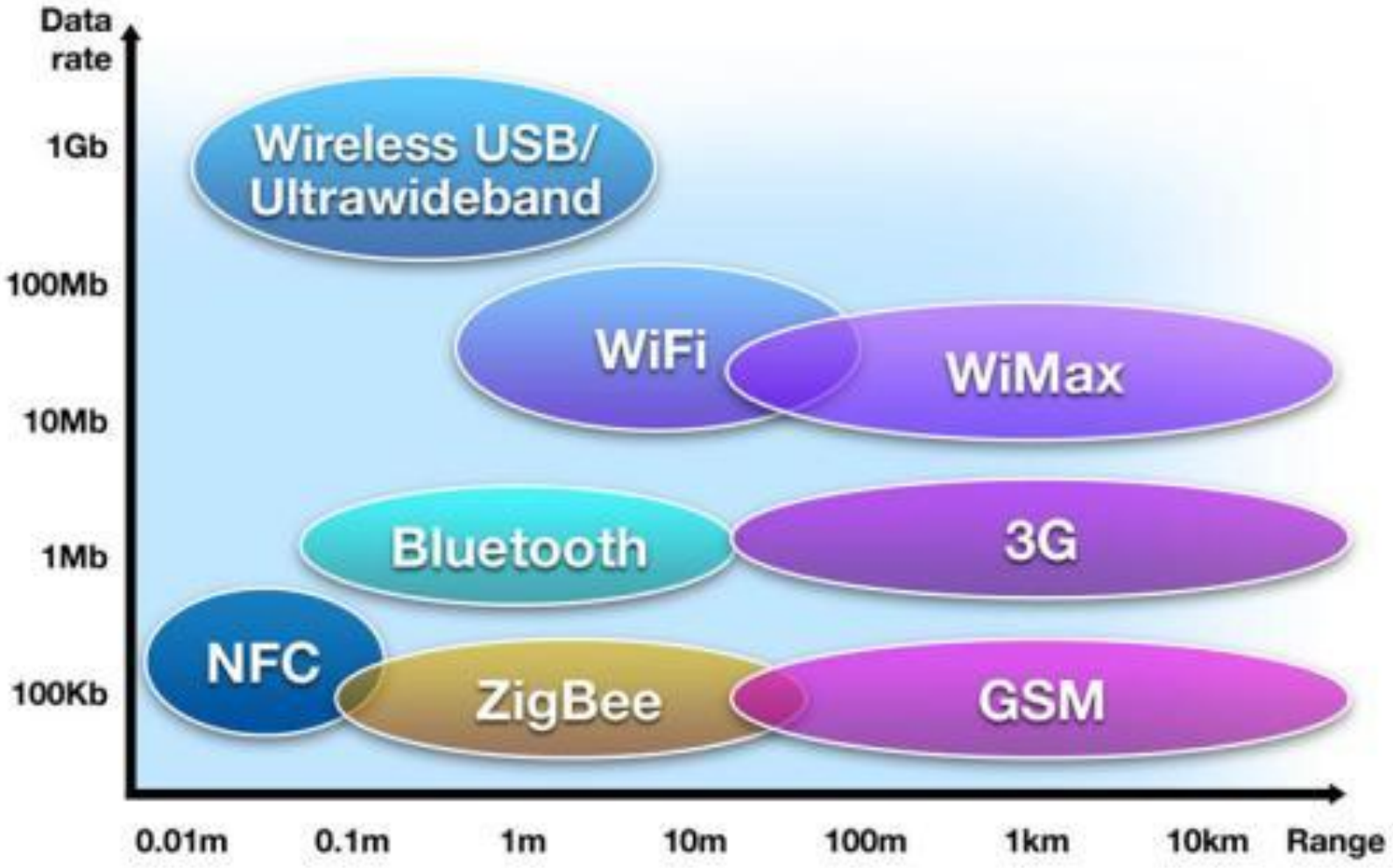
Introducing Wireless LANs

Wireless Data Technologies



Wireless Data Technologies (Cont.)

	PAN	LAN	MAN	WAN
Standards	Bluetooth	IEEE 802.11a, 802.11b, 802.11g	802.16 MMDS, LMDS	GSM, GPRS, CDMA, 2.5-3G
Speed	<1 Mbps	1-54+ Mbps	22+ Mbps	10-384 kbps
Range	Short	Medium	Medium-long	Long
Applications	Peer-to-peer, device-to-device	Enterprise networks	Fixed, last-mile access	PDAs, mobile phones, cellular access

Wireless LAN (WLAN)

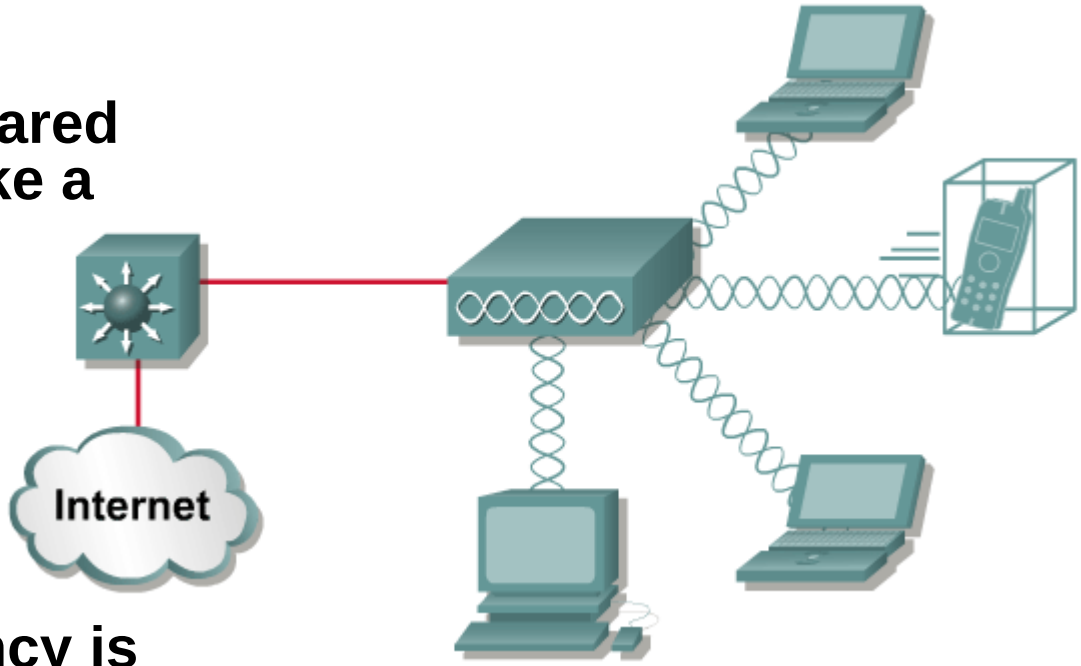
A WLAN is a shared network.

An access point is a shared device and functions like a shared Ethernet hub.

Data is transmitted over radio waves.

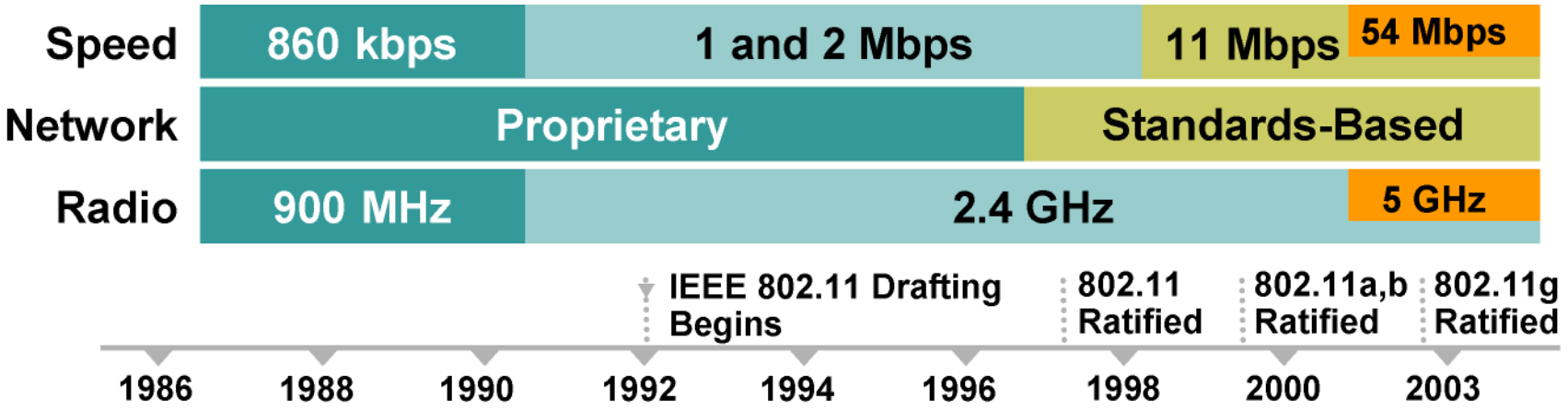
Two-way radio communications (half-duplex) are used.

The same radio frequency is used for sending and receiving (transceiver).



Wireless LAN Evolution

- Warehousing
- Retail
- Health care
- Education
- Businesses
- Home



What Are Wireless LANs?

They are:

- Local
- In building or campus for mobile users
- Radio or infrared
- Not required to have RF licenses in most countries
- Using equipment owned by customers

They are not:

- WAN or MAN networks
- Cellular phone networks
- Packet data transmission via celluar phone networks
  - Cellular digital packet data (CDPD)
  - General packet radio service (GPRS)
  - 2.5G to 3G services

Similarities Between WLAN and LAN

A wireless LAN is an 802 LAN.

- **Transmits data over the air vs. data over the wire**
- **Looks like a wired network to the user**
- **Defines physical and data link layer**
- **Uses MAC addresses**

The same protocols/applications run over both WLANs and LANs.

- **IP (network layer)**
- **IPSec VPNs (IP-based)**
- **Web, FTP, SNMP (applications)**

Differences Between WLAN and LAN

WLANs use radio waves as the physical layer.

- **WLANs use CSMA/CA instead of CSMA/CD to access the network**

Radio waves have problems that are not found on wires.

- **Connectivity issues**
  - **Coverage problems**
  - **Multipath issues**
  - **Interference, noise**
- **Privacy issues**

WLANs use mobile clients.

- **No physical connection**
- **Battery-powered**

WLANs must meet country-specific RF regulations.

More on CSMA/CA

CSMA/CA (Carrier Sense Multiple Access/Collision Avoidance)

- **The wireless 802.11 standard uses CSMA/CA or "collision avoidance." The method is used because the wireless stations have no way to detect collisions WHILE sending.**
- **Attempts to avoid collisions rather than detect them**

How it works:

- **Transmitting device listens to the network (senses the carrier) and waits for it to be free**
- **Device then waits a random period of time and transmits.**
- **If the receiver gets the frame intact, it sends back an ACK to the sender.**
- **If no ACK is received, the message is re-transmitted.**
- **If the channel is not clear, the node waits for a randomly chosen period of time (backoff factor), and then checks again to see if the channel is clear.**

Wireless LAN Topologies

Wireless client access

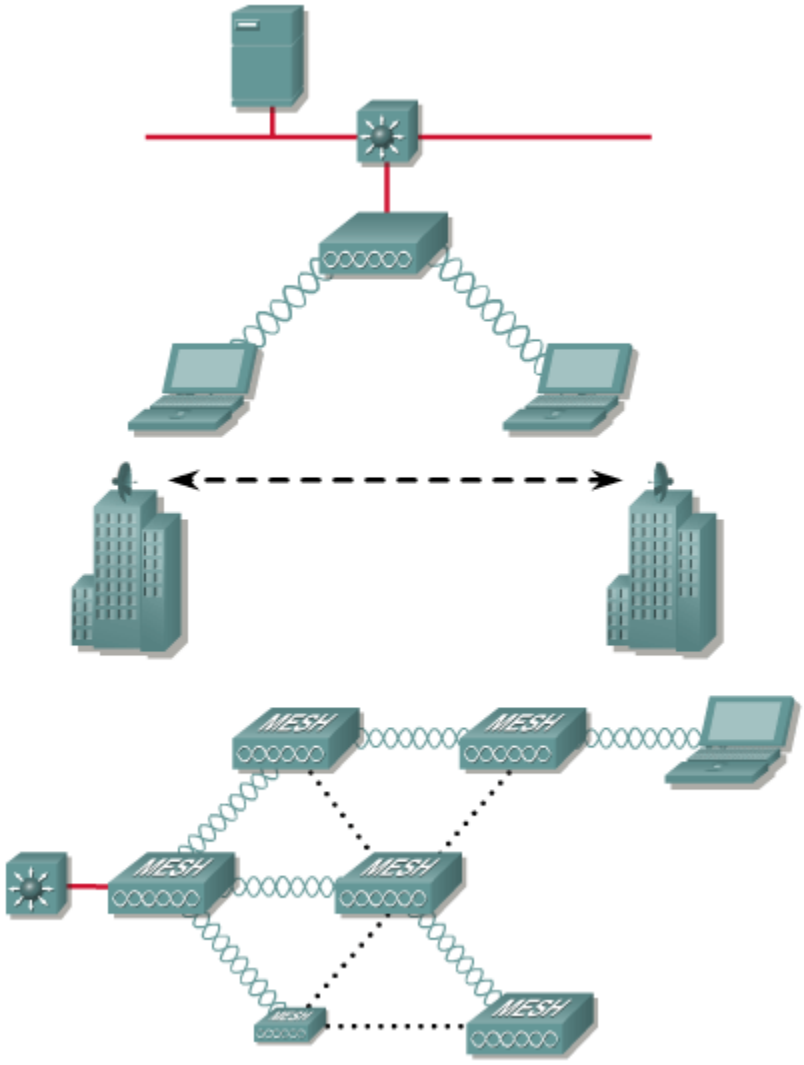
- **Mobile user connectivity**

Wireless bridging

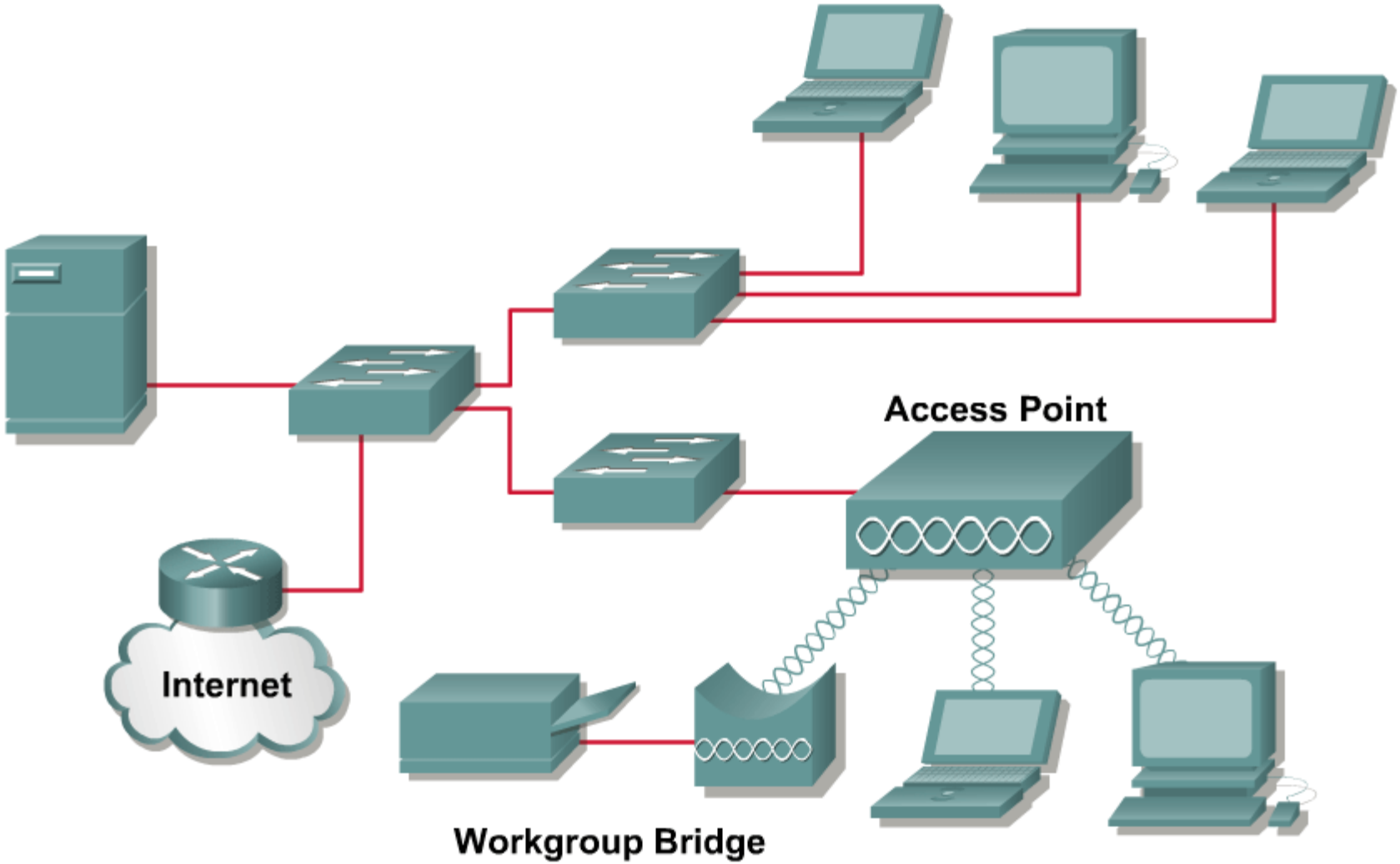
- **LAN-to-LAN connectivity**

Wireless mesh networking

- **Combination of bridging and user connectivity**



WLAN and LAN



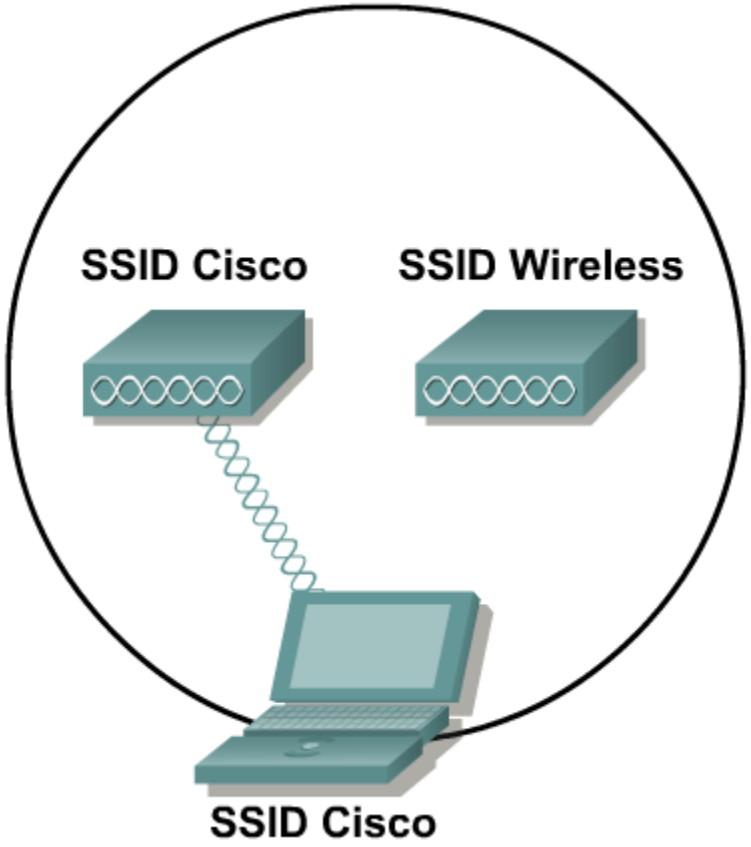
Service Set Identifier (SSID)

SSID is used to logically separate WLANs.

