



802.11r BSS Fast Transition

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Information About 802.11r Fast Transition

802.11r, which is the IEEE standard for fast roaming, introduces a new concept of roaming where the initial handshake with a new AP is done even before the corresponding client roams to the target access point. This concept is called Fast Transition. The initial handshake allows a client and the access points to do the Pairwise Transient Key (PTK) calculation in advance. These PTK keys are applied to the client and the access points after the client responds to the reassociation request or responds to the exchange with new target AP.

The FT key hierarchy is designed to allow clients to make fast BSS transitions between APs without requiring reauthentication at every AP. WLAN configuration contains a new Authenticated Key Management (AKM) type called FT (Fast Transition).

Client Roaming

For a client to move from its current AP to a target AP using the FT protocols, message exchanges are performed using one of the following methods:

- **Over-the-Air**—The client communicates directly with the target AP using IEEE 802.11 authentication with the FT authentication algorithm.
- **Over-the-Distribution System (DS)**—The client communicates with the target AP through the current AP. The communication between the client and the target AP is carried in FT action frames between the client and the current AP and is then sent through the device.

Figure 1: Message Exchanges when Over-the-Air Client Roaming is Configured

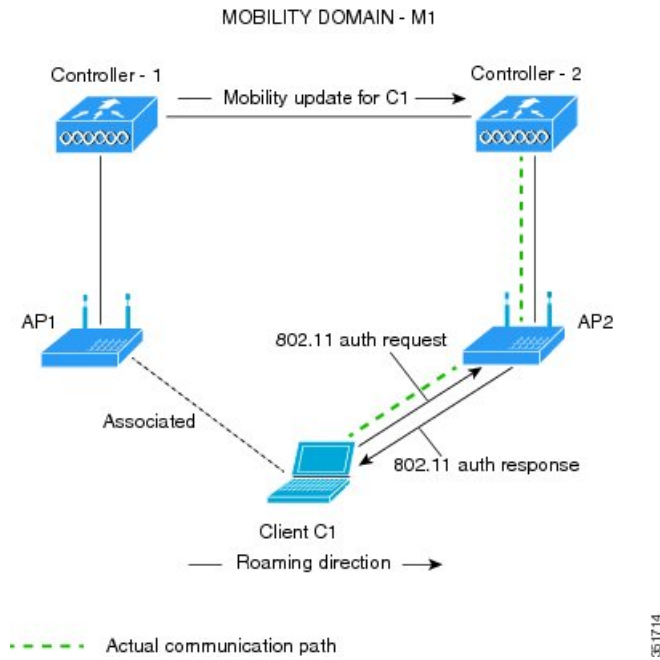
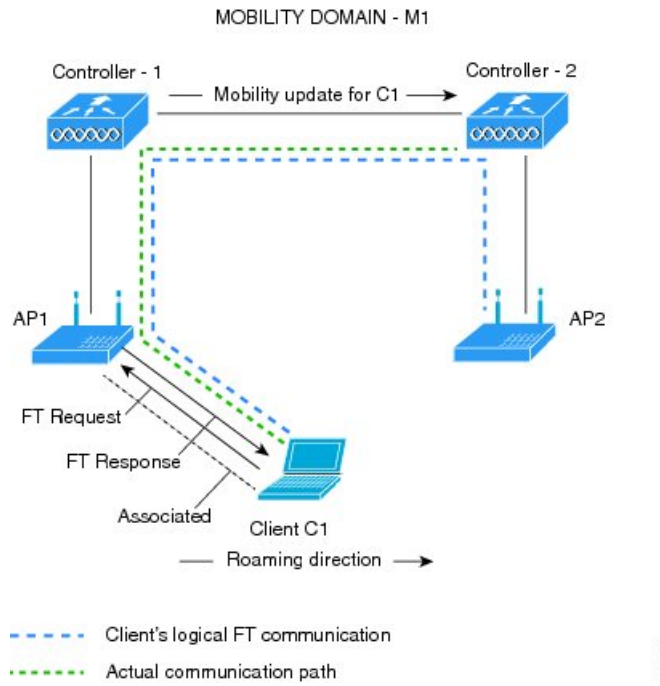


Figure 2: Message Exchanges when Over-the-DS Client Roaming is Configured



Restrictions for 802.11r Fast Transition

- EAP LEAP method is not supported.

