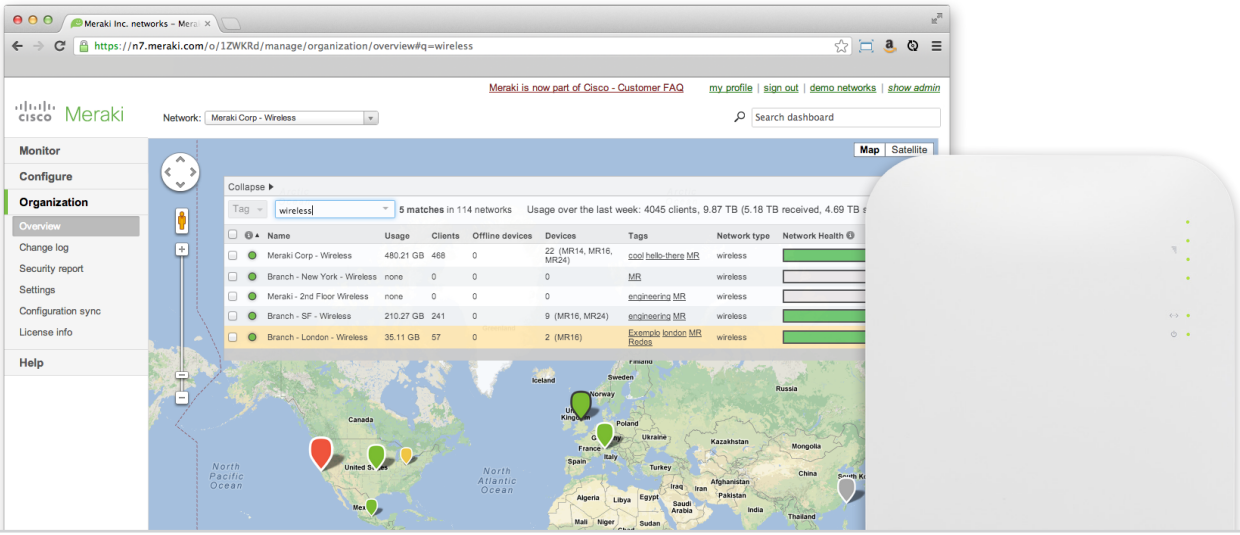
Cisco Meraki Wireless Solution Comparison



Why Cisco Meraki?

Simplified cloud management

- Intuitive interface allows devices to be configured in minutes without training or dedicated staff
- Centrally manage thousands of devices across hundreds of sites without onsite IT
- Out-of-the-box security with integrated application firewall, WIPS, Network Access Control (NAC), PCI compliance, and VPN
- Updates and new features seamlessly delivered from the cloud

Performance and scalability

- Powerful, enterprise class radios combine MIMO, transmit beamforming, band steering, spectrum analysis, and automatic cloud-based RF optimization for high density performance and throughput up to 900 Mbps
- Easily scale networks from 10 access points to 10,000 without controller throughput or client AP limits, complex licensing, or special appliances to install

Deep visibility and control

- Network-wide visibility, control, and troubleshooting of wireless and wired infrastructure from a single pane of glass
- Identify users and devices with fast, Google-like search
- Create application-specific policies with Layer 7 traffic shaping, and apply by device type or user group
- Integrated mobile device management extends visibility and control to devices connecting to your WLAN (iOS, Android, Mac, and PC) – at no cost

