



## Workgroup Bridges

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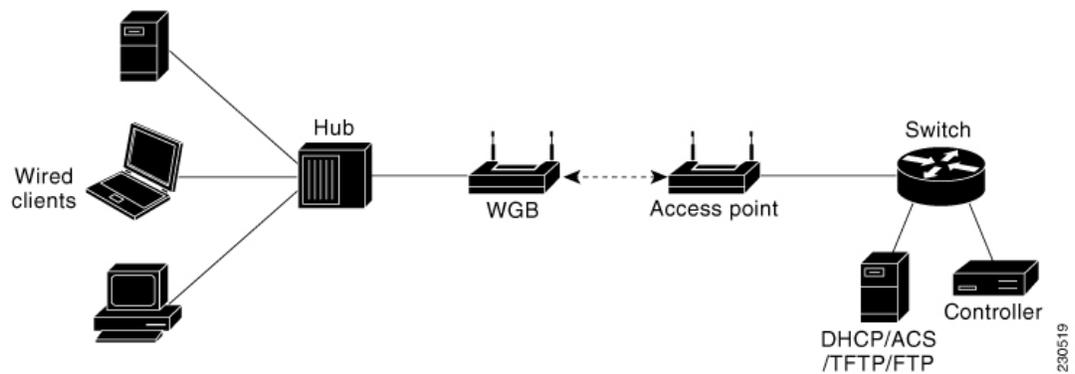
## Cisco Workgroup Bridges

A workgroup bridge (WGB) is a Cisco access point that can be configured in a mode that permits it to associate with a wireless infrastructure, providing network access on behalf of wired clients. The WGB mode is supported on autonomous IOS (Wave 1) APs and on some Wave 2 APs.

A Cisco WGB provides information about its wired clients via Internet Access Point Protocol (IAPP) messaging. This enables the wireless infrastructure to know the MAC addresses of the WGB's wired clients. Up to 20 wired clients are supported behind a Cisco WGB.

In 8.10 release, the following APs support WGB operational mode: 2800, 3800, 4800, 1560 and 6300.

**Figure 1: WGB Example**



**Note** If the lightweight access point fails, the WGB attempts to associate to another access point.

The following are some guidelines for Cisco Workgroup Bridges:

- The WGB can be any autonomous access point that supports the workgroup bridge mode and is running Cisco IOS Release 12.4(3g)JA or later releases (on 32-MB access points) or Cisco IOS Release 12.3(8)JEB

or later releases (on 16-MB access points). These access points include the AP1120, AP1121, AP1130, AP1231, AP1240, and AP1310. Cisco IOS releases prior to 12.4(3g)JA and 12.3(8)JEB are not supported.



**Note** If your access point has two radios, you can configure only one for workgroup bridge mode. This radio is used to connect to the lightweight access point. We recommend that you disable the second radio.

Enable the workgroup bridge mode on the WGB as follows:

- On the WGB access point GUI, choose **Workgroup Bridge** for the role in radio network on the Settings > Network Interfaces page.
- On the WGB access point CLI, enter the **station-role workgroup-bridge command**.

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- The following features are supported for use with a WGB:
    - Guest N+1 redundancy
    - Local EAP
    - Open, WPA+TKIP, WPA2+AES, LEAP, EAP-FAST, PEAP, and EAP-TLS authentication modes
  - Wired clients connected to the WGB are not authenticated for security. Instead, the WGB is authenticated against the access point to which it associates. Therefore, we recommend that you physically secure the wired side of the WGB.
  - Wired clients connected to a WGB inherit the WGB's QoS and AAA override attributes.
  - To enable the WGB to communicate with the lightweight access point, create a WLAN and make sure that Aironet IE is enabled.
  - If you have to apply ACL to WGB during run time, do not modify the ACL configuration for interface in the controller during run time. If you need to modify any ACLs, then you must disable all WLANs that are in the controller or disable both the 802.11a and 80.11b networks. Also, ensure that there are no clients associated and mapped to that interface and then you can modify the ACL settings.

This section contains the following subsections:

## Guidelines and Restrictions for Cisco Workgroup Bridges

- The WGB can associate only with Cisco lightweight access points.
- The following features are not supported for use with a WGB:
  - Idle timeout
  - Web authentication
- Aironet WGBs are not supported if the parent AP is configured for FlexConnect local switching with local authentication, if the parent AP is a Wave 2 AP (that is, 802.11ac Wave 2 or 802.11ax). For more information, see [CSCvh22645](#).

- With Layer 3 roaming, if you plug a wired client into the WGB network after the WGB has roamed to another controller (for example, to a foreign controller), the wired client's IP address displays only on the anchor controller, not on the foreign controller.
- If a wired client does not send traffic for an extended period of time, the WGB removes the client from its bridge table, even if traffic is continuously being sent to the wired client. As a result, the traffic flow to the wired client fails. To avoid the traffic loss, prevent the wired client from being removed from the bridge table by configuring the aging-out timer on the WGB to a large value using the following Cisco IOS commands on the WGB:

```
configure terminal
bridge bridge-group-number aging-time seconds
exit
end
```

where *bridge-group-number* is a value between 1 and 255, and *seconds* is a value between 10 and 1,000,000 seconds. We recommend configuring the *seconds* parameter to a value greater than the wired client's idle period.

