

Wi-Fi Support Lifecycle

DESIGN - VERIFY - TEST - MONITOR - TROUBLESHOOT - REPEAT



My stake in the Wireless game

18 Years involved with network, testing and troubleshooting

Worked (and continue to work) with many test & analysis vendors

- Spirent Communications
- Fluke Networks -> NETSCOUT -> NetAlly -> ??
- OPNET (now part of Riverbed)
- Gold Partner with Ekahau
- In-country distributor for Nyansa & Efficient IP

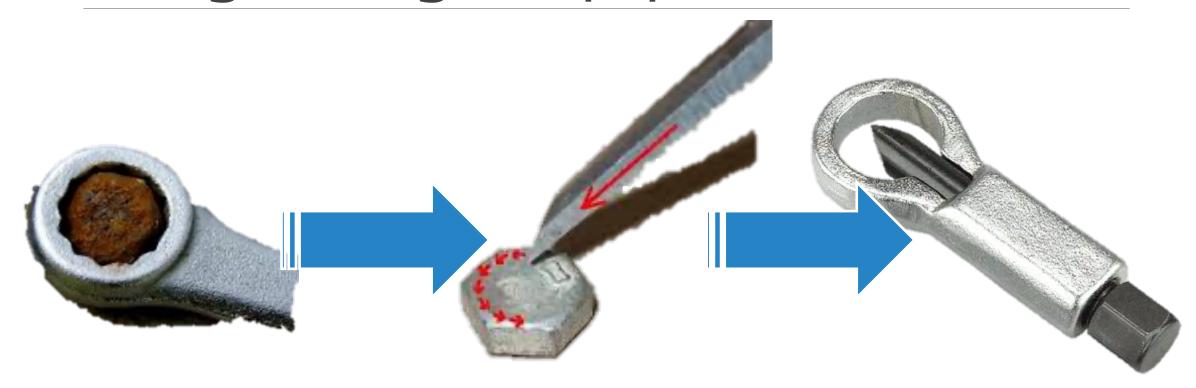
Technologies across wired & wireless networks, application performance, security, DDI....

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Using the Right equipment





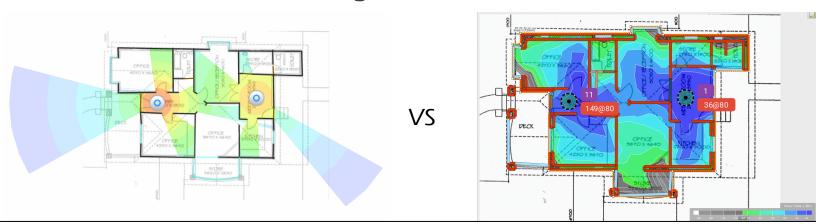
But I can use FREE tools....

There are literally loads around and to be fair some great ones and ones that should be

part of your everyday kit!

Wireless tools for Android / iPhone are great for a quick check.

