

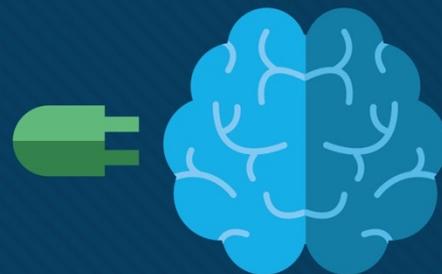


Chapter 20: Authenticating Wireless Clients

Chapter 21: Troubleshooting Wireless Connectivity

Instructor Materials

CCNP Enterprise: Core Networking



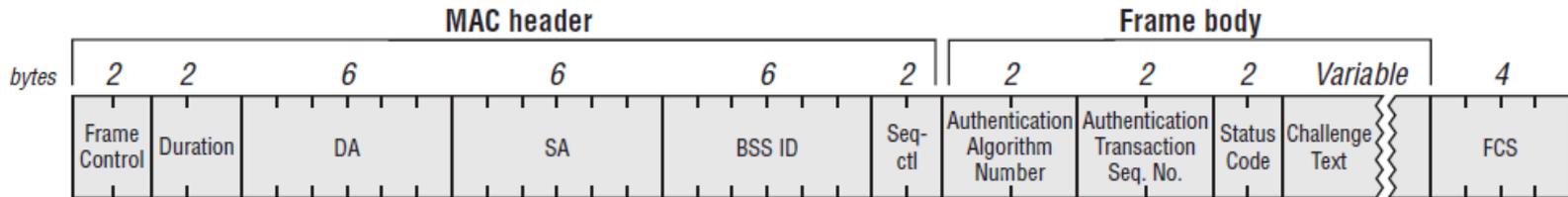
Open Authentication

Authentication

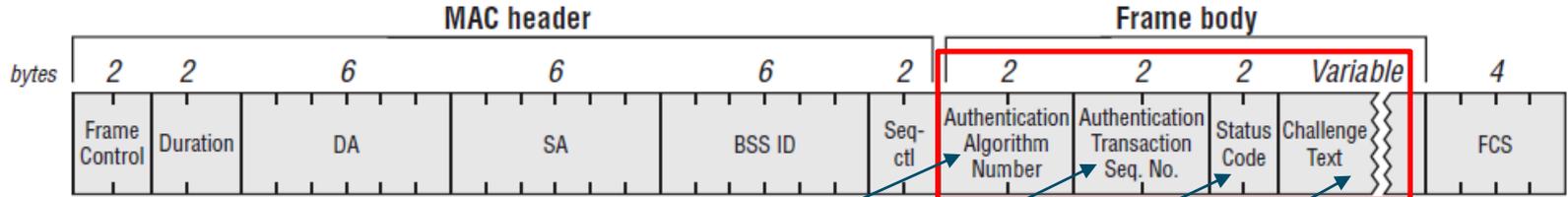
Once a client station discovers a SSID (Probe Request/Response or listening to Beacons) it moves to the Join phase. This exchange consists of at least 4 frames

1. Authentication (Request)
2. Authentication (Response)
3. Association Request
4. Association Response

Authentication frame format



Authentication frame format



Authentication Frame consist of the following fields

1. Authentication Algorithm Number
 - 0 for Open System
 - 1 for Shared Key
2. Authentication Transaction Sequence Number
 - Current state of progress
3. Status Code
 - 0 for Success
 - Unspecified failures
4. Challenge Text
 - Used in Shared Key Authentication frame 2 & 3

Authentication frame field values & usages

Table below summarizes the authentication frame field values & usages.

Authentication algorithm	Authentication transaction sequence no.	Status code	Challenge text
Open System	1	Reserved	Not present
Open System	2	Status	Not present
Shared Key	1	Reserved	Not present
Shared Key	2	Status	Present
Shared Key	3	Reserved	Present
Shared Key	4	Status	Not present

Authentication frame exchange

- The initial purpose of the authentication frame is to validate the device type (verify that the requesting station has proper 802.11 capability to join the cell).
- This exchanged is based on simple two-frame (Auth Request & Auth Response) called Open System.
- In IEEE 802.11-1997 standard included a **WEP** shared key exchange authentication mechanism called “**Shared Key**” where 4 authentication frame exchange.
- **When more complex authentication like 802.1X/EAP in place, Open System is used first & then complex method followed by Association frames.**

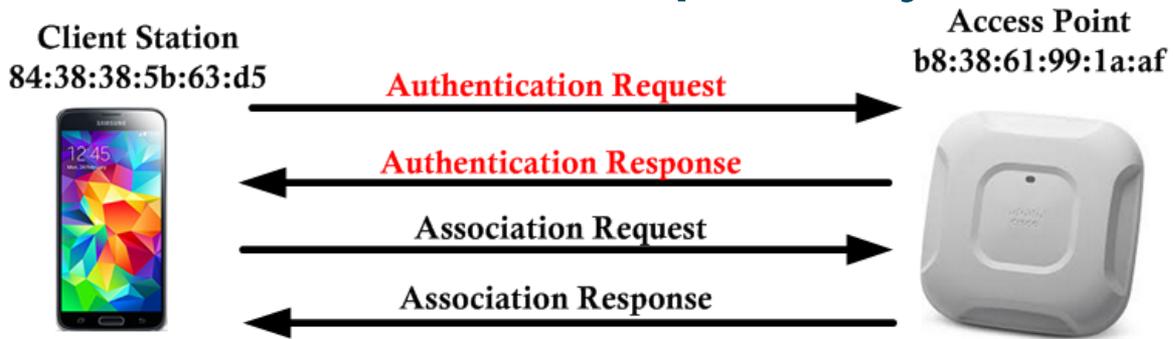
Authentication frame field values & usages

Table below summarizes the authentication frame field values & usages.

Authentication algorithm	Authentication transaction sequence no.	Status code	Challenge text
Open System	1	Reserved	Not present
Open System	2	Status	Not present
Shared Key	1	Reserved	Not present
Shared Key	2	Status	Present
Shared Key	3	Reserved	Present
Shared Key	4	Status	Not present

- The initial purpose of the authentication frame is to validate the device type (verify that the requesting station has proper 802.11 capability to join the cell).
- This exchanged is based on simple two-frame (Auth Request & Auth Response) called Open System.

Authentication details – Open System



Packet	Protocol	Data Rate	Size	Size Bar
245	802.11 Beacon	24.0	294	802.11 Beacon
247	802.11 Auth	24.0	45	802.11 Auth
248	802.11 Ack	24.0	14	802.11 Ack
249	802.11 Auth	24.0	34	802.11 Auth
250	802.11 Ack	24.0	14	802.11 Ack
251	802.11 Assoc Req	24.0	176	802.11 Assoc Req
252	802.11 Ack	24.0	14	802.11 Ack
253	802.11 Assoc Rsp	24.0	200	802.11 Assoc Rsp
254	802.11 Ack	24.0	14	802.11 Ack
255	802.11 Null Data	24.0	30	802.11 Data
256	802.11 Ack	24.0	14	802.11 Ack
257	802.11 Beacon	24.0	259	802.11 Beacon
258	802.11 Beacon	24.0	294	802.11 Beacon
259	802.11 Null Data	24.0	30	802.11 Data
260	802.11 Ack	24.0	14	802.11 Ack
261	802.11 Beacon	24.0	259	802.11 Beacon
262	802.11 Beacon	24.0	294	802.11 Beacon
263	802.11 Null Data	24.0	30	802.11 Data



Authentication details – Open System – 1



The image shows a Wireshark packet capture window with the following details:

- Packet Info:** Packet Number: 247 (circled in green). Other fields include Flags, Status, Packet Length (45), Timestamp (14:34:51.188952000 10/05/2014), Data Rate (48 24.0 Mbps), Channel (149 5745MHz 802.11a), Signal Level (50%), Signal dBm (-45), Noise Level (48%), and Noise dBm (-93).
- 802.11 MAC Header:** Version: 0 [0 Mask 0x03]. Type: %00 Management [0 Mask 0x0C]. Subtype: %1011 Authentication [0 Mask 0xF0].
- Frame Control Flags=%00000000:** Duration: 44 Microseconds [2-3]. Destination: B8:38:61:99:1A:AF [4-9]. Source: 84:38:38:5B:63:D5 [10-15]. BSSID: B8:38:61:99:1A:AF [16-21]. Seq Number: 1157 [22-23 Mask 0xFFF0]. Frag Number: 0 [22 Mask 0x0F].
- 802.11 Management - Authentication:** Auth Algorithm: 0 Open System [24-25]. Auth Seq Num: 1 [26-27]. Status Code: 0 Reserved [28-29]. Extra bytes (Padding): (11 bytes) [30-40].
- [41-44] FCS: FCS=0xEB8E802B**

First Authentication Frame (Authentication Request, frame 247)

- Authentication Algorithm Number is 0 (indicate **Open System**).
- Auth Seq Number is 1 indicate this is the **first Authentication Frame** in the given exchange.
- Status code is **Reserved** for the first frame (refer the table above)

Authentication details – Open System – 2



The image shows a Wireshark packet capture window. The 'Packet Info' pane is expanded to show details for packet 249. A green circle highlights the packet number '249'. A red box highlights the '802.11 MAC Header' section, specifically the 'Type' and 'Subtype' fields. Another red box highlights the '802.11 Management - Authentication' section, specifically the 'Auth Algorithm', 'Auth Seq Num', and 'Status Code' fields. A blue box highlights the 'Subtype' field. A green arrow points to the packet number '249'.

```
Packet Info
  Packet Number: 249
  Flags: 0x00000000
  Status: 0x00000000
  Packet Length: 34
  Timestamp: 14:34:51.189952100 10/05/2014
  Data Rate: 48 24.0 Mbps
  Channel: 149 5745MHz 802.11a
  Signal Level: 57%
  Signal dBm: -38
  Noise Level: 53%
  Noise dBm: -91

802.11 MAC Header
  Version: 0 [0 Mask 0x03]
  Type: %00 Management [0 Mask 0x0C]
  Subtype: %1011 Authentication [0 Mask 0xF0]
  Frame Control Flags=%00000000
  Duration: 44 Microseconds [2-3]
  Destination: 84:38:38:5B:63:D5 [4-9]
  Source: B8:38:61:99:1A:AF [10-15]
  BSSID: B8:38:61:99:1A:AF [16-21]
  Seq Number: 3950 [22-23 Mask 0xFFFF0]
  Frag Number: 0 [22 Mask 0x0F]

802.11 Management - Authentication
  Auth Algorithm: 0 Open System [24-25]
  Auth Seq Num: 2 [26-27]
  Status Code: 0 Successful [28-29]

[30-33] FCS: FCS=0xD94A697D
```

Second Auth Frame (Auth Response, frame 249)

- Auth Seq Number is 2 indicating this is **Auth Response** frame.
- Status code is 0 indicating **successful** Open System Authentication.

Authentication details – Open System – 3 ...



