Assignment 2: Packet Tracer WLAN configuration

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Introduction

The growing reliance on wireless technology in contemporary networks has made the configuration and optimization of WLAN (Wireless Local Area Network) infrastructure a critical skill for IT professionals.

In this report, I delve into the configuration of a WLAN using Cisco's Packet Tracer, a robust network simulation tool widely utilized in both educational and professional settings. This assignment aims to demonstrate the practical application of theoretical networking concepts, highlighting the processes and considerations involved in setting up a secure and efficient wireless network.

Through this exercise, I will explore the fundamental aspects of WLAN configuration, including SSID settings, security protocols, and connectivity testing, thereby underscoring the importance of meticulous planning and execution in network management.

Objectives

In this activity, I will configure both a wireless home router and a WLC-based network. I will implement both WPA2-PSK and WPA2-Enterprise security.

- · Configure a home router to provide Wi-Fi connectivity to a variety of devices.
- · Configure WPA2-PSK security on a home router.
- · Configure interfaces on a WLC.
- Configure WLANs on a WLC.
- · Configure WPA2-PSK security on a WLAN and connect hosts to WLAN.
- · Configure WPA2-Enteprise on a WLAN and connect hosts to the WLAN.
- · Verify connectivity WLAN connectivity.

Part 1: Configure a Home Wireless Router

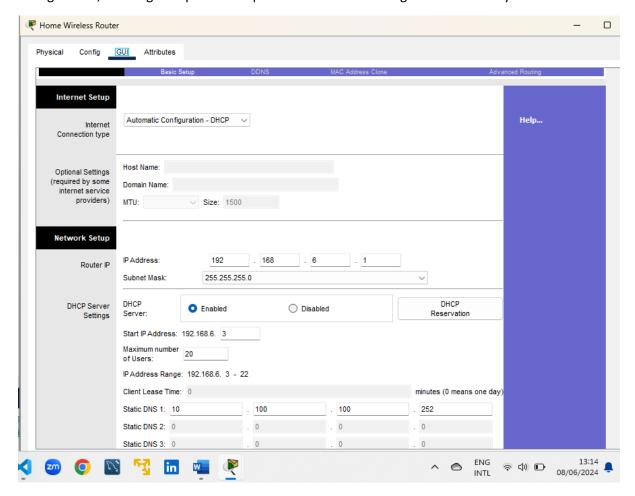
In this section, we configured a home wireless router to enhance security and meet specific requirements. The following steps outline the process:

Step 1: Change DHCP Settings:

- Accessed the router's GUI and adjusted the router IP and DHCP settings as per the Addressing Table.
- o Set the DHCP pool to issue a maximum of 20 addresses.
- o Configured the DHCP server to start at IP address .3 of the LAN network.

- Set the internet interface to receive its IP address dynamically over DHCP.
- Verified the IP address received by the internet interface: [Insert received IP address here].
- o Configured the static DNS server address as specified in the Addressing Table.

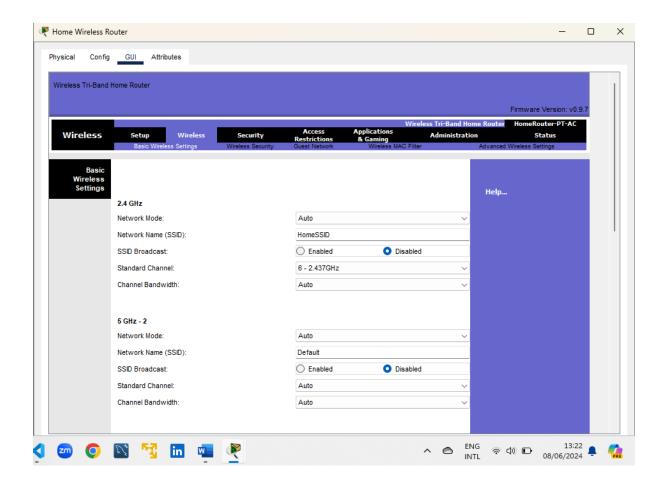
These steps ensured that the home wireless router was set up with a secure and efficient DHCP configuration, meeting the specified requirements and enhancing network security.