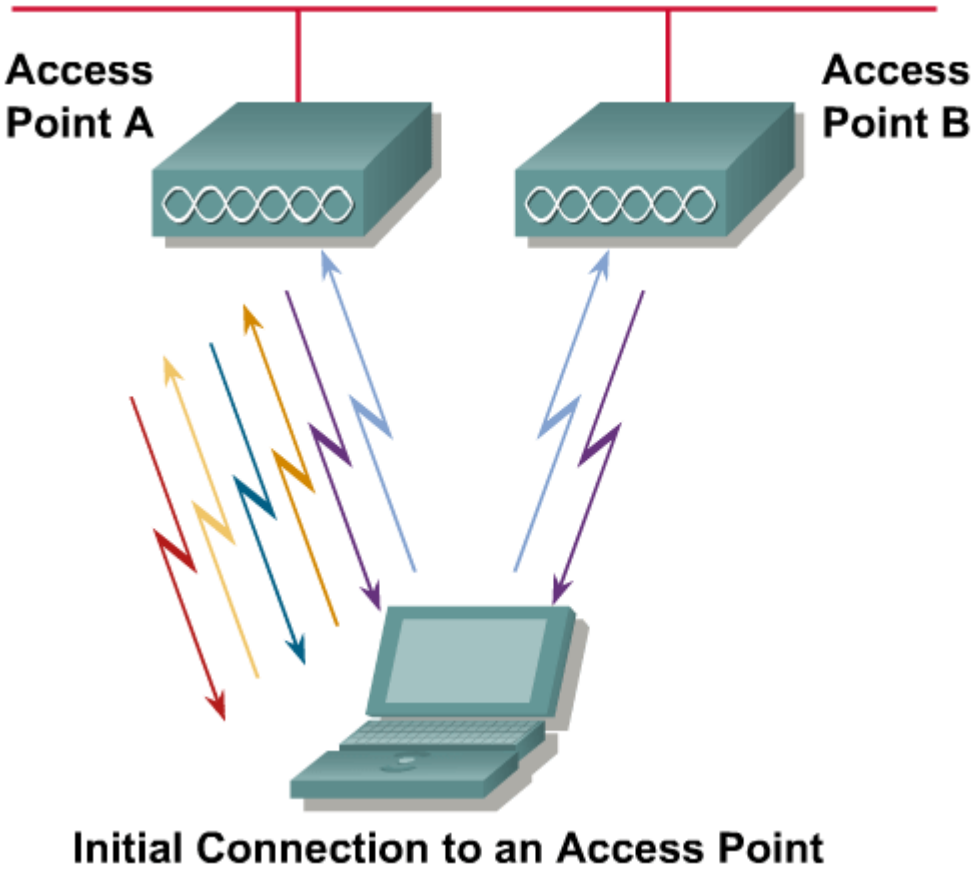
The SSID must match on client and access point.

Access point can broadcast SSID in beacon.

Client can be configured without SSID.



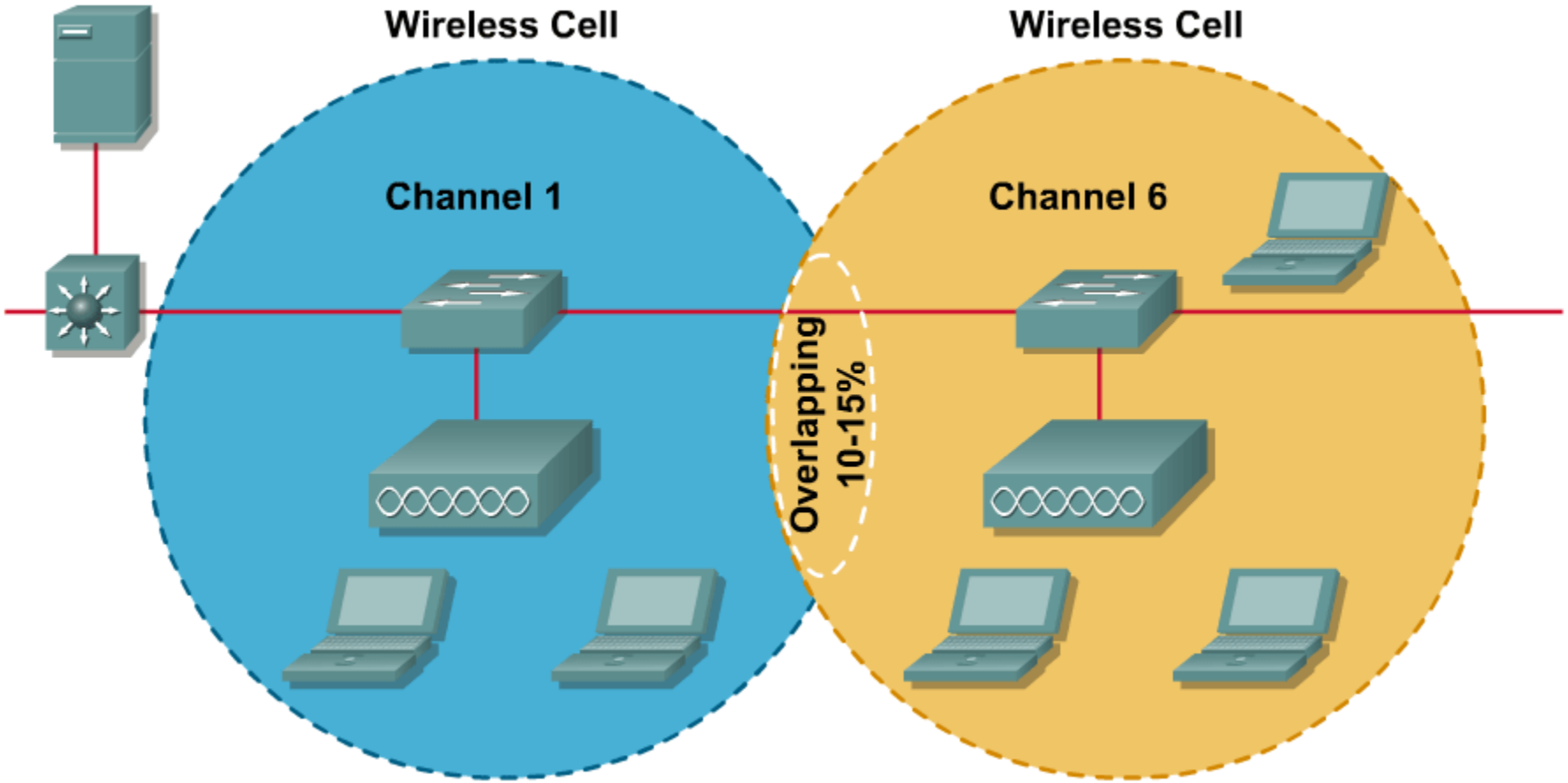
Association Process (Active Scanning)



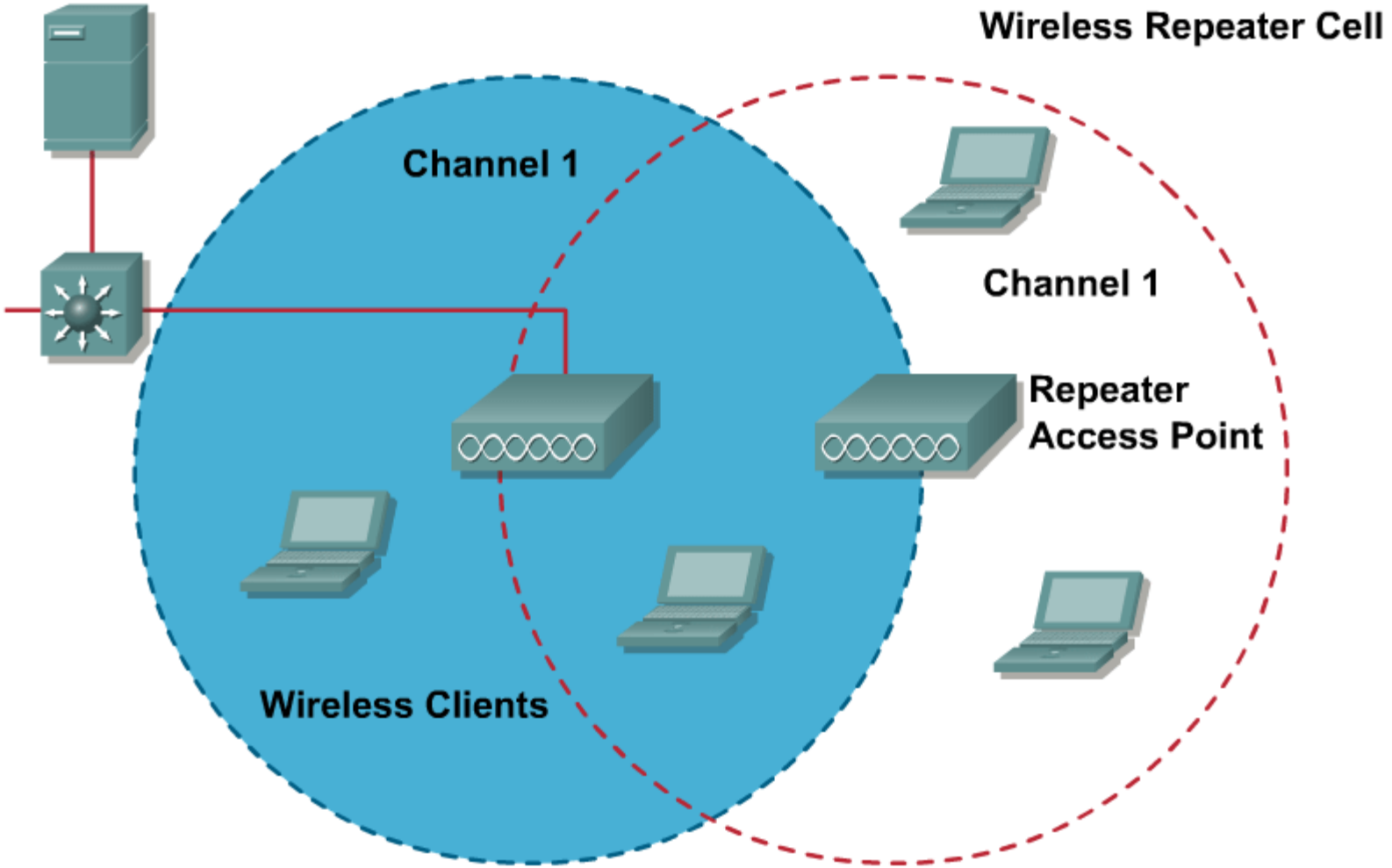
Steps to Association:

- Client Sends Probe
- AP Sends Probe Response
- Client Evaluates AP Response, Selects Best AP
- Client Sends Authentication Request to Selected AP (A)
- AP A Confirms Authentication and Registers Client
- Client Sends Association Request to Selected AP (A)
- AP A Confirms Association and Registers Client