144	05:28:14.24804:f7:e4:ea	Broadcast	802.11	160	Probe Request, SN=528, FN=0, Fla
145	05:28:14.24864:a0:e7:af	04:f7:e4:ea	802.11	276	Probe Response, SN=163, FN=0, Fla
147	05:28:14.26404:f7:e4:ea	64:a0:e7:af	802.11	63	Authentication, SN=529, FN=0, FI
149	05:28:14.26464:a0:e7:af	04:f7:e4:ea	802.11	52	Authentication, SN=1944, FN=0, F
151	05:28:14.26404:f7:e4:ea	64:a0:e7:af	802.11	192	Association Request, SN=530, FN=
153	05:28:14.27164:a0:e7:af	04:f7:e4:ea	802.11	243	Association Response, SN=1945, F
155	05:28:14.27404:f7:e4:ea	64:a0:e7:af	802.11	58	Action, SN=531, FN=0, Flags=....
157	05:28:14.27764:a0:e7:af	04:f7:e4:ea	EAP	131	Request, Identity
159	05:28:14.30404:f7:e4:ea	64:a0:e7:af	802.11	55	Action, SN=532, FN=0, Flags=...
161	05:28:14.30464:a0:e7:af	04:f7:e4:ea	802.11	55	Action, SN=1946, FN=0, Flags=...
163	05:28:14.30504:f7:e4:ea	64:a0:e7:af	EAP	70	Response, Identity
165	05:28:14.30504:f7:e4:ea	64:a0:e7:af	802.11	42	802.11 Block Ack Req, Flags=....
166	05:28:14.30564:a0:e7:af	04:f7:e4:ea	802.11	50	802.11 Block Ack, Flags=.....0
167	05:28:14.31664:a0:e7:af	04:f7:e4:ea	EAP	102	Request, TLS EAP (EAP-TLS)
170	05:28:14.329	04:f7:e4:ea	802.11	32	Clear-to-send, Flags=.....C
171	05:28:14.37304:f7:e4:ea	64:a0:e7:af	EAP	66	Response, Legacy Nak (Response Or
173	05:28:14.38264:a0:e7:af	04:f7:e4:ea	EAP	102	Request, Protected EAP (EAP-PEAP)
175	05:28:14.38604:f7:e4:ea	64:a0:e7:af	TLSv1	212	Client Hello
177	05:28:14.39764:a0:e7:af	04:f7:e4:ea	TLSv1	1072	Server Hello, Certificate, Server
179	05:28:14.39804:f7:e4:ea	64:a0:e7:af	EAP	66	Response, Protected EAP (EAP-PEAF
181	05:28:14.40864:a0:e7:af	04:f7:e4:ea	TLSv1	1068	Server Hello, Certificate, Server
183	05:28:14.40904:f7:e4:ea	64:a0:e7:af	EAP	66	Response, Protected EAP (EAP-PEAF
185	05:28:14.41764:a0:e7:af	04:f7:e4:ea	TLSv1	279	Server Hello, Certificate, Server
213	05:28:17.14400:00:00_00	66:a0:e7:b4	LLC	56	I, N(R)=0, N(S)=0; DSAP NULL LSAF
215	05:28:17.34004:f7:e4:ea	64:a0:e7:af	TLSv1	268	Client Key Exchange, Change Ciph
217	05:28:17.35364:a0:e7:af	04:f7:e4:ea	TLSv1	125	Change Cipher Spec, Encrypted Har
220	05:28:17.35404:f7:e4:ea	64:a0:e7:af	EAP	66	Response, Protected EAP (EAP-PEAF
222	05:28:17.36164:a0:e7:af	04:f7:e4:ea	TLSv1	103	Application Data
224	05:28:17.36404:f7:e4:ea	64:a0:e7:af	TLSv1	103	Application Data
226	05:28:17.37164:a0:e7:af	04:f7:e4:ea	TLSv1	135	Application Data
228	05:28:17.37404:f7:e4:ea	64:a0:e7:af	TLSv1	167	Application Data
230	05:28:17.38664:a0:e7:af	04:f7:e4:ea	TLSv1	151	Application Data
232	05:28:17.38804:f7:e4:ea	64:a0:e7:af	TLSv1	103	Application Data
234	05:28:17.39564:a0:e7:af	04:f7:e4:ea	TLSv1	103	Application Data
236	05:28:17.39704:f7:e4:ea	64:a0:e7:af	EAP	66	Response, Protected EAP (EAP-PEAF
238	05:28:17.40564:a0:e7:af	04:f7:e4:ea	EAP	102	Success
240	05:28:17.40964:a0:e7:af	04:f7:e4:ea	EAPOL	177	Key (Message 1 of 4)
242	05:28:17.41204:f7:e4:ea	64:a0:e7:af	EAPOL	298	Key (Message 2 of 4)
244	05:28:17.41864:a0:e7:af	04:f7:e4:ea	EAPOL	355	Key (Message 3 of 4)
246	05:28:17.42104:f7:e4:ea	64:a0:e7:af	EAPOL	155	Key (Message 4 of 4)

- Even in a 802.1X/EAP Authentication, **Always Open System Authentication occur first**
- Then **followed by EAP Authentication & 4 Way handshake** prior to encrypt data.
- *Here is 802.11r FT Association where 802.1X frame exchange after the Open System Authentication & Association completes.*

Open Authentication

- To join and use a wireless network, wireless clients must first discover a basic service set (BSS) and then request permission to associate with it. At that point, clients should be authenticated by some means before they can become functioning members of a wireless LAN.
- The sections that follow explain four types of client authentication you will likely encounter on the CCNP and CCIE Enterprise ENCOR 350-401 exam and in common use.
- With each type, you will begin by creating a new WLAN on the wireless LAN controller, assigning a controller interface, and enabling the WLAN. Because wireless security is configured on a per-WLAN basis, all of the configuration tasks related to this chapter occur in the WLAN > Edit Security tab.

Open Authentication

Open Authentication

- Recall that a wireless client device must send 802.11 authentication request and association request frames to an AP when it asks to join a wireless network.
- The original 802.11 standard offered only two choices to authenticate a client: Open Authentication and WEP.
- Open Authentication offers open access to a WLAN. The only requirement is that a client must use an 802.11 authentication request before it attempts to associate with an AP. No other credentials are needed.
- You have probably seen a WLAN with Open Authentication when you have visited a public location.
- If any client screening is used at all, it comes in the form of Web Authentication.

Creating a WLAN with Open Authentication

- Create a new WLAN and map it to the correct VLAN.
- Go to the General tab and enter the SSID string, apply the appropriate controller interface, and change the status to Enabled.
- Next, select the Security tab to configure the WLAN security and user authentication parameters. Select the Layer 2 tab and then use the Layer 2 Security drop-down menu to select None for Open Authentication, as shown in Figure 20-2.
- When you are finished configuring the WLAN, click the Apply button.

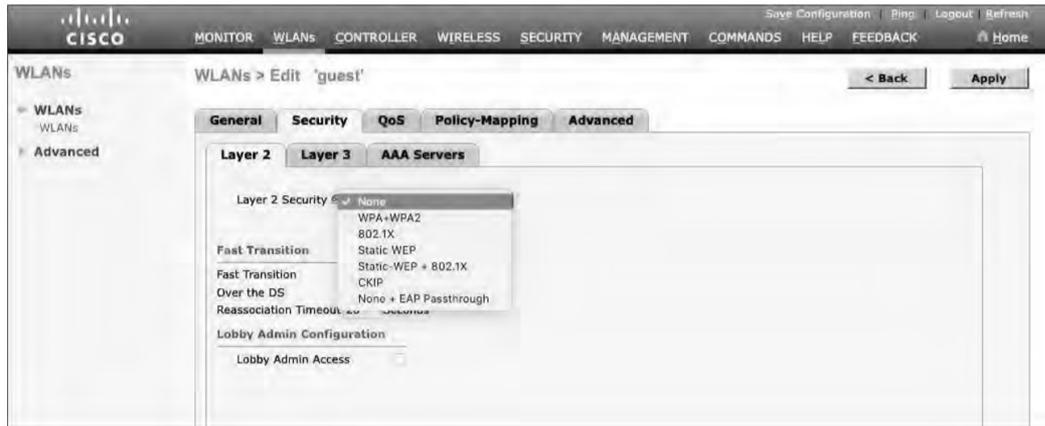


Figure 20-2 *Configuring Open Authentication for a WLAN*

Creating a WLAN with Open Authentication (Cont.)

You can verify the WLAN and its security settings from the WLANs > Edit General tab, as shown in Figure 20-3 or from the list of WLANs, as shown in Figure 20-4.

In both figures, the Security Policies field is shown as None. You can also verify that the WLAN status is enabled and active.



Figure 20-3 Verifying Open Authentication in the WLAN Configuration



Figure 20-4 Verifying Open Authentication from List of WLANs

Authenticating with Pre-Shared Key

- To secure wireless connections on a WLAN, you can leverage one of the Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA) versions: WPA (also known as WPA1), WPA2, or WPA3.
- Each version is certified by the Wi-Fi Alliance so that wireless clients and APs using the same version are known to be compatible.
- The WPA versions also specify encryption and data integrity methods to protect data passing over the wireless connections.
- All three WPA versions support two client authentication modes, Pre-Shared Key (PSK) or 802.1x, depending on the scale of the deployment.

Authenticating with Pre-Shared Key

Wi-Fi Protected Access PSK

Beyond authentication, the Wi-Fi Protected Access also specify encryption and data integrity methods to protect data in the wireless connections. There are following WPA versions:

- WPA (also known as WPA1, did not need new HW)
- **WPA2**
- **WPA3**

All three WPA versions support two client authentication modes, Pre-Shared Key (PSK) or 802.1x, depending on the scale of the deployment. These are also known as personal mode and enterprise mode, respectively.

Personal mode:

- A key string must be shared or configured on every client and AP before the clients can connect to the wireless network.
- The pre-shared key is normally kept confidential so that unauthorized users have no knowledge of it.
- Clients and APs work through a four-way handshake procedure that uses the pre-shared key string to construct and exchange encryption key material that can be openly exchanged. When that process is successful, the AP can authenticate the client, and the two can secure data frames that are sent over the air.

Simultaneous Authentication of Equals (SAE)

With WPA-Personal and WPA2-Personal modes, a malicious user can eavesdrop and capture the four-way handshake between a client and an AP. A dictionary attack can be used to automate the guessing of the pre-shared key. If successful, the malicious user can then decrypt the wireless data or even join the network, posing as a legitimate user.

WPA3-Personal avoids such an attack by strengthening the key exchange between clients and APs through a method known as Simultaneous Authentication of Equals (SAE). Rather than a client authenticating against a server or AP, the client and AP can initiate the authentication process equally and even simultaneously.

Even if a password or key is compromised, WPA3-Personal offers forward secrecy, which prevents attackers from being able to use a key to unencrypt data that has already been transmitted over the air.

The personal mode of any WPA version is usually easy to deploy in a small environment.

Authenticating with Pre-Shared Key

Configuring PSK

You can configure WPA2 or WPA3 personal mode and the pre-shared key with these steps:

Step 1. Navigate to WLANs, select Create New or select the WLAN ID of an existing WLAN to edit. Make sure the parameters on the General tab are set appropriately.

Step 2. Next, select the Security > Layer 2 tab. In the Layer 2 Security drop-down menu, select the appropriate WPA version for the WLAN. In Figure 20-5, WPA+WPA2 has been selected for the WLAN named devices.

Step 3. Under WPA+WPA2 Parameters, the WPA version has been narrowed to only WPA2 by unchecking the box next to WPA and checking both WPA2 Policy and WPA2 Encryption AES.

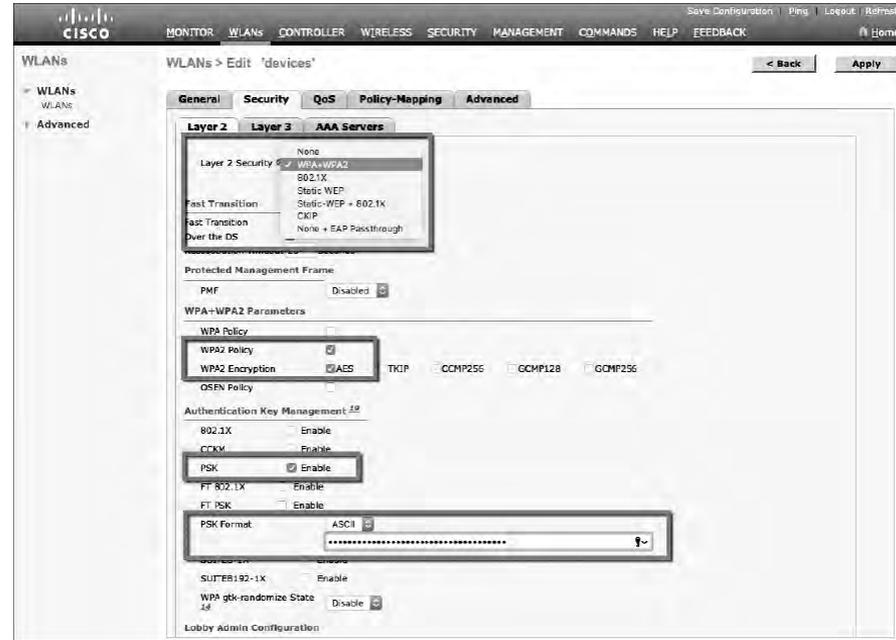


Figure 20-5 Selecting the WPA2 Personal Security Suite for a WLAN

Authenticating with Pre-Shared Key

Verifying PSK

You can verify the WLAN and its security settings from the WLANs > Edit General tab, as shown in Figure 20-6 or from the list of WLANs, as shown in Figure 20-7. In both figures, the Security Policies field is shown as [WPA2][Auth(PSK)]. You can also verify that the WLAN status is enabled and active.



