



The bridge to possible

New Generation Wi-Fi networks

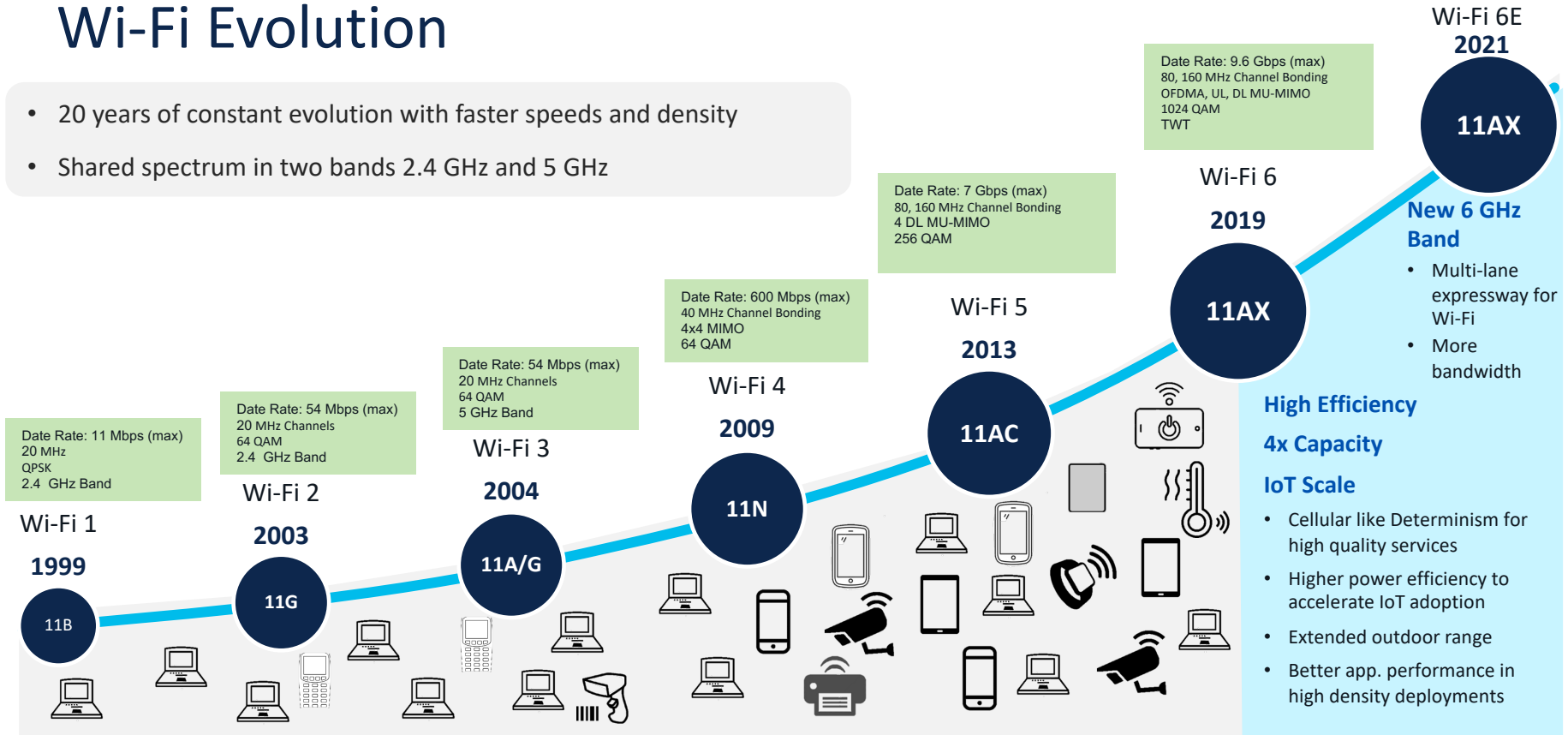
Cisco Wi-Fi networks for today, tomorrow