- Traffic Specification (TSPEC) is not supported for 802.11r fast roaming. Therefore, RIC IE handling is not supported.
- If WAN link latency exists, fast roaming is also delayed. Voice or data maximum latency should be verified. The Cisco WLC handles 802.11r Fast Transition authentication requests during roaming for both Over-the-Air and Over-the-DS methods.
- Legacy clients cannot associate with a WLAN that has 802.11r enabled if the driver of the supplicant that is responsible for parsing the Robust Security Network Information Exchange (RSN IE) is old and not aware of the additional AKM suites in the IE. Due to this limitation, clients cannot send association requests to WLANs. These clients, however, can still associate with non-802.11r WLANs. Clients that are 802.11r-capable can associate as 802.11i clients on WLANs that have both 802.11i and 802.11r Authentication Key Management Suites enabled.

The workaround is to enable or upgrade the driver of the legacy clients to work with the new 802.11r AKMs, after which the legacy clients can successfully associate with 802.11r-enabled WLANs.

Another workaround is to have two SSIDs with the same name, but with different security settings (FT and non-FT).

- Fast Transition resource-request protocol is not supported because clients do not support this protocol. Also, the resource-request protocol is an optional protocol.
- To avoid any Denial of Service (DoS) attack, each Cisco WLC allows a maximum of three Fast Transition handshakes with different APs.
- Non-802.11r-capable devices will not be able to associate with FT-enabled WLAN.
- We do not recommend 802.11r FT + PMF.
- We recommend 802.11r FT Over-the-Air roaming for FlexConnect deployments.

Monitoring 802.11r Fast Transition (CLI)

The following command can be used to monitor 802.11r Fast Transition:

| Command | Description |
|--|--|
| show wlan name <i>wlan-name</i> | Displays a summary of the configured parameters on the WLAN. |

| Command | Description |
|---|---|
| <code>show wireless client mac-address mac-address</code> | <p>Displays the summary of the 802.11r authentication key management configuration on a client.</p> <pre> Client Capabilities CF Pollable : Not implemented CF Poll Request : Not implemented Short Preamble : Not implemented PBCC : Not implemented Channel Agility : Not implemented Listen Interval : 15 Fast BSS Transition : Implemented Fast BSS Transition Details : Client Statistics: Number of Bytes Received : 9019 Number of Bytes Sent : 3765 Number of Packets Received : 130 Number of Packets Sent : 36 Number of EAP Id Request Msg Timeouts : 0 Number of EAP Request Msg Timeouts : 0 Number of EAP Key Msg Timeouts : 0 Number of Data Retries : 1 Number of RTS Retries : 0 Number of Duplicate Received Packets : 1 Number of Decrypt Failed Packets : 0 Number of Mic Failed Packets : 0 Number of Mic Missing Packets : 0 Number of Policy Errors : 0 Radio Signal Strength Indicator : -48 dBm Signal to Noise Ratio : 40 dB </pre> |

Configuring 802.11r BSS Fast Transition on a Dot1x Security Enabled WLAN (CLI)

Procedure

| | Command or Action | Purpose |
|---------------|---|--|
| Step 1 | configure terminal Example: Device# <code>configure terminal</code> | Enters global configuration mode. |
| Step 2 | wlan profile-name Example: Device# <code>wlan test4</code> | Enters WLAN configuration submenu. The <i>profile-name</i> is the profile name of the configured WLAN. |

| | Command or Action | Purpose |
|---------------|--|---|
| Step 3 | client vlan <i>vlan-name</i> Example: Device(config-wlan)# client vlan 0120 | Associates the client VLAN to this WLAN. |
| Step 4 | security dot1x authentication-list default Example: Device(config-wlan)# security dot1x authentication-list default | Enables security authentication list for dot1x security. The configuration is similar for all dot1x security WLANs. |
| Step 5 | security ft Example: Device(config-wlan)# security ft | Enables 802.11r Fast Transition on the WLAN. |
| Step 6 | security wpa akm ft dot1x Example: Device(config-wlan)# security wpa akm ft dot1x | Enables 802.1x security on the WLAN. |
| Step 7 | no shutdown Example: Device(config-wlan)# no shutdown | Enables the WLAN. |
| Step 8 | end Example: Device(config-wlan)# end | Returns to privileged EXEC mode. Alternatively, you can also press Ctrl-z to exit global configuration mode |

Configuring 802.11r Fast Transition in an Open WLAN (GUI)

Procedure

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- Step 1** Choose **Configuration > Tags & Profiles > WLANs**.
- Step 2** Click **Add** to create WLANs.
The **Add WLAN** page is displayed.
- Step 3** In the **Security > Layer2** tab, choose the appropriate status for **Fast Transition** between APs.
- Step 4** Click **Save & Apply to Device**.
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Configuring 802.11r Fast Transition in an Open WLAN (CLI)