Figure 20-6 Verifying PSK Authentication in the WLAN Configuration



Figure 20-7 Verifying PSK Authentication from the List of WLANs

Authenticating with EAP

- Rather than build additional authentication methods into the 802.11 standard, Extensible Authentication Protocol (EAP) offers a more flexible and scalable authentication framework.
- EAP is extensible and does not consist of any one authentication method. Instead, EAP defines a set of common functions that actual authentication methods can use to authenticate users.
- It can integrate with the IEEE 802.1x port-based access control standard. When 802.1x is enabled, it limits access to a network medium until a client authenticates. This means that a wireless client might be able to associate with an AP but will not be able to pass data to any other part of the network until it successfully authenticates.

Authenticating with EAP

802.1x Client Authentication Roles

With Open Authentication and PSK authentication, wireless clients are authenticated locally at the AP without further intervention. The scenario changes with 802.1x; the client uses Open Authentication to associate with the AP, and then the actual client authentication process occurs at a dedicated authentication server.

Figure 20-8 shows the three-party 802.1x arrangement, which consists of the following entities:

- **Supplicant** - The client device that is requesting access.
- **Authenticator** - The network device that provides access to the network (usually a wireless LAN controller [WLC]).
- **Authentication server (AS)** - The device that takes user or client credentials and permits or denies network access based on a user database and policies (usually a RADIUS server).

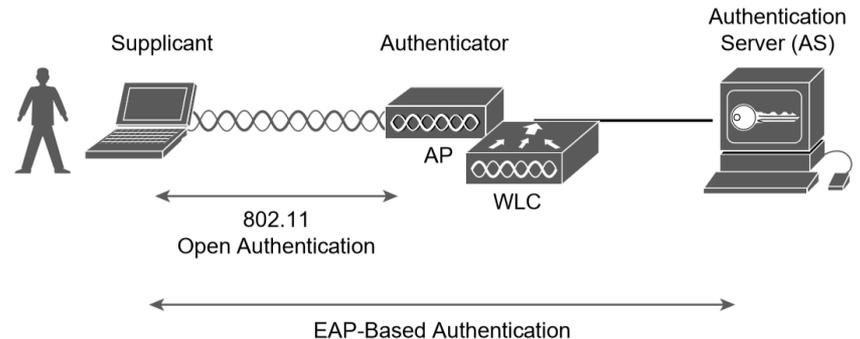


Figure 20-8 802.1x Client Authentication Roles

The controller becomes a middleman in the client authentication process, controlling user access with 802.1x and communicating with the authentication server using the EAP framework.

Authenticating with EAP

Configuring EAP-Based Authentication with External RADIUS Servers

Cisco WLCs can use either external RADIUS servers located somewhere on the wired network or a local EAP server located on the WLC.

You should begin by configuring one or more external RADIUS servers on the controller. Navigate to Security > AAA > RADIUS > Authentication.

- Click the New button to define a new server or select the Server Index number to edit an existing server definition.
- Enter the server's IP address and the shared secret key that the controller will use to communicate with the

server.
cisco

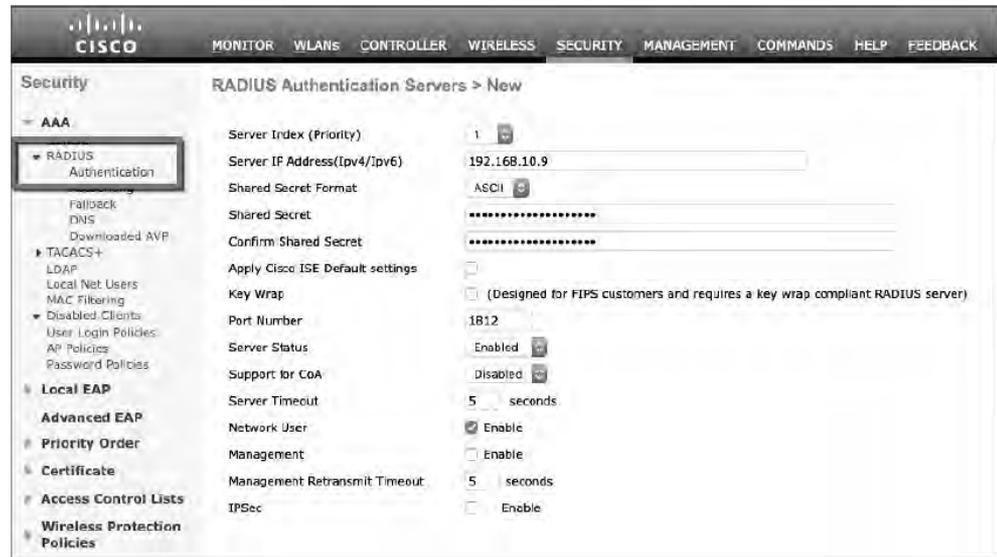


Figure 20-9 Defining a RADIUS Server for WPA2 Enterprise Authentication

Authenticating with EAP

Configuring EAP-Based Authentication with External RADIUS Servers (Cont.)

- Make sure that the RADIUS port number is correct.
- The server status should be Enabled, as selected from the drop-down menu. You can disable a server to take it out of service if needed.
- To authenticate wireless clients, check the Enable box next to Network User. Click the Apply button to apply the new settings.

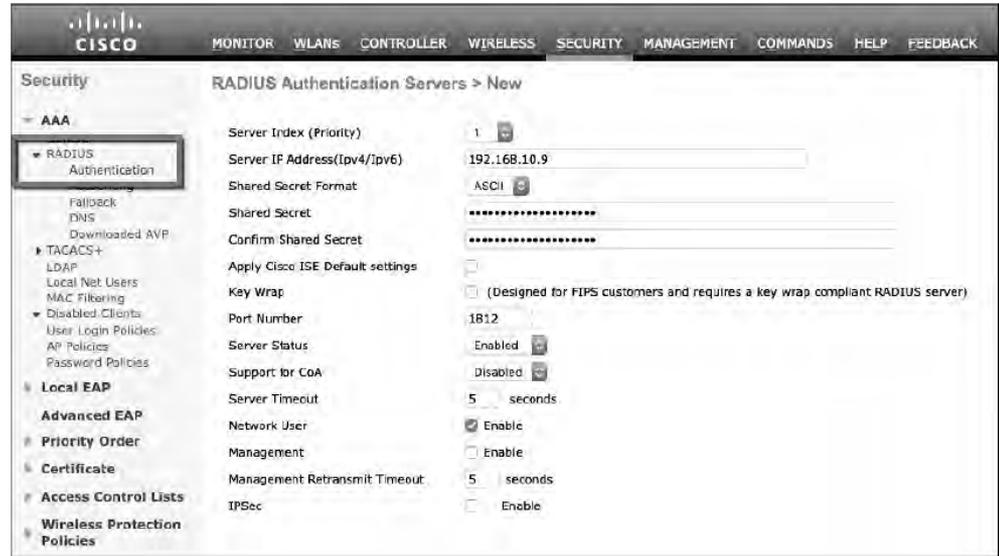


Figure 20-9 Defining a RADIUS Server for WPA2 Enterprise Authentication

Authenticating with EAP

Configuring EAP-Based Authentication with External RADIUS Servers (Cont.)

Next, you need to enable 802.1x authentication on the WLAN. Navigate to WLANs and select a new or existing WLAN to edit.

Figure 20-10 illustrates the settings that are needed on the WLAN named `staff_eap`.

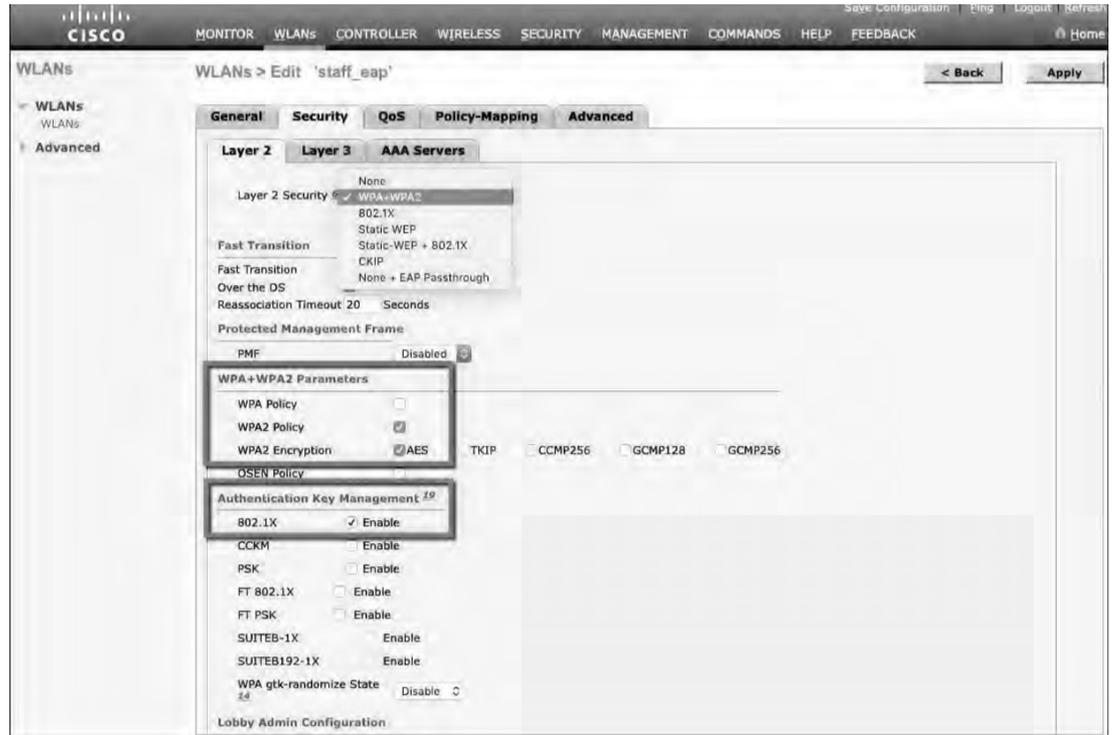


Figure 20-10 Enabling WPA2 Enterprise Mode with 802.1x Authentication

Authenticating with EAP Configuring EAP-Based Authentication with External RADIUS Servers (Cont.)

By default, a controller uses the global list of RADIUS servers in the order you have defined under Security > AAA > RADIUS > Authentication.

You can override that list on the AAA Servers tab, where you can define which RADIUS servers will be used for 802.1x authentication.



Figure 20-11 *Selecting RADIUS Servers to Authenticate Clients in the WLAN*

Configuring EAP-Based Authentication with Local EAP

- If your environment is small or you do not have a RADIUS server in production, you can use an authentication server that is built in to the WLC. This is called Local EAP, and it supports LEAP, EAP-FAST, PEAP, and EAP-TLS.
- Define and enable the local EAP service on the controller. Navigate to Security > Local EAP > Profiles and click the New button. Enter a name for the Local EAP profile, which will be used to define the authentication server methods.

