Cisco Mobility Express Solution Eases Your Wi-Fi Deployments

BENEFITS:

- Simple by design to enable fast IT: You're up and running in less than 10 minutes
- Uses 802.11ac Wave 2, the latest wireless LAN technology on the market
- Accelerates Wi-Fi setup and management at sites with limited IT staff
- Embeds a wireless controller function into your access point at no extra cost
- Manages small and midsize networks of more than one access points per Mobility Express instance
- Supports Cisco's industry-leading RF management features with no price premium
- Comes preconfigured with well-known best-practice enterprise settings

Now you can deploy your small to midsize wireless LAN in less than 10 minutes. You can also easily manage and troubleshoot your network using advanced software-based wireless controller functions built right into your Cisco® 802.11ac Wave 2 access point at no extra charge.

Wireless networks have become part of our day-to-day activities. In fact, they form the core network infrastructure for most organizations, large or small. To help you get your wireless network up and running quickly, scale it, and then easily manage it without needing special appliances, Cisco has bundled Mobility Express into its 802.11ac Wave 2 access points.

The primary outcomes you get from the solution are:

- You can set up a wireless LAN containing more than one access points in less than 10 minutes. Just use our simple over-the-air wizard, shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Three Steps and You're Up
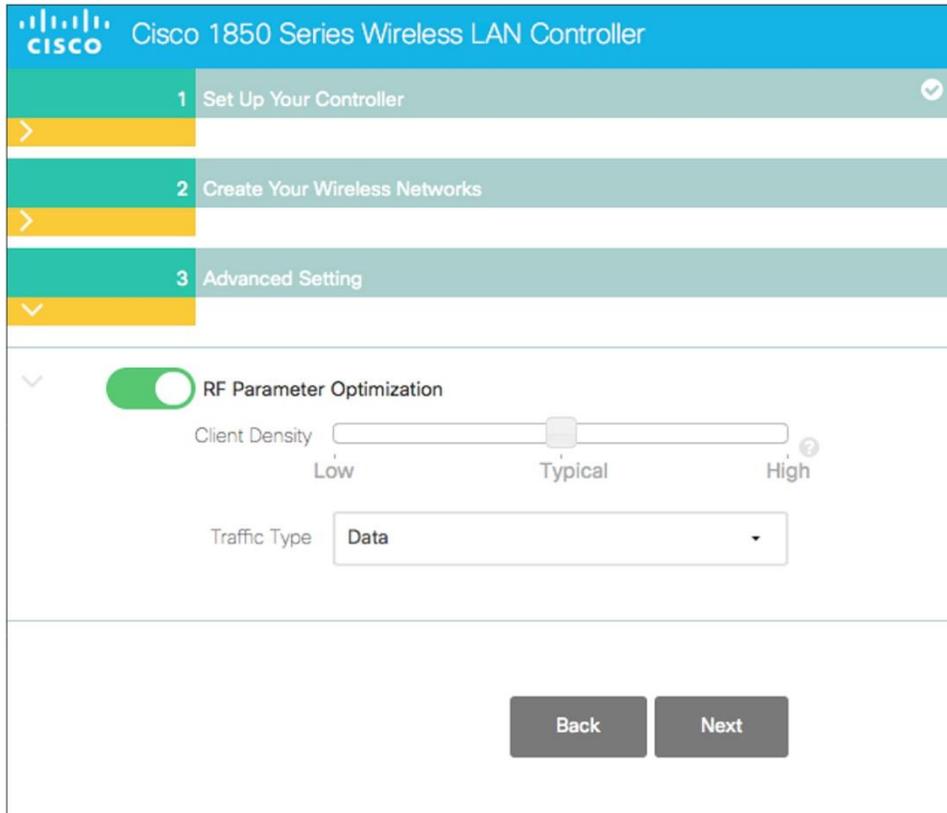
- You get wireless LAN management capabilities built right into your access point with Mobility Express at no cost. A software-based wireless LAN controller allows you to configure, update, and manage your access point infrastructure without having to buy and manage a separate controller appliance - or, worse, having to configure and manage access points one at a time.
- In addition to the free controller capabilities, you get other enterprise-grade Cisco Wi-Fi features, such as entry-level location-based services.

The solution delivers the most cost-effective wireless LAN solution on the market, so that smaller organizations can have access to Cisco's enterprise-grade reliability and leading support.