Trusted by thousands of customers worldwide

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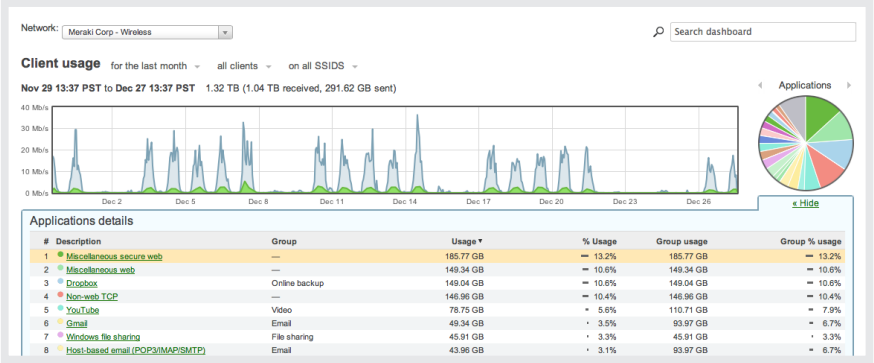
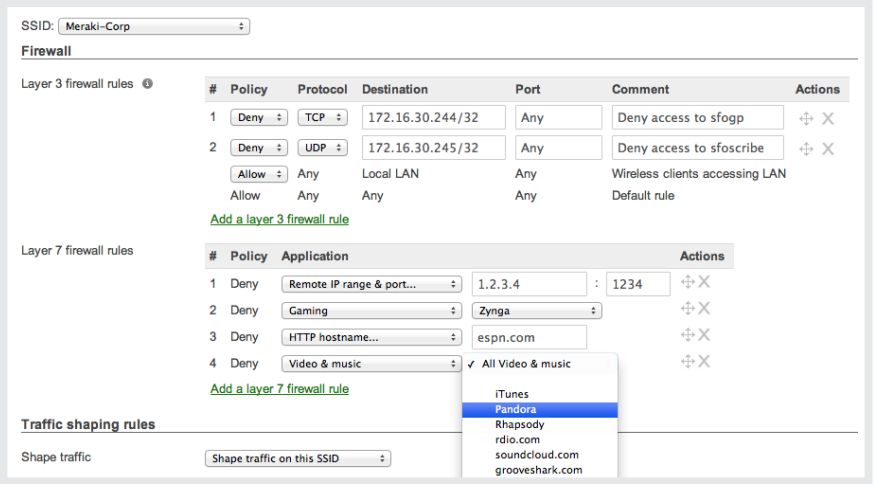
Deep Visibility and Control

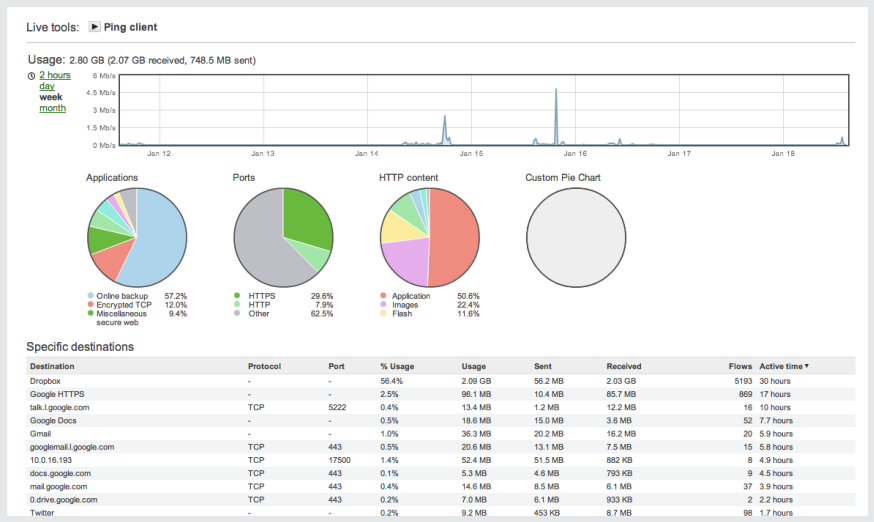
Only Cisco Meraki gives you powerful, built-in Layer 7 application visibility and device fingerprinting for deep insight and fine-grained control of your network.



With Meraki, view application usage statistics filtered by time period or SSID.



Setting Layer 3 and Layer 7 firewall policies with Meraki.



Specific destinations can be viewed in aggregate or by client.

Cisco Meraki

Meraki' s Layer 7 traffic shaping and device fingerprinting deliver an unparalleled level of integrated, out-of-the-box control over devices, applications, and users accessing your network.

Get deep contextual insight through statistics and usage data in order to craft security and traffic shaping policies.