Radenko Čitaković, Systems Architect, Cisco

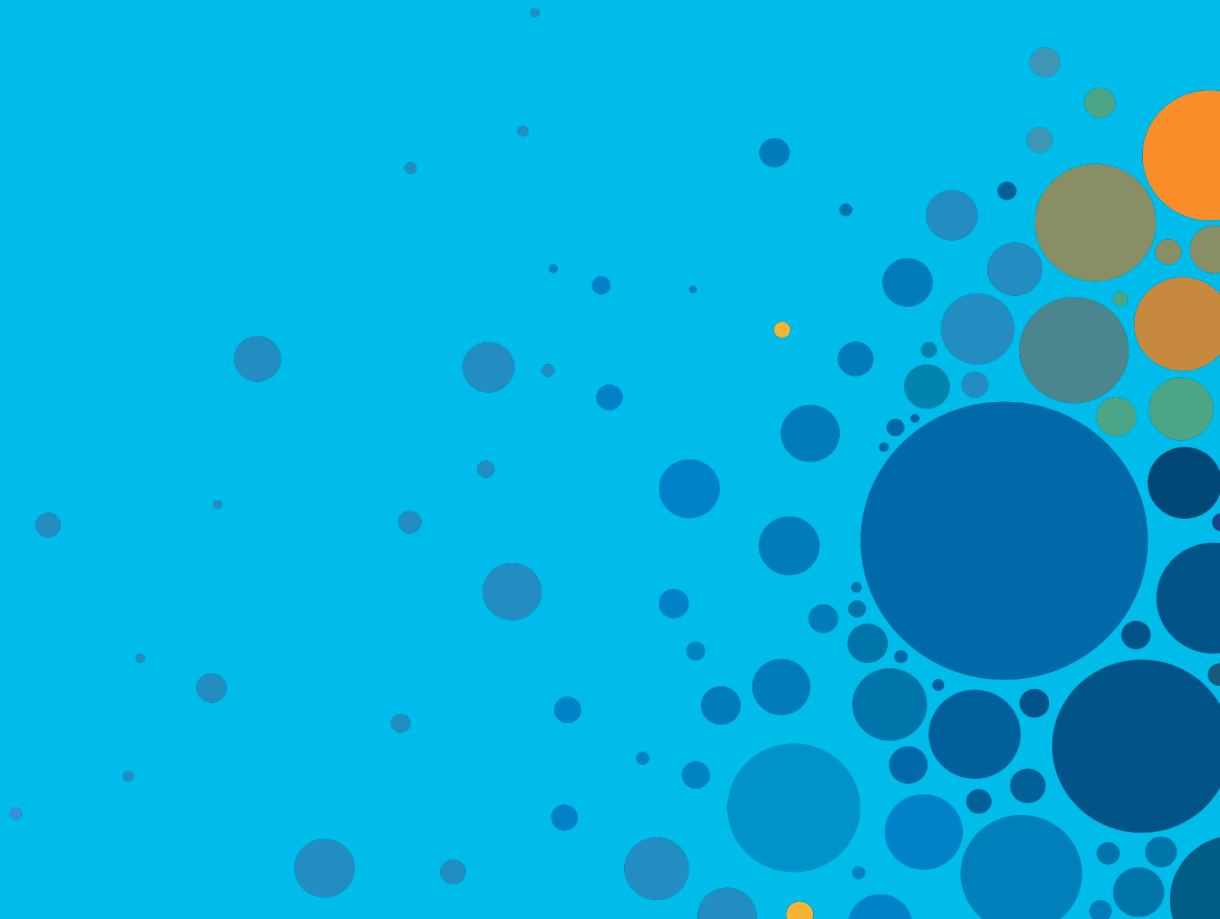
rcitakov@cisco.com

Wi-Fi Evolution

- 20 years of constant evolution with faster speeds and density
- Shared spectrum in two bands 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz



Wi-Fi 6



Why Wi-Fi 6: 6 Reasons



Higher capacity

Up to 4x increase



Improved security

Augmented
with **WPA3**, RF Snapshots



Reduced latency

Deterministic
scheduling



Power efficiency

Up to 3x
better device battery life



Greater IoT scale

Better 2.4GHz Coverage



Improved interference mitigation

Better QoE

Wi-Fi 6 - **Enhanced** experience for every vertical

Education



AR/VR/XR learning,
e-learning, digital
educations

Public Venues



High resolution video,
cellular offload, Wi-Fi calling,
Sidelines communication

Hybrid Workspaces



Digital collaboration
(video conference, digital
white boards, etc.),
teleworking