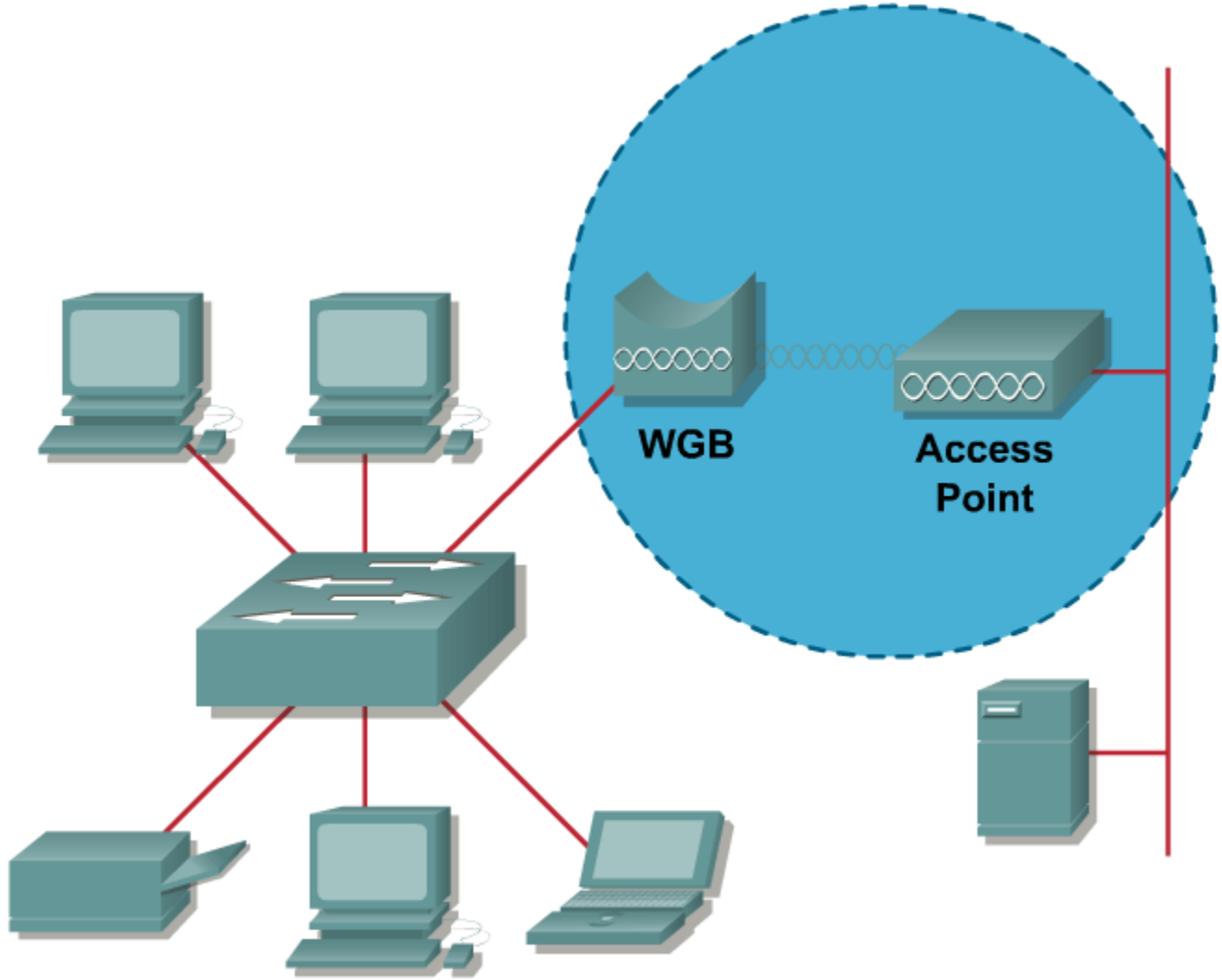
WLAN Access Topology



Wireless Repeater Topology

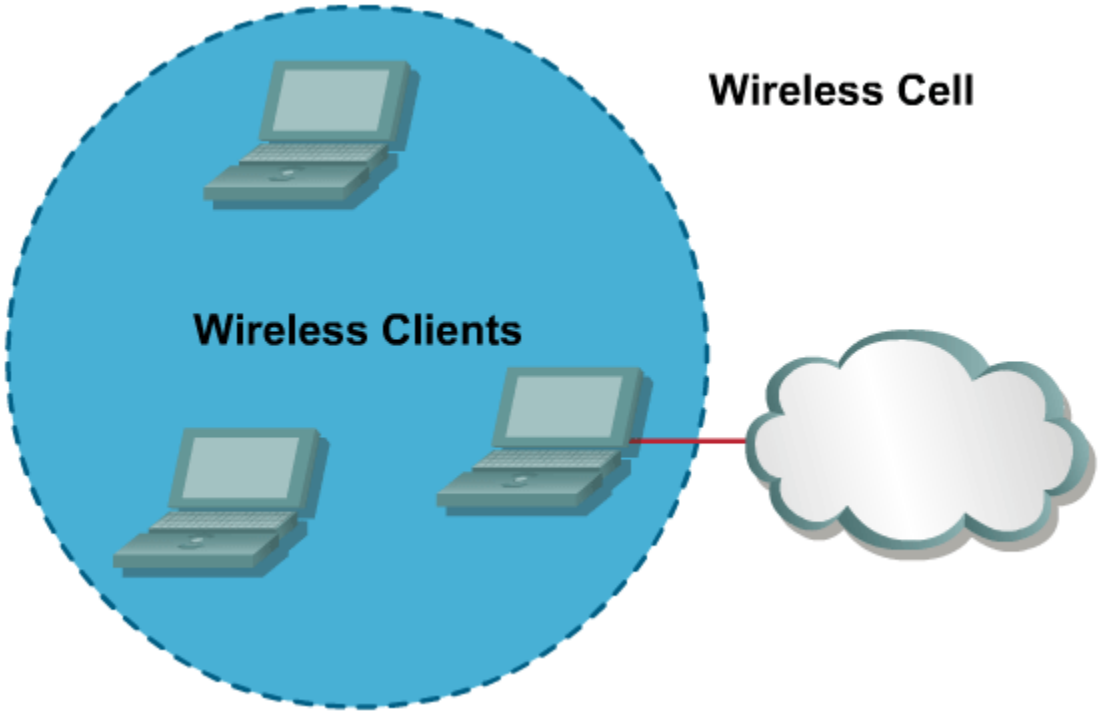


Workgroup Bridge Topology



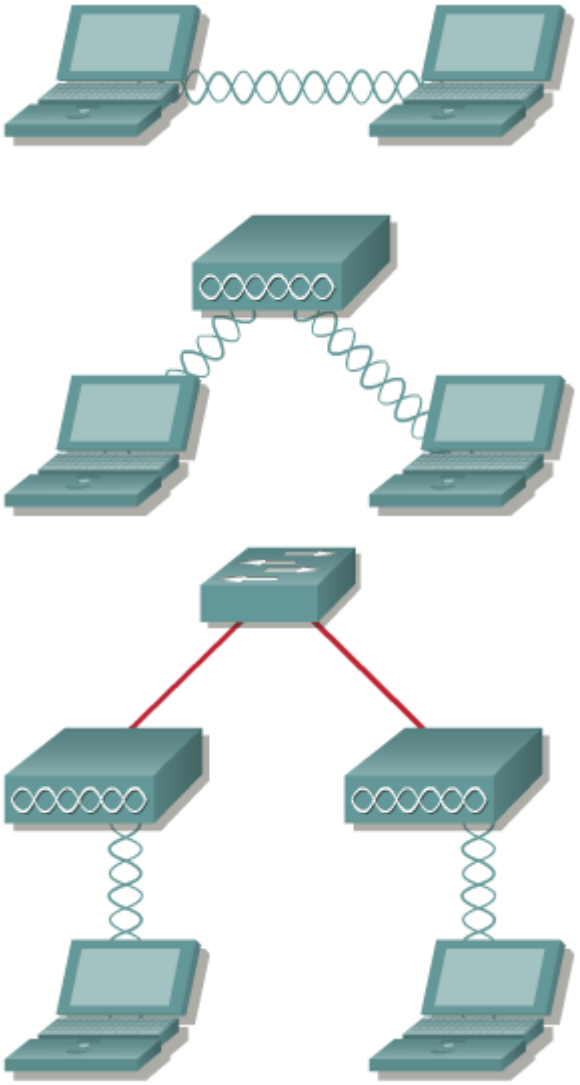
Alternative Peer-to-Peer Topology

Peer-to-Peer Configuration
(Ad Hoc Mode)

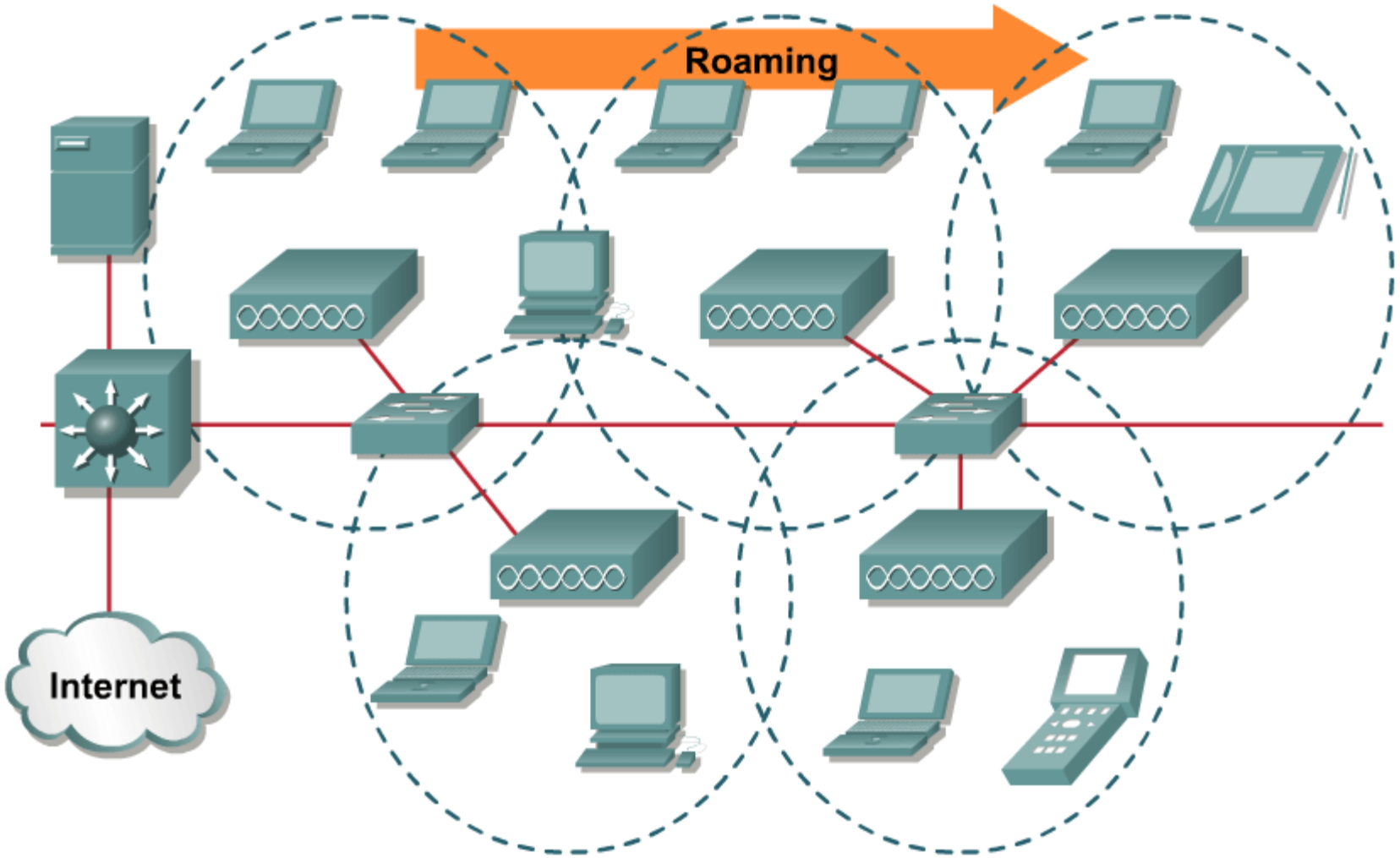


Service Sets & Modes

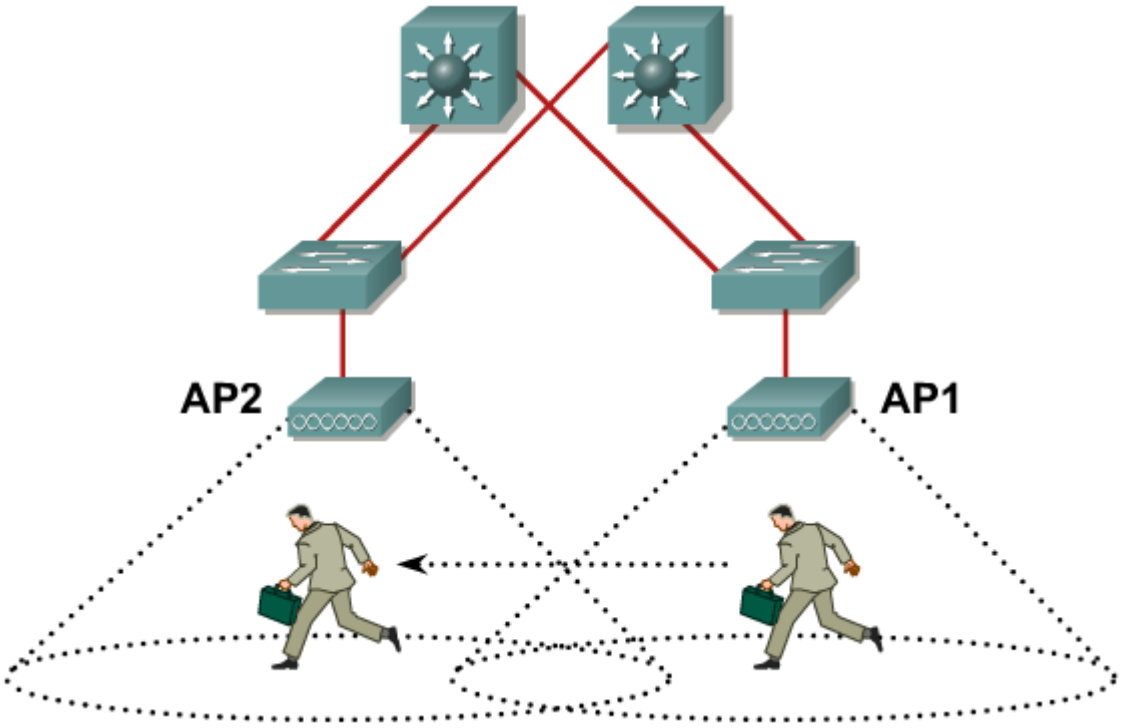
- **Ad hoc mode**
  - **Independent Basic Service Set (IBSS)**
    - **Mobile clients connect directly without an intermediate AP.**
- **Infrastructure mode**
  - **Basic Service Set (BSS)**
    - **Mobile clients use a single AP for connecting to each other or to wired network resources.**
  - **Extended Services Set (ESS)**
    - **Two or more Basic Service Sets are connected by a common distribution system (DS).**



Roaming Through Wireless Cells



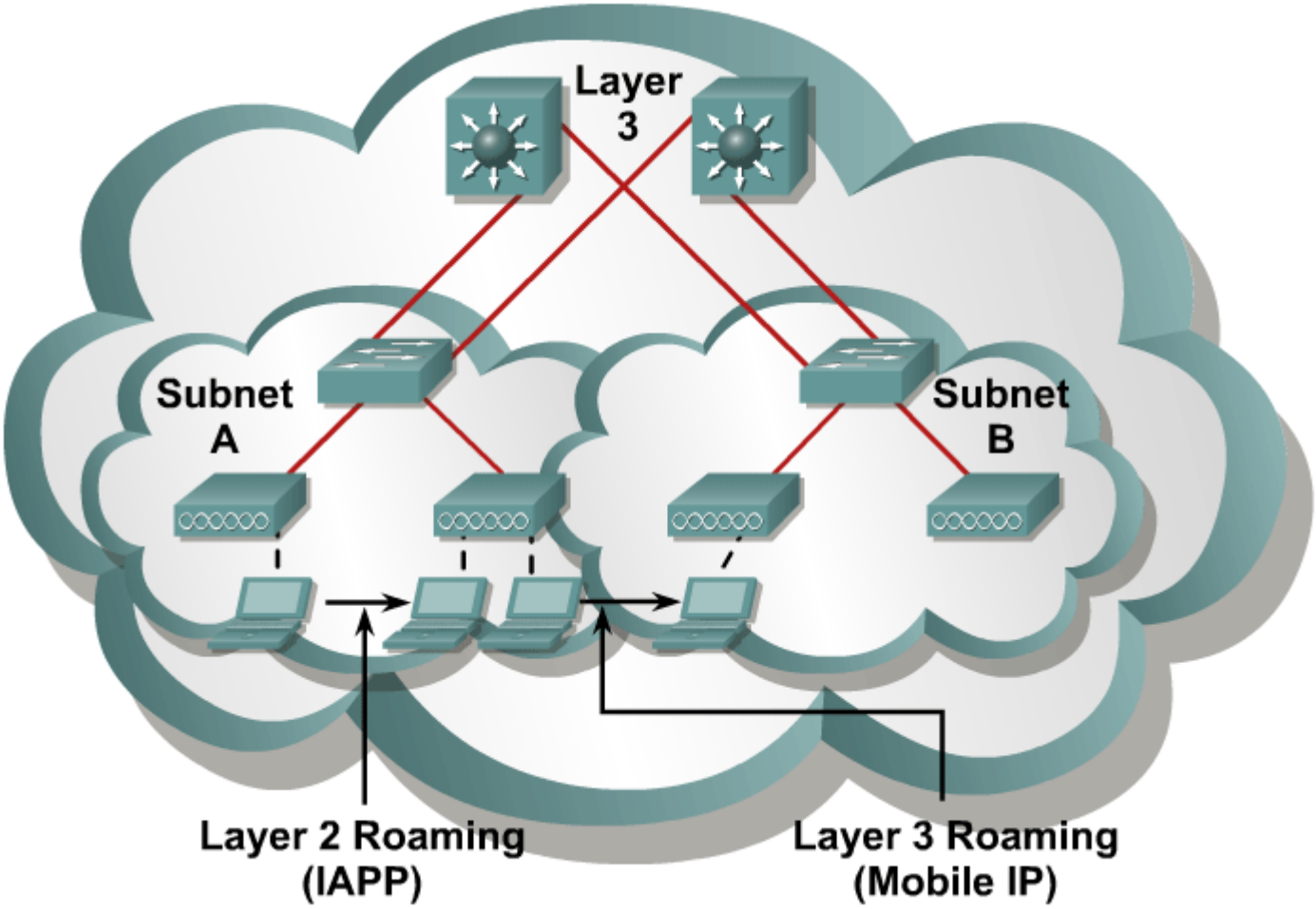
Client Roaming



- Maximum data retry count exceeded
- Too many beacons missed
- Data rate shifted
- Periodic intervals

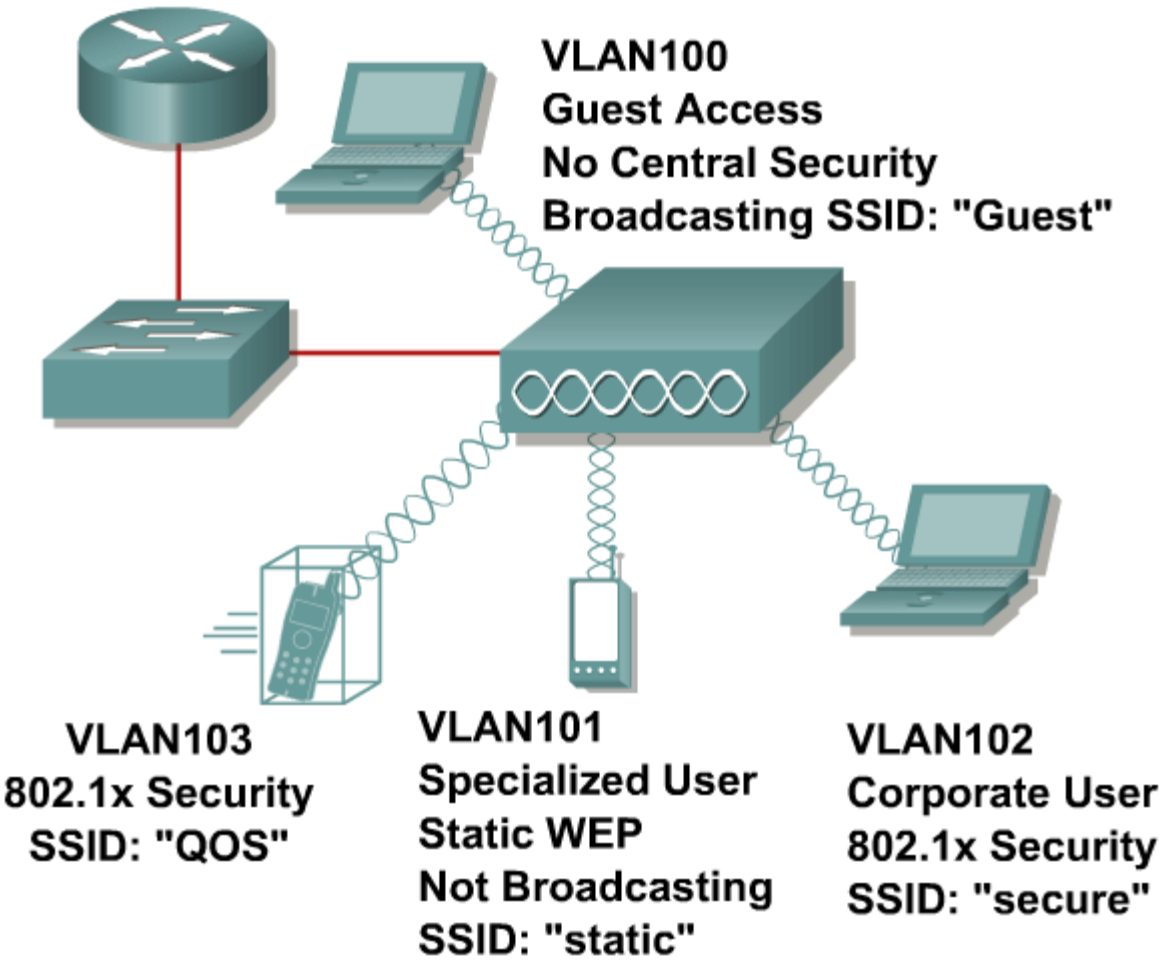
- Roaming without interruption requires the same SSID on all access points.