AP vendors have in-built design tools





BUT IF THEY WERE SO GOOD THEN TEST VENDORS WOULD GO OUT OF BUSINESS

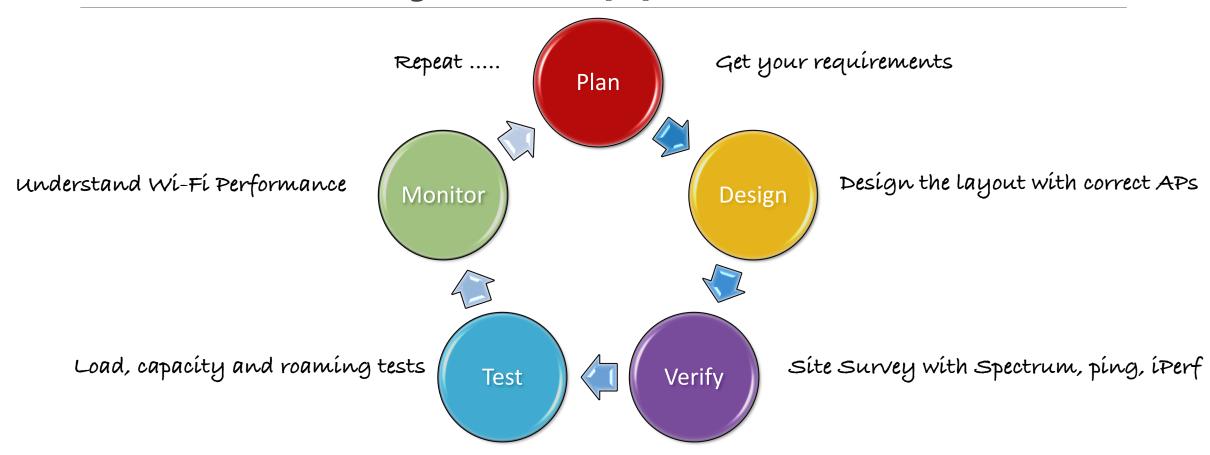


So why do we care?