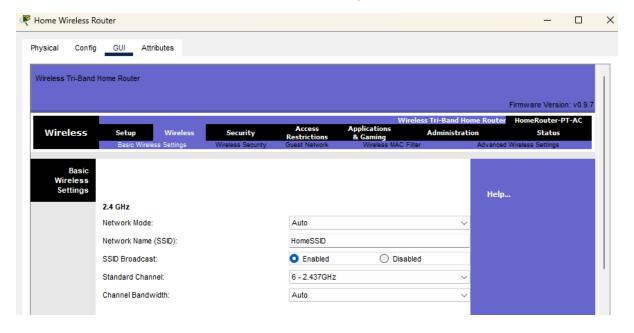
Step 2: Configure the Wireless LAN

1. 2.4GHz Wireless LAN Interface Configuration:

- Accessed the router's GUI and configured the SSID as per the Wireless LAN information table.
- o Set the wireless channel to 6.



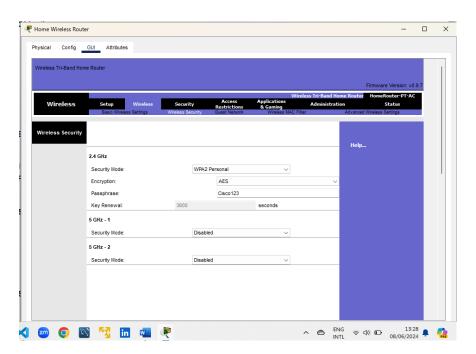
o Enabled SSID broadcast to ensure visibility for all wireless hosts.



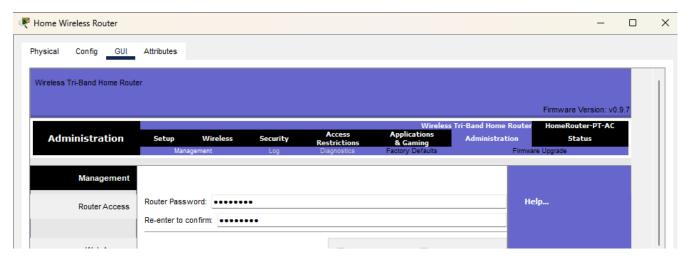
Step 3: Configure Security

1. Wireless LAN Security:

o Configured WPA2 Personal security with the specified passphrase.



o Changed the default router password to enhance security.



Step 4: Connect Clients to the Network

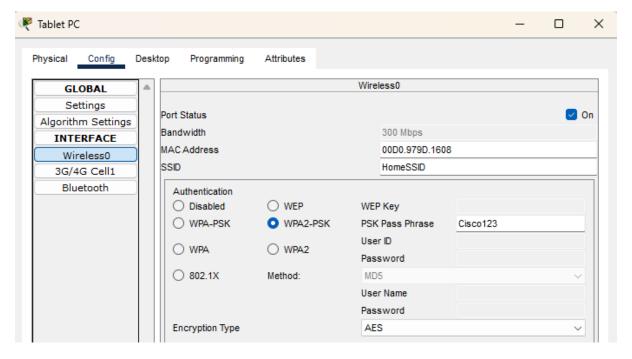
1. Laptop Client Configuration:

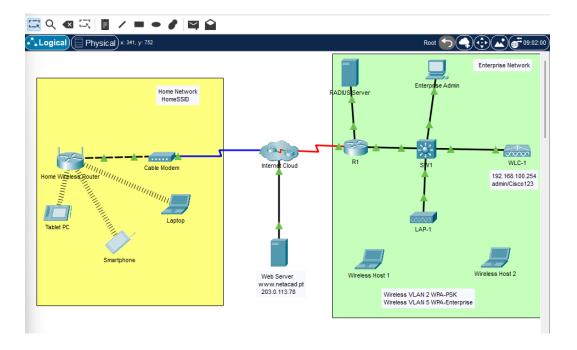
o Used the PC Wireless app to connect to the network using the SSID and passphrase.