Layer 2 vs. Layer 3 Roaming



Wireless VLAN Support

- Multiple SSIDs
- Multiple security types
- Support for multiple VLANs from switches
- 802.1Q trunking protocol

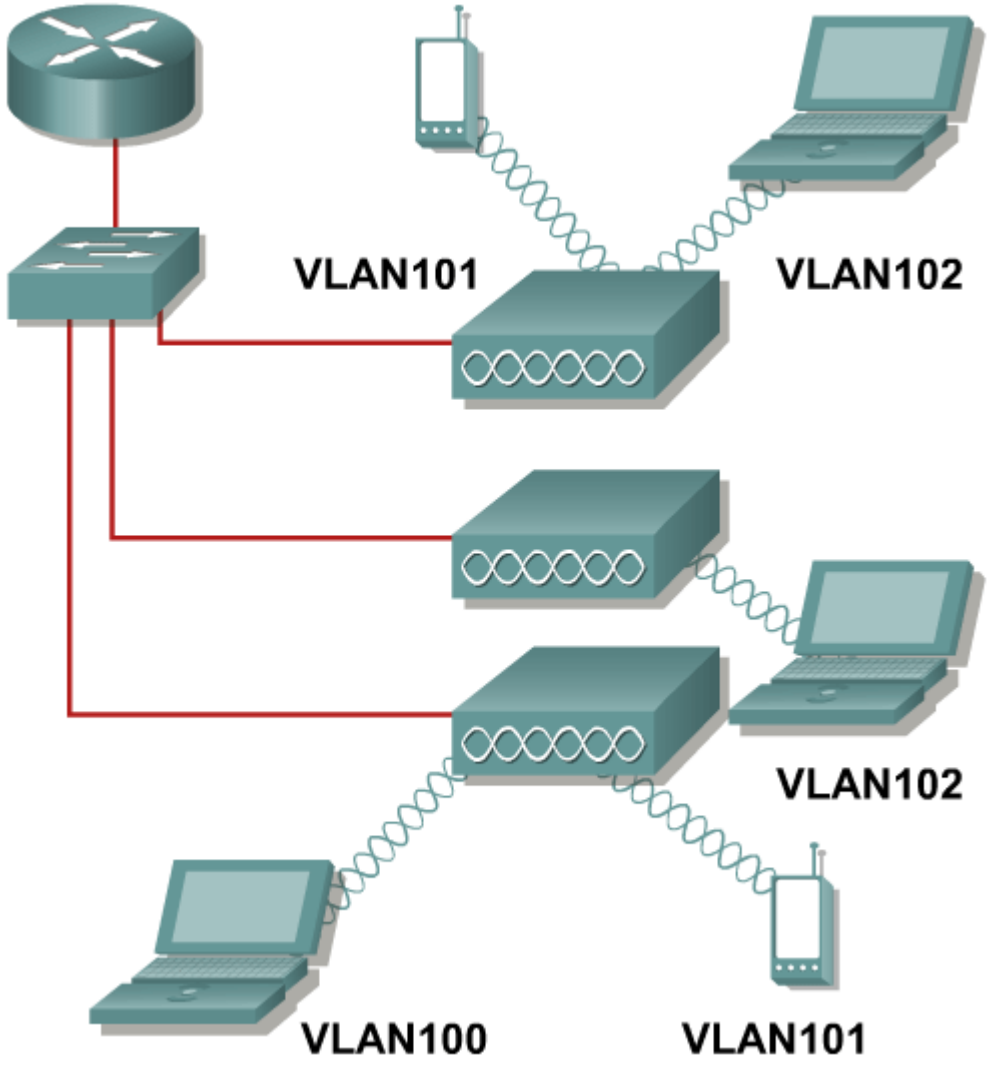


Wireless VLAN Support (Cont.)

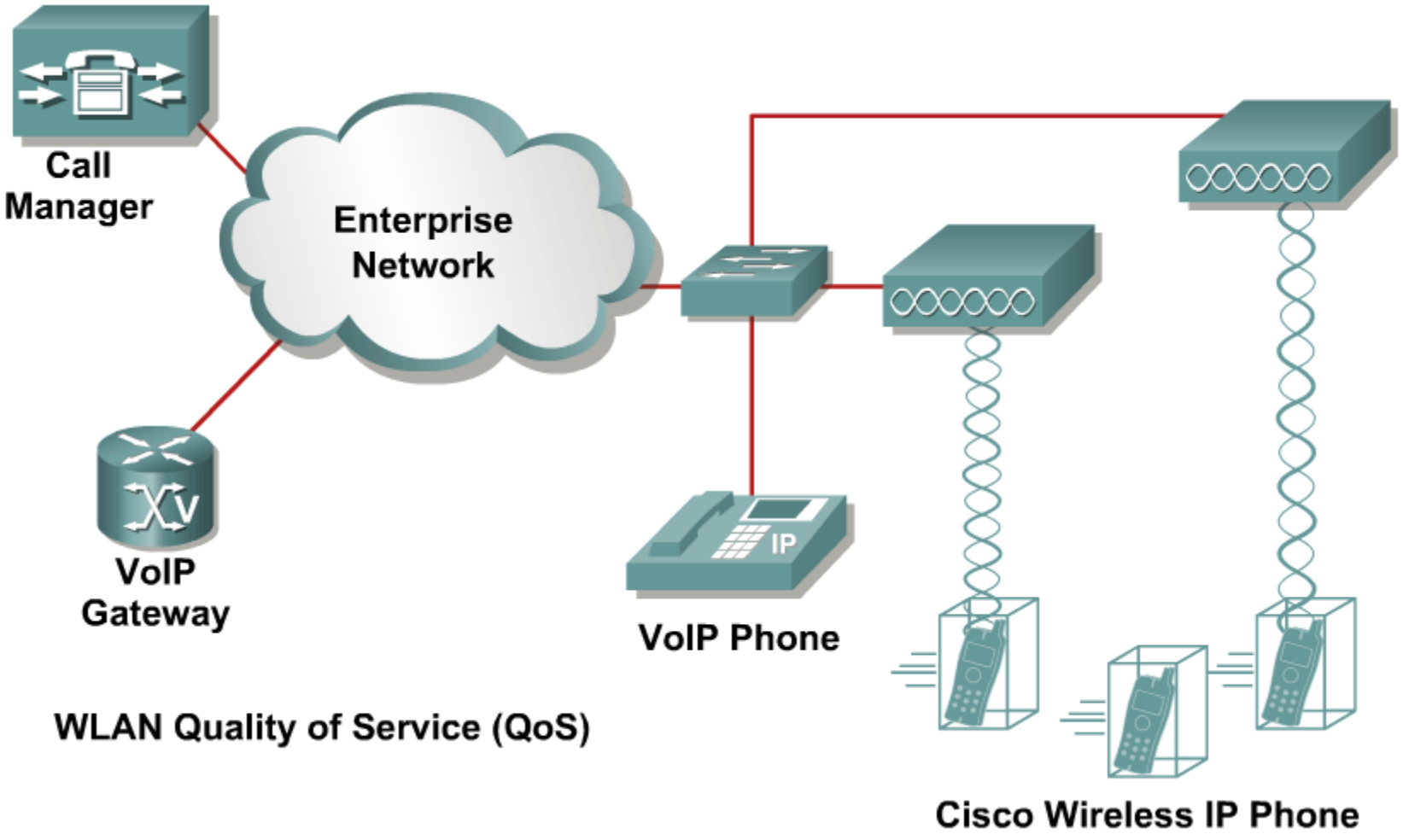
VLANs propagate across APs.

VLAN numbers are unique.

Autonomous access points handle up to 16 VLANs.



Enterprise Voice Architecture



Autonomous or Lightweight?

Most Cisco wireless access points/bridges are available as autonomous or lightweight devices.

Lightweight APs use Lightweight Access Point Protocol (LWAPP) and must have a LAN controller to function within the network.

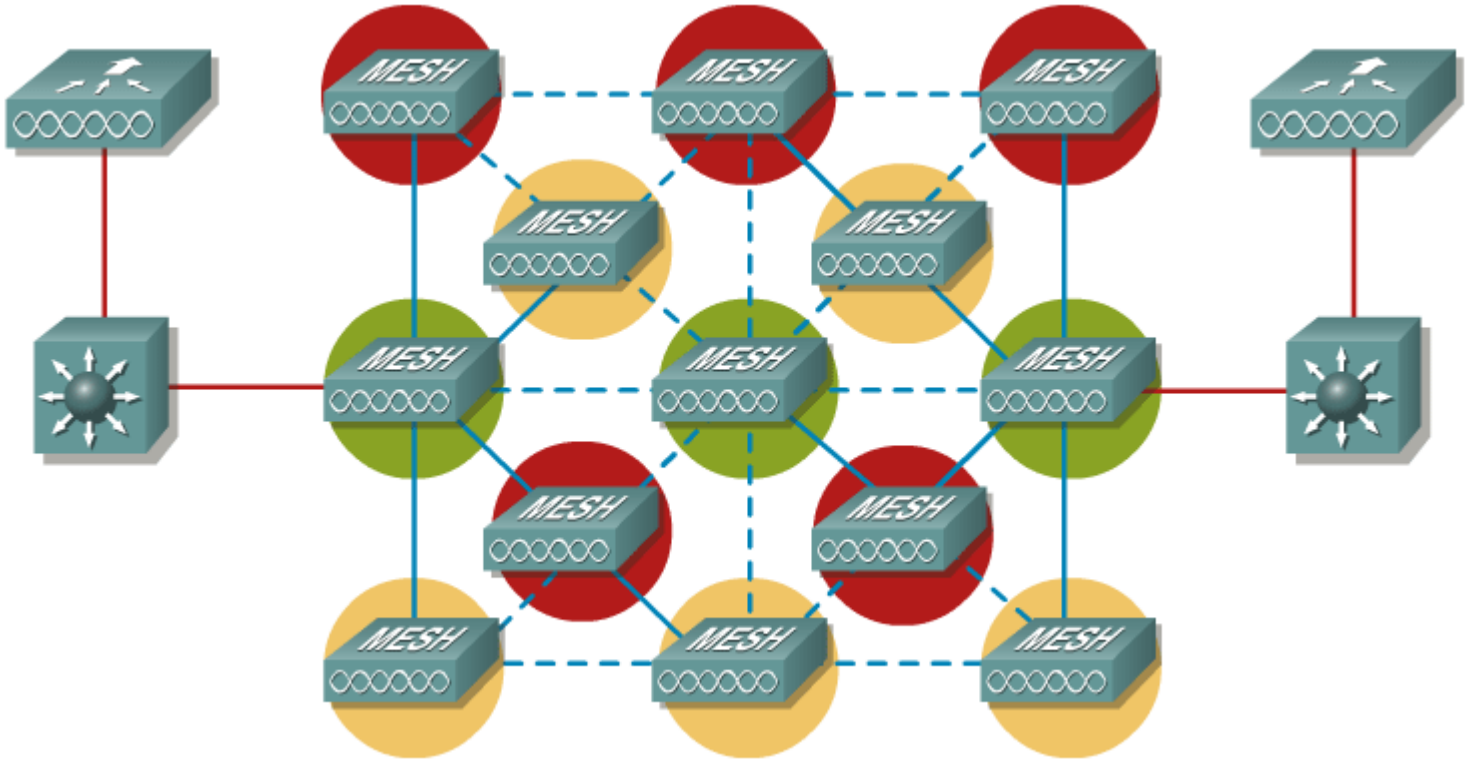
Autonomous APs can be configured via Cisco IOS.

Most Cisco autonomous APs can be software upgraded to function as lightweight APs.

The Cisco Networking Academy FWL course focused on autonomous APs.

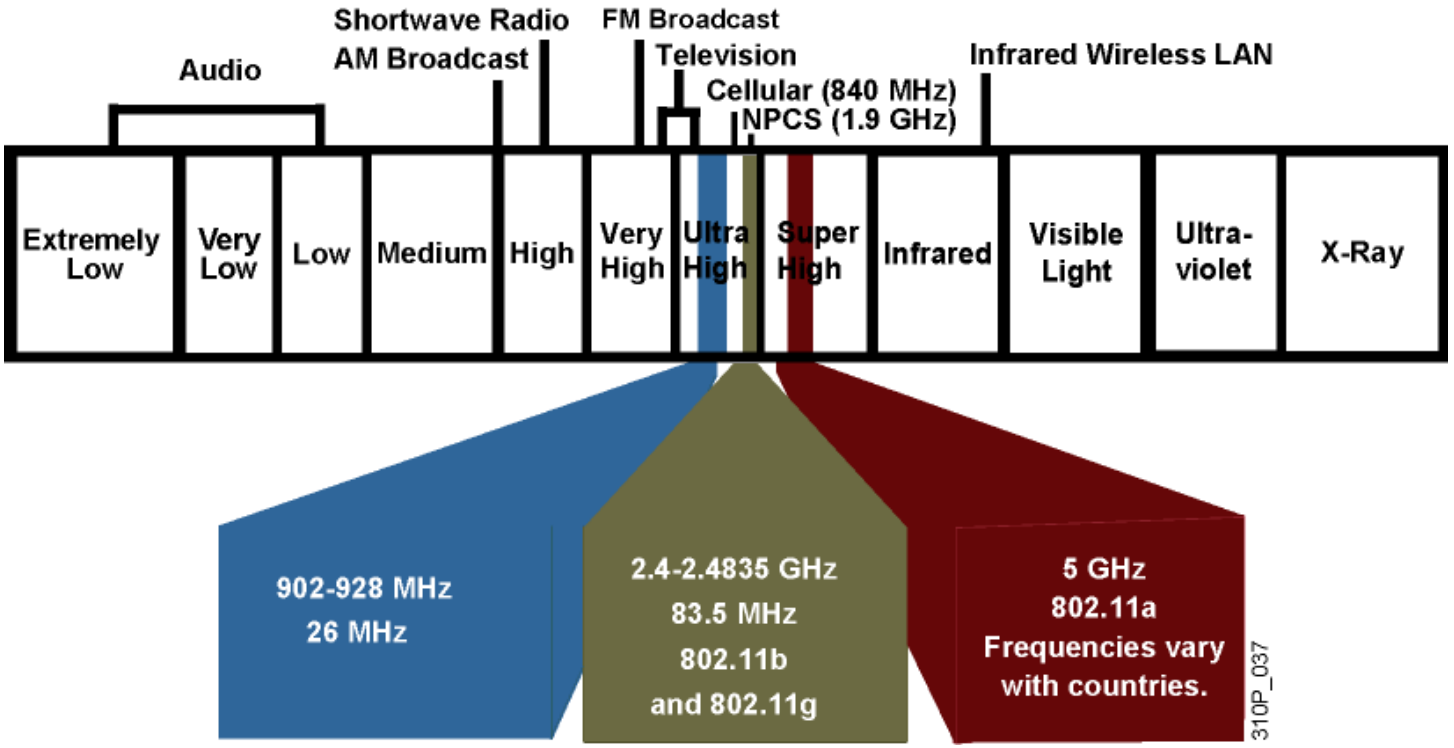
Wireless Mesh Networking

In a mesh network topology, devices are connected with redundant connections between nodes.



Explaining Wireless LAN Technology & Standards

Unlicensed Frequency Bands



- ISM: Industry, Scientific, and Medical frequency band
- No license required

- No exclusive use
- Best effort
- Interference possible

Radio Frequency Transmission

Radio frequencies are radiated into the air via an antenna, creating radio waves.

Radio waves are absorbed when they are propagated through objects (e.g. walls).

Radio waves are reflected by objects (e.g. metal surfaces).

This absorption and reflection can cause areas of low signal strength or low signal quality.

Radio Frequency Transmission

Higher data rates have a shorter transmission range.

- **The receiver needs more signal strength and better SNR to retrieve information.**

Higher transmit power results in greater distance.

Higher frequencies allow higher data rates.

Higher frequencies have a shorter transmission range.

WLAN Regulation and Standardization

Regulatory agencies

- FCC (United States)
- ETSI (Europe)

Standardization

- IEEE 802.11
- http://standards.ieee.org/getieee802/

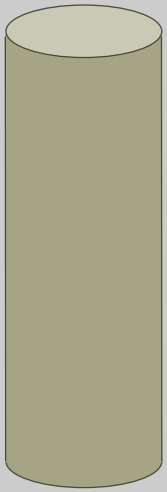
Certfication of equipment

- Wi-Fi Alliance certifies interoperability between products.
- Certifications include 802.11a, 802.11b, 802.11g, dual-band products, and security testing.
- Certified products can be found at http://www.wi-fi.org.

