

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

ESSENTIAL WI-FI SERVICES FOR SMARTPHONES AND TABLETS

Smartphones and tablets have become an integral part of our lives. According to a recent Aruba study, **#GenMobile**—an emerging population marked by their preference for all things mobile—would give up coffee and eating out before their mobile devices.

Our addiction to smartphones and tablets extends to the workplace. Tucked away in bags and pockets, these devices are the first to connect to company Wi-Fi networks when employees and guests walk on site. Unlike desktop and even laptop computers, we don't have to be stationary to use work applications on our smartphones and tablets.

Workplaces that support **#GenMobile** must be designed with dependable and high performance Wi-Fi. Here are five essential Wi-Fi services, which provide a smartphone and tablet experience that **#GenMobile** can trust.

A stable 802.11ac Wi-Fi foundation: To serve **#GenMobile**, Wi-Fi coverage must be able to handle multiple devices per user and extend to hallways, corners, elevators and even outdoors. The 802.11ac gigabit Wi-Fi standard is recommended as it provides four to six times higher speeds than 802.11n, allowing devices to transmit faster and free up the shared channel for someone else to use. 802.11ac access points (APs) are ideal for high-density areas; IT can redirect older 802.11n APs to lower density areas to ensure complete coverage.

Smarter Wi-Fi for voice and video apps: Voice and video traffic must have priority handling to ensure that collaboration apps such as Skype, Lync and Hangouts operate reliably. Your Wi-Fi network should have the smarts to recognize such delay-sensitive apps even if they are encrypted or appear as web traffic. Wi-Fi solutions that fingerprint applications allow IT to implement quality of service (QoS) policies and also provide the visibility administrators need to resolve problems quickly.

Wireless screen mirroring: Smartphones and tablets support wireless screen-sharing protocols such as Apple AirPlay or DLNA technology, which require special handling

on workplace Wi-Fi networks. Screen-sharing must be bridged across network segments because personal and guest devices are often on different VLANs than network-connected screens, projectors and media devices like Apple TV or Chromecast. IT must also be able to limit wireless screen-sharing based on a user's role. For example, in a classroom, this will prevent students from taking over a teacher's screen.

Wireless printing: Wi-Fi networks need special provisions to support Apple AirPrint technology that allows iPhone and iPad users to locate and send print jobs to networked printers, which are often wired and on a separate VLAN than user devices. So, much like the AirPlay technology, AirPrint traffic has to be bridged across network segments. In addition to bridging print traffic, the Wi-Fi network should also leverage user location to ensure users are shown only the closest printer.

App sign-on: Wi-Fi networks can play a part in minimizing the manual entry required on small smartphone and tablet keyboards. Users typically login to the Wi-Fi network with the same username and password they use for accessing web apps like Box and Salesforce.com. Your Wi-Fi network should support SAML and pre-register users with Identity Providers upon successful authentication. The Wi-Fi network can then act as the proxy to provide user credentials to web applications, eliminating the need for Wi-Fi authenticated users to repeat the frustrating username-password authentication process on their small browser screens

DESIGNED FOR SMARTPHONES AND TABLETS

Aruba Networks purpose-built its **802.11ac Wi-Fi solution** to provide the capacity and application-awareness necessary to support smartphones and tablets in the workplace. **Aruba indoor and outdoor 802.11ac APs** provide gigabit speeds to handle a high-densities of devices at a price point close to 802.11n. Accompanying ArubaOS software provides **AppRF technology** to optimize cloud and unified communication applications on mobile devices for a great user experience.

Aruba ClearPass Access Management software works in conjunction with Aruba Wi-Fi to provide wireless screen sharing and printing services. ClearPass lets IT register shared devices and define location- and user-group-based access policies, which are enforced by Aruba Wi-Fi networks. ClearPass also supports SAML services to enable Auto Sign-On, where Wi-Fi login credentials are used to log users into their web apps without manual entry.

SUMMARY

Smartphones and tablets have quickly become the majority of computing devices that make their way onto workplace Wi-Fi networks. Having a solid Wi-Fi foundation to support a large number of mobile devices in the workplace is now table stakes. IT should consider modern Wi-Fi solutions that make it easy for #GenMobile to use smartphones and tablets for web apps as well as everyday workplace services such as telephony, printing and screen sharing.

To learn more, visit www.arubanetworks.com/allwireless/ or contact Aruba Networks at info@arubanetworks.com; +1 866 55 ARUBA (+1 866 552 7822).



1344 CROSSMAN AVE | SUNNYVALE, CA 94089
1.866.55.ARUBA | T: 1.408.227.4500 | FAX: 1.408.227.4550 | INFO@ARUBANETWORKS.COM

www.arubanetworks.com

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