

## How Cisco Tracks RFID with Active RFID and Wireless LANs

Active RFID tags and WLANs ensure compliance with corporate finance and government regulations.

### BUSINESS BENEFITS

- Assets located within a 3 to 4 meter radius for better logistics and control
- Uses investment in 802.11 wireless network
- Compatible with internal application and central database for asset tracking
- Complies with corporate policies on information security
- Supports asset tags from multiple vendors

“This solution gives us the near-real-time information on equipment location that we need for improved asset tracking.”

– Sylesh Chandrashekar, IT Analyst,  
Cisco India

**Maintaining accurate information about the location of valuable equipment is a complex and ongoing challenge for any large enterprise.** New technologies such as radio frequency identification (RFID) can help streamline asset tracking and improve workflows for equipment procurement and logistics.

**Cisco® IT initiated a “proof-of-concept” project in Cisco India labs to evaluate how well the company’s wireless LAN could detect equipment with active RFID tags.** The project also verified how well the solution could communicate data about equipment location over the wireless LAN to an internally developed asset tracking application.

**Tracking this high-value equipment is both difficult and essential.**

The Cisco India lab operations are spread across multiple buildings and locations. Equipment is often transferred among the labs or to external vendors. Accurate location tracking is required both by the Cisco India finance division and the Software Technology Park of India

(STPI), a government regulatory institution. Historically, separate teams for the engineering, logistics, and finance departments used multiple spreadsheet files for manually tracking equipment information, which meant data was often inconsistent and inaccurate.

**The solution was a wireless asset tracking solution with three parts.** Active RFID tags communicate with the Cisco wireless LAN to track current equipment location. The element discovery and mapping capabilities of Cisco network management systems show asset location on a graphical floor map display. Location data is sent to Cisco i-Secure, a central, internally developed database and application for asset tracking.

**The proof-of-concept project confirmed Cisco’s ability to use active RFID tags for asset tracking.** The Cisco WLAN was able to read the active RFID tags and locate the asset within a radius of 3 to 4 meters, while complying with corporate security policies. To fully support RFID at Cisco India facilities, Cisco IT plans an upgrade to the WLAN infrastructure that will take advantage of the existing investment in this 802.11 wireless network.

**Case Study:** [http://www.cisco.com/web/about/ciscoitwork/case\\_studies.html](http://www.cisco.com/web/about/ciscoitwork/case_studies.html)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To read the entire case study or for additional Cisco IT case studies on a variety of business solutions, visit Cisco on Cisco: Inside Cisco IT [www.cisco.com/go/ciscoit](http://www.cisco.com/go/ciscoit)

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