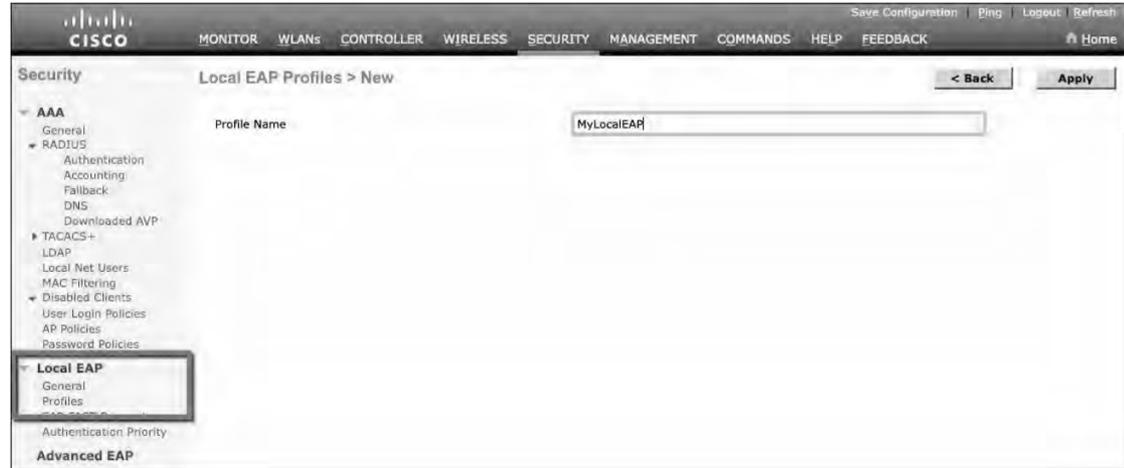


Figure 20-12 *Defining a Local EAP Profile on a Controller*

In Figure 20-12, a new profile called MyLocalEAP has been defined.

Authenticating with EAP

Configuring EAP-Based Authentication with Local EAP (Cont.)

Now you should see the new profile listed, along with the authentication methods it supports, as shown in Figure 20-13. From this list, you can check or uncheck the boxes to enable or disable each method.

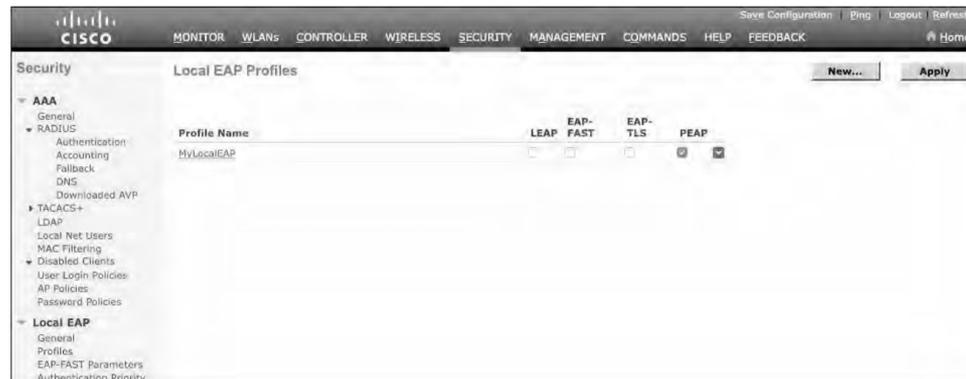


Figure 20-13 Displaying Configured Local EAP Profiles

Select the profile name to edit its parameters. In Figure 20-14, the profile named MyLocalEAP has been configured to use PEAP. Click the Apply button to activate your changes.

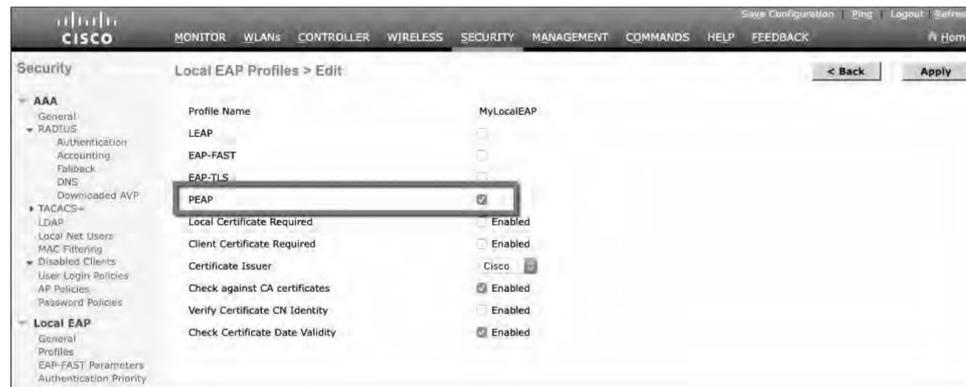


Figure 20-14 Configuring a Local EAP Profile to Use PEAP

Authenticating with EAP

Configure WLAN to Local EAP

Next, you need to configure the WLAN to use the Local EAP server rather than a regular external RADIUS server. Navigate to WLANs, select the WLAN ID, and then select the Security > Layer 2 tab and enable WPA2, AES, and 802.1x as before.

If you have defined any RADIUS servers in the global list under Security > AAA > RADIUS > Authentication or any specific RADIUS servers in the WLAN configuration, the controller will use those first. Local EAP will then be used as a backup method.

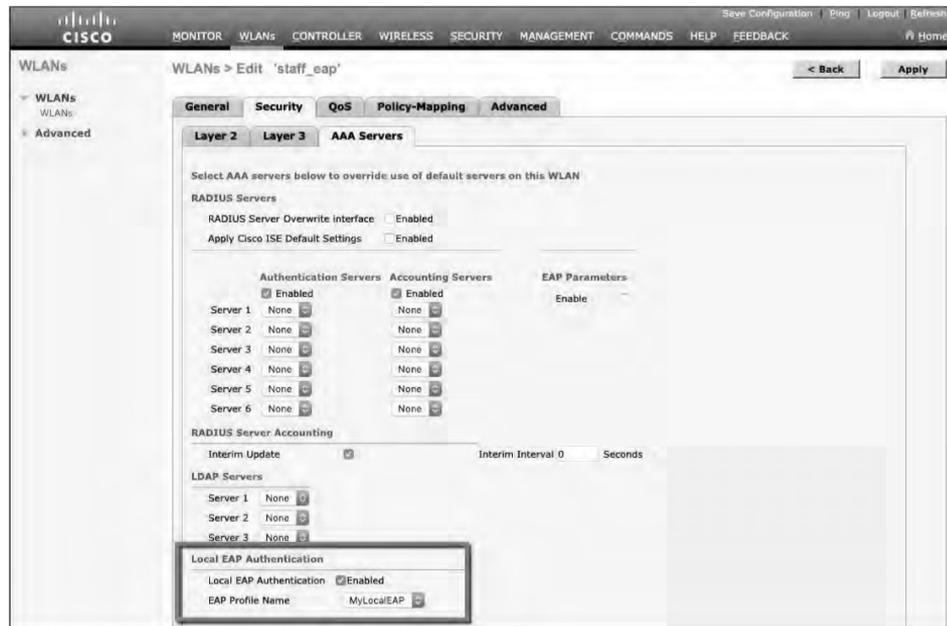


Figure 20-15 Enabling Local EAP Authentication for a WLAN

Authenticating with EAP

Verifying Configuration

Because the Local EAP server is local to the controller, you will have to maintain a local database of users or define one or more LDAP servers on the controller. You can create users by navigating to Security > AAA > Local Net Users. In Figure 20-16, a user named testuser has been defined and authorized for access to the staff_eap WLAN. In Figure 20-17, you can verify the WLAN and its security settings from the list of WLANs by selecting WLANs > WLAN, as shown in Figure 20-17.

You can verify the WLAN and its security settings from the list of WLANs by selecting WLANs > WLAN, as shown in Figure 20-17.

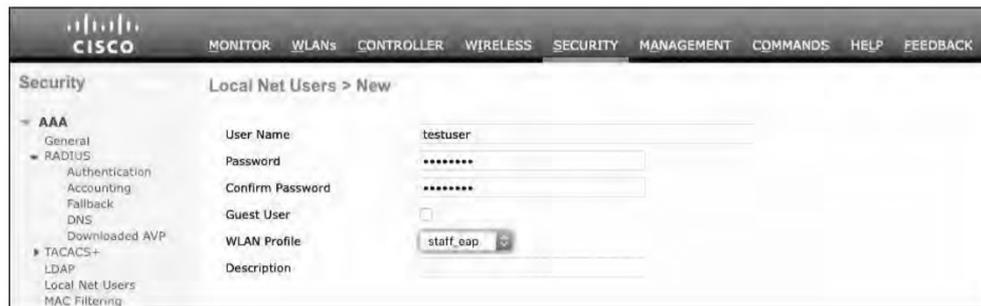


Figure 20-16 Creating a Local User for Local EAP Authentication



Figure 20-17 Verifying EAP Authentication on a WLAN

Authenticating with WebAuth

- You might have noticed that none of the authentication methods described so far involve direct interaction with the end user.
- Web Authentication (WebAuth) is different because it presents the end user with content to read and interact with before granting access to the network.
- WebAuth can be used as an additional layer in concert with Open Authentication, PSK-based authentication, and EAP-based authentication.

Local Web Authentication

Web Authentication can be handled locally on the WLC for smaller environments through Local Web Authentication (LWA). You can configure LWA in the following modes:

- LWA with an internal database on the WLC
- LWA with an external database on a RADIUS or LDAP server
- LWA with an external redirect after authentication
- LWA with an external splash page redirect, using an internal database on the WLC
- LWA with passthrough, requiring user acknowledgment

When there are many controllers providing Web Authentication, it makes sense to use LWA with an external database on a RADIUS server, such as ISE, and keep the user database centralized. The next logical progression is to move the Web Authentication page onto the central server, too. This is called Central Web Authentication (CWA).

Configure WebAuth on WLAN

- First create the new WLAN and map it to the correct VLAN.
- Go to the General tab and enter the SSID string, apply the appropriate controller interface, and change the status to Enabled.
- On the Security tab, select the Layer 2 tab to choose a wireless security scheme to be used on the WLAN. |



In Figure 20-18, the WLAN is named webauth, the SSID is Guest_webauth, and Open Authentication will be used because the None method has been selected.

Figure 20-18 *Configuring Open Authentication for WebAuth*

Configure WebAuth on WLAN (Cont.)

- Next, select the Security > Layer 3 tab and choose the Layer 3 Security type Web Policy, as shown in Figure 20-19.
- When the Authentication radio button is selected (the default), Web Authentication will be performed locally on the WLC by prompting the user for credentials that will be checked against RADIUS, LDAP, or local EAP servers.
- In the figure, Passthrough has been selected, which will display web content such as an acceptable use policy to the user and prompt for acceptance.
- Through the other radio buttons, WebAuth can redirect the user to an external web server for content and interaction. Click the Apply button to apply the changes to the WLAN configuration.



Figure 20-19 Configuring WebAuth with Passthrough Authentication

Configure WebAuth on WLAN (Cont.)

You will need to configure the WLC's local web server with content to display during a WebAuth session.

Navigate to Security > Web Auth > Web Login Page, as shown in Figure 20-20. By default, internal WebAuth is used. You can enter the web content that will be displayed to the user by defining a text string to be used as the headline, as well as a block of message text.

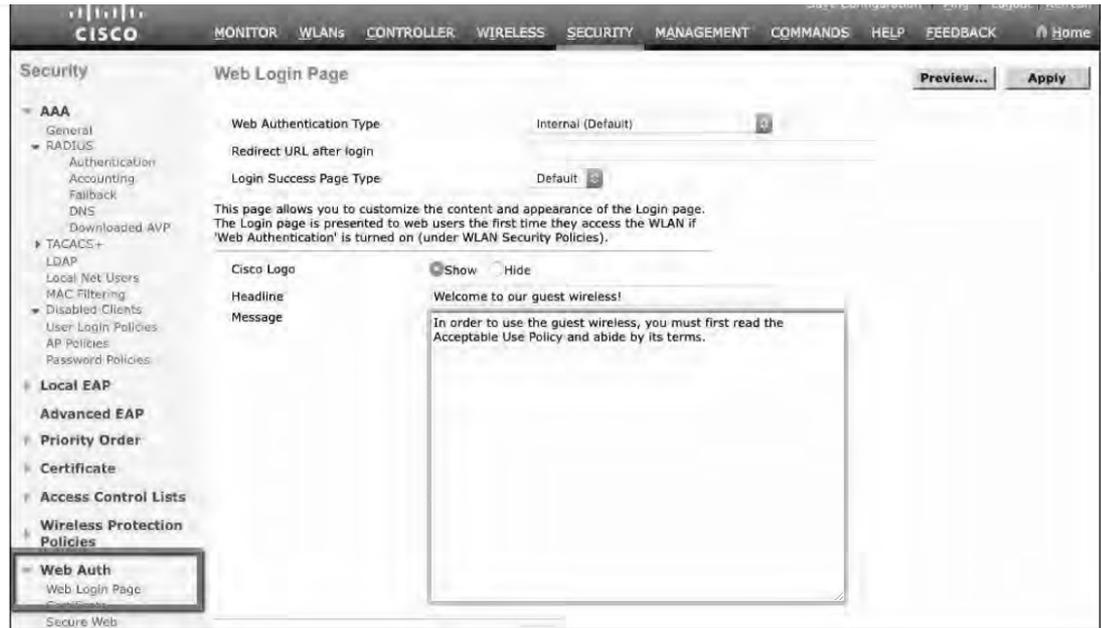


Figure 20-20 *Configuring the WebAuth Page Content*

Authenticating with WebAuth

Verifying WebAuth on a WLAN

You can verify the WebAuth security settings from the list of WLANs by selecting WLANs > WLAN.