Trends and Challenges

Users' Wireless Expectations Skyrocket

Wireless traffic is increasing at an explosive rate from all sorts of sources. Students in your school might be using digital textbooks. Perhaps you provide Wi-Fi guest access in your store or hotel. Maybe your employees are running high-definition video applications or use multiple mobile devices. If you work in healthcare, you're likely transmitting X-rays and other patient data over the wireless network to hospital operating rooms.

And any type of organization might be deploying wireless machine-to-machine communications to record and process Internet of Things (IoT) measurements.

These are just a few of the reasons behind the growth in Wi-Fi traffic - and the demand for consistent, high-performance wireless access amid all the traffic. If you're on a small-business budget but need the speed and control of an enterprise-class solution, you're in luck with Mobility Express.

How It Works

The Mobility Express solution combines a simple over-the-air setup wizard with a software-based, virtual wireless LAN controller inside a Cisco Aironet® 802.11ac Wave 2-supported access point. The Wave 2 access points forward data at gigabit speeds and beyond. Each access point acts as a virtual controller that can serve as a wireless network control point for managing up to more than one APs without a physical controller. So long as the master AP runs Mobility Express, you can add other types of Cisco Aironet APs to your network, too, including any device from the Aironet series of access points. A three-step, over-the-air configuration process deploys all access points at once, so you're up and running in no time.

When you use the Mobility Express solution, you get many of the same control and management capabilities found in Cisco's standalone, high-end wireless LAN controllers. Table 1 lists the capabilities that Mobility Express makes available as a virtual WLAN controller in your access point:

Table 1.   Mobility Express Management Capabilities

Feature	Benefit(s)
Real-time and historical interference detection and reporting[*]	Quickly discover and remedy sources of wireless interference to help make sure your Wi-Fi network is always running at top speed
Centralized control, management, and client troubleshooting	Improve wireless network performance and save time by running the network from a single console
Cisco Wireless Intrusion Prevention System (wIPS)	Detect unauthorized wireless devices on the network for general security and for Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards (PCI DSS) compliance
Seamless Layer 2 roaming	Deliver better user experiences, because wireless users' connections can automatically move to access points with stronger signals without disruption
Local RADIUS server	New wireless client devices join the network faster, because they can be authenticated locally, rather than back at a central site
Integrated Wi-Fi guest services	Provide reliable Wi-Fi access to guests with internal web authentication

[*] When used with Cisco access points that support Cisco CleanAir® technology.

Use Cases

Cisco Mobility Express Solution is a strong candidate for helping you run and secure your wireless network if you are a small or midsize organization interested in all the strategic benefits Wi-Fi has to offer but are missing budget dollars for complex deployments and wireless IT personnel. Table 2 shows some applications for Mobility Express in a few typical industries.

Table 2.   Mobility Express Applications in Industry Segments

Retail	• Accept mobile payments and serve customers anywhere • Connect to customers through loyalty apps • Quickly turn up networks with minimal IT support
Education K-12	• Find innovative ways to help students learn • Bring the large school experience to smaller sites • Quickly meet new mandates, such as iSchool, flipped learning, and digital textbooks
Hospitality	• Offer revenue- generating services without IT overhead • Deliver Wi-Fi connectivity everywhere and manage it centrally • Deliver way-finding and event information to visitors with mobile devices

Cisco Wireless LAN Services

Your wireless LAN is a valuable strategic asset, thanks to the dramatically increased reliance on mobile devices. The network must run at peak efficiency if you are to provide the services and performance that mobile users require. Backed by deep networking expertise and a broad ecosystem of partners, Cisco Wireless LAN Services help you deploy a sound, scalable mobility network that improves your operational efficiency by converging your wired and wireless network infrastructures. For more details, visit http://www.cisco.com/go/wirelesslanservices.

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Why Cisco?

Only Cisco offers the breadth of options required to meet the unique needs of various-sized network environments and budgets and differing technology philosophies. Going forward, for example, you can continue to use the same Cisco wireless access points with the embedded controller function or, if your environment grows, you can move the controller capabilities to Cisco Aironet WLAN controller appliances, router- or switch-based controllers, or virtual wireless controllers running on hypervisor software. All backed by Cisco and its industry-leading technical support and renowned reliability.

Next Steps

For more information about Cisco Mobility Express Solution, visit http://cisco.com/go/mobilityexpress.

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