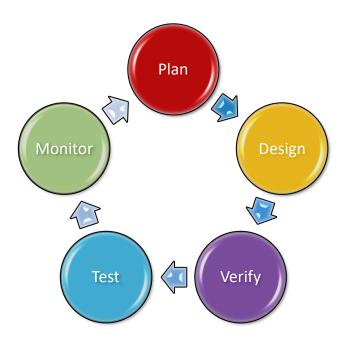




Have a Lifecycle Support Plan







Lifecycle Support Plan



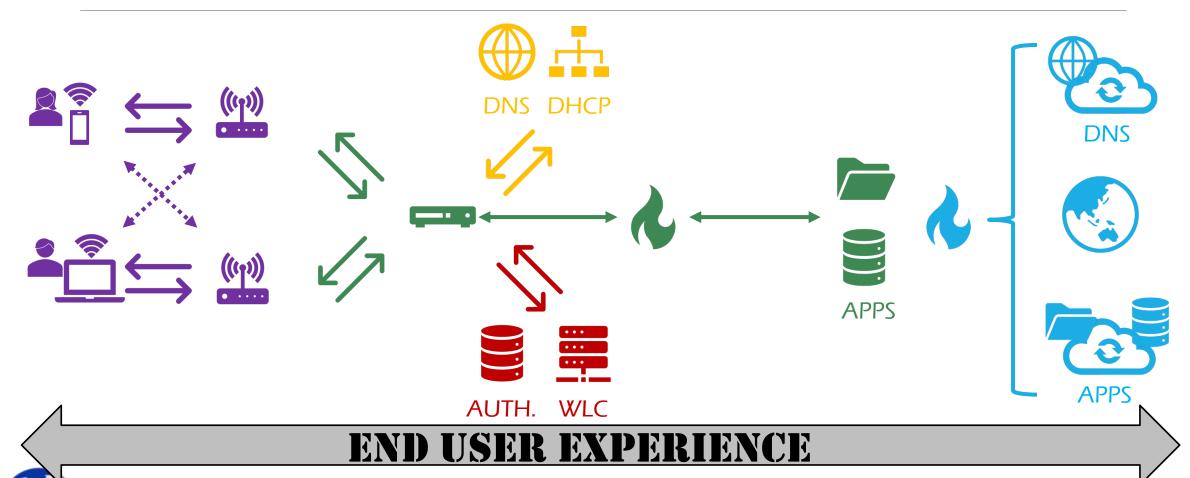


Authentication & Control

Network Services

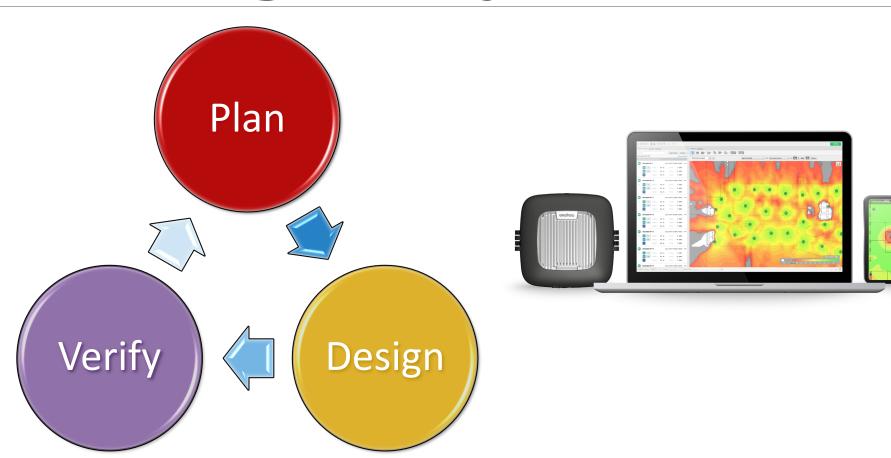
Internet / Cloud







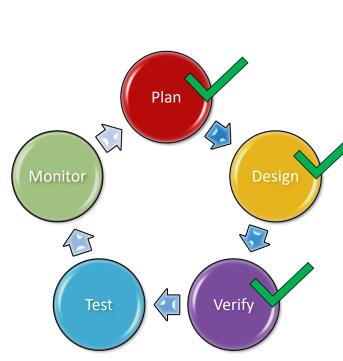
Plan, Design, Verify





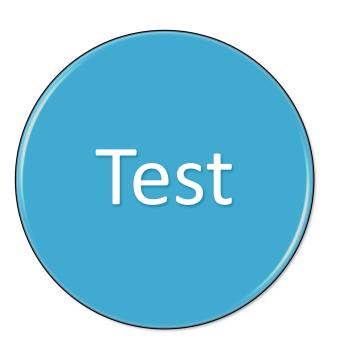


Testing & Monitoring







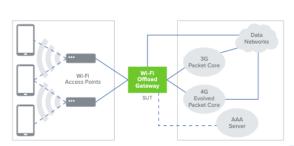




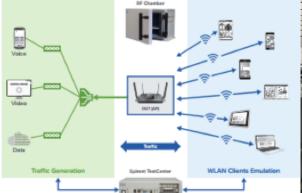
Wireless Load and Capacity Testing

What to Test?

- AP Authentication WPA/WPA2/WPA3, 802.1x
- Average and maximum client capacity loading
- AP stability
- AP interoperability with legacy 802.11 mode
- Benchmark L2-L7 throughput, Rate vs Range
- Features: Roaming, Band Steering, Multi-AP mesh
- 802.11ax (Wi-Fi 6) network readiness
- Wi-Fi Offload (AP/Hotspots to LTE/5G)



