

# Connected Network Assistant for Wireless



## A Solution for Managing Wireless

With trends such as bring-your-own-device (BYOD), it is a fact that more and more wireless devices are connecting to the network. This has created a demand for small and medium-sized businesses to increase their wireless capacity, resulting in an increase in the number of access points and other network infrastructure devices. To assist in the configuration and monitoring of these devices, Cisco has created Cisco® Network Assistant. Cisco Network Assistant is a PC-based network management application optimized for wired and wireless networks belonging to growing small and medium-sized businesses. It provides a centralized network view with a user-friendly GUI that simplifies configuration, management, and troubleshooting. Using Cisco Network Assistant, network administrators can easily apply common services, generate inventory reports, and synchronize passwords across Cisco access points, routers, and switches.

## Using Cisco Network Assistant for Wireless

### Network Configuration

For quick and easy setup of your access points, Cisco Network Assistant eliminates the tedious remote configuration of one device at a time and provides a centralized network view with a user-friendly, drag-and-drop GUI that simplifies configuration, management, and troubleshooting of single or multiple access points. Using Cisco Network Assistant, you can easily discover and initialize your network of stand-alone access points. Configuration is simple through an intuitive GUI interfaces. You can quickly discover your access points and configure your wireless network settings on each individual access point or choose to configure multiple access points at one time. With a single click you can also launch the embedded AP GUI or initiate a Telnet session.

### Network Management

Cisco Network Assistant makes ongoing management of networks easy. It allows network administrators to reset passwords, generate inventory reports, and even upgrade Cisco IOS® Software through a simple drag-and-drop process.

### Network Troubleshooting

Cisco Network Assistant makes troubleshooting simple by highlighting problem areas in the topology view – allowing administrators to quickly evaluate the cause of network problems. It also automatically identifies potential network problems, such as cable faults and configuration errors, and documents them with a graphical trend chart.

### Network Optimization

Cisco Network Assistant helps reduce network risk by reviewing network configurations and recommending changes in quality of service (QoS), security, and availability based on Cisco CCIE® best practices.

### Device Support

Cisco Network Assistant supports a variety of Cisco Catalyst® switches, Integrated Services Routers (ISRs), wireless LAN controllers, and Aironet® access points.

A list of supported devices is available in the [Cisco Network Assistant Data Sheet](#).

## Active Product Lifecycle Information

Through direct access to Cisco Active Advisor, Cisco Network Assistant makes essential product information for your network, including your Cisco Aironet access points, immediately available. You can set up notifications about product lifecycle milestones that may compromise the security or integrity of your network.

Cisco Active Advisor shows the following information and is constantly expanding its functions:

- Warranty and service contract status
- Product advisories: Product Security Incident Response Team (PSIRT) and field notices
- End-of-life notifications: Hardware and software

## Summary

When used with Cisco's entry-level value-based Aironet 700 and 1600 Series access points, the Cisco Network Assistant benefits small, medium-sized, and growing businesses by providing simplified wireless configuration and management features while accessing crucial product lifecycle information.

## For More Information

- Cisco Network Assistant is available free, and can be downloaded at <http://www.cisco.com/go/cna>.
- Cisco Active Advisor is available free at [www.ciscoactiveadvisor.com](http://www.ciscoactiveadvisor.com).
- For more information on Cisco's wireless portfolio, please visit [www.cisco.com/go/wireless](http://www.cisco.com/go/wireless).