Analysis is performed at the edge in a scalable architecture – no need to purchase controllers or additional licenses.

Comparison: Aruba

To get comparable, centralized L7 visibility and control, Aruba requires you to buy:

- AirWave server
- AirWave licenses (based on number of devices)
- AirWave license to run multiple AirWave servers from single console (optional)
- WLAN controller (7200 series)
- Policy Enforcement Firewall module
- Policy Enforcement Firewall licenses (based on number of APs)

AppRF, which requires Aruba's newest, top-of-the-line controller, cannot throttle traffic dynamically; it can only permit, drop, log, reject, or tag traffic for QoS.

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Intuitive, No Training Needed

Cisco Meraki MR access points are managed via a secure, cloud-based dashboard created from the ground up for ease of management and configurability.

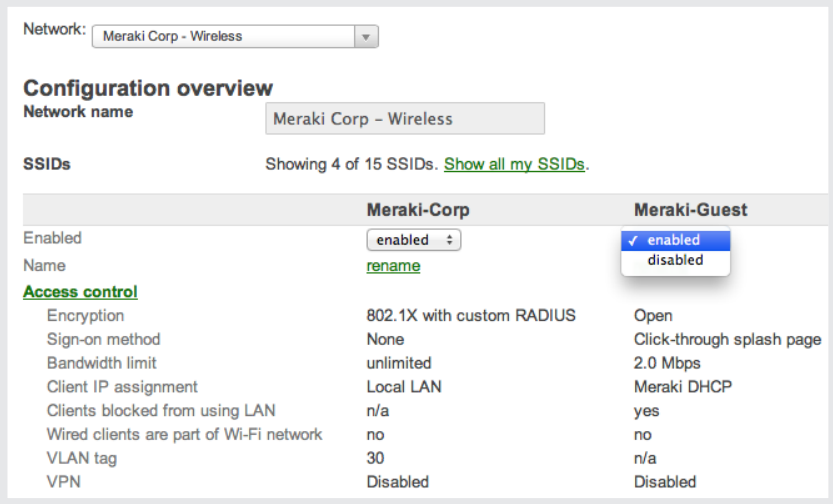
Cisco Meraki brings you the most accessible, straightforward management experience possible – including a powerful, intuitive dashboard that lets you control your entire Meraki network from a single pane of glass. Its easily navigable design allows for rapid deployments of networks and devices with fewer configuration errors and easier ongoing maintenance.

The benefit of this intuitive interface grows as your networks expand in size and geographic scope, and as the sheer number of configuration settings (and the steps to implement them) swell with competitive solutions.

Consider the example below: creating an isolated wireless guest SSID.

Consider Cisco Meraki' s secure, isolated wireless guest access functionality, which is easily enabled:

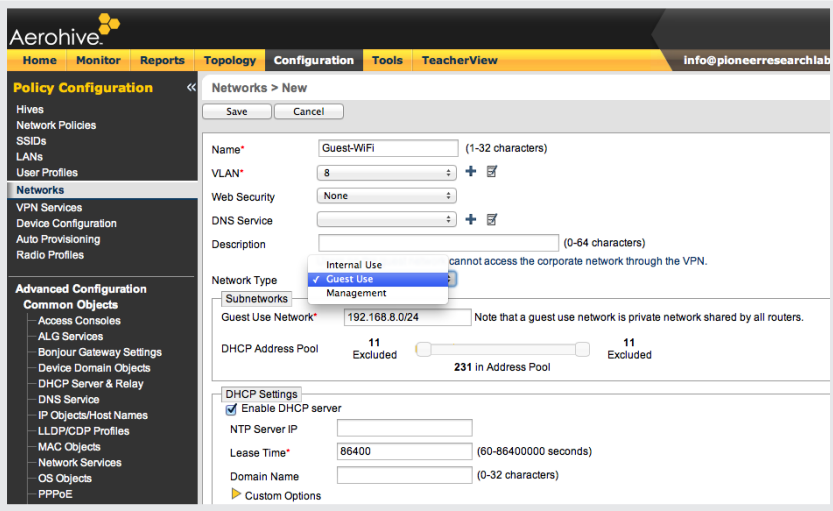
- Enable and name a guest SSID from the Configure > SSIDs page in the Meraki dashboard
- Select "NAT Mode: Use Meraki DHCP" to isolate the guest SSID from the core WLAN using the integrated L3 firewall
- (Optional) Copy guest network configuration settings to additional networks from the Organization > Config Sync page



Cisco Meraki makes it easy to configure secure, isolated guest WiFi access.