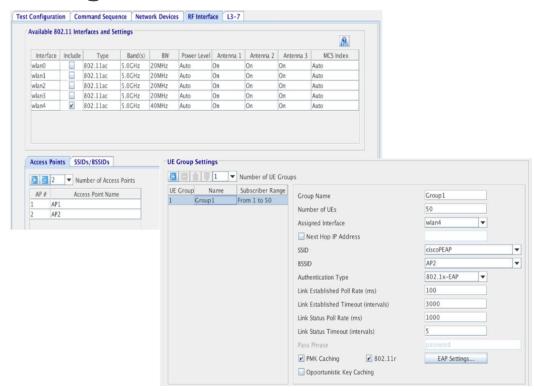






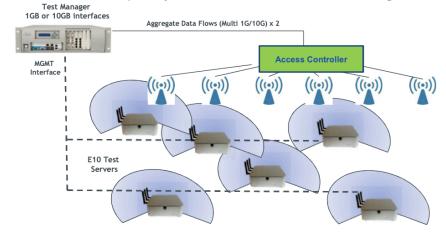


Testing with Real Traffic & Sessions

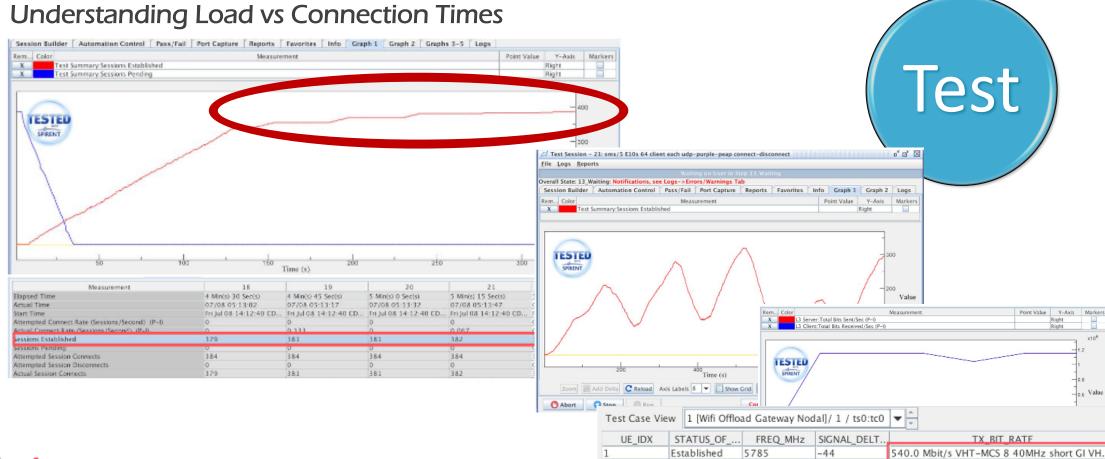




Simultaneous, Spatially Diverse, Over-The-Air Wi-Fi testing

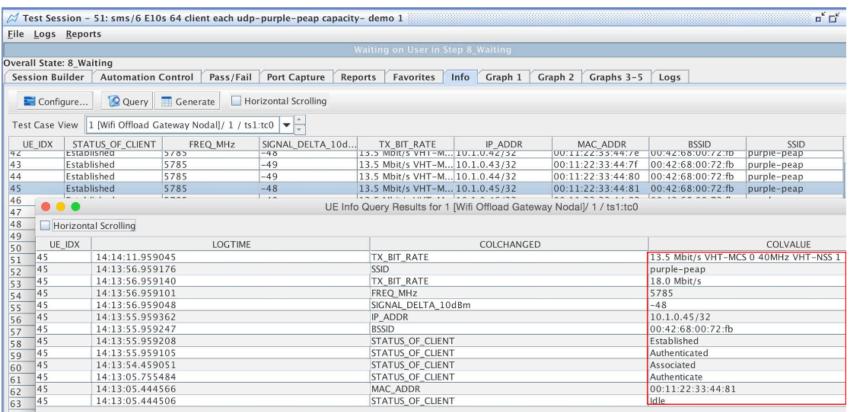








Having Historical Data for *Every UE – Control Place & Data Plane*





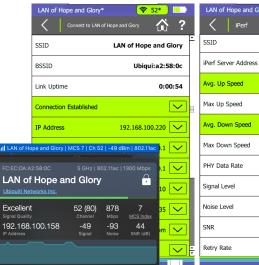


Wireless load and Capacity testing

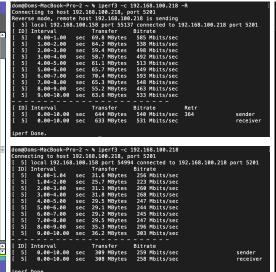
What about iPerf?

- Great for quick testing. Not always reliable past about 350-500 Mbps
- Will tend to detect problems more-so than a tangible throughput result
- Should not be used as a definitive test result













When it Goes Wrong – Y.1564 Tests Help!

10,000

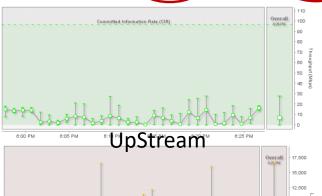
7,500

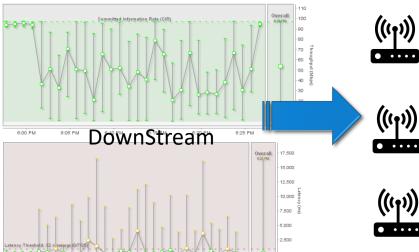
5,000

Overall Results

Throughput (Mbps)			Frame Loss		Latency (ms)				Jitter (ms)				Avail	Unavail
Min	Avg	Max	Count	Ratio	Min	Avg	Max	%	Min	Avg	Max	%	%	Seconds
arted at:	07/10 05:5	6:41 PM	- Finished	d. 07/16 96:2	26:42 PM									
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186474	53.382265	223491	16,380,661	0.4499061	1	259	16463	97.41963	0	0.132	4943.778	99.99535	48.83	921
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40MHz Channels Only 2 x Channels Used

1 Spatial Stream

3 clients < 10Mbps

2 clients ~ 10Mbps 4 clients ~ 15Mbps

1 client ~ 20Mbps





Security Testing

Pen Testing / Data Breach Assessment Approach

What about my Security Posture?

