentials Used
Authentication Methods	Open	Open Authentication	None, other than 802.11 protocol
	WEP	Wired Equivalent Privacy	Static WEP keys
	802.1x/EAP (Extensible Authentication Protocol)	LEAP	Lightweight EAP
		EAP-FAST	EAP Flexible Authentication by Secure Tunneling
		PEAP	Protected EAP
		EAP-TLS	EAP Transport Layer Security
Privacy & Integrity Methods	TKIP	Temporal Key Integrity Protocol	N/A
	CCMP	Counter/CBC-MAC Protocol	N/A
	GCMP	Galois/Counter Mode Protocol	N/A