2. Tablet PC and Smartphone Configuration:

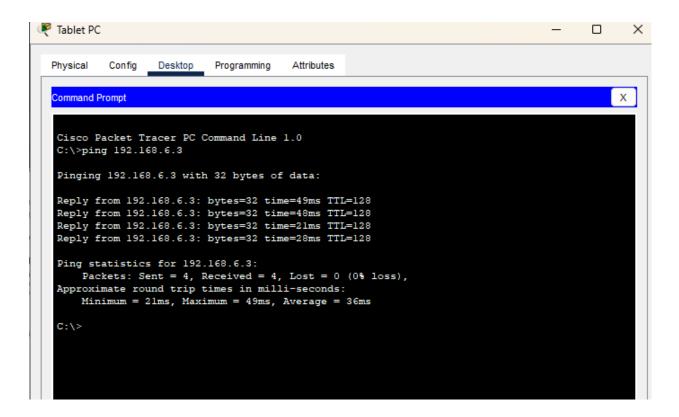
 Configured the wireless interfaces on both devices to connect to the network using the SSID and passphrase.





3. Verification of Connectivity:

- Verified that all connected devices could ping each other and the web server.
- o Confirmed that the devices could access the web server URL successfully.



These steps ensured that the home wireless network was securely configured, with all devices successfully connected and verified for proper connectivity.

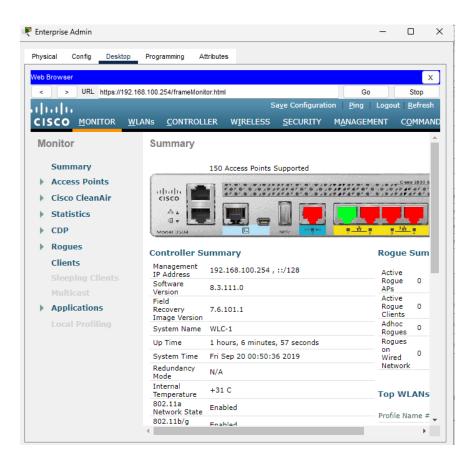
Part 2: Configure a WLC Controller Network

In this section, we will configure the wireless LAN controller (WLC) with two WLANs using different authentication methods, set up an SNMP server, and configure a DHCP scope for the wireless management network.

Step 1: Configure VLAN Interfaces

1. Access the WLC-1 Management Interface:

Logged into WLC-1 using admin credentials.

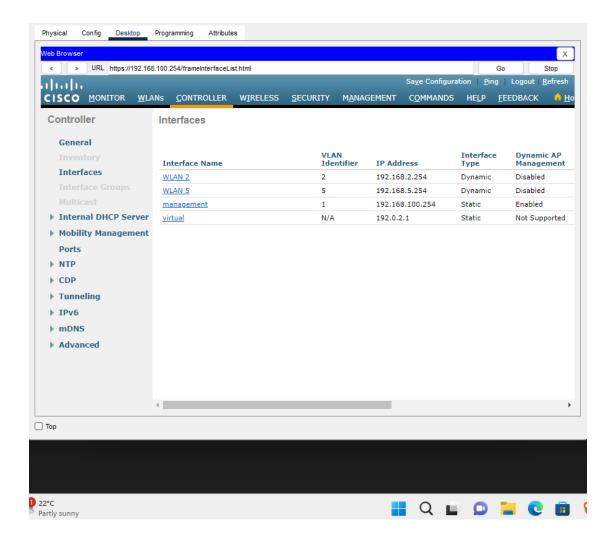


2. Configured Interface for WLAN 2:

 Set up the interface with the specified VLAN ID, IP address, netmask, gateway, and DHCP server.

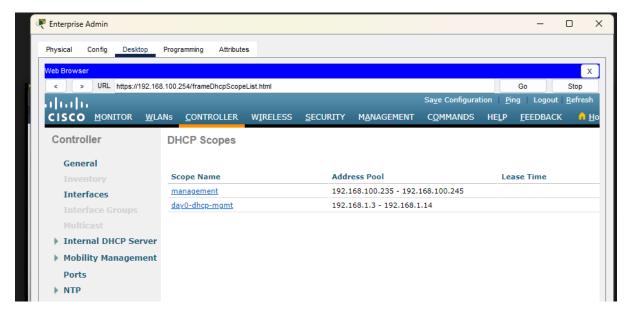
3. Configured Interface for WLAN 5:

 Set up the interface with the specified VLAN ID, IP address, netmask, gateway, and DHCP server.



