

How to Use the Backup Image on Wireless LAN Controllers

Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Prerequisites](#)

[Requirements](#)

[Components Used](#)

[Primary and Backup Images on WLCs](#)

[Configure](#)

[During Boot Process](#)

[Manually via CLI](#)

[Manually via GUI](#)

[Verify](#)

[References](#)

Introduction

This document explains how to use the backup image on a Wireless LAN Controller (WLC).

Prerequisites

Requirements

Cisco recommends that you have knowledge of these topics:

- Knowledge of how to configure the WLC and Lightweight Access Point (LAP) for basic operation

Components Used

The information in this document is based on these software and hardware versions:

- Any Cisco WLC that runs AireOS and Cisco BootLoader Version : 8.5.103.0.

The information in this document was created from the devices in a specific lab environment. All of the devices used in this document started with a cleared (default) configuration. If your network is live, make sure that you understand the potential impact of any command.

Primary and Backup Images on WLCs

The WLC, by default, maintains two images. These images are the primary image and the backup image. The primary image is the active image used by the WLC while the backup image is used as a backup for the active image.

The controller bootloader (ppcboot) stores a copy of the active primary image and the backup image. If the primary image becomes corrupted, you can use the bootloader to boot with the backup image.

Configure

You can change the active image using either of the following two methods: During boot process or manually changing the active boot image.

During Boot Process

Assuming that the controller has a valid backup image, reboot the controller. During the boot process on the controller, press `ESC` key to see additional options. You are prompted to choose an option from the following:

1. Run primary image
Run backup image
Change active boot image
Clear configuration
Manually update images
Choose Option 3: **Change active boot image** from the boot menu to set the backup image as the active boot image. The controller, when rebooted, boots with the new active image.

2.

```
Cisco bootloader . . .
```

```
Cisco BootLoader Version : 8.5.103.0 (Cisco build) (Build time: Jul 25 2017 - 07:47:10)
```

```
Octeon unique ID: 03c000610221f31e0057
```

```
OCTEON CN7240-AAP pass 1.3, Core clock: 1500 MHz, IO clock: 800 MHz, DDR clock: 1067 MHz (2134 Mhz DDR)
```

```
DRAM: 8 GiB
```

```
Clearing DRAM..... done
```

```
CPLD Revision : a5
```

```
Reset Reason : Soft reset due to RST_SOFT_RST write
```

```
SF: Detected S25FL064A with page size 256 Bytes, erase size 64 KiB, total 8 MiB
```

```
MMC: Octeon MMC/SD0: 0 (Type: MMC, Version: MMC v5.1, Manufacturer ID: 0x15, Vendor: Man 150100 Snr 0707a546, Product: BJNB4R, Revision: 0.7)
```

```
Net: octmgmt0, octmgmt1, octeth0, octeth1, octeth2, octeth3, octeth4, octeth5, octeth6
```

```
SF: Detected S25FL064A with page size 256 Bytes, erase size 64 KiB, total 8 MiB
```

```
Press <ESC> now to access the Boot Menu...
```

```
=====  
Boot Loader Menu  
=====
```

1. Run primary image (8.8.111.0) - Active
2. Run backup image (8.5.131.0)
3. Change active boot image
4. Clear configuration
5. Manually update images

```
-----  
Enter selection:
```

Note: Older versions of Cisco BootLoader might show slightly different Menu options.

Manually via CLI

You can also manually change the active boot image of the controller using the `config boot {primary | backup }command`.

Each controller can boot off the primary, previously loaded OS image or boot off the backup image, an OS image that was loaded earlier. To change the controller boot option, use the `config boot` command. By default, the primary image on the controller is chosen as the active image.

```
(Cisco Controller) >config boot ?
```

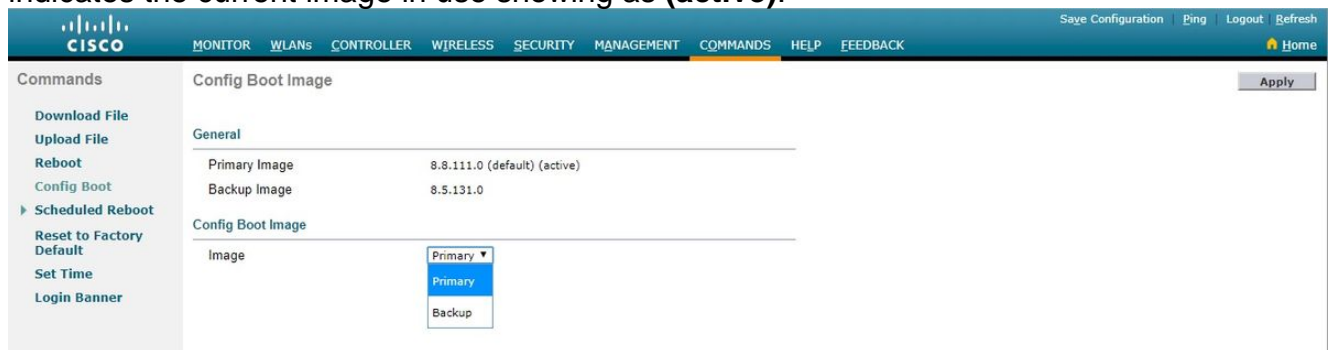
primary Sets the primary image as active.

backup Sets the backup image as active.

```
(Cisco Controller) >
```

Manually via GUI

1. Choose **Commands > Config Boot** to navigate to the **Config Boot Image** page, which displays the primary and backup images presently available on the controller and also indicates the current image in use showing as **(active)**.



2. From the **Image** drop-down list, choose the image to be used as the active image.
3. Click **Apply**.
4. Save the configuration and reboot the controller.

The controller, when rebooted, boots with the image that you chose.

In order to remove or overwrite an image on the WLC, boot up the WLC with the image that you want to keep and perform an upgrade. This way, the new image replaces the primary image.

Note: The previously existing backup image will be lost.

Verify

On the controller GUI, to see the active image that the controller is currently using, choose **Monitor > Summary** to navigate to the Summary page and see the **Software Version** field.

Or you can go to **Commands > Config Boot** to navigate to the **Config Boot Image** page, and the running image will show up as **(active)**:

The screenshot shows the Cisco Wireless Controller GUI. The top navigation bar includes 'MONITOR', 'WLANS', 'CONTROLLER', 'WIRELESS', 'SECURITY', 'MANAGEMENT', 'COMMANDS', 'HELP', and 'FEEDBACK'. The 'COMMANDS' tab is selected. On the left, a 'Commands' sidebar lists options like 'Download File', 'Upload File', 'Reboot', 'Config Boot', 'Scheduled Reboot', 'Reset to Factory Default', 'Set Time', and 'Login Banner'. The main content area is titled 'Config Boot Image' and has an 'Apply' button in the top right. Under the 'General' section, there is a table with two rows: 'Primary Image' with value '8.8.111.0 (default) (active)' and 'Backup Image' with value '8.5.131.0'. The '(active)' text is highlighted with a red box. Below this, under the 'Config Boot Image' section, there is a label 'Image' with a dropdown menu currently showing 'Primary'.

On the controller CLI, use the show boot command to view the primary and backup image present on the controller.

```
(Cisco Controller) >show boot
Primary Boot Image..... 8.8.111.0 (default) (active)
Backup Boot Image..... 8.5.131.0
```

```
(Cisco Controller) >
```

References

[Cisco Wireless Controller Configuration Guide, Release 8.8](#)