Standards and Implementation Process

Standards Group

802.11

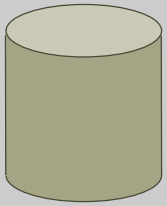


The Nature of Engineers and the "Design-by-Committee" Environment Mean the IEEE Often Defines Overly Feature Rich Standards with Many Options

"Feature Bloat"

Industry Group

WiFi

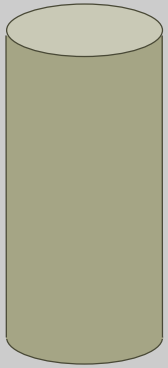


The Industry Bodies' Role Is Remove Much of the "Bloat" Introduced as "Features" into the IEEE Standards, Often by People Not Even Selling Equipment

"Minimal Features"

Company

Cisco



Cisco® Adds Differentiating Features to the "Minimal" Set Defined by Wi-Fi; in the Past, This Has Included More Security.

"Differentiated Features"

802.11b Standard

Standard was ratified in September 1999

Operates in the 2.4-GHz band

Specifies Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum (DSSS)

Specifies four data rates up to 11 Mbps

- **1, 2, 5.5, 11 Mbps**

Provides specifications for vendor interoperability (over the air)

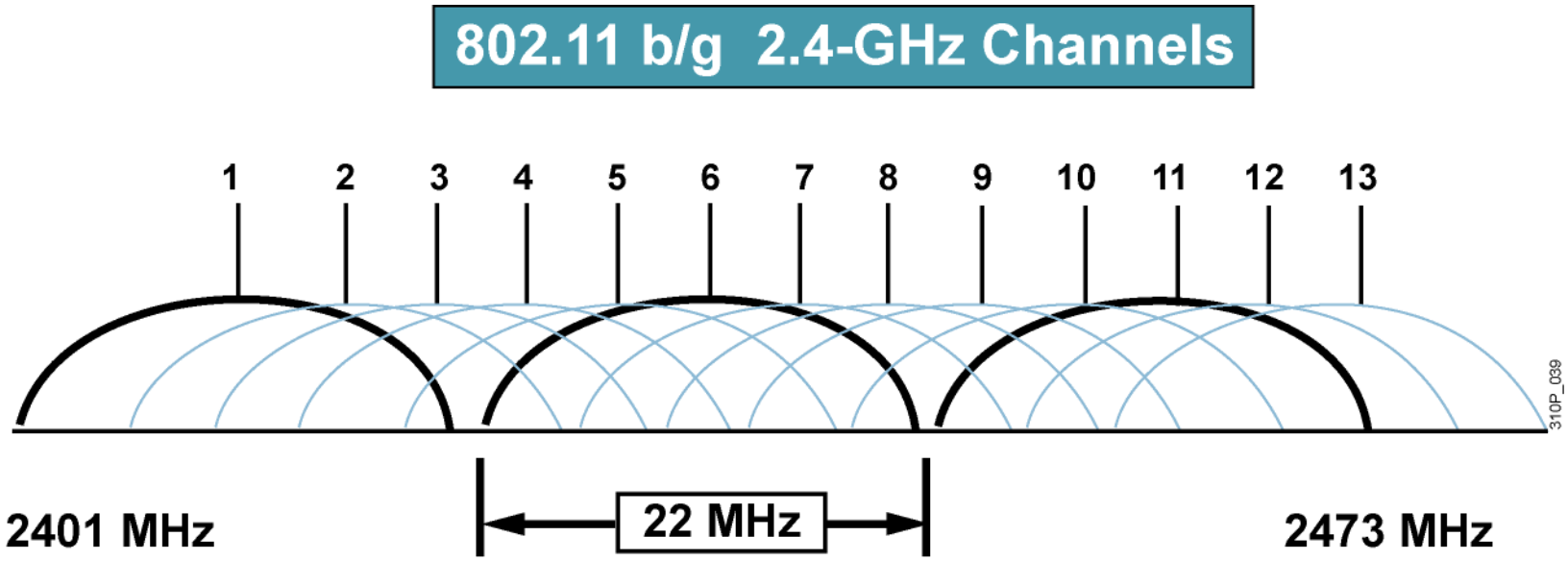
Defines basic security, encryption, and authentication for the wireless link

Is the most commonly deployed wireless LAN standard

2.4-GHz Channels

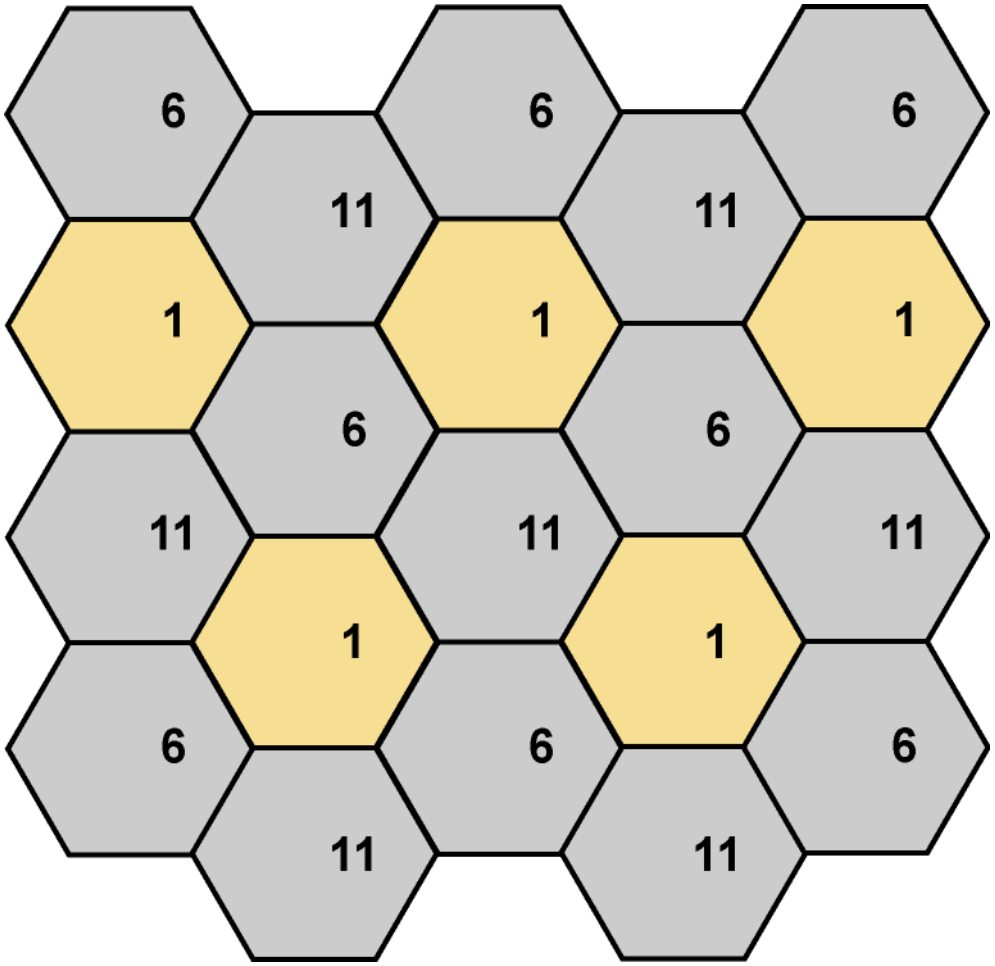
Channel Identifier	Channel Center Frequency	Channel Frequency Range [MHz]	Regulatory Domain		
			Americas	Europe, Middle East, and Asia	Japan
1	2412 MHz	2401 – 2423	X	X	X
2	2417 MHz	2406 – 2428	X	X	X
3	2422 MHz	2411 – 2433	X	X	X
4	2427 MHz	2416 – 2438	X	X	X
5	2432 MHz	2421 – 2443	X	X	X
6	2437 MHz	2426 – 2448	X	X	X
7	2442 MHz	2431 – 2453	X	X	X
8	2447 MHz	2436 – 2458	X	X	X
9	2452 MHz	2441 – 2463	X	X	X
10	2457 MHz	2446 – 2468	X	X	X
11	2462 MHz	2451 – 2473	X	X	X
12	2467 MHz	2466 – 2478		X	X
13	2472 MHz	2471 – 2483		X	X
14	2484 MHz	2473 – 2495			X

2.4-GHz Channel Use

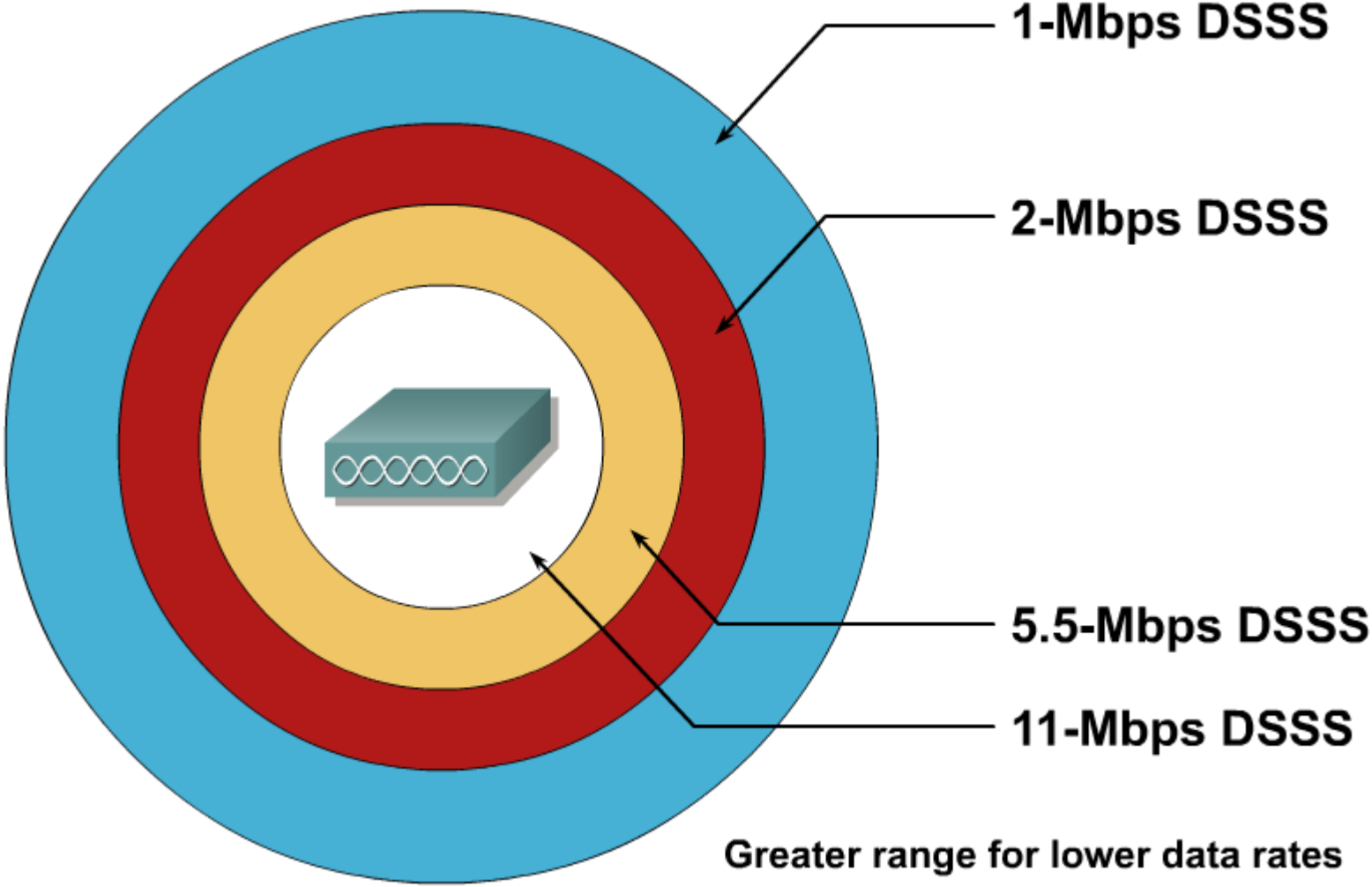


- Each channel is 22 MHz wide.
- North America: 11 channels
- Europe: 13 channels
- There are three nonoverlapping channels: 1, 6, 11.
- Using any other channels will cause interference.
- Three access points can occupy the same area.

802.11b/g (2.4 GHz) Channel Reuse



802.11b Access Point Coverage



802.11a Standard

Standard was ratified September 1999

Operates in the 5-GHz band

Uses orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing (OFDM)

Uses eight data rates of up to 54 Mbps

- **6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 36, 48, 54 Mbps**

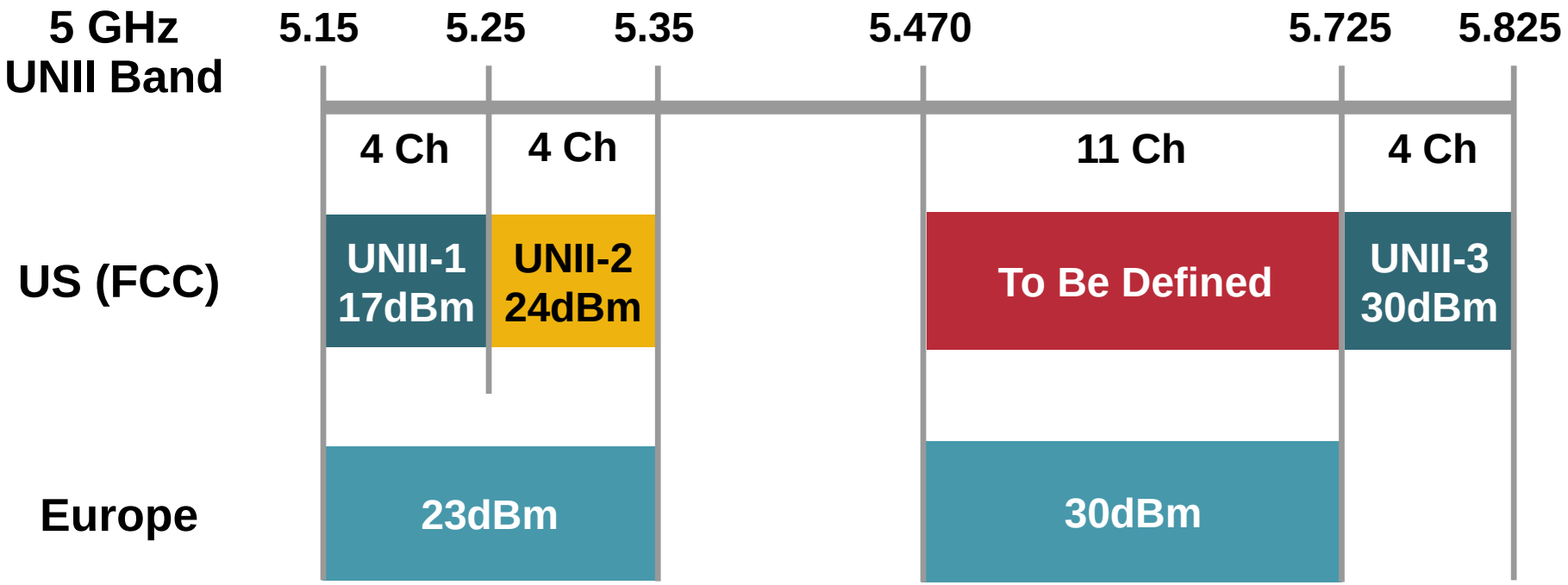
Has from 12 to 23 nonoverlapping channels (FCC)

Has up to 19 nonoverlapping channels (ETSI)

Regulations different across countries

- **Transmit (Tx) power control and dynamic frequency selection required (802.11h)**

Understanding the 5 GHz Spectrum



UNII-1: Indoor Use, Antenna Must Be Fixed to the Radio
UNII-2: Indoor/Outdoor Use, Fixed or Remote Antenna
(Must Implement 802.11h After Jul 19, 2007)
UNII-3: Indoor/Outdoor; Fixed, Pt-to-Pt Can Employ Higher Gain Antenna
Europe: Must Implement 802.11h

IEEE 802.11h
Spectrum Management

Primary use of 5 GHz bands outdoors is radar in many countries.

802.11h is an addition to the 802.11 family of standards.

802.11h rules are designed to minimize interference.

Uses Dynamic Frequency Selection (DFS) and Transmit Power Control (TPC).

Radios must comply to benefit from 11 new channels.