Healthcare



Telemedicine, robotics,
smart IoT devices and
wearables, asset tracking

Manufacturing



Automated and digitized
operations and supply
chain, robots

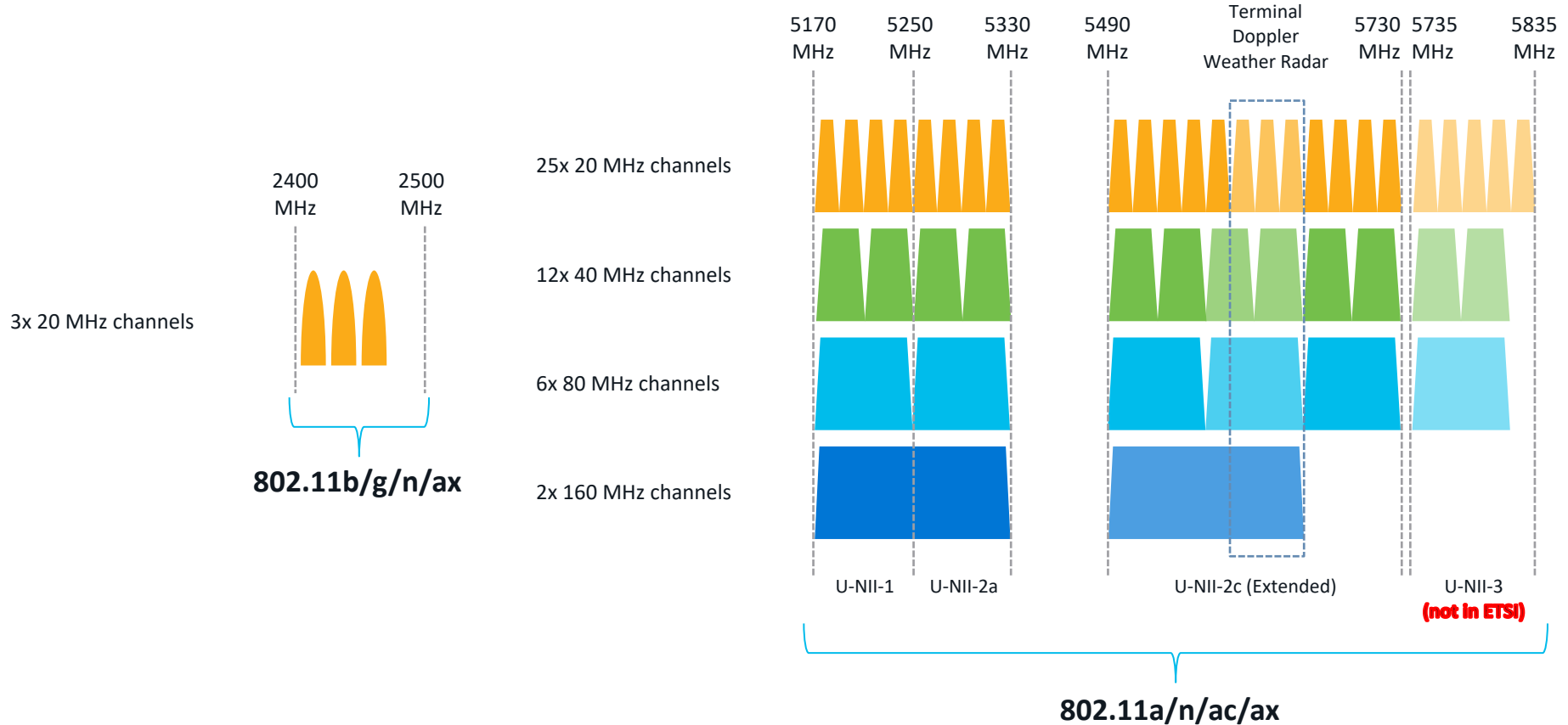
Capacity

High Density

Performance

Low latency

The 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands today



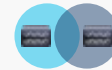
IEEE 802.11ax Wi-Fi 6 - Enhancements

Uplink and Downlink Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiple Access (OFDMA): Increases network efficiency and lowers latency for high demand environments



Packet latency improvements

Multi-User Multiple Input Multiple Output (MU-MIMO): allows more data to be transferred at once and enables an access point to transmit to a larger number of concurrent clients at once



Channel Reuse With BSS Color

Parallel processing: enables greater capacity by allowing MU-MIMO and OFDMA to function in UPLINK and DOWNLINK mode



Parallel transmissions

1024 Quadrature Amplitude Modulation Mode (1024-QAM): increases throughput in Wi-Fi devices by encoding more data in the same amount of spectrum



Faster Speed more Radios and 1024 QAM

Target Wake Time (TWT): significantly improves battery life in Wi-Fi devices, such as Internet of Things (IoT) devices



Better Battery Life

802.11ax is all about high efficiency wireless

These improvements are Wi-Fi 6 enhancements to make every microsecond “On THE AIR” matter.