Procedure

| | Command or Action | Purpose |
|---------------|---|--|
| Step 1 | configure terminal Example: Device# configure terminal | Enters global configuration mode. |
| Step 2 | wlan profile-name Example: Device# wlan test4 | Enters WLAN configuration submode. The <i>profile-name</i> is the profile name of the configured WLAN. |
| Step 3 | client vlan vlan-id Example: Device(config-wlan)# client vlan 0120 | Associates the client VLAN to the WLAN. |
| Step 4 | no security wpa Example: Device(config-wlan)# no security wpa | Disables WPA security. |
| Step 5 | no security wpa akm dot1x Example: Device(config-wlan)# no security wpa akm dot1x | Disables security AKM for dot1x. |
| Step 6 | no security wpa wpa2 Example: Device(config-wlan)# no security wpa wpa2 | Disables WPA2 security. |
| Step 7 | no wpa wpa2 ciphers aes Example: Device(config-wlan)# no security wpa wpa2 ciphers aes | Disables WPA2 ciphers for AES. |
| Step 8 | security ft Example: Device(config-wlan)# security ft | Specifies the 802.11r Fast Transition parameters. |
| Step 9 | no shutdown Example: Device(config-wlan)# shutdown | Shuts down the WLAN. |

| | Command or Action | Purpose |
|---------|--|--|
| Step 10 | end Example: Device (config-wlan) # end | Returns to privileged EXEC mode. Alternatively, you can also press Ctrl-z to exit global configuration mode |

Configuring 802.11r Fast Transition on a PSK Security–Enabled WLAN (CLI)

Procedure

| | Command or Action | Purpose |
|--------|---|--|
| Step 1 | configure terminal Example: Device# configure terminal | Enters global configuration mode. |
| Step 2 | wlan <i>profile-name</i> Example: Device# wlan test4 | Enters WLAN configuration submode. The <i>profile-name</i> is the profile name of the configured WLAN. |
| Step 3 | client vlan <i>vlan-name</i> Example: Device (config-wlan) # client vlan 0120 | Associates the client VLAN to this WLAN. |
| Step 4 | no security wpa akm dot1x Example: Device (config-wlan) # no security wpa akm dot1x | Disables security AKM for dot1x. |
| Step 5 | security wpa akm ft psk Example: Device (config-wlan) # security wpa akm ft psk | Configures Fast Transition PSK support. |
| Step 6 | security wpa akm psk set-key {ascii {0 8} hex {0 8}} Example: Device (config-wlan) # security wpa akm psk set-key ascii 0 test | Configures PSK AKM shared key. |
| Step 7 | security ft Example: Device (config-wlan) # security ft | Configures 802.11r Fast Transition. |

| | Command or Action | Purpose |
|---------------|--|--|
| Step 8 | no shutdown Example: Device(config-wlan)# no shutdown | Enables the WLAN. |
| Step 9 | end Example: Device(config-wlan)# end | Returns to privileged EXEC mode. Alternatively, you can also press Ctrl-z to exit global configuration mode |

Disabling 802.11r Fast Transition (GUI)

Procedure

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- Step 1** Choose **Configuration > Tags & Profiles > WLANs**.
 - Step 2** On the **WLANs** page, click the WLAN name.
 - Step 3** In the **Edit WLAN** window, click the **Security > Layer2** tab.
 - Step 4** From the **Fast Transition** drop-down list, choose **Disabled**
 - Step 5** Click **Update & Apply to Device**.
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Disabling 802.11r Fast Transition (CLI)

Procedure

| | Command or Action | Purpose |
|---------------|--|--|
| Step 1 | configure terminal Example: Device# configure terminal | Enters global configuration mode. |
| Step 2 | wlan <i>profile-name</i> Example: Device# wlan test4 | Enters WLAN configuration submode. The <i>profile-name</i> is the profile name of the configured WLAN. |
| Step 3 | no security ft [over-the-ds reassociation-timeout <i>timeout-in-seconds</i>] Example: Device(config-wlan)# no security ft over-the-ds | Disables 802.11r Fast Transition on the WLAN. |

| | Command or Action | Purpose |
|---------------|---|--|
| Step 4 | end Example: Device(config)# end | Returns to privileged EXEC mode. Alternatively, you can also press Ctrl-Z to exit global configuration mode. |