- Can a hacker jump from Guest Wi-Fi to Corporate Wi-Fi or Internal DMZ?
- Are there vulnerabilities in DHCP servers can be exploited?
- Are switches, routers, firewalls all adequately patched?
- Is corporate Wi-Fi easy to get into? Poor authentication security.





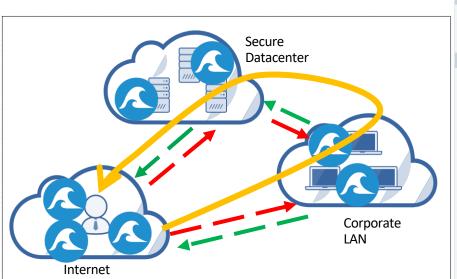


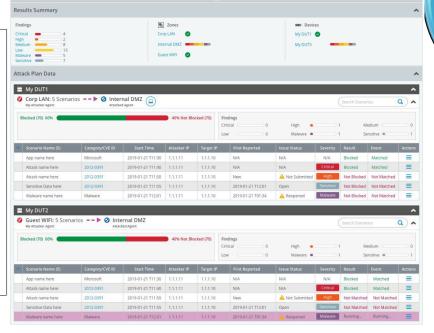


Security Testing

24/7 Situational Assessments

Tools are available to have devices constantly doing security assessments













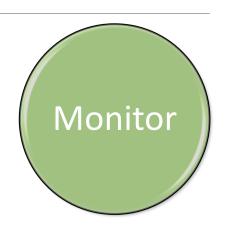
People in the past have spent >\$ 1M in network monitoring tools

- There are a plethora of vendors with solutions that address networks, applications, dev ops etc.
- It is commonplace to monitor a network, even if it is something as rudimentary as SNMP or Flow based metrics
- Wi-Fi is a very different scenario

AP vendors have their in-house tools

- Depending on what they are they vary in quality and information
- AP vendors don't play well with other AP vendors!

Being able to have an historical, correlated view is becoming critical





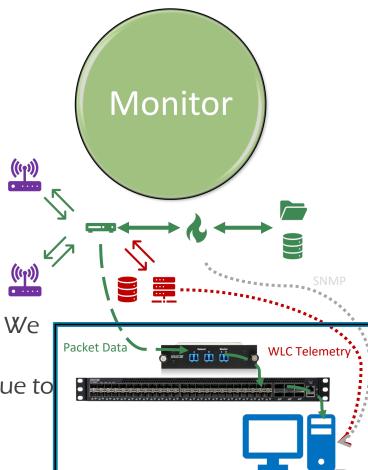
How best to monitor Wi-Fi?

Multiple sources of information is key:

- Telemetry data from Wireless LAN Controllers is important
- SNMP
- NetFlow, jFlow, sFlow, whateverFlow, etc is also useful
- Packet data is critical !!
- So is the ability to look at these metrics in a correlated view

Why

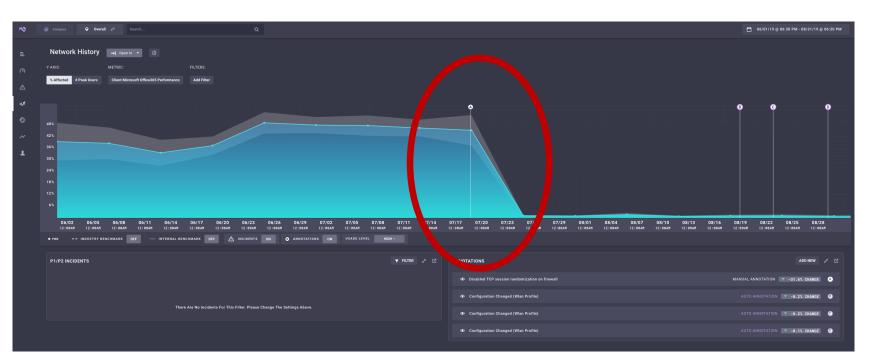
- Traditional networking tools treat the Wireless medium as a black hole. We know there is a problem but don't really know why
- With the types of wireless networks it would be great to pinpoint an issue to a floor or even a single AP
- There are a lot of additional issues around wireless environments