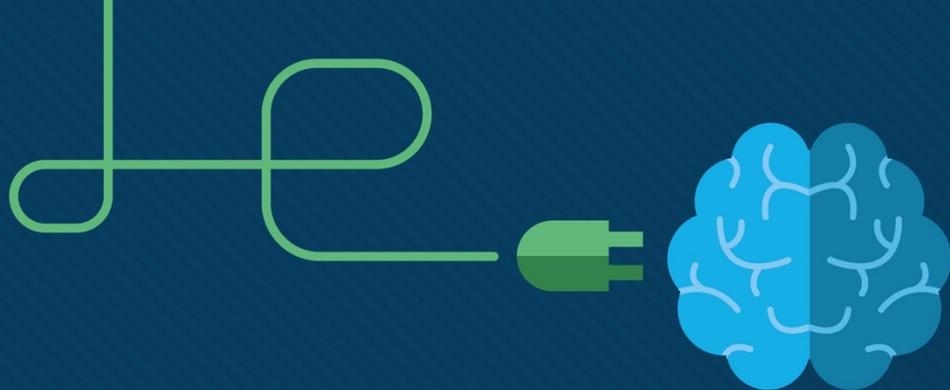
In Figure 20-22, WLAN 4 with SSID Guest_webauth is shown to use the Web-Passthrough security policy. You can also verify that the WLAN status is enabled and active.



The screenshot shows the Cisco configuration interface for WLANs. The table below lists the configured WLANs:

WLAN ID	Type	Profile Name	WLAN SSID	Admin Status	Security Policies
1	WLAN	guest	Guest	Enabled	None
2	WLAN	devices	Devices	Enabled	[WPA2][Auth(PSK)]
3	WLAN	staff_eap	Staff	Enabled	[WPA2][Auth(EAP)]
4	WLAN	webauth	Guest_webauth	Enabled	Web-Passthrough

Figure 20-22 Verifying WebAuth Authentication on a WLAN



Chapter 21: Troubleshooting Wireless Connectivity

Instructor Materials

CCNP Enterprise: Core Networking



Troubleshooting Client Connectivity from WLC

- Most of your time managing and monitoring a wireless network will be spent in the wireless LAN controller GUI.
- You can access a wealth of troubleshooting information from the controller, if you know the client's MAC address.

Troubleshooting Client Connectivity from WLC

When one or more network users report that they are having problems, your first course of action should be to gather more information, ask questions, and try to notice patterns or similarities in the answers you receive.

- Information from the user such as, “I cannot connect” or “The Wi-Fi is down” might mean that the user’s device cannot associate, cannot get an IP address, or cannot authenticate.
- If you get reports from many people in the same area, perhaps an AP is misconfigured or malfunctioning.
- Reports from many areas or from a single service set identifier (SSID) may indicate problems with a controller configuration.

Troubleshooting Client Connectivity from WLC

Conditions for a Successful Wireless Association

If you receive a report of only one wireless user having problems, it might not make sense to spend time troubleshooting a controller, where many users are supported. Instead, you should focus on that one user's client device and its interaction with an AP.

Figure 21-1 illustrates the following conditions that must be met for a successful association:

- The client is within RF range of an AP and asks to associate.
- The client authenticates.
- The client requests and receives an IP address.

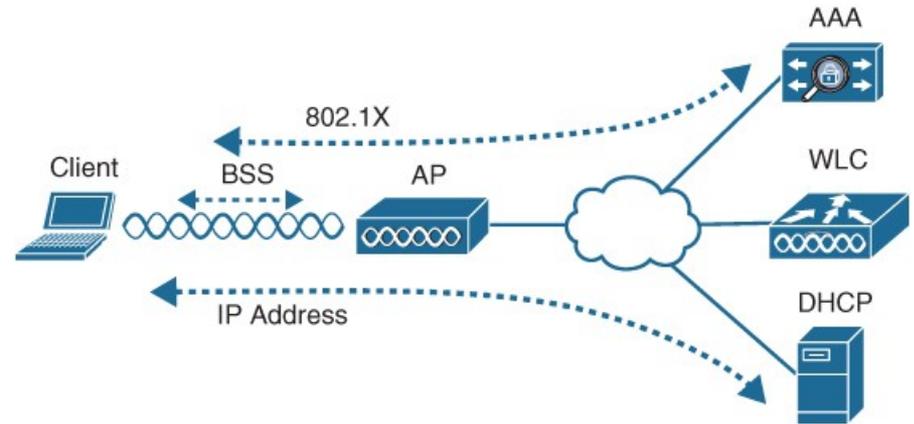


Figure 21-1 Conditions for a Successful Wireless Association

Troubleshooting Client Connectivity from WLC

Cisco WLC GUI

Cisco WLCs have two main GUI presentations, one for monitoring and one for more advanced configuration and monitoring.

When you open a browser to the WLC management address, you see the default screen that is shown in Figure 21-2.

The default screen displays network summary dashboard information on the right portion and monitoring tools in the list on the left.

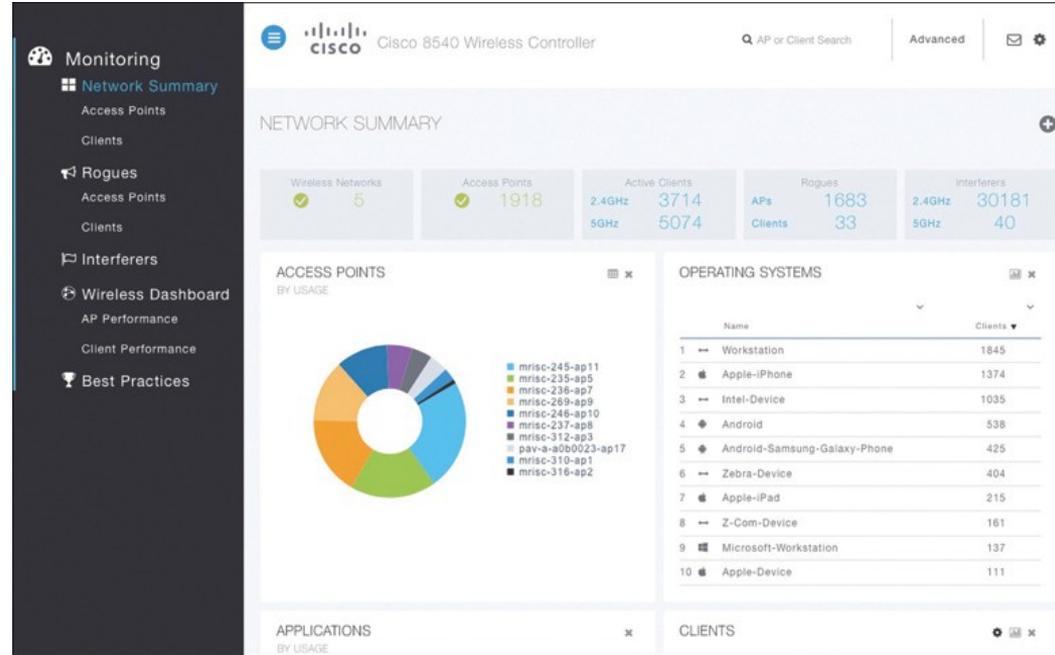


Figure 21-2 The Initial Default WLC Display

Troubleshooting Client Connectivity from WLC

Searching for a Client in the WLC GUI

If you know a specific wireless client's MAC address, you can enter it into the search bar at the top right of the screen.

For example, in Figure 21-3, 78:4b:87:7b:af:96 is the target of the search. Because that MAC address is known to the controller, a match is shown with a client icon below the search bar.

The screenshot displays the Cisco 8540 Wireless Controller GUI. A search bar at the top right contains the MAC address 78:4b:87:7b:af:96, which is highlighted with a red box. Below the search bar, a client icon is visible. The main dashboard shows a 'NETWORK SUMMARY' section with various metrics: Wireless Networks (5), Access Points (1917), Active Clients (2485 2.4GHz, 3871 5GHz), Routers (1674 APs, 16 Clients), and Interferers (28491 2.4GHz, 51 5GHz). Below this, there are sections for 'OPERATING SYSTEMS' (a table) and 'APPLICATIONS BY USAGE' (a donut chart). The 'OPERATING SYSTEMS' table lists various devices and their client counts.

Name	Clients
1 Workstation	1089
2 Apple-iPhone	864
3 Intel-Device	851
4 Android	376
5 Zebra-Device	347
6 Android-Samsung-Galaxy-Phone	273
7 Apple-iPad	167
8 Z-Com-Device	158
9 Microsoft-Workstation	80
10 Apple-Device	73

Figure 21-3 Searching for a Client in the WLC GUI

Troubleshooting Client Connectivity from WLC

Client Search Results

The resulting details about the client are displayed in the Client View screen, shown in Figure 21-4.

From this output, you can see many details about the client device listed in the left portion of the screen, and you can see connectivity and application information displayed on the right.

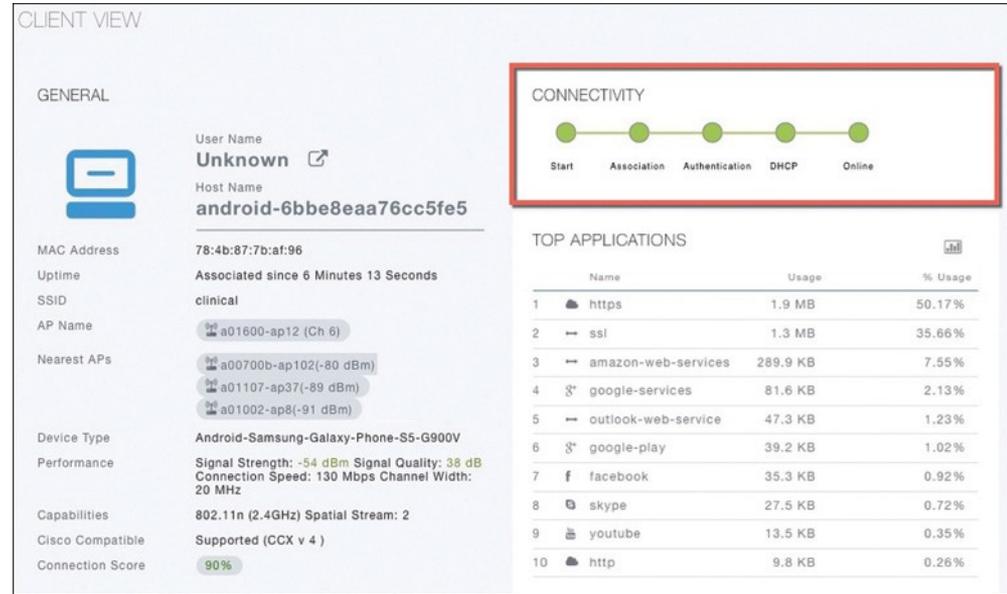


Figure 21-4 Client Search Results

Troubleshooting Client Connectivity from WLC

Checking the Client's Connection Status

Before a controller will permit a client to fully associate with a basic service set (BSS), the client must progress through a sequence of states. Each state refers to a policy that the client must meet before moving on to the next state:

1. **Start** - Client activity has just begun.
2. **Association** - The client has requested 802.11 authentication and association with an AP.
3. **Authentication** - The client must pass a Layer 2 Pre-Shared Key (PSK) or 802.1x authentication policy.
4. **DHCP** - The WLC is waiting to learn the client's IP address from a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server.
5. **Online** - The client has passed Layer 2 and Layer 3 policies, successfully associated, and can pass traffic.