With Aerohive's Hive Manager, configuring secure, isolated guest access requires several steps:

- Choose an existing (or create a new) network policy in Hive Manager (e.g., Aerohive-Guest)
- Create a new guest SSID within the Aerohive-Guest policy chosen above, and save it.
- Create a new User Profile associated with the Aerohive-Guest policy, and name it.
- Choose a unique attribute policy number for the new user profile, along with a VLAN number (e.g. VLAN 8)
- Create a new network object, name it (e.g. Guest-WiFi), and assign it to VLAN 8.
- Next, select a default DNS service with the same name as your Hive
- Select "Guest Use" as your network type, configure your desired isolated guest IP subnet settings, and ensure DHCP is enabled. Save.



Configuring isolated guest access in Hive Manager involves several steps.

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Alvin ISD chose Cisco Meraki over HP and Aruba.

"I really think Meraki is the optimal solution for an environment with a high density of clients."

– John Wilds, Network Manager, Alvin ISD

CASE STUDY

Alvin Independent School District

Alvin ISD selected Cisco Meraki over Aruba and HP to be its wireless infrastructure provider. Beyond Meraki' s cost effective, plug-and-play solution, neither Aruba nor HP provide free, built-in BYOD/MDM solutions, intuitive dashboard interfaces, innovative features like integrated L7 traffic shaping and NAC, or cloud management.

Challenges

- Large AP deployment with lean IT staff
- High client density, with entire classrooms connecting simultaneously
- APs in close proximity cannot interfere with each other

Results

- Easy, zero-touch AP configuration and installation
- Centralized management for 20 campuses
- Cloud-based RF optimization eliminates interference in high-density classrooms

"With the Meraki dashboard we can see very clearly what types of devices are connecting. We're looking to use this technology as another avenue to provide special offers and attract attention."

– Mark Bishop, IT Manager, United Colors of Benetton

CASE STUDY

United Colors of Benetton

Cisco Meraki was chosen as the WiFi solution for United Colors of Benetton's HQ and flagship stores in the United Kingdom for its ease of use, built-in security features, and scalability. An isolated guest network for retail stores was created in two clicks using Meraki's intuitive dashboard, and is centrally managed through the cloud.

Challenges

- Provide secure guest WiFi for retail shoppers and secure wireless LAN for employees across many locations
- Centrally manage distributed retail locations' WiFi with lean IT staff
- Robust reporting along with automatic performancetuning of APs

Results

- Isolated guest network with splash pages on separate SSID from internal, WPA-secured wireless LAN
- Single pane-of-glass control over retail stores' WiFi
- Summary reports and alerts provide network status; Auto RF optimizes WiFi performance

Feature Comparison

	Cisco Meraki	Aruba	Aerohive	Ruckus	HP
WPA-2 Enterprise with 802.1X authentication	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Built-in stateful policy firewall, WIPS, VPN	✓	×[1]	✓	×[2]	×[2]
Integrated NAC	✓	×	×	×	×
Mobile Device Management (MDM)	✓	×[1]	×[1]	×	×[1]
Isolated guest access with splash pages	✓	×[1]	✓	×[1]	×[1]
100% cloud-managed	✓	×	✓	×	×
Layer 7 application and device visibility across entire product line	✓	×[1]	×	×	×
RF Management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Live Tools for troubleshooting	✓	×[1]	✓	×	×[1]
Included Support	✓	×	×	×	×

[1] Available with purchase of additional software or license

[2] WIPS available with purchase of additional software or license

[3] Multiple licenses may be necessary, depending on features desired

Free evaluations available at **meraki.cisco.com/eval**

All gear available for trial. No shipping costs.

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