- .11ax High Efficiency Wireless (HEW) is all about optimizing the time spend “ON THE AIR” and how much information is on the air during any given Micro Second “uS”
- Four things determine Air time efficiency
 - Data rate (Modulation density) or QAM** - (how many Bit's per Radio Symbol) 64 QAM is more robust but 1024 QAM is a lot faster
 - Number of spatial streams and spatial reuse** (introduction of OFDMA and Resource Units) and UL/DL MU-MIMO
 - Channel bandwidth** – How Many frequencies can we modulate at one time
 - Protocol overhead** – Preamble/Ack/BA, Guard Interval “GI” etc.

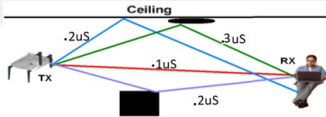
Guard Interval

802.11n/ac - GI of 400nS & 800nS
(shorter = faster rates)

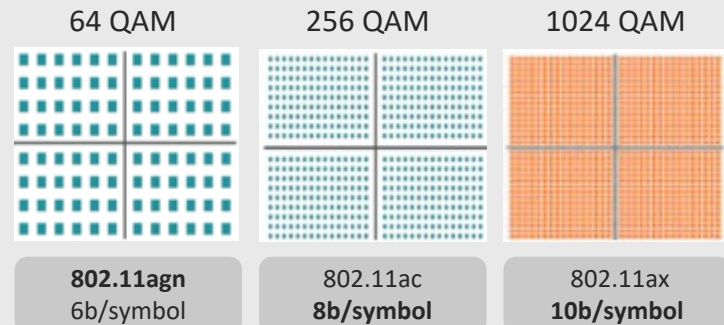
802.11ax - GI is 0.8, 1.6 & 3.2 uS
(longer = outdoor use)

Symbol=3.2us + GI=0.4us
Symbol=3.2us + GI=0.8us

Symbol=12.8us + GI=0.8us
Symbol=12.8us + GI=1.6us
Symbol=12.8us + GI=3.2us



Modulation density gains



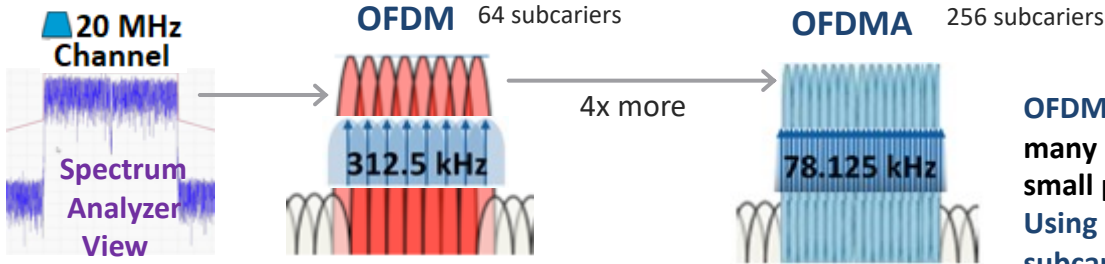
Wi-Fi channel width



Note: Channel Bonding reduces range as the power is spread out with each additional 20 MHz adding a 3 dB penalty in SNR and the greater the QAM the harder it is for the receiver to decode therefore it is more sensitive to noise.

Understanding an OFDM and OFDMA

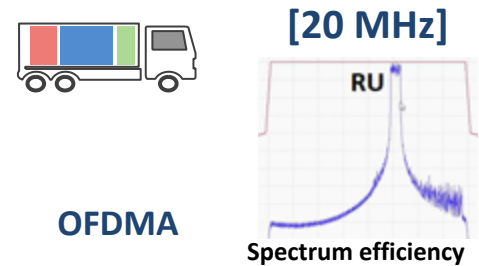