Troubleshooting Client Connectivity from WLC

Checking the Client's Association and Signal Status

Information such as the wireless client's username (if known), hostname, wireless MAC address, wireless connection uptime, and the SSID used can be viewed in the left portion of the Client View screen.

In Figure 21-4, the username is not known because the client does not authenticate itself with a username.

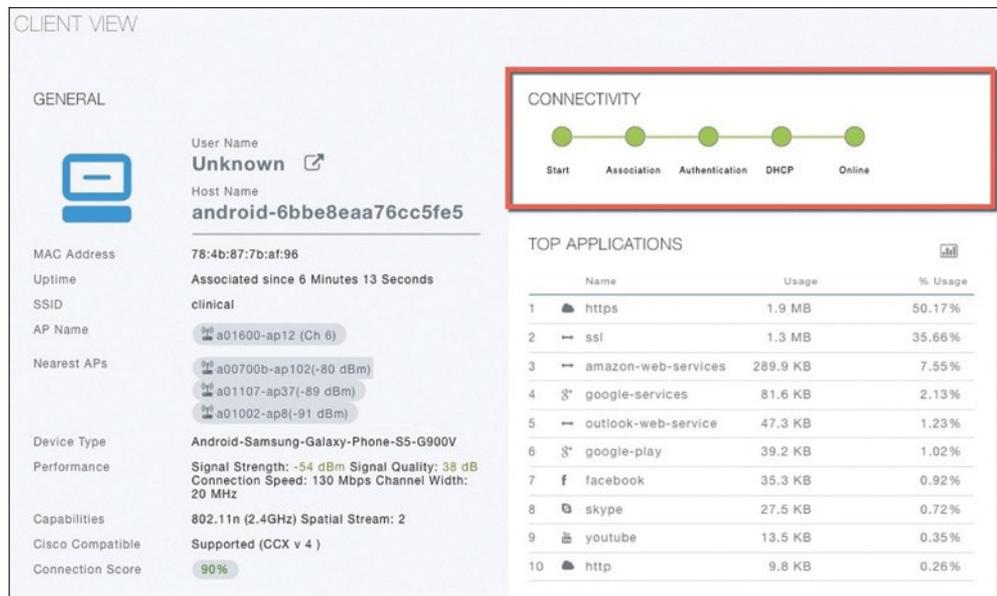


Figure 21-4 Client Search Results

Troubleshooting Client Connectivity from WLC

WLC Information About a Poorly Performing Client

In Figure 21-5 the AP is receiving the client's signal strength at -76 dBm and the SNR at 18 dB (both rather low values), causing the current data rate to fall to 29 Mbps. A quick look at the Connection Score value reveals a low 20%.

It is safe to assume that the client has moved too far away from the AP where it is associated, causing the signal strength to become too low to support faster performance.

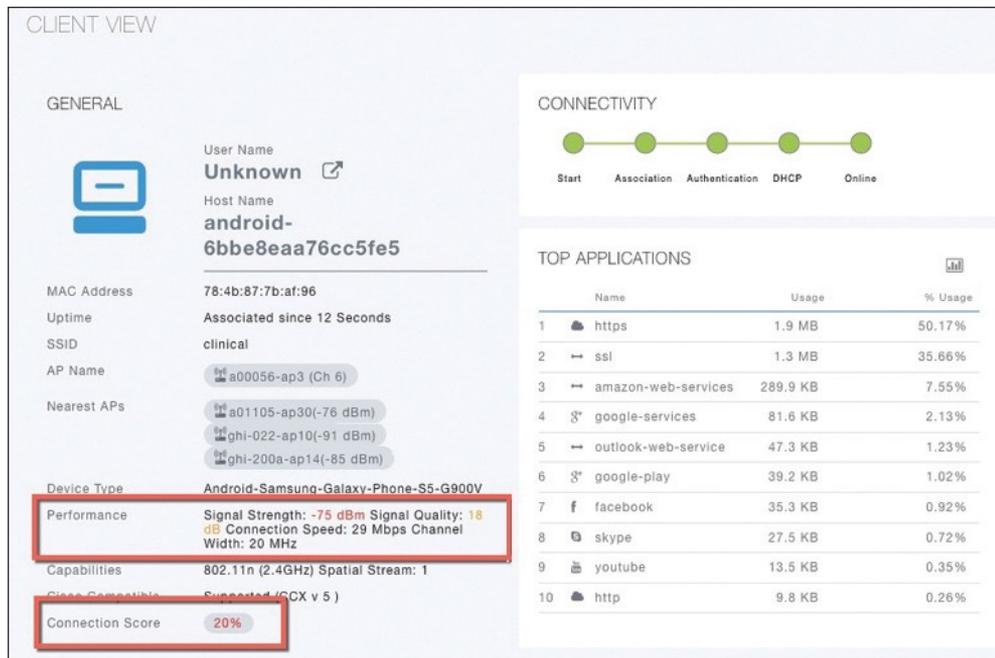


Figure 21-5 WLC Information About a Poorly Performing Client

Troubleshooting Client Connectivity from WLC

WLC Information About a Poorly Performing Client

Clicking on the Connection Score value displays further details in a popup window, as shown in Figure 21-6.

The 20% value is the result of the client's current data rate (29 Mbps) divided by the lower of the AP or client maximum data rate (144 Mbps).

The Client Actual Rate and Connection Score values are indicators of current performance, and the other graphs show what is possible on the AP and the client.

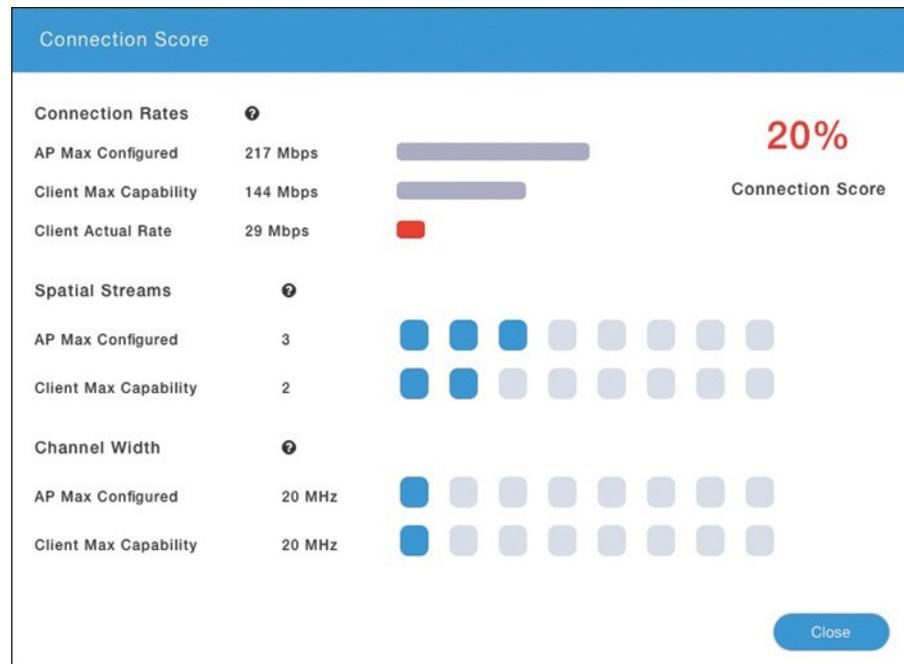


Figure 21-6 Displaying Detailed Client Performance Information

Troubleshooting Client Connectivity from WLC

Checking the Client's Mobility State

- The WLC Client Search information includes a handy end-to-end graphical representation of a client's wireless connection.
- When you scroll down below the General and Connectivity sections, you see a topology diagram like the one shown in Figure 21-7.
- The WLC's name, management IP address, and model are displayed. Following the connection toward the right, you can see the AP name, IP address, and model where the client is associated. Moving further to the right, you can see that the client is associated to the AP. The client device is displayed with identifying information such as the device name, device type, VLAN number, and IP address.

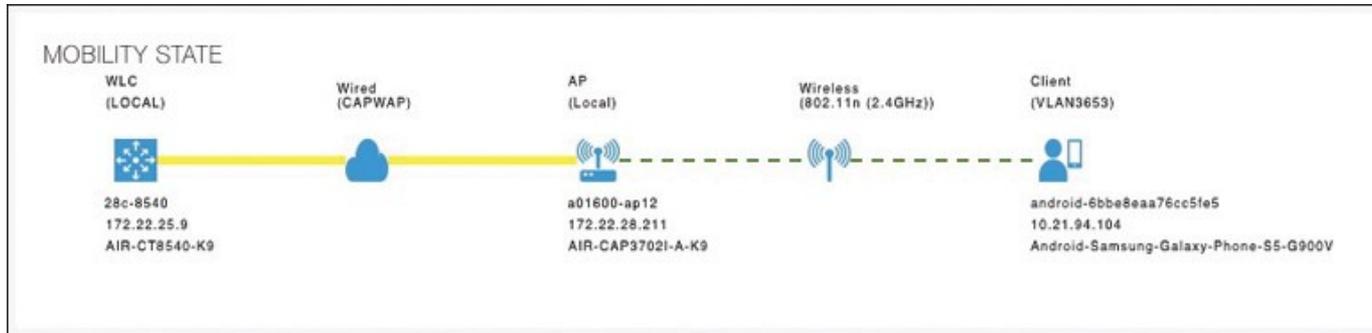


Figure 21-7 Displaying the Client Mobility State

Troubleshooting Client Connectivity from WLC

Checking the Client's Wireless Policies

By scrolling further down in the Client Search information, you can verify information about network, QoS, security, and other policies that affect the client, as shown in Figure 21-8.

You can quickly learn the client's IP address, VLAN number, QoS policy level used by the WLAN, security policy (WPA2), encryption cipher (CCMP AES), and authentication type (PSK with no EAP).

NETWORK & QOS		SECURITY & POLICY	
Description	Status	Description	Status
IP Address	10.21.94.104	Policy	RSN (WPA2)
IPv6 Address	Unknown	Cipher	CCMP (AES)
VLAN	3653	Key Management	PSK
Source Group Tag	N/A	EAP Type	N/A
Fastlane Client	No	ACL (IP/IPv6)	None/None
Mobility Role	No	mDNS Profile	default-mdns-profile
WMM	Supported	AAA Role	None
U-APSD	Disabled		
QoS Level	Silver		

Figure 21-8 *Displaying the Wireless Policies Used by a Client*

Troubleshooting Client Connectivity from WLC

Testing a Wireless Client

When you search for a specific client, the information displayed is of a static nature because it is obtained as a snapshot at the time of the search. The client search will need to be refreshed to get up-to-date data. You can also obtain dynamic data by testing a client in real time.

By scrolling to the bottom of the client search information, you can see the Client Test section, which offers links to four client testing tools:

- **Ping Test:** The WLC sends five ICMP echo packets to the client's IP address and measures the response time, as shown in Figure 21-9.



Figure 21-9 Testing Ping Response Times Between the WLC and Client

Troubleshooting Client Connectivity from WLC

Testing a Wireless Client (Cont.)

Connection: The WLC debugs the client for up to three minutes and checks each policy step as the client attempts to join the wireless network.

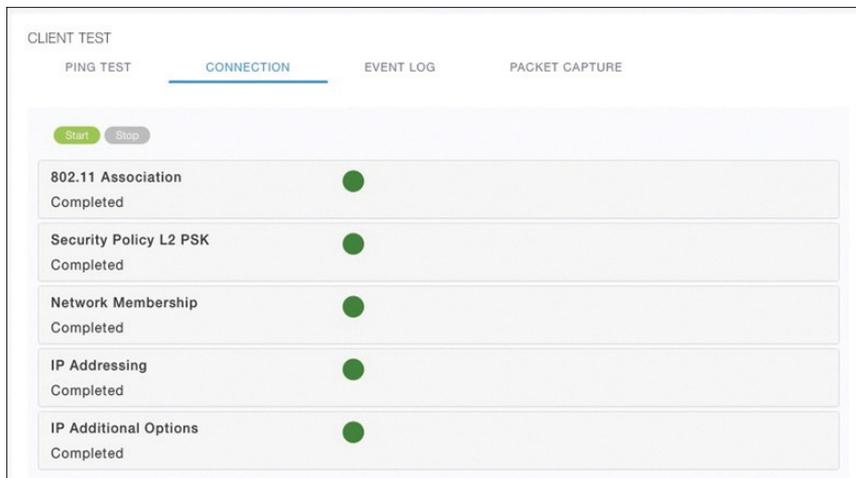


Figure 21-10 Performing a Connection Test on a Successful Wireless Client

Figure 21-10 shows a client that has successfully joined, and Figure 21-11 shows a client that failed Layer 2 authentication with a pre-shared key because its key did not match the key configured on the WLC.