- When you deauthenticate a WGB record from a controller, all of the WGB wired clients' entries are also deleted.
- These features are not supported for wired clients connected to a WGB:
  - MAC filtering
  - Link tests
  - Idle timeout
- The broadcast forwarding toward wired WGB clients works only on the native VLAN. If additional VLANs are configured, only the native VLAN forwards broadcast traffic.
- Associating a WGB to a WLAN that is configured for Adaptive 802.11r is not supported.

## Viewing the Status of Workgroup Bridges (GUI)

### Procedure

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- Step 1** Choose **Monitor > Clients** to open the Clients page.
- The WGB text box on the right side of the page indicates whether any of the clients on your network are workgroup bridges.
- Step 2** Click the MAC address of the desired client. The Clients > Detail page appears.
- The Client Type text box under Client Properties shows "WGB" if this client is a workgroup bridge, and the Number of Wired Client(s) text box shows the number of wired clients that are connected to this WGB.
- Step 3** See the details of any wired clients that are connected to a particular WGB as follows:
- a) Click **Back** on the Clients > Detail page to return to the Clients page.

- b) Hover your cursor over the blue drop-down arrow for the desired WGB and choose **Show Wired Clients**. The WGB Wired Clients page appears.

**Note** If you want to disable or remove a particular client, hover your cursor over the blue drop-down arrow for the desired client and choose **Remove** or **Disable**, respectively.

- c) Click the MAC address of the desired client to see more details for this particular client. The Clients > Detail page appears.  
The Client Type text box under Client Properties shows “WGB Client,” and the rest of the text boxes on this page provide additional information for this client.

## Viewing the Status of Workgroup Bridges (CLI)

### Procedure

- Step 1** See any WGBs on your network by entering this command:  
**show wgb summary**
- Step 2** See the details of any wired clients that are connected to a particular WGB by entering this command:  
**show wgb detail *wgb\_mac\_address***

## Debugging WGB Issues (CLI)

### Before you begin

- Enable debugging for IAPP messages, errors, and packets by entering these commands:
  - **debug iapp all enable**—Enables debugging for IAPP messages.
  - **debug iapp error enable**—Enables debugging for IAPP error events.
  - **debug iapp packet enable**—Enables debugging for IAPP packets.
- Debug an roaming issue by entering this command:  
**debug mobility handoff enable**
- Debug an IP assignment issue when DHCP is used by entering these commands:
  - **debug dhcp message enable**
  - **debug dhcp packet enable**
- Debug an IP assignment issue when static IP is used by entering these commands:
  - **debug dot11 mobile enable**

- `debug dot11 state enable`

## Non-Cisco Workgroup Bridges

When a Cisco workgroup bridge (WGB) is used, the WGB informs the access points of all the clients that it is associated with. The controller is aware of the clients associated with the access point. When non-Cisco WGBs are used, the controller has no information about the IP address of the clients on the wired segment behind the WGB. Without this information, the controller drops the following types of messages:

- ARP REQ from the distribution system for the WGB client
- ARP RPLY from the WGB client
- DHCP REQ from the WGB client
- DHCP RPLY for the WGB client

The following are some guidelines for non-Cisco workgroup bridges:

- The controller can accommodate non-Cisco WGBs so that the controller can forward ARP, DHCP, and data traffic to and from the wired clients behind workgroup bridges by enabling the passive client feature. To configure your controller to work with non-Cisco WGBs, you must enable the passive client feature so that all traffic from the wired clients is routed through the WGB to the access point. All traffic from the wired clients is routed through the work group bridge to the access point.




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**Note** For FlexConnect APs in local switching, non-Cisco workgroup-bridge clients in bridged mode are supported using the `config flexconnect group group-name dhcp overridden-interface enable` command.

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- When a WGB wired client leaves a multicast group, the downstream multicast traffic to other WGB wired clients is interrupted briefly.
- If you have clients that use PC virtualization software such as VMware, you must enable this feature.




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**Note** We have tested multiple third-party devices for compatibility but cannot ensure that all non-Cisco devices work. Support for any interaction or configuration details on the third-party device should be discussed with the device manufacturer.

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- You must enable the passive client functionality for all non-Cisco workgroup bridges.
- You might need to use the following commands to configure DHCP on clients:
  - Disable DHCP proxy by using the `config dhcp proxy disable` command.
  - Enable DHCP boot broadcast by using the `config dhcp proxy disable bootp-broadcast enable` command.

This section contains the following subsection:

## Restrictions for Non-Cisco Workgroup Bridges

- Only Layer 2 roaming is supported for WGB devices.
- Layer 3 security (web authentication) is not support for WGB clients.
- Visibility of wired hosts behind a WGB on a controller is not supported because the non-Cisco WGB device performs MAC hiding. Cisco WGB supports IAPP.
- ARP poisoning detection does not work on a WLAN when the flag is enabled.
- VLAN select is not supported for WGB clients.
- Some third-party WGBs need to operate in non-DHCP relay mode. If problems occur with the DHCP assignment on devices behind the non-Cisco WGB, use the **config dhcp proxy disable** and **config dhcp proxy disable bootp-broadcast disable** commands.

The default state is DHCP proxy enabled. The best combination depends on the third-party characteristics and configuration.