



New Cisco Aironet **Windows Software Release** Simplifies Wireless LAN Client Adapter Administration and Improves Ease of Use

Cisco Systems® is pleased to announce the availability of a new release of Cisco® Aironet® software for Windows that automates and simplifies the administration of Cisco Aironet wireless LAN client adapters.

With this software release, an administrator can automate the process of installing or upgrading Cisco Aironet wireless LAN client adapter software and profiles on hundreds or thousands of machines that run Windows 98, 2000, Me, NT, and XP. Windows users will no longer need to download several individual files or bundles that previously required the separate extraction and installation of each file.

This release includes the following new tools and features for IT administrators and end users:

- *Cisco Aironet Configuration Administration Tool*—This graphical user interface (GUI) tool operates on an administrator's machine running Windows and enables an IT administrator to:
 - Select the Cisco Aironet software components that will be installed or upgraded on user machines
 - Specify what functions in those software components will be overridden, or made unavailable, to the user
 - Create profiles for adapters
 - Bundle profiles, overrides, and software components in a customized downloadable image for installation by the Cisco Aironet Client Adapter Installation Wizard
- *Cisco Aironet Client Adapter Installation Wizard*—This software application uses a standard or Aironet Configuration Administration Tool-created image to install or upgrade Cisco Aironet software components such as client adapter firmware, drivers, utilities, and security modules as well as profiles on to a user's machine. The wizard can run in an interactive mode or in an automated “silent mode” without user interaction, triggered by existing IT software distribution tools. The wizard image file is a self-extracting executable (.exe) file.



The wizard supports Cisco Aironet 5 GHz 54 Mbps (802.11a) client adapters and Cisco Aironet 350, 340, 4800 Series (802.11b) client adapters for Windows 98, 2000, Me, NT, and XP. The standard image file includes the following software releases:

- Cisco Aironet client adapter Firmware version 5.02.19
- Windows NDIS Driver version 8.3 for PCMCIA, LMC, and PCI client adapter types
- Windows NDIS Driver version 3.5 for Mini PCI and Cardbus 20A client adapter types
- Aironet Client Utilities Version 6.0
- Aironet Client Monitor Version 2.0
- *Troubleshooting facility*—gives the end user step-by-step details on the process of connecting to an access point and highlights why a connection failed.
- *System Tray icon*—This icon provides easy access to wireless LAN connection information and one-click access to common actions such as selecting the right profile for a wireless LAN.
- *Autoselection of Cisco LEAP profile*—A user can include a Cisco LEAP profile in the profile list for automatic selection without having to store the LEAP username and password in the profile.
- *Prioritizing profiles for autoselection*—A user can prioritize the profiles stored in the profile list for automatic selection.
- *PEAP support on Windows 2000*—Support for the Cisco Protected Extensible Authentication Protocol (PEAP) supplicant, which includes user authentication using one-time passwords (OTP), is extended to Windows 2000 in addition to Windows XP.
- *Cisco LEAP authentication status screen*—A new authentication screen provides the user with status updates regarding the Cisco LEAP authentication process.

Windows 95 is not supported in this software release.

Numerous caveats are resolved in this release. Please read the Release Notes for additional information about resolved and unresolved caveats.

Download this software release from the [Cisco Wireless Software Center](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Does the Cisco Aironet Client Adapter Installation Wizard file contain firmware, drivers, and utilities for all adapter types, client adapter models, and Windows operating systems?

A. The wizard image file contains firmware, drivers, utilities and other software for the following:

- Cisco Aironet client adapter models: 350, 340, and 4800 Series (802.11b) and 5 GHz 54 Mbps (802.11a)
- Adapter types: PCMCIA, LMC, PCI, Mini-PCI, and Cardbus 20A
- Windows operating systems: 98, 2000, Me, NT, and XP (Cardbus 20A does not support Windows NT)



Q. Can I run the Aironet Client Adapter Installation Wizard without an adapter in my machine?

A. No. Before the wizard runs, a Cisco Aironet wireless LAN client adapter card must be installed or inserted into your Windows machine, because Windows network driver interface specification (NDIS) drivers and radio firmware can be installed only when a wireless LAN client adapter is available on the windows machine.

Q. When the Aironet Client Adapter Installation Wizard runs in interactive mode, what actions must the user take?

A. After the user downloads the wizard image (.exe) file and double-clicks on it, the wizard self-extracts to auto-load the setup program. If the .exe file does not auto-load, select the Setup.exe file from the folder. The wizard will then automatically run the setup program, which automatically loads the firmware, NDIS driver, utilities and security modules onto the client machine. The wizard automatically determines the operating system and client adapter type. Please read the release notes for additional information.

Q. Do users still need to download the client adapter bundled files?

A. No. Loading of individual or bundled firmware, NDIS driver, or utilities files is not necessary when the Aironet Client Adapter Installation Wizard file is used. All files are included in the Aironet Client Adapter Installation Wizard.

Q. What is the Aironet Client Monitor?

A. The Aironet Client Monitor is an optional application that runs “behind” a System Tray icon and provides a subset of Aironet Client Utility features. The Aironet Client Monitor enables access to status information about the client adapter and simplifies basic tasks such as selecting a profile. The Aironet Client Monitor has three GUI components: an icon, a tool tip window, and a pop-up menu. Please read the release notes to learn more about the Aironet Client Monitor.

Q. Which IEEE 802.1X and EAP types are supported by which Windows operating systems for this new release?

A. The new release includes a supplicant, or client software component, for each of the following IEEE 802.1X authentication types, which use EAP:

- LEAP on Windows 98, Me, NT, 2000, and XP
- PEAP, including support for client authentication using one-time passwords, on Windows 2000 and XP
- EAP-Subscriber Identity Module (EAP-SIM) on Windows 98, Me, NT, 2000, and XP

Cisco does not supply a supplicant for EAP-Transport Layer Security (EAP-TLS) or EAP-Tunneled TLS (EAP-TTLS), but Cisco Aironet client adapters support each type when a supplicant is available in the operating system or through third-party software.

Q. Why are there separate versions of the client adapter firmware available for downloading?

A. Other operating systems such as Windows CE need the client adapter firmware file for complete operation. Also, additional client adapter firmware versions with specific, enhanced functions may be made available for Windows operating systems on an as-needed basis. Windows users may choose to use the client adapter firmware that is automatically installed with the Aironet Client Adapter Installation Wizard file or they can install later versions that are not yet included in the Aironet Client Adapter Installation Wizard. If a firmware version later than the firmware automatically installed with the Wizard is available, it will be displayed in the file downloading page.



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