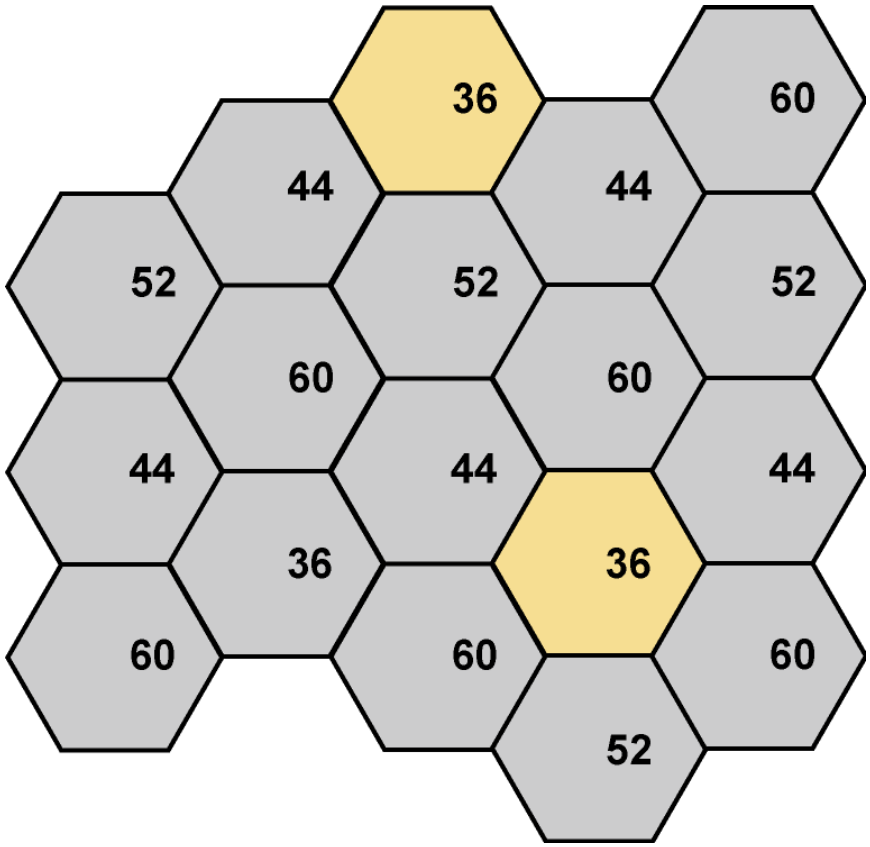
802.11a Channel Reuse

802.11h DFS not available

- Manual channel assignment required

802.11h DFS implemented

- Channel assignment done by Dynamic Frequency Selection (DFS)
- Only frequency bands can be selected



802.11g Standard

Standard was ratified June 2003

Operates in the 2.4-GHz band as 802.11b

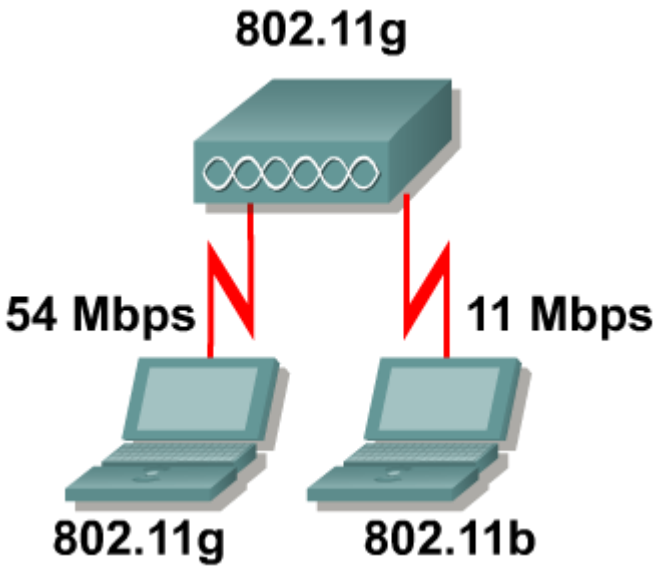
- **Same three nonoverlapping channels: 1, 6, 11**

DSSS (CCK) and OFDM transmission

12 data rates of up to 54 Mbps

- **1, 2, 5.5, 11 Mbps (DSSS / 802.11b)**
- **6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 36, 48, 54 Mbps (OFDM)**

Full backward compatiblity to 802.11b standard



802.11g Protection Mechanism

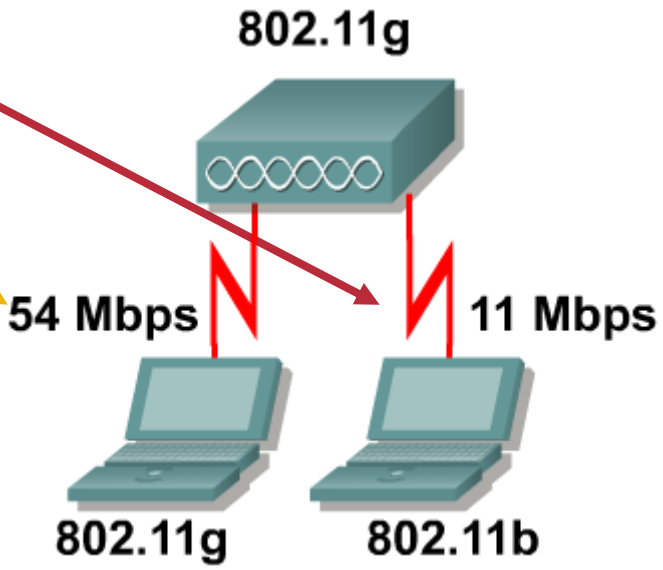
Problem: 802.11b stations cannot decode 802.11g radio signals.

802.11b/g AP communicates with 802.11b clients with max. 11 Mbps.

802.11b/g AP communicates with 802.11g clients with max. 54 Mbps.

802.11b/g AP activates RTS/CTS to avoid collisions when 802.11b clients are present.

Additonal overhead reduces throughput.



802.11 RF Comparison

	802.11b – 2.4 GHz	802.11g – 2.4 GHz	802.11a – 5 GHz
Pro	▪ Most commonly deployed WLAN standard	▪ Higher throughput ▪ OFDM technology reduces multipath issues	▪ Highest throughput ▪ OFDM technology reduces multipath issues ▪ Provides up to 23 nonoverlapping channels
Con	▪ Interference and noise from other services in the 2.4-GHz band ▪ Only 3 nonoverlapping channels ▪ Distance limited by multipath issues	▪ Interference and noise from other services in the 2.4GHz band ▪ Only 3 nonoverlapping channels ▪ Throughput degraded in the presence of 802.11b clients	▪ Lower market penetration

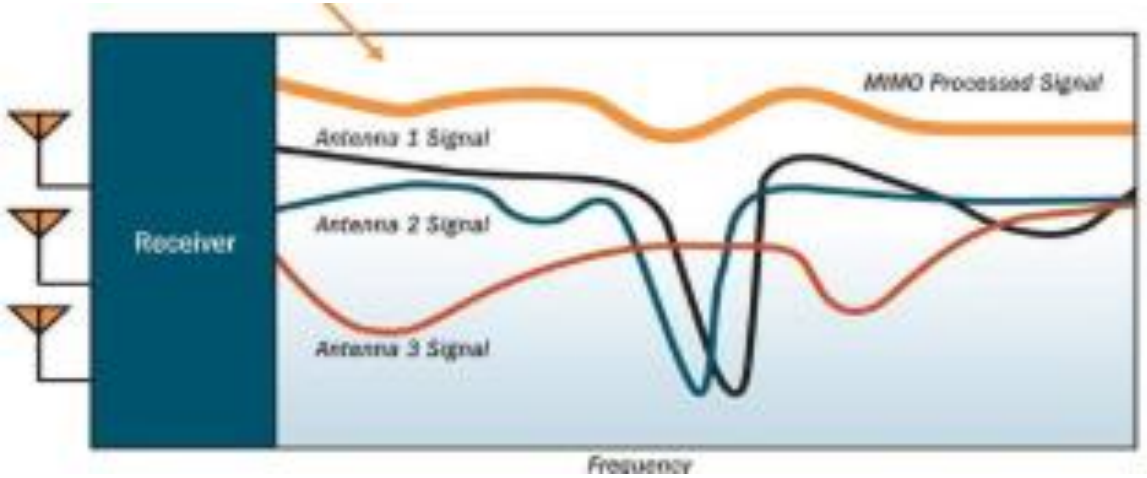
Comparison between 802.11b, 802.11g & 802.11a

	802.11b	802.11g		802.11a
Ratified	1999	2003		1999
Frequency band	2.4 GHz	2.4 GHz		5 GHz
No of non-overlapping channels	3	3		Up to 23
Transmission	DSSS	DSSS	OFDM	OFDM
Data rates [Mbps]	1, 2, 5.5, 11	1, 2, 5.5, 11	6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 36, 48, 54	6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 36, 48, 54
Throughput [Mbps]	Up to 6	Up to 22		Up to 28

Comparison between 802.11n & 802.11ac

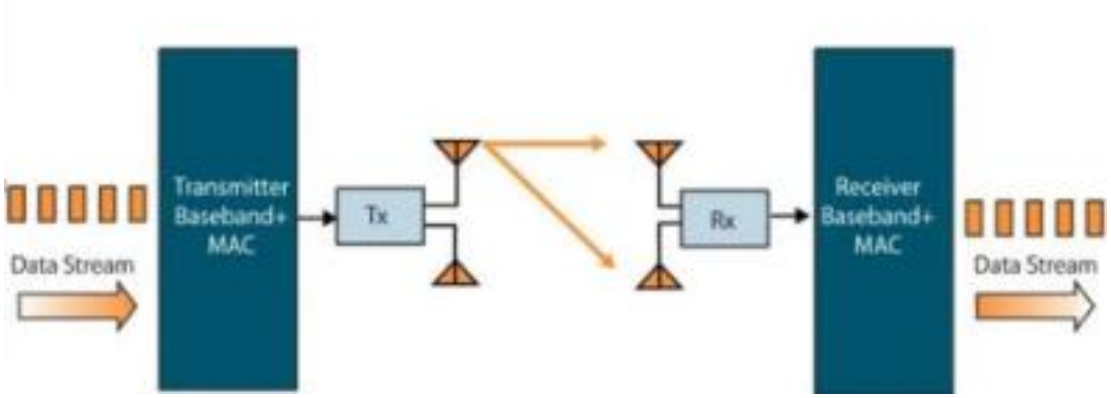
Parameter	IEEE 802.11n	IEEE 802.11ac
Frequency Band	2.4GHz and 5GHz	5GHz only
Channel Width	20, 40MHz	20, 40, 80MHz or 160MHz optional
Multi-User MIMO	No	Yes
Spatial Streams	up to four	Maximum up to Eight
Modulation	64-QAM	256-QAM
Single Stream(1*1) Maximum Client Data Rate	150 Mbps	450Mbps
Three Stream(3*3) Maximum Client Data Rate	450Mbps	1.3Gbps

802.11n MIMO

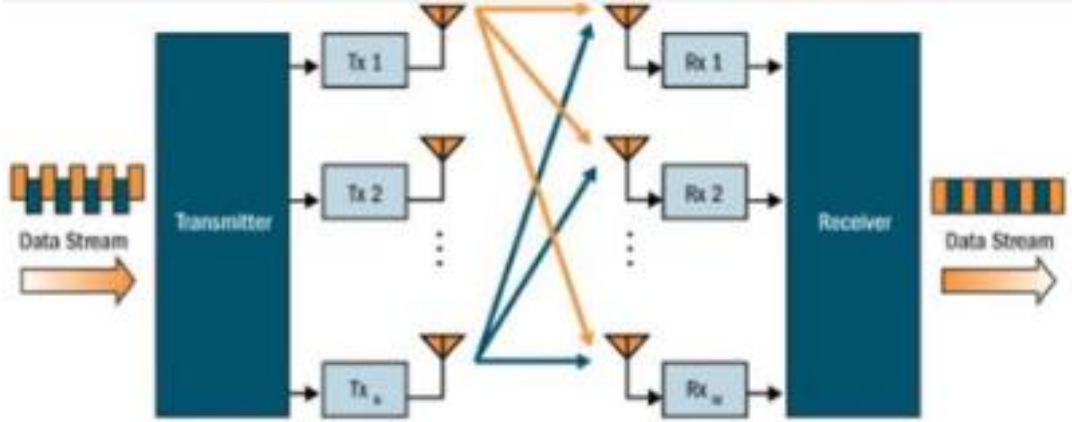


With MIMO all three signals are received and processed up the stack. This significantly improves the receiver's "ability to hear"

Spatial Multiplexing

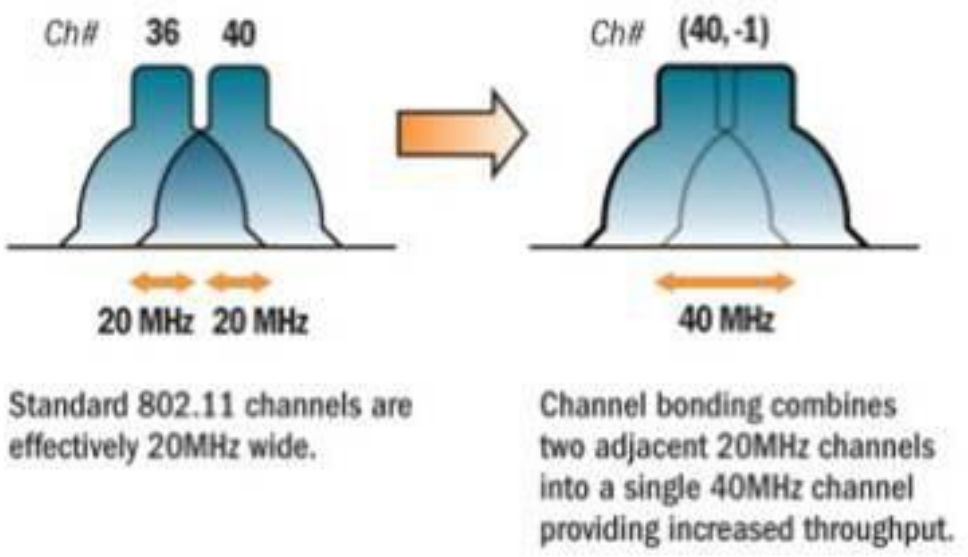


802.11 Classic Transmitter



Spatial Multiplexing - Two Streams

Channel Bonding



Channel bonding combines two adjacent channels, which effectively doubles the amount of available bandwidth.

SU-MIMO vs MU-MIMO

Ratified IEEE 802.11 Standards

802.11: WLAN 1 and 2 Mbps at 2.4 GHz

802.11a: WLAN 54-Mbps at 5 GHz

802.11b: WLAN 11-Mbps at 2.4 GHz

802.11d: Multiple regulatory domains

802.11e: Quality of Service

802.11f: Inter-Access Point Protocol (IAPP)

802.11g: WLAN 54-Mbps at 2.4 GHz

802.11h: Dynamic Frequency Selection (DFS)
Transmit Power Control (TPC) at 5 GHz

802.11i: Security

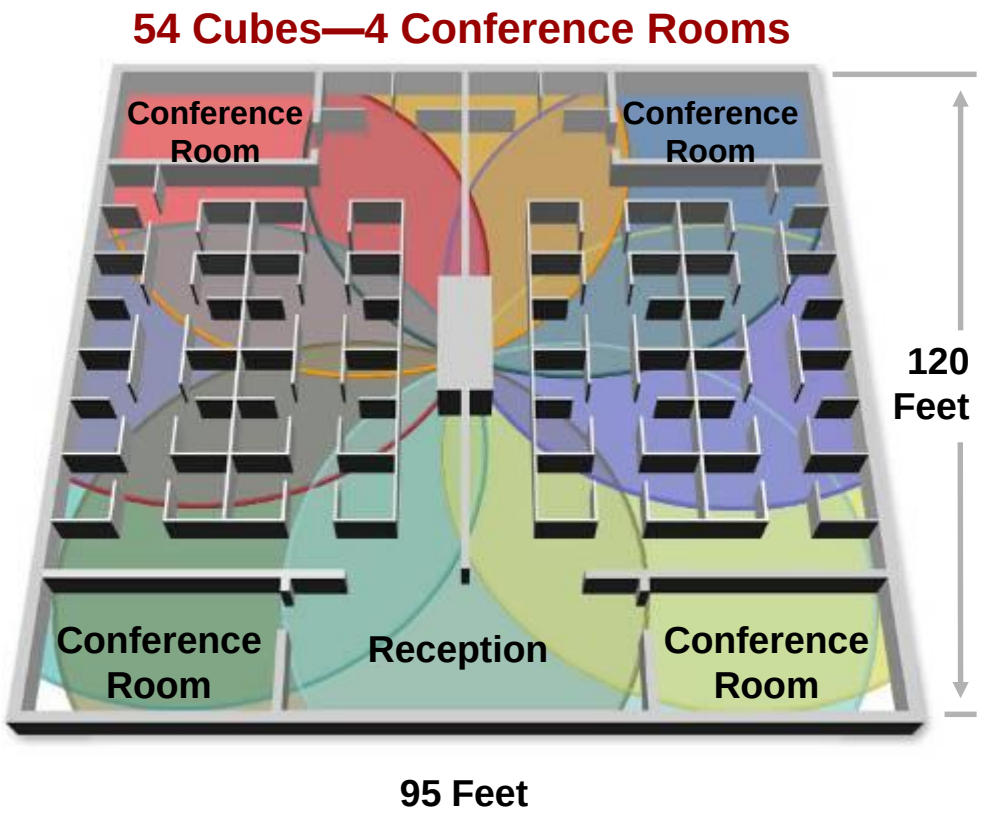
802.11j: 5-GHz channels for Japan

General Office Wireless LAN Design

Eight 802.11g access points deployed

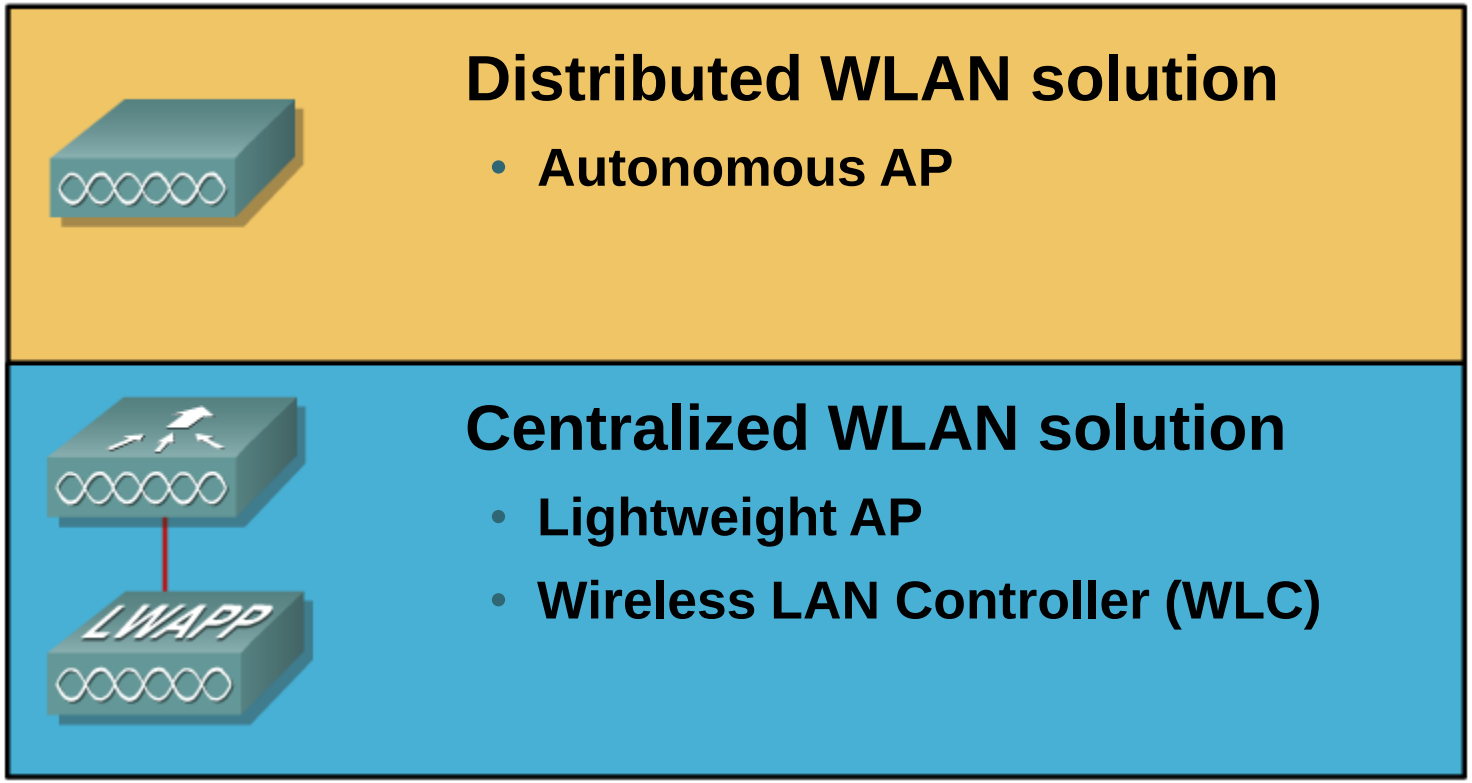
7 users per access points with no conference rooms provides 3.8 Mbps throughput per user