Application Performance on wireless clients is poor but it isn't Wi-Fi

• Without Packet Data (or intelligent metadata) it's hard to work out the issue

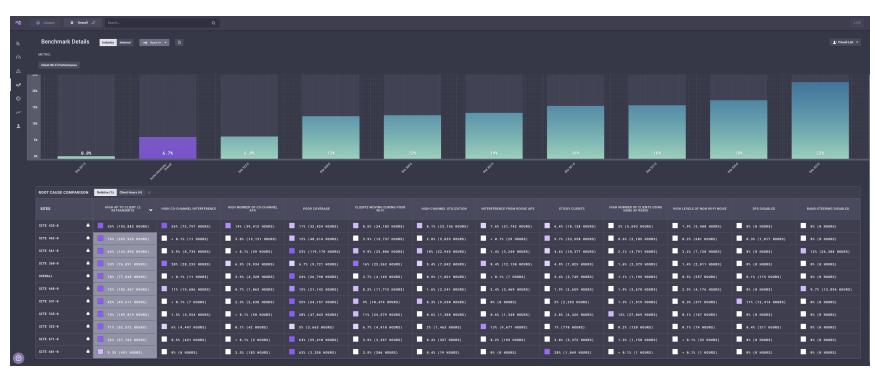






Benchmark your Environment

From new, before/after an upgrade (ie. 802.11ac to 802.11ax migration)

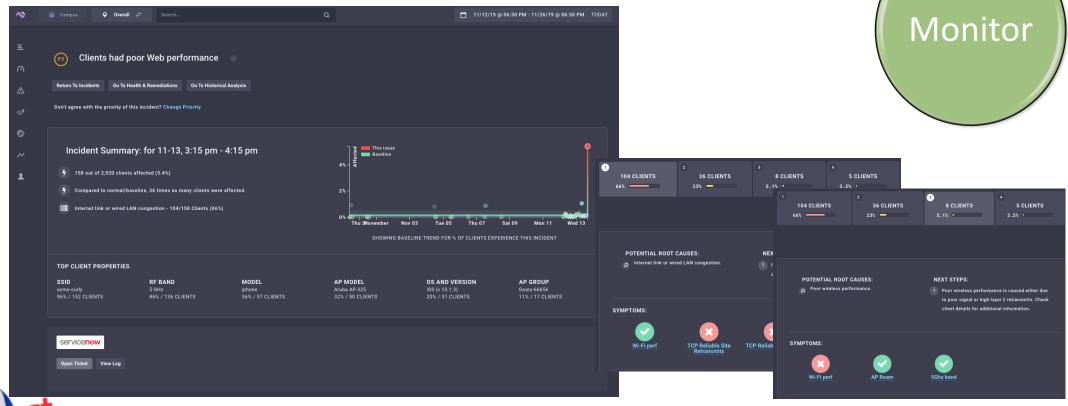






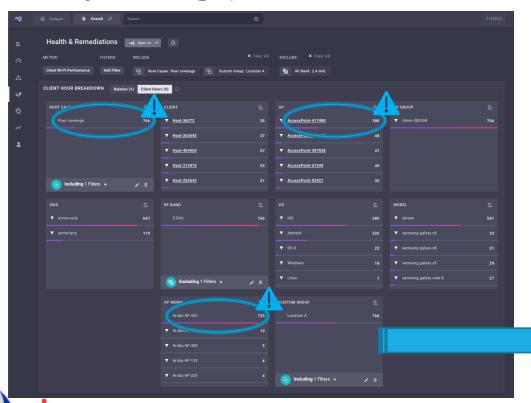
Understand what is providing poor performance

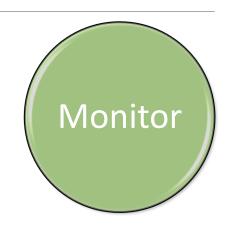
Know the group, the SSID, the AP, what type of clients...



