SunPower Gateways: PVS5 versus PVS6

Overview & Roles

- PVS5x: Earlier generation PV Supervisor used in residential SunPower solar installations. It enables production and consumption data monitoring via CTs.
 Wolf River Electric +4 .
- PVS6: The successor introduced around 2019, serving as a datalogger-gateway for the Equinox system. Designed for solar system and home energy monitoring, metering, and control.

Key Differences

1. Wi-Fi & Connectivity

- PVS5x: Connects only to 2.4 GHz Wi-Fi.
- PVS6: Supports both 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz a major upgrade in wireless flexibility .

Additionally, updated PVS6 units (serial numbers containing "W") have removed onboard Ethernet ports. Instead, they require a compatible USB-to-Ethernet dongle for commissioning.

2. LED Indicators & Hardware Design

- PVS5x: Features multiple status LEDs with specific icons for power, inverter, internet, and communication status.
- PVS6: Uses a single LED with color-coded indications for booting, normal operation, firmware updating, or errors—no individual status icons

Cover attachment mechanism also changed:

 PVS5x uses screws, while PVS6 uses a plastic latch—some users report difficulty opening the PVS6 latch.

3. Data Monitoring & Error Messaging

- PVS5x: Users have reported occasional "slow data" or data error warnings in the monitoring portal.
- PVS6: Those warnings appear to have been removed—data access is still available, but such banner errors are no longer shown .

Both models support consumption monitoring via CTs, assuming proper installation of CT sensor kit.

4. Compatibility & Ecosystem

- PVS5x: Supports SolarBridge AC modules.
- PVS6: Expanded compatibility—it can communicate with both SolarBridge modules and Enphase IQ7 microinverters, giving it broader device support.

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5. Warranty

 Both PVS5 and PVS6 included 10-year manufacturing defect warranty from purchase date; other components had 1 year warranty coverage
.

(iii) Comparison Table

Feature	PVS5x	PVS6
Wi-Fi Support	2.4 GHz only	2.4GHz and 5GHz
Ethernet Port Availability	Standard ports built in	Newer versions require USB-to-Ethernet dongle
LEDs / Status Indicators	Multiple LEDs with icons	Single color LED, no per- symbol LEDs
Cover & Hardware Design	Screws	Plastic latch closure
Error Messaging in Portal	May show data error banners	Removal of banner warnings
Compatible Micro-inverters	SolarBridge only	SolarBridge + Enphase IQ7
Monitoring Capabilities	Production + consumption via CTs	Same, improved reliability
Warranty	10-year for unit	10-year for unit

Additional Notes

- If your PVS6 serial includes a "W", you'll need a supported dongle (Plugable USB2-E1000 or Cable Matters 202023) to connect via Ethernet—some users report occasional compatibility issues with others.
- Users have discussed "blinking blue light" issues on PVS5 units; often related to connection or installation rather than hardware failure.
- The PVS6 is part of the Equinox integration; firmware updates and service were affected after SunPower reorganized in Chapter 11.
 Local API access is limited unless advanced modifications are applied.