



Configuring Captive Bypassing

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Information About Captive Bypassing

WISPr is a draft protocol that enables users to roam between different wireless service providers. Some devices (For example, Apple iOS devices) have a mechanism using which they can determine if the device is connected to Internet, based on an HTTP WISPr request made to a designated URL. This mechanism is used for the device to automatically open a web browser when a direct connection to the internet is not possible. This enables the user to provide his credentials to access the internet. The actual authentication is done in the background every time the device connects to a new SSID.

The client device (Apple IOS device) sends a WISPr request to the controller, which checks for the user agent details and then triggers an HTTP request with a web authentication interception in the controller. After verification of the IOS version and the browser details provided by the user agent, the controller allows the client to bypass the captive portal settings and provides access to the Internet.



Note

The captive portal bypass for IOS7 is supported only with Cisco Wireless LAN Controller, Release 7.6.

This HTTP request triggers a web authentication interception in the controller as any other page requests are performed by a wireless client. This interception leads to a web authentication process, which will be completed normally. If the web authentication is being used with any of the controller splash page features (URL provided by a configured RADIUS server), the splash page may never be displayed because the WISPr requests are made at very short intervals, and as soon as one of the queries is able to reach the designated server, any web redirection or splash page display process that is performed in the background is aborted, and the device processes the page request, thus breaking the splash page functionality.

For example, Apple introduced an iOS feature to facilitate network access when captive portals are present. This feature detects the presence of a captive portal by sending a web request on connecting to a wireless network. This request is directed to <http://www.apple.com/library/test/success.html> for Apple IOS version 6 and older, and to several possible target URLs for Apple IOS version 7 and later. If a response is received, then the Internet access is assumed to be available and no further interaction is required. If no response is received, then the Internet access is assumed to be blocked by the captive portal and Apple's Captive Network Assistant (CNA) auto-launches the pseudo-browser to request portal login in a controlled window. The CNA

may break when redirecting to an ISE captive portal. The controller prevents this pseudo-browser from popping up.

You can now configure the controller to bypass WISPr detection process, so the web authentication interception is only done when a user requests a web page leading to splash page load in user context, without the WISPr detection being performed in the background.

Configuring Captive Bypassing (CLI)

Use these commands to configure captive bypassing:

- **config network web-auth captive-bypass {enable | disable}**—Enables or disables the controller to support bypass of captive portals at the network level.
- **show network summary**—Displays the status for the WISPr protocol detection feature.