Health and Remediation

Why is coverage poor, and filter down on main offenders



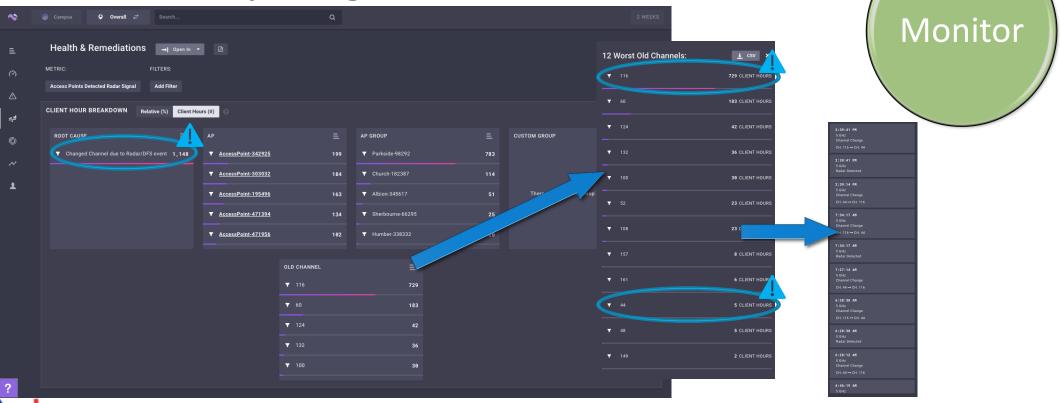






Health and Remediation

DFS events adversely effecting the wireless environment



Understand the Ecosystem



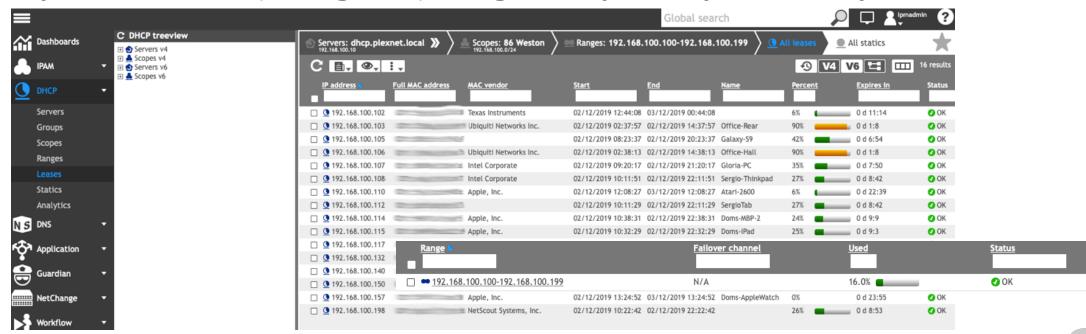
"There's another classic example of someone having a two-inch consulte and us having installed only one-inch piping."



DNS, DHCP, Auth, Backhaul

Many complaints about Wi-Fi come down to DHCP or DNS

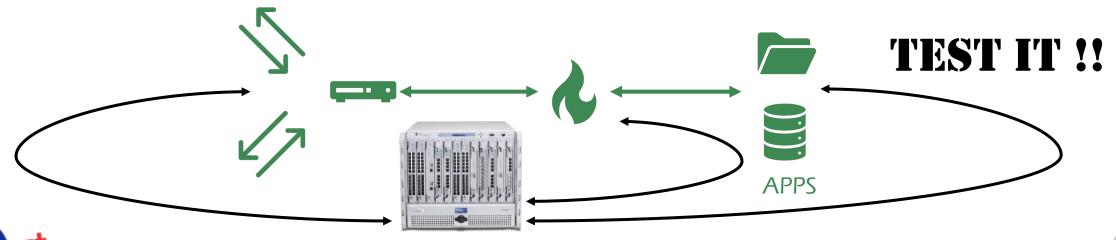
- If you have authenticated, then it's not Wi-Fi well not completely
- Has DHCP pool exhaustion occurred does your DDI solution help you here?
- Are your DNS servers responding and operating efficiently. Are they sized correctly?