7 users + 1 conference room (10 users) = 17 total users, provides 1.5 Mbps throughput per user



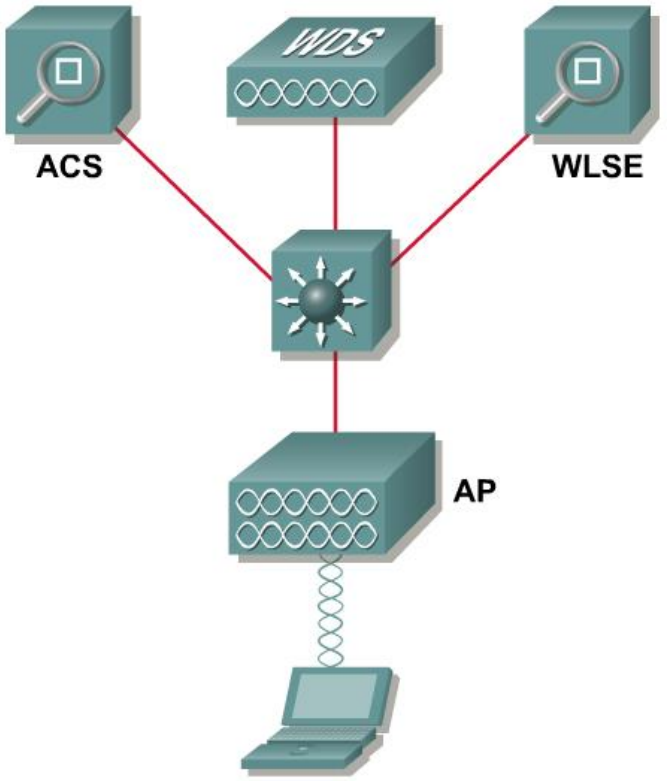
Cisco WLAN Implementation

Cisco offers 2 “flavors” of wireless solutions:



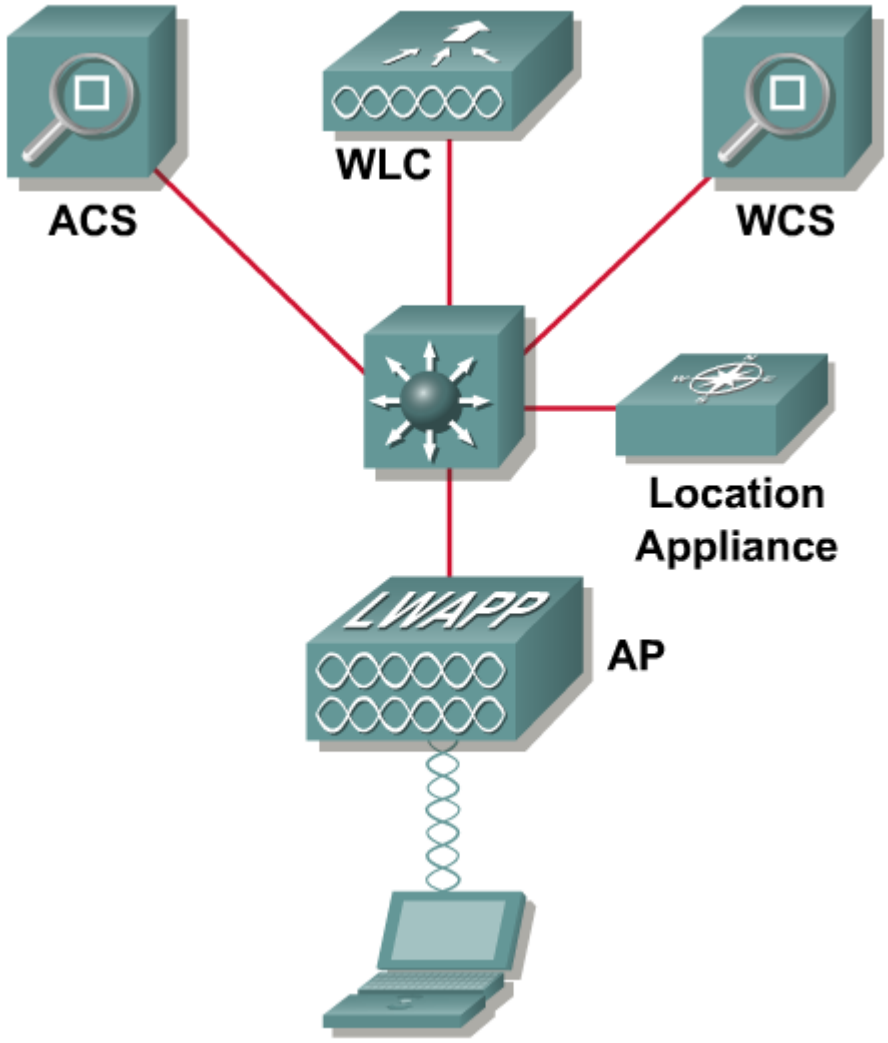
Distributed WLAN Solution Components

- Autonomous access points
- Network Infrastructure
- Wireless Domain Services (WDS) – optional
- Wireless LAN Solution Engine (WLSE) – optional
- Acess Control Server (ACS) – optional

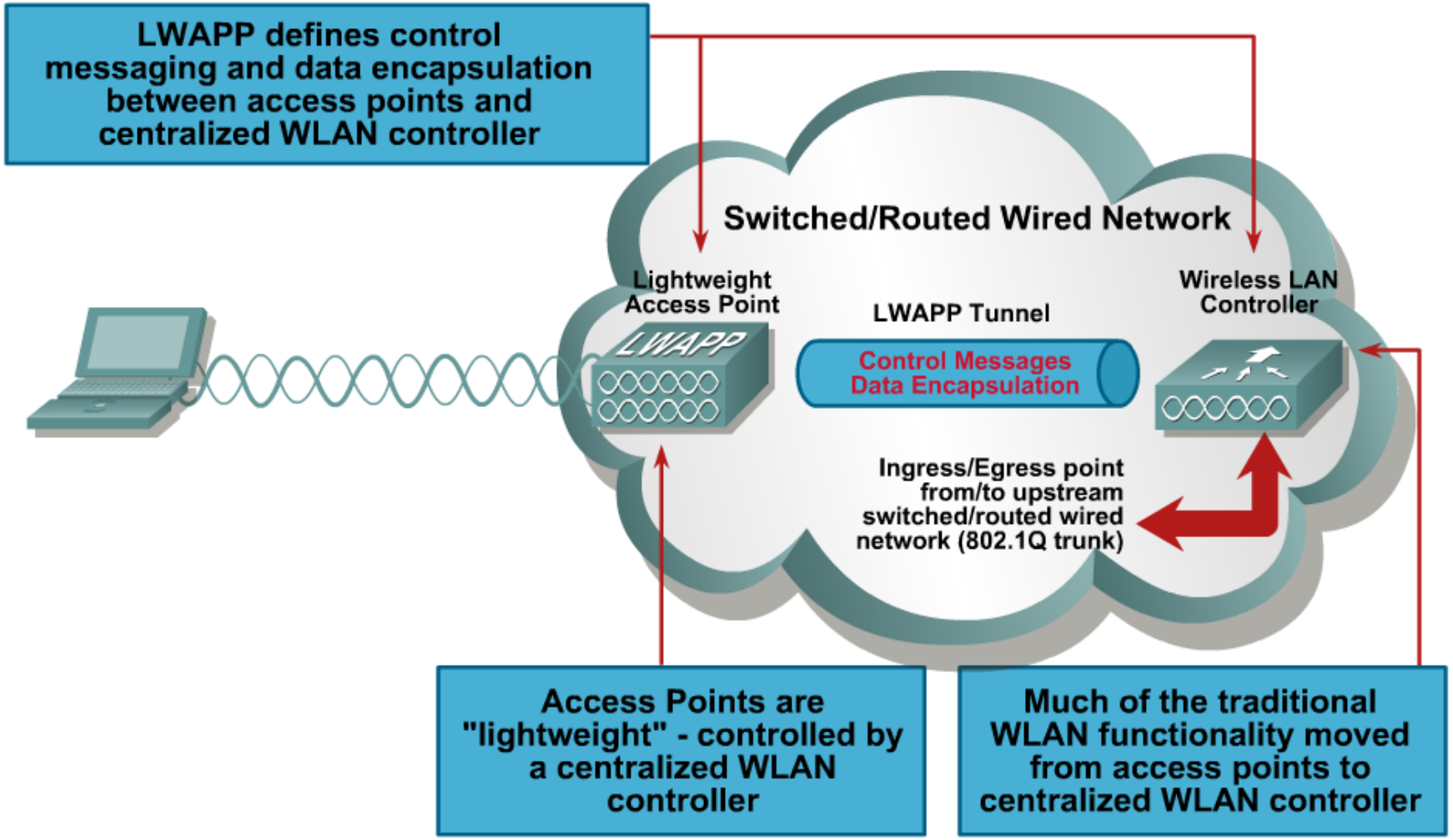


Centralized WLAN Solution Components

- Lightweight access points
- Network Infrastructure
- Wireless LAN controller (WLC) – required
- Wireless Control System (WCS) – optional
- Location appliance – optional
- Acess Control Server (ACS) – optional



Cisco Centralized WLAN Model

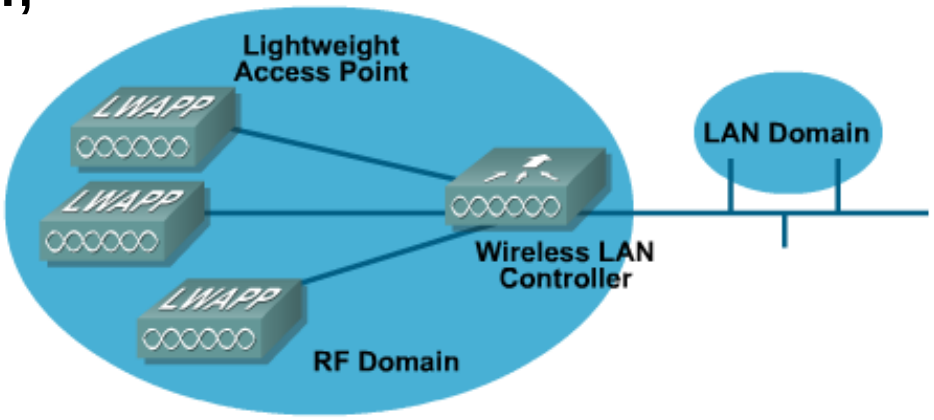


Why Lightweight APs?

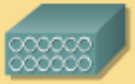
A WLAN controller system is used to create and enforce policies across many different lightweight access points.

With centralized intelligence, functions essential to WLAN operations such as security, mobility, and quality of service (QoS), can be efficiently managed across an entire wireless enterprise.

- **Splitting functions between the access point and the controller, simplifies management, improves performance, and increases security of large WLANs**



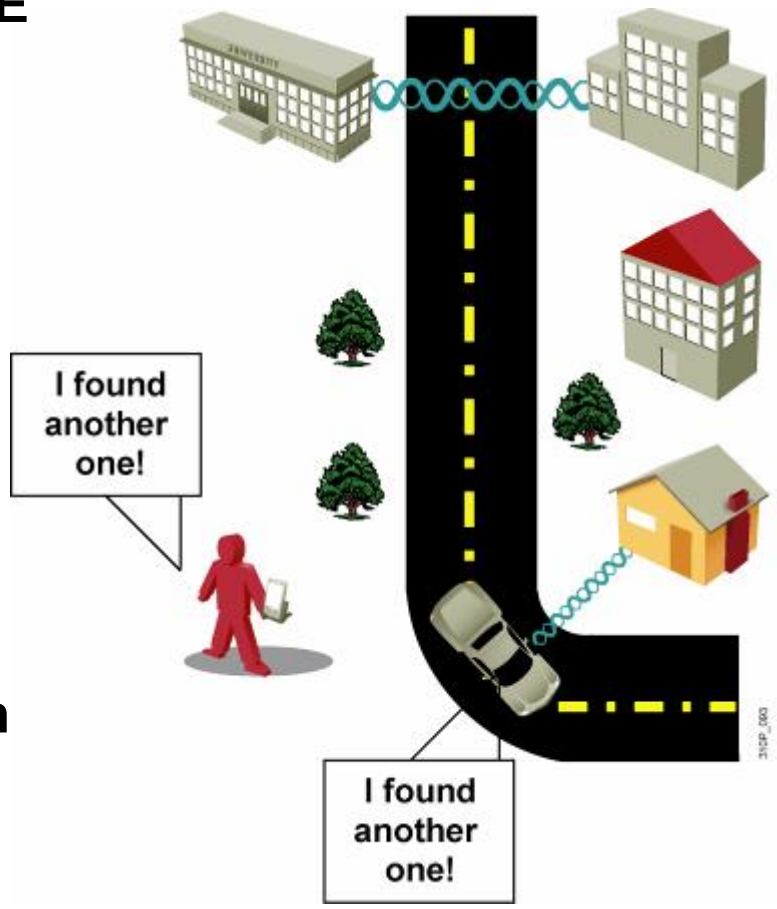
Wireless LAN Solution Comparison

Distributed Solution		Centralized Solution
	 **Wireless clients** 	
Autonomous access points	 **Access points** 	Lightweight access points
Wireless Domain Services (WDS)	 **Control** 	WLAN controller
WLAN Solution Engine (WLSE)	 **WLAN management** 	WLAN Control System (WCS)
PoE switches, routers	 **Network infrastructure** 	PoE switches, routers
DHCP, DNS, AAA	**Network services**	DHCP, DNS, AAA

WLAN Security

Why WLAN Security?