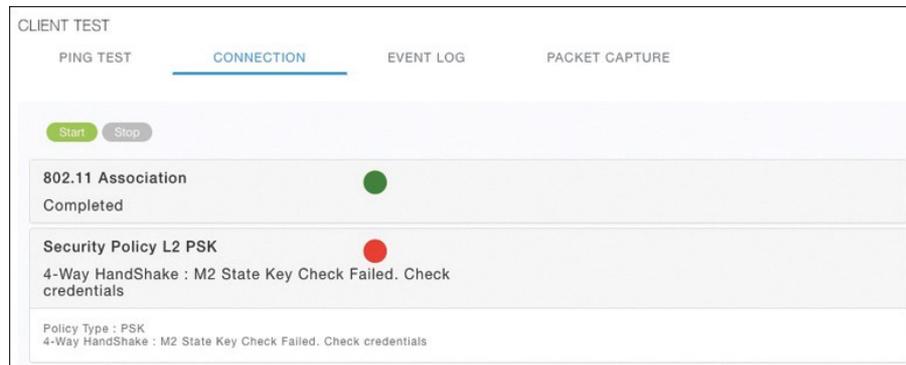


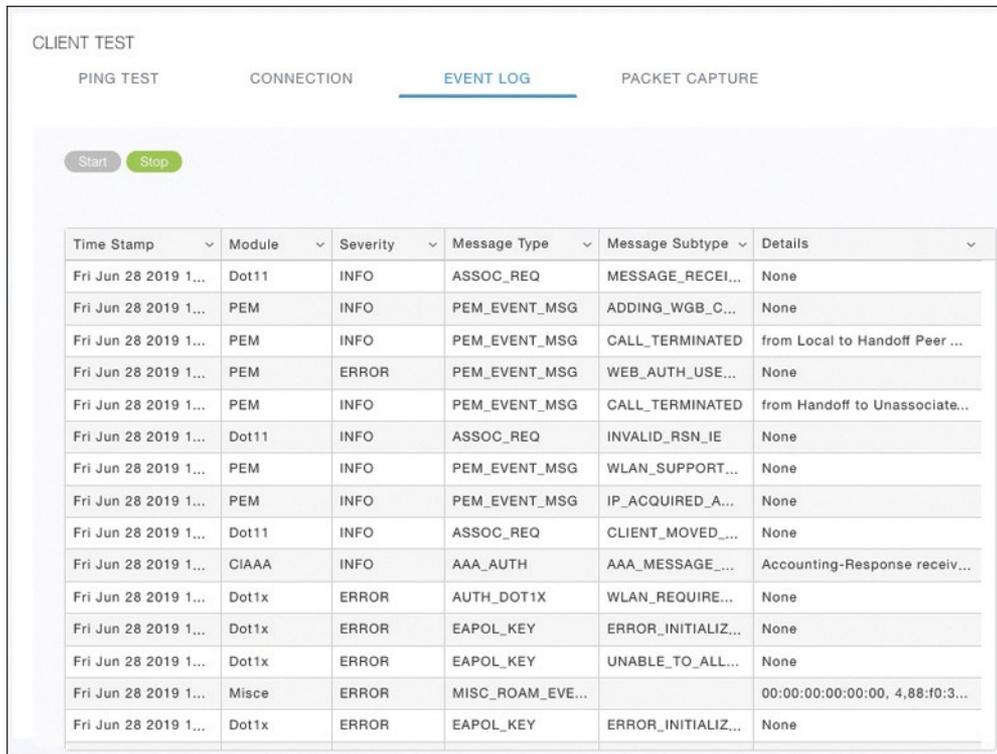
Figure 21-11 Performing a Connection Test on a Failed Wireless Client

Troubleshooting Client Connectivity from WLC

Testing a Wireless Client (Cont.)

Event Log: The WLC collects and displays a log of events as the client attempts to join the wireless network, as shown in Figure 21-12.

This information is very complex and detailed and is usually more suited for Cisco TAC engineers.



Time Stamp	Module	Severity	Message Type	Message Subtype	Details
Fri Jun 28 2019 1...	Dot11	INFO	ASSOC_REQ	MESSAGE_RECEI...	None
Fri Jun 28 2019 1...	PEM	INFO	PEM_EVENT_MSG	ADDING_WGB_C...	None
Fri Jun 28 2019 1...	PEM	INFO	PEM_EVENT_MSG	CALL_TERMINATED	from Local to Handoff Peer ...
Fri Jun 28 2019 1...	PEM	ERROR	PEM_EVENT_MSG	WEB_AUTH_USE...	None
Fri Jun 28 2019 1...	PEM	INFO	PEM_EVENT_MSG	CALL_TERMINATED	from Handoff to Unassociate...
Fri Jun 28 2019 1...	Dot11	INFO	ASSOC_REQ	INVALID_RSN_IE	None
Fri Jun 28 2019 1...	PEM	INFO	PEM_EVENT_MSG	WLAN_SUPPORT...	None
Fri Jun 28 2019 1...	PEM	INFO	PEM_EVENT_MSG	IP_ACQUIRED_A...	None
Fri Jun 28 2019 1...	Dot11	INFO	ASSOC_REQ	CLIENT_MOVED_...	None
Fri Jun 28 2019 1...	CIAAA	INFO	AAA_AUTH	AAA_MESSAGE_...	Accounting-Response receiv...
Fri Jun 28 2019 1...	Dot1x	ERROR	AUTH_DOT1X	WLAN_REQUIRE...	None
Fri Jun 28 2019 1...	Dot1x	ERROR	EAPOL_KEY	ERROR_INITIALIZ...	None
Fri Jun 28 2019 1...	Dot1x	ERROR	EAPOL_KEY	UNABLE_TO_ALL...	None
Fri Jun 28 2019 1...	Misce	ERROR	MISC_ROAM_EVE...		00:00:00:00:00:00, 4,88:f0:3...
Fri Jun 28 2019 1...	Dot1x	ERROR	EAPOL_KEY	ERROR_INITIALIZ...	None

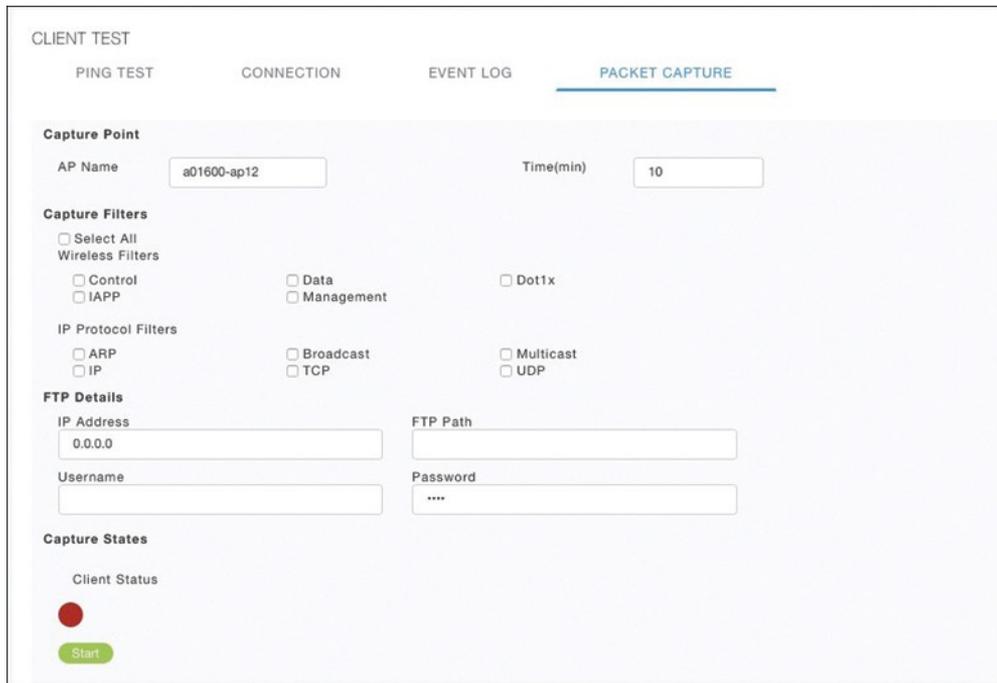
Figure 21-12 Collecting an Event Log of a Client Join Attempt

Troubleshooting Client Connectivity from WLC

Testing a Wireless Client (Cont.)

Packet Capture: The WLC enables a wireless packet capture at the AP where the client attempts to join, as shown in Figure 21-13.

The captured data is saved to a specified FTP server, where it can be downloaded and analyzed using a packet analysis tool like Wireshark or LiveAction Omnipcap.



The screenshot displays the 'CLIENT TEST' configuration page, specifically the 'PACKET CAPTURE' tab. The interface includes several sections for configuring the capture:

- Capture Point:** AP Name is set to 'a01600-ap12' and Time (min) is set to '10'.
- Capture Filters:** Includes 'Select All Wireless Filters' and checkboxes for Control, IAPP, Data, Management, and Dot1x.
- IP Protocol Filters:** Includes checkboxes for ARP, IP, Broadcast, TCP, Multicast, and UDP.
- FTP Details:** Includes fields for IP Address (0.0.0.0), Username, Password (masked with ****), and FTP Path.
- Capture States:** Shows 'Client Status' with a red indicator and a green 'Start' button.

Figure 21-13 Performing a Packet Capture of a Wireless Client

Troubleshooting Connectivity at the AP

- In cases where you get reports from multiple users who are all having problems in the same general area, you might need to focus your efforts on an AP.
- The problem could be as simple as a defective radio, where no clients are receiving a signal. In that case, you might have to go onsite to confirm that the transmitter is not working correctly.

Troubleshooting Connectivity Problems at the AP

The split-MAC architecture creates several different points where you can troubleshoot. Successfully operating the lightweight AP and providing a working BSS require the following:

- The AP must have connectivity to its access layer switch.
- The AP must have connectivity to its WLC, unless it is operating in FlexConnect mode.

Troubleshooting Connectivity Problems at the AP

Displaying Information About an AP

First, verify the connectivity between an AP and a controller.

The easiest approach is to simply look for the AP in the list of live APs that have joined the controller. If you know which controller the AP should join, open a management session to it. Enter the AP's name in the search bar.

If the search reveals a live AP that is joined to the controller, information is displayed in the Access Point View screen, as shown in Figure 21-14.