Step 2: Configure a DHCP Scope for the Wireless Management Network

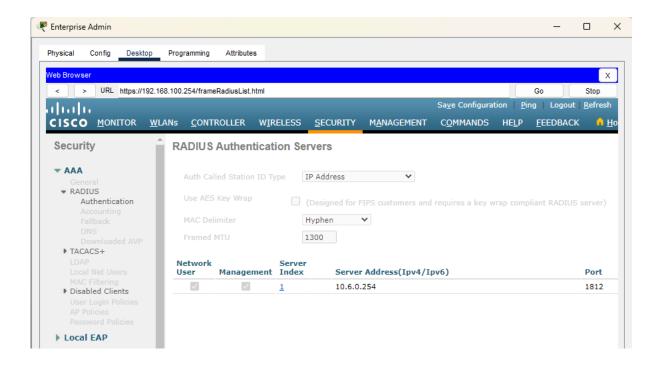
1. Configured an internal DHCP scope with the specified pool range, network, netmask, and default router.



Step 3: Configure the WLC with External Server Addresses

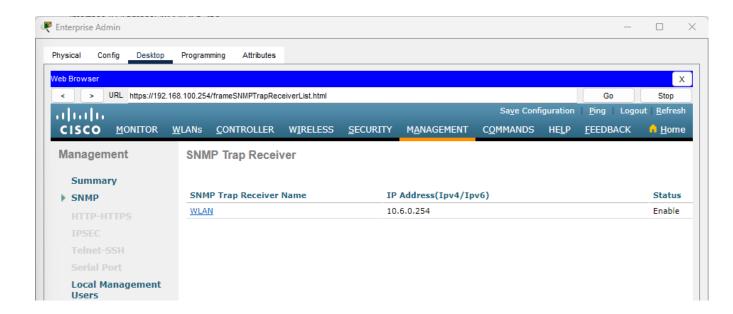
1. RADIUS Server Configuration:

o Entered the server index, address, and shared secret.



2. SNMP Server Configuration:

o Entered the community name and IP address



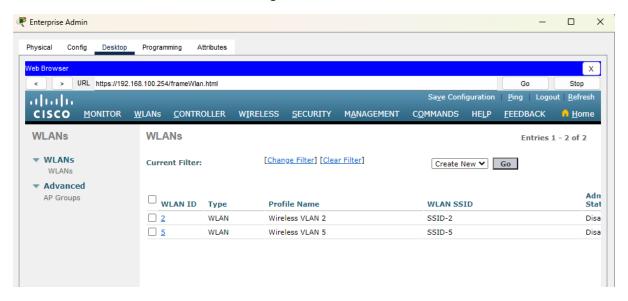
Step 4: Create the WLANs

1. Created First WLAN:

o Set up the WLAN with WPA2-PSK security and enabled FlexConnect settings.

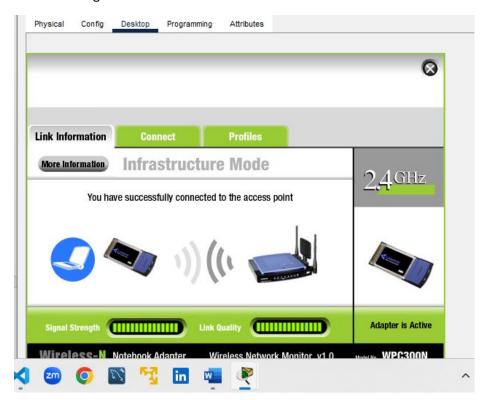
2. Created Second WLAN:

Set up the WLAN with WPA2-Enterprise security and RADIUS server authentication.
Enabled FlexConnect settings.