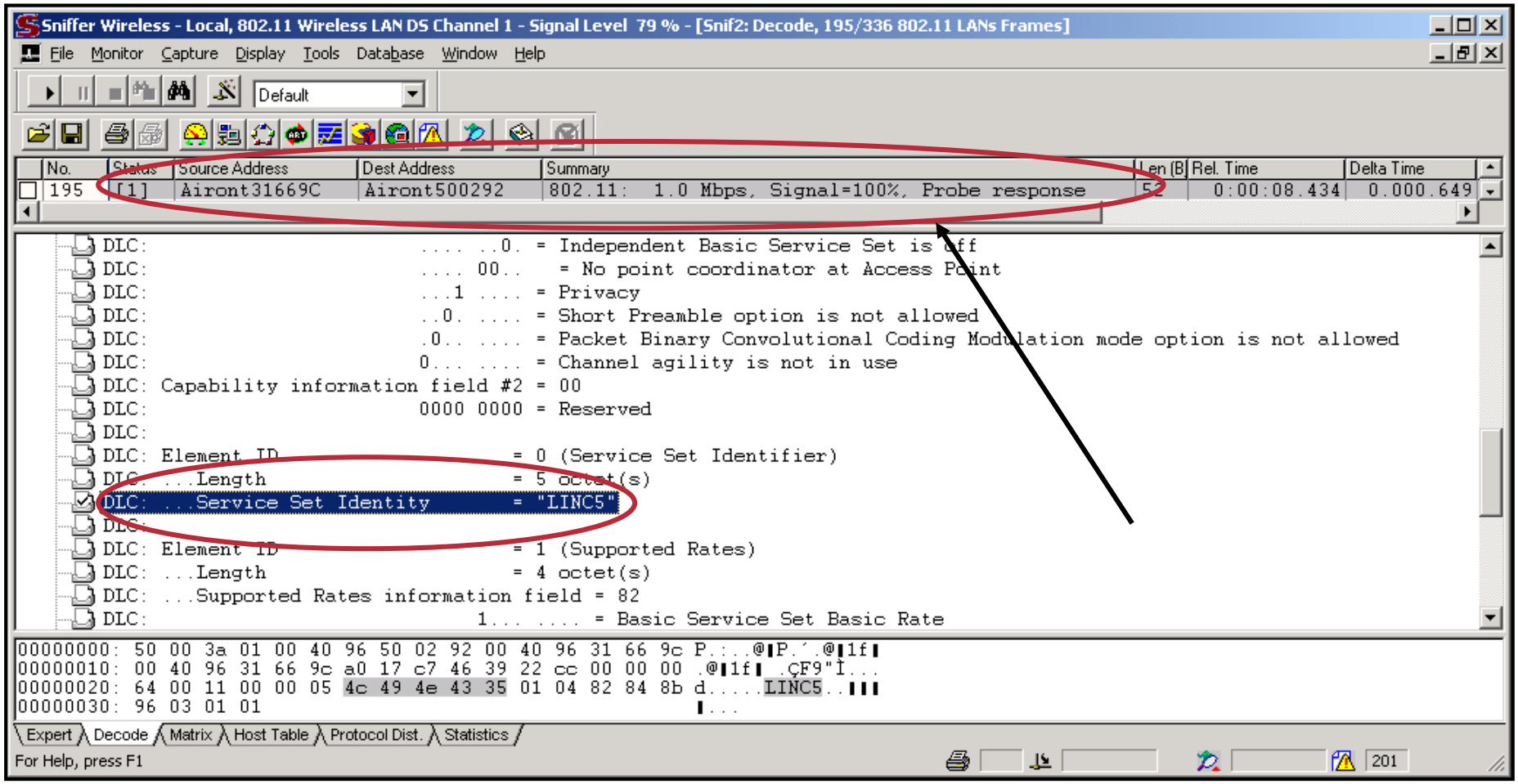
- Wide availability and low cost of IEEE 802.11 wireless equipment
- 802.11 standard ease of use and deployment
- Availability of sniffers
- Statistics on WLAN security
- Media hype about hot spots, WLAN hacking, war driving
- Nonoptimal implementation of encryption in standard Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP) encryption
- Authentication vulnerability



Wireless LAN Security Threats

"WAR DRIVERS"	HACKERS	EMPLOYEES
Find "Open" Networks; Use Them to Gain Free Internet Access	Exploit Weak Privacy Measures to View Sensitive WLAN Info and Even Break into WLANs	Plug Consumer-Grade APs/Gateways into Company Ethernet Ports to Create Own WLANs
	 THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. Hackers Can Penetrate Wireless Network *The weakness is another reminder of the difficulty in implementing effective network security.*	

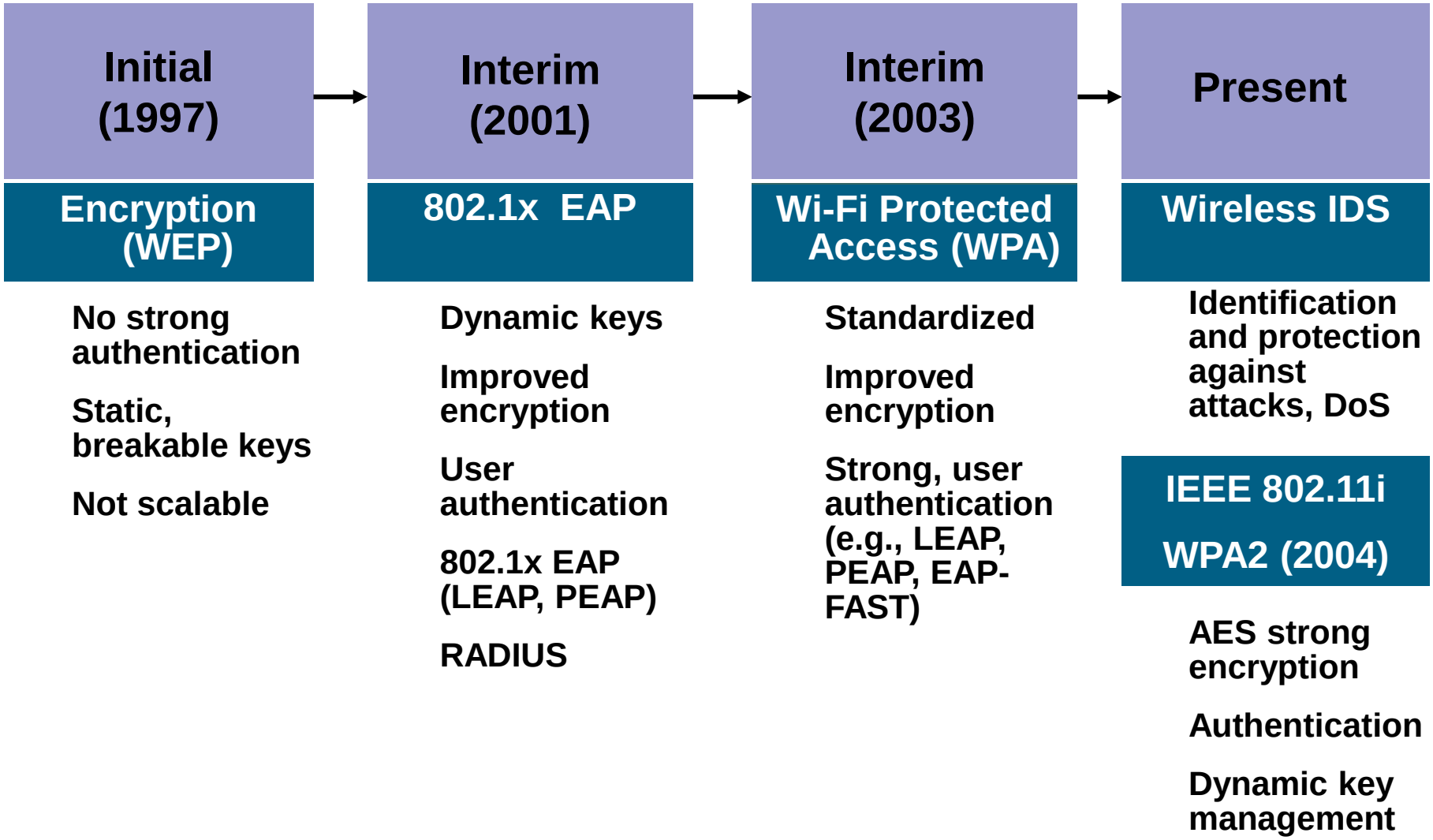
WLAN Sniffing and SSID Broadcasting



Mitigating the Threats

Control and Integrity	Privacy and Confidentiality	Protection and Availability
Authentication	Encryption	Intrusion Detection System (IDS)
Ensure that legitimate clients associate with trusted APs.	Protect data as it is transmitted and received.	Track and mitigate unauthorized access and network attacks.

Evolution of Wireless LAN Security

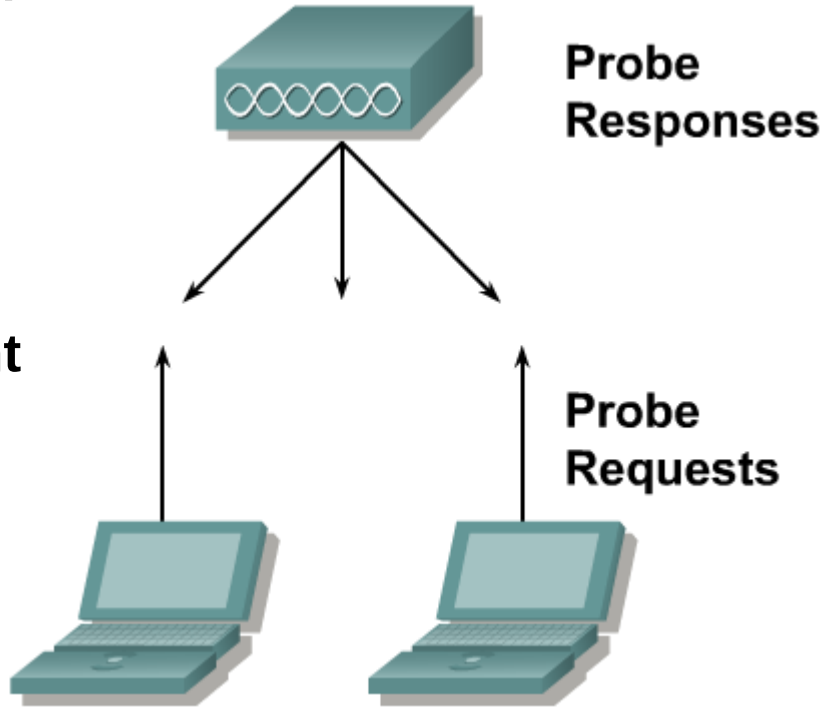


WLAN Security Summary

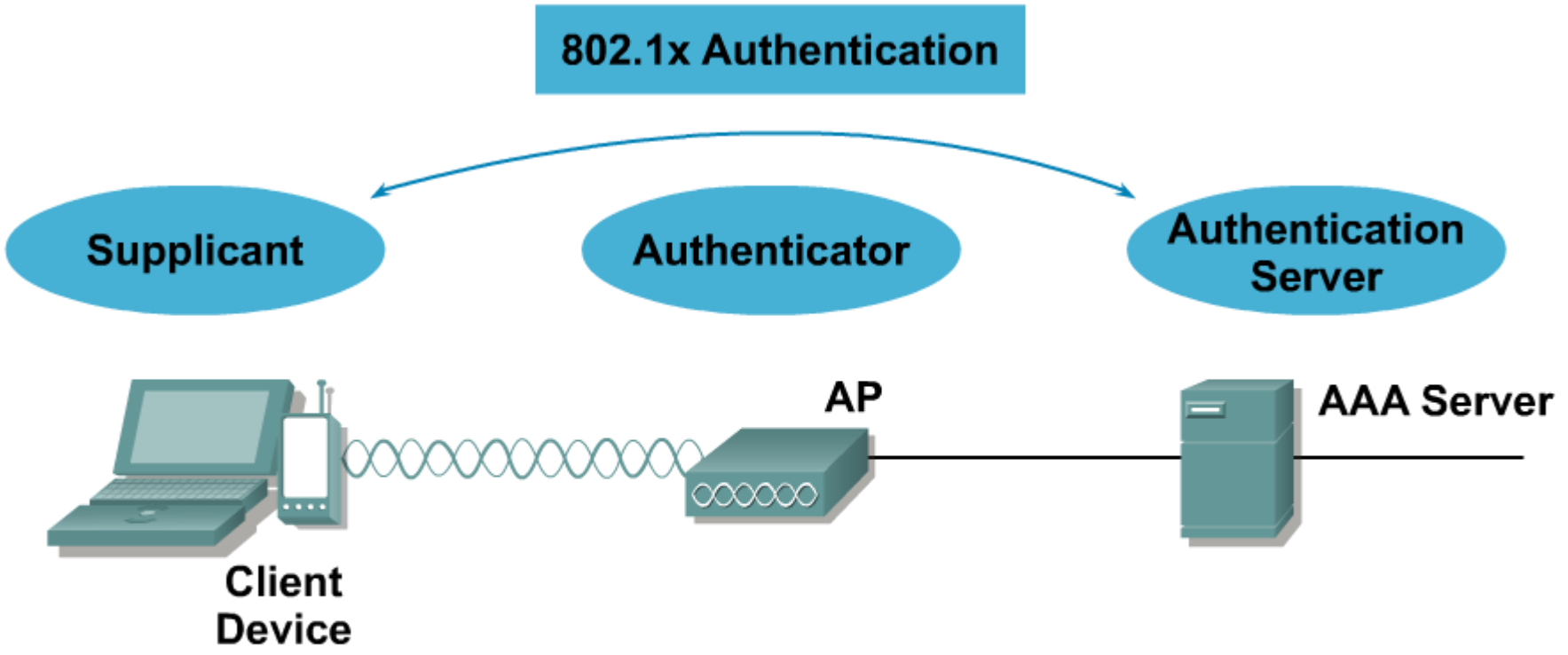
	WEP	WPA	WPA2	WPA3
Brief description	Ensure wired-like privacy in wireless	Based on 802.11i without requirement for new hardware	All mandatory 802.11i features and a new hardware	Announced by Wi-Fi Alliance
Encryption	RC4	TKIP + RC4	CCMP/AES	GCMP-256
Authentication	WEP-Open WEP-Shared	WPA-PSK WPA-Enterprise	WPA2-Personal WPA2-Enterprise	WPA3-Personal WPA3-Enterprise
Data integrity	CRC-32	MIC algorithm	Cipher Block Chaining Message Authentication Code (based on AES)	256-bit Broadcast/Multicast Integrity Protocol Galois Message Authentication Code (BIP-GMAC-256)
Key management	none	4-way handshake	4-way handshake	Elliptic Curve Diffie-Hellman (ECDH) exchange and Elliptic Curve Digital Signature Algorithm (ECDSA)

Wireless Client Association

1. Access points send out beacons announcing SSID, data rates and other information.
2. Client scans all channels.
3. Client listens for beacons and responses from access points.
4. Client associates to access point with strongest signal.
5. Client will repeat scan if signal becomes low to reassociate to another access point (roaming).
6. During association SSID, MAC address and security settings are sent from the client to the AP and checked by the AP.



WPA and WPA2 Authentication

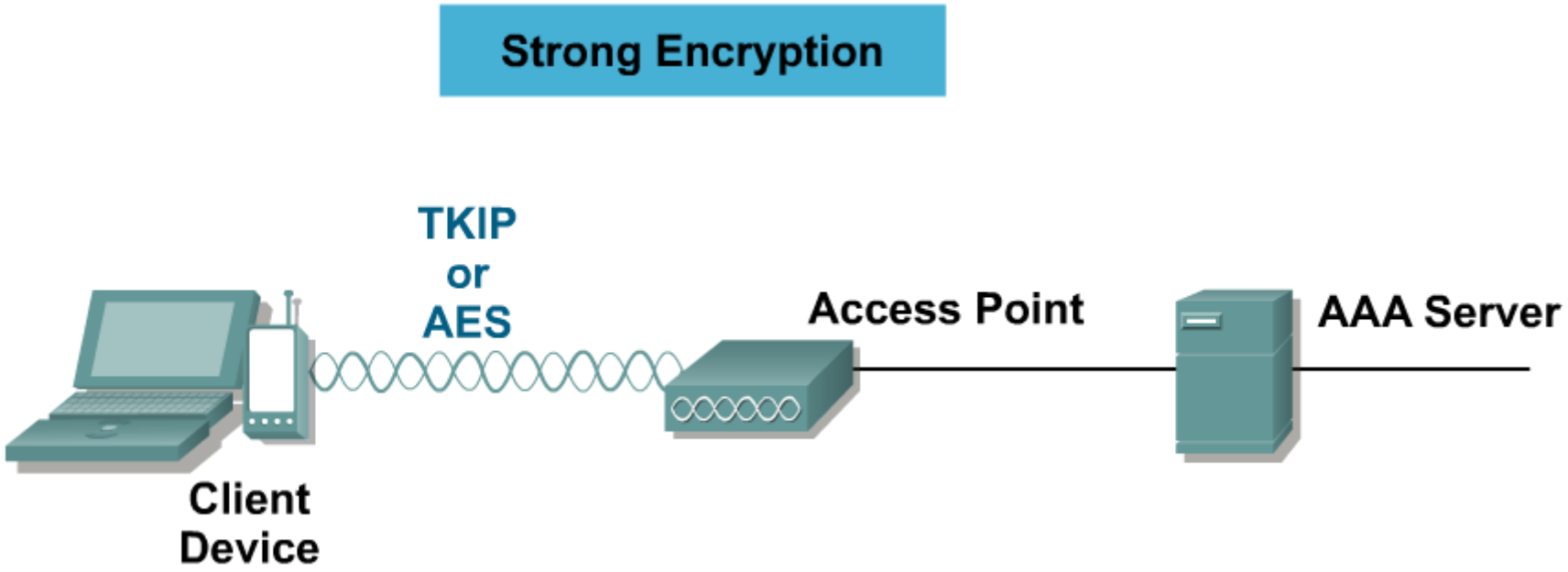


Supplicant for 802.1x Type: LEAP, PEAP, EAP-FAST, etc.

802.1x Support

Server Support for 802.1x Type: LEAP, PEAP, EAP-FAST, etc.

WPA and WPA2 Encryption



Wi-Fi Protected Access

What are WPA and WPA2?

- Authentication and encryption standards for Wi-Fi clients and APs
- 802.1x authentication
- WPA uses TKIP encryption
- WPA2 uses AES block cipher encryption

Which should I use?

- Gold, for supporting NIC/OSs
- Silver, if you have legacy clients
- Lead, if you absolutely have no other choice.

Gold

WPA2/802.11i

- EAP-Fast
- AES

Silver

WPA

- EAP-Fast
- TKIP

Lead

Dynamic WEP

- EAP-Fast/LEAP
- VLANs + ACLs

WLAN Security Summary

Open Access	Basic Security	Enhanced Security
No Encryption, Basic Authentication	40-bit or 128-bit Static WEP Encryption, WPA	802.1x, TKIP Encryption, Mutual Authentication, Scalable Key Mgmt., Etc.
		
Public “Hotspots”	Home Use	Enterprise

Remote Access	Virtual Private Network (VPN)		Business Traveler, Telecommuter


CISCO