

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

CREATE A ROCK-SOLID WI-FI FOUNDATION FOR #GENMOBILE

If you've ever considered remodeling your home, you probably know that you can't add a second floor without reinforcing the foundation to handle the additional load. Likewise, you'll need a stronger Wi-Fi foundation to support the influx of mobile devices, work style and demands of #GenMobile.

IT can create a rock-solid Wi-Fi foundation by following five easy steps.

Install 802.11ac: To accommodate the rapid increase in traffic today and in the future, migrate to 802.11ac. Consider that with 802.11g you have a maximum network throughput of 54 Mbps, and actual real-world throughput is just 20 Mbps. That means four devices running 5-Mbps HD video sessions would max out your network.

802.11ac gives you gigabit Wi-Fi speeds and ensures you're ready for new 802.11ac devices like the Dell Latitude, MacBooks and Samsung Galaxy smartphones. Over 250 devices are already 802.11ac Wi-Fi certified.

Even 802.11n Wi-Fi clients will get a boost, operating 40 percent faster on 802.11ac access points (APs). Faster transmission also helps extend smartphone battery life 33 percent by enabling the mobile device radio to finish sooner and enter sleep mode, for less power use.

Put Wi-Fi everywhere: The defining aspect of #GenMobile is that we connect from all locations all the time, and prefer Wi-Fi over other connectivity options. Clearly, the hotspot model of deploying Wi-Fi only in areas where people traditionally congregate just won't work. You need to plan for network access in every corner, from board rooms to locker rooms and elevators.

If you already have 802.11n Wi-Fi, consider deploying 802.11ac first in areas that serve lots of users. Then, over time, migrate fully to 802.11ac Wi-Fi. Outdoor 802.11ac APs can even extend Wi-Fi to parking lots, courtyards and sidewalks.

Manage interference: Interference is a fact of life, but poor performance doesn't have to be. Maximizing performance

requires a WLAN that constantly scans the Wi-Fi spectrum for interference and self-heals within seconds of finding a problem.

Plan for crowds: Today, each member of the #GenMobile crowd carries an average of three mobile devices. By 2015, ABI research predicts that there will be 18.8 billion Wi-Fi-enabled devices worldwide! So build your network with the stability and performance to handle lots of connected devices.

Deal with sticky clients: You may not realize it, but most smartphone users suffer from sticky client syndrome. That is, a smartphone connects to the first AP it encounters and stays connected, even if the user roams closer to another AP.

That means your iPhone stays connected to the lobby AP even though you're upstairs at your desk. And that slow connection is still busy uploading 34 pictures that your kids took in the back seat of the car this morning. Bad for you, bad for the rest of the network waiting for those pictures to upload on a slow link.

PURPOSE-BUILT 802.11AC FOR STABLE AIR

The Aruba 802.11ac solution consists of purpose-built hardware and software to deliver a stable, high-performance all-wireless workplace for #GenMobile. Unique capabilities include:

- Indoor and Outdoor 802.11ac APs at near-802.11n prices that can be used as a supplement to existing installations and to build a gigabit Wi-Fi network from scratch.
- Adaptive Radio Management (ARM) with airtime fairness and band-steering to handle a mix of device types and high-density areas.
- RFPProtect spectrum scanner integrated into every AP to detect interference and adjust channels.
- ClientMatch™ technology, which eliminates sticky clients and improves device performance by moving clients to the best available AP.
- AirWave network management software to actively monitor the device performance and user experience on Wi-Fi networks and to troubleshoot multivendor networks.

SUMMARY

Building your WLAN into an enterprise asset for #GenMobile isn't hard, but it does require some critical decisions about the right architecture. A strong, stable Wi-Fi foundation for future growth includes always-on reliability, faster throughput and performance, and smart client handling.

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



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