DNS, DHCP, Auth, Backhaul

Backhaul is also starting to become of more importance

- As APs move from AC to AX the need for higher backhaul speeds are required
- Are you set up to run NBASE-T?
- Have you tested the backhaul.
 - All our testing discussion was around the wireless medium but have the wired connections been tested.
- Is the DC environment coping with increased traffic / users / applications
 - Has all this been benchmarked? Do you know the performance of your applications?



Al, Root Cause, Single Pain of Glass*

Be aware of marketing hype.....

Al is really just machine learning (ML).

- Some vendors do it very very well
- It's historically based using advanced analytics pseudo Al!
- Can provide an 'Expert' level of information to assist where to start

Root Cause Analysis

- There is no magic bullet!
- Usually derived from multiple tools through 'fault domain isolation'

Single **Pain** of Glass

- UGH!
- Everyone uses it, but unless you have a massive screen then you won't get it.





^{*} We hate this phrase so much our PlexNet Tech Blog is called 'Single Pain of Glass'

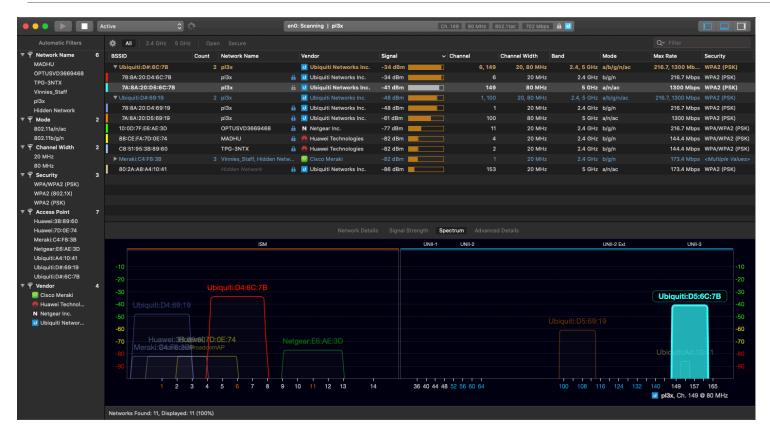


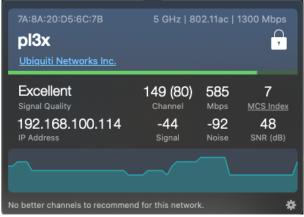
Useful Tools

FREE OR LOW COST



Some cool low-cost tools - Mac





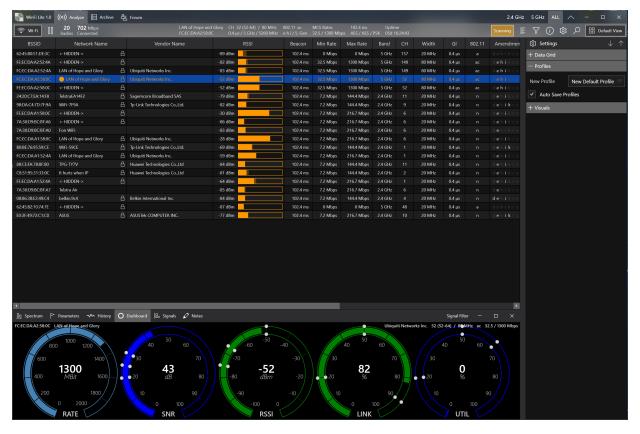
Wi-Fi Signal

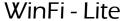






Some cool low-cost tools - Windows









Some cool low cost tools



https://www.wlanpi.com

WLAN Pi

- iPerf 2 / 3 Server
- Kismet
- Speedtests

Great for Ekahau Throughput tests or any device that requires an iPerf 2 or 3 server



Screenshots brought to you by:





















Thankyou

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