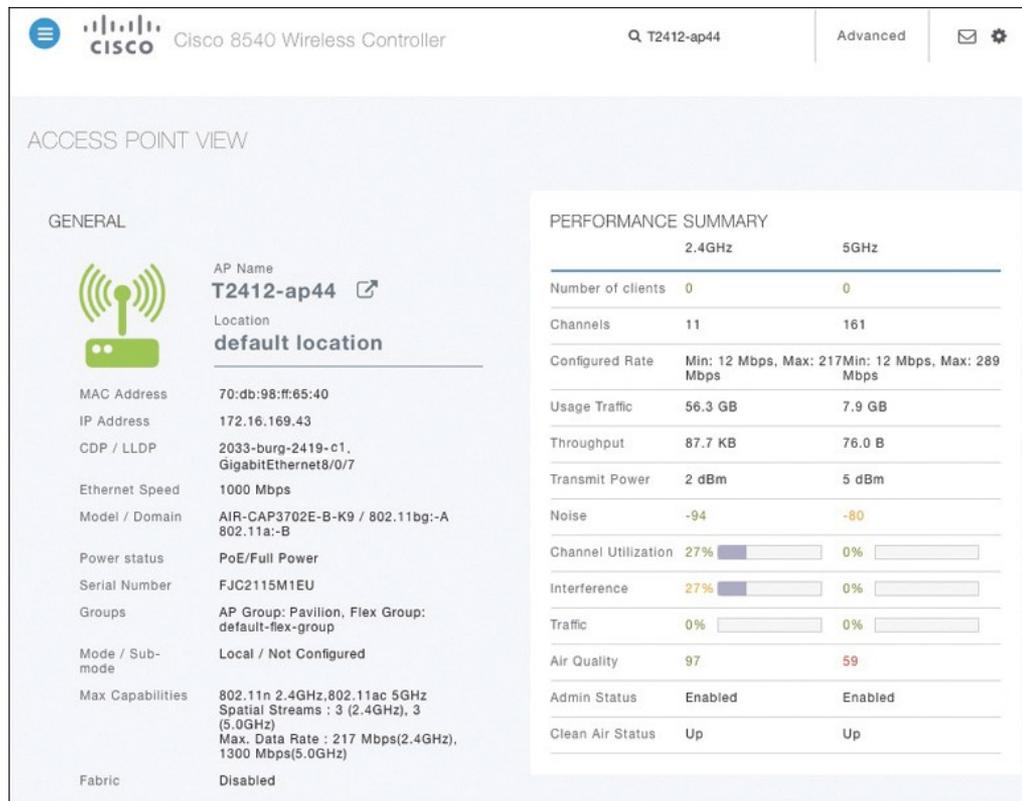


Figure 21-14 Displaying Information About an AP

Troubleshooting Connectivity Problems at the AP

Displaying Information About an AP (Cont.)

In Figure 21-14 the AP is named T2412-ap4, has an IP address and a valid CDP entry that shows the switch name and port number where it is connected. The AP has a live Ethernet connection with a switch and has working Power over Ethernet (PoE).

In the right portion of the Access Point View screen, you can verify parameters related to the AP's wireless performance and RF conditions.

GENERAL

 AP Name **T2412-ap44** 
Location **default location**

MAC Address 70:db:98:ff:65:40
IP Address 172.16.169.43
CDP / LLDP 2033-burg-2419-c1, GigabitEthernet8/0/7
Ethernet Speed 1000 Mbps
Model / Domain AIR-CAP3702E-B-K9 / 802.11bg:-A 802.11a:-B
Power status PoE/Full Power
Serial Number FJC2115M1EU
Groups AP Group: Pavilion, Flex Group: default-flex-group
Mode / Sub-mode Local / Not Configured
Max Capabilities 802.11n 2.4GHz, 802.11ac 5GHz
Spatial Streams : 3 (2.4GHz), 3 (5.0GHz)
Max. Data Rate : 217 Mbps(2.4GHz), 1300 Mbps(5.0GHz)
Fabric Disabled

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

	2.4GHz	5GHz
Number of clients	0	0
Channels	11	161
Configured Rate	Min: 12 Mbps, Max: 217 Mbps	Min: 12 Mbps, Max: 289 Mbps
Usage Traffic	56.3 GB	7.9 GB
Throughput	87.7 KB	76.0 B
Transmit Power	2 dBm	5 dBm
Noise	-94	-80
Channel Utilization	27% 	0% 
Interference	27% 	0% 
Traffic	0% 	0% 
Air Quality	97	59
Admin Status	Enabled	Enabled
Clean Air Status	Up	Up

Figure 21-14 Displaying Information About an AP

Troubleshooting Connectivity Problems at the AP

Performance Summary Information

Another important indicator is the noise level on a channel. Ideally, the noise level should be as low as possible, usually around -90 or -100 dBm, so that 802.11 signals can be received intelligibly and accurately.

Figure 21-15 lists the 5 GHz channel 161 as having a high noise level of -80 dBm—something that is not normal or ideal.

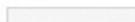
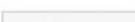
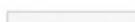
PERFORMANCE SUMMARY		
	2.4GHz	5GHz
Number of clients	0	0
Channels	11	161
Configured Rate	Min: 12 Mbps, Max: 217 Mbps	Min: 12 Mbps, Max: 289 Mbps
Usage Traffic	56.3 GB	7.9 GB
Throughput	87.7 KB	76.0 B
Transmit Power	2 dBm	5 dBm
Noise	-94	-80
Channel Utilization	27% 	0% 
Interference	27% 	0% 
Traffic	0% 	0% 
Air Quality	97	59
Admin Status	Enabled	Enabled
Clean Air Status	Up	Up

Figure 21-15 Performance Summary Information

Troubleshooting Connectivity Problems at the AP

Performance Summary Information (Cont.)

The channel information also shows an index of air quality. This is a measure of how competing and interfering devices affect the airtime quality or performance on a channel, presented as a number from 0 (worst) to 100 (best).

The AP shows the air quality of channel 11 as 97, which is very good. However, channel 161 is 59, which is of concern.

You can scroll further down in the Access Point View screen to see detailed information about the AP including a list of clients it is supporting, RF troubleshooting information, clean air assessments, and a tool to reboot the AP.

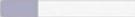
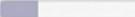
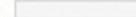
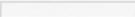
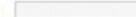
PERFORMANCE SUMMARY		
	2.4GHz	5GHz
Number of clients	0	0
Channels	11	161
Configured Rate	Min: 12 Mbps, Max: 217 Mbps	Min: 12 Mbps, Max: 289 Mbps
Usage Traffic	56.3 GB	7.9 GB
Throughput	87.7 KB	76.0 B
Transmit Power	2 dBm	5 dBm
Noise	-94	-80
Channel Utilization	27% 	0% 
Interference	27% 	0% 
Traffic	0% 	0% 
Air Quality	97	59
Admin Status	Enabled	Enabled
Clean Air Status	Up	Up

Figure 21-15 Performance Summary Information

Troubleshooting Connectivity Problems at the AP

Displaying Information About RF Interferers

In Figure 21-16, the RF Troubleshoot tab has been selected to display interferer data for the channels in the 5 GHz band.

There are no interfering neighbor or rogue APs, but there is a clean air interferer in channel 161 - the channel that the AP is using.



Figure 21-16 Displaying Information About RF Interferers

Troubleshooting Connectivity Problems at the AP

Displaying Information About Clean Air

Select the Clean Air tab to see more details about the interfering devices that have been detected.

In Figure 21-17, the Active Interferers table lists one continuous transmitter device with a severity level of 45, a duty cycle of 100%, and an RSSI value of -78 dBm.

The severity level indicates how badly the interferer is affecting the channel. The duty cycle represents the percentage of time the device is actually transmitting.

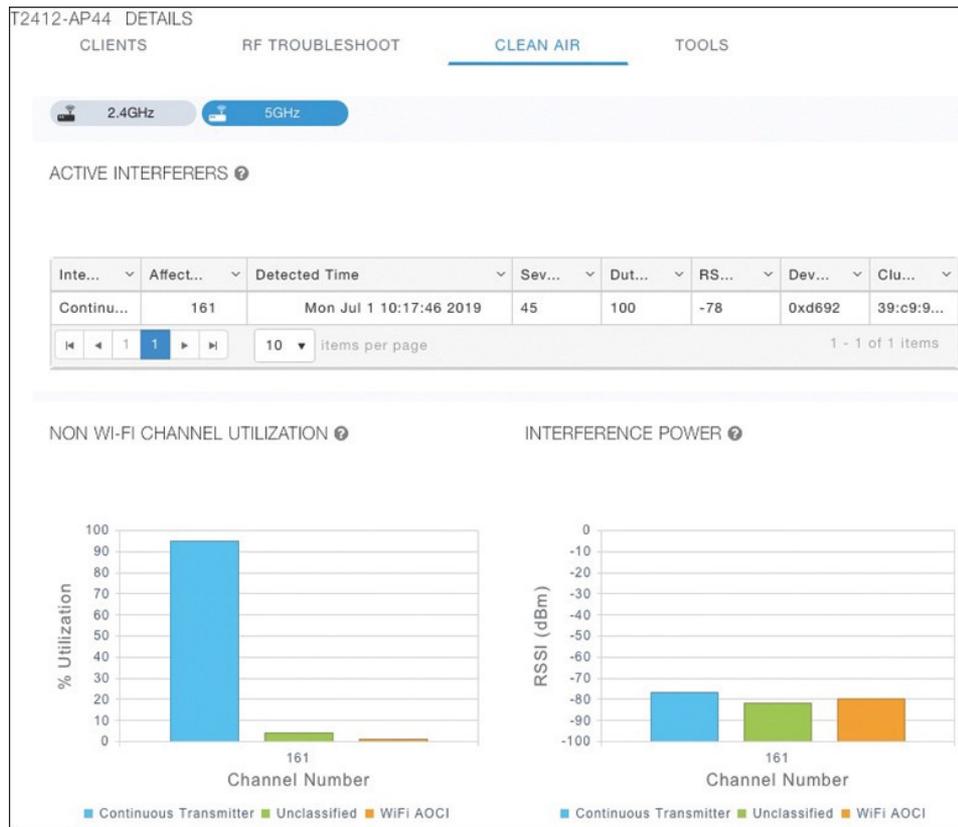


Figure 21-17 Displaying Information

Troubleshooting Connectivity Problems at the AP Displaying Information About Clean Air (Cont.)

The two bar graphs represent the percentage of time the device is using the channel and the received signal strength level of the device.

If users are complaining about problems when they are around this AP, you should focus your efforts on tracking down the continuously transmitting device.

The best outcome is if the device can be disabled or moved to an unused channel. If not, you will likely have to reconfigure the AP to use a different channel to move away from the interference.

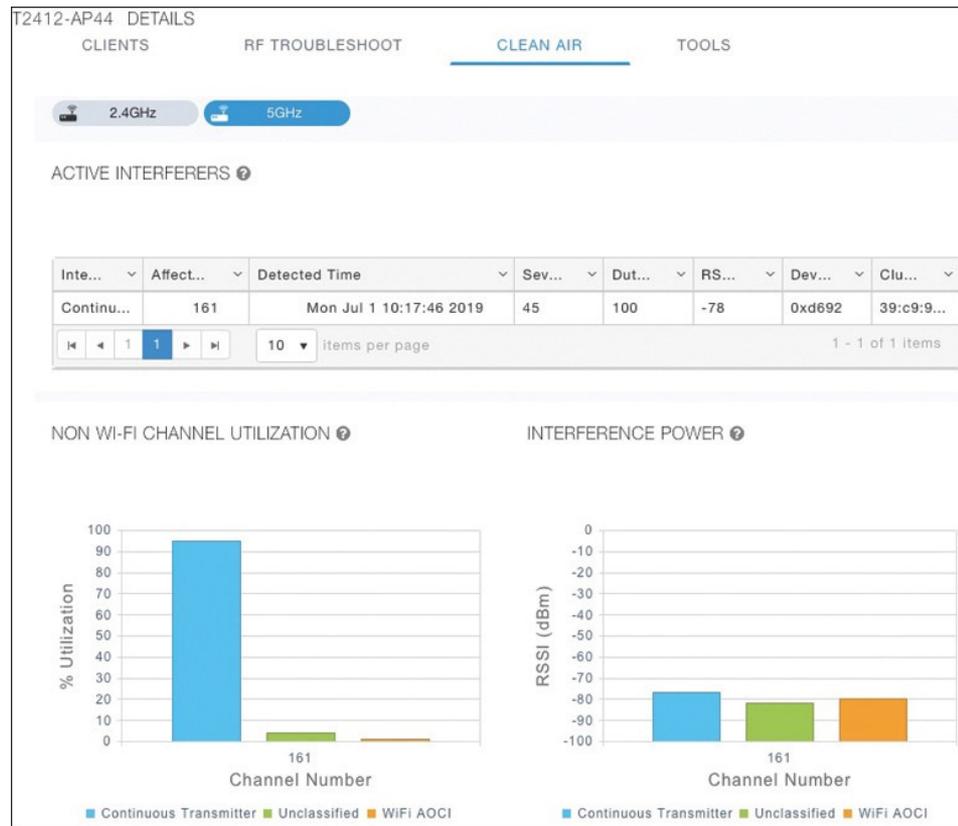


Figure 21-17 Displaying Information