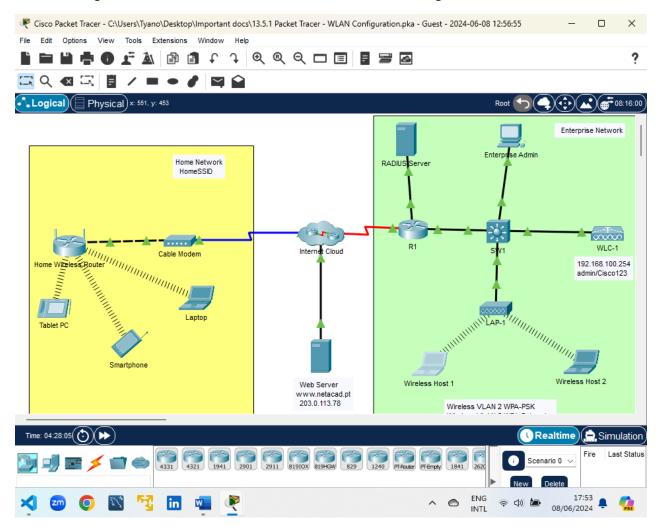


Step 5: Configure the Hosts to Connect to the WLANs

1. Configured Wireless Host 1 to connect to Wireless VLAN 2.



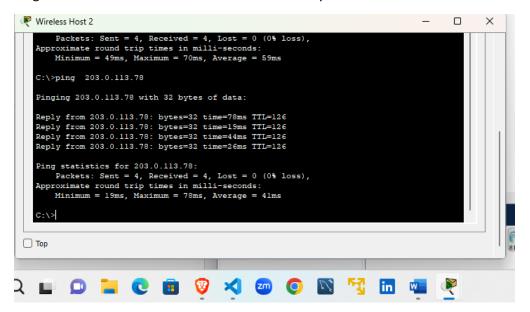
2. Configured Wireless Host 2 to connect to Wireless VLAN 5 using RADIUS server credentials.



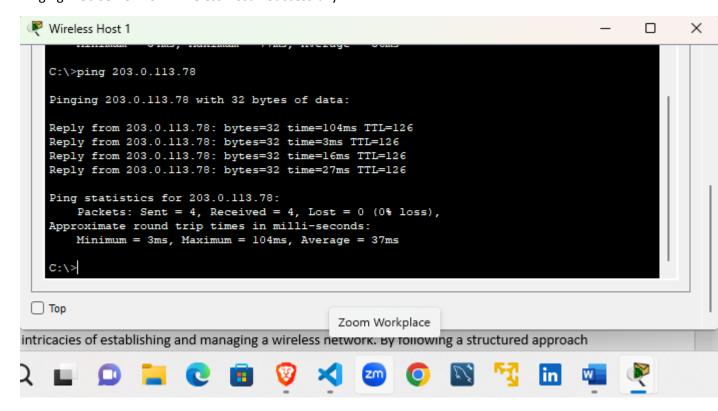
step 6: Test connectivity.

Testing connectivity between the wireless hosts and the Web Server by ping and URL.

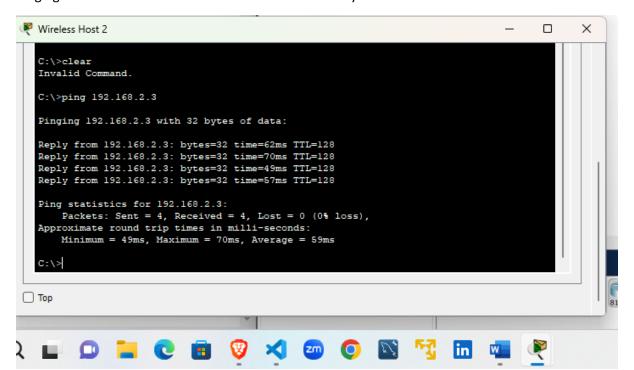
Pinged web server from Wireless Host 2 successfully.



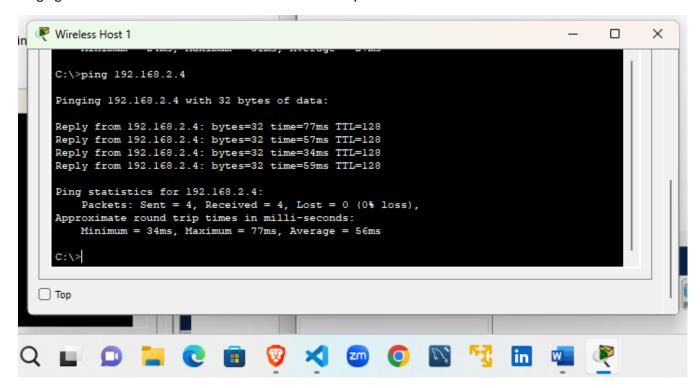
Pinging Web Server from Wireless Host 1 Successfully



Pinging Wireless Host 1 from Wireless Host 2 Successfully.

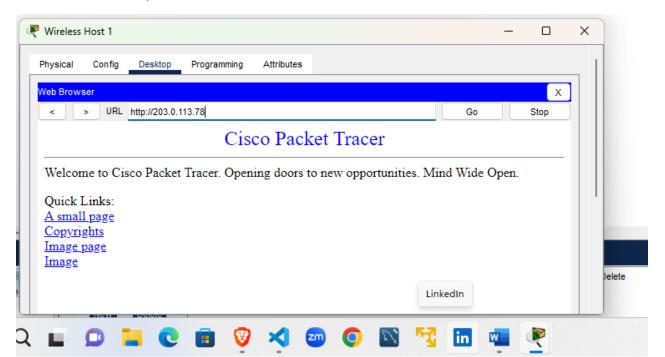


Pinging Wireless Host 2 from Wireless Host 1 Successfully.

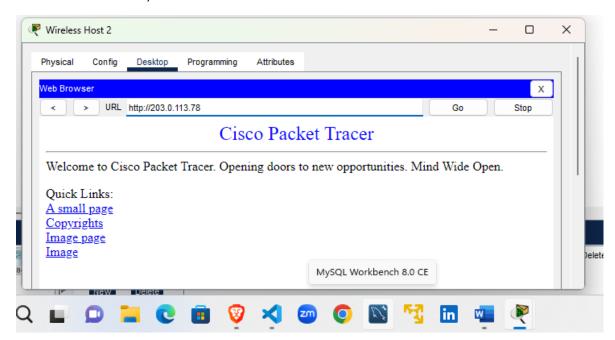


Testing connectivity to the Web Server using URL from both Wireless Host 1 and Wireless Host 2

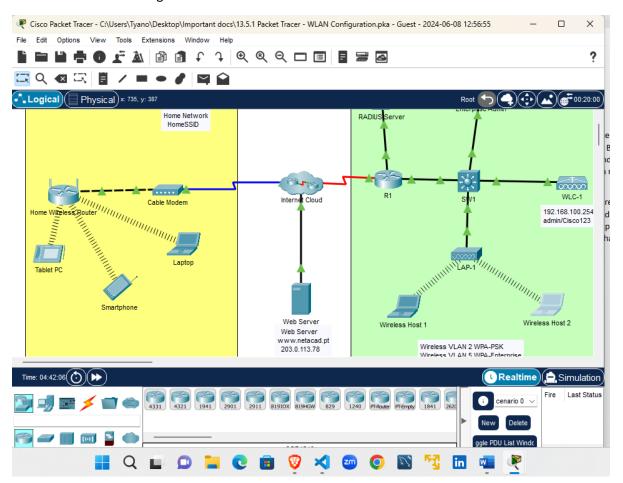
a) Wireless Host 1



b) Wireless Host 2



Overall view of the configuration with all the connections.



Conclusion

n conclusion, the WLAN configuration exercise using Packet Tracer has provided valuable insights into the intricacies of establishing and managing a wireless network. By following a structured approach to configuring SSIDs, implementing robust security measures, and conducting thorough connectivity tests, we have illustrated the essential steps required to create a reliable and secure WLAN environment.

This assignment has not only reinforced my understanding of wireless networking principles but also emphasized the practical skills necessary for effective network administration. As wireless technology continues to evolve and expand its reach, the knowledge and experience gained through this exercise will be indispensable in addressing future networking challenges and ensuring seamless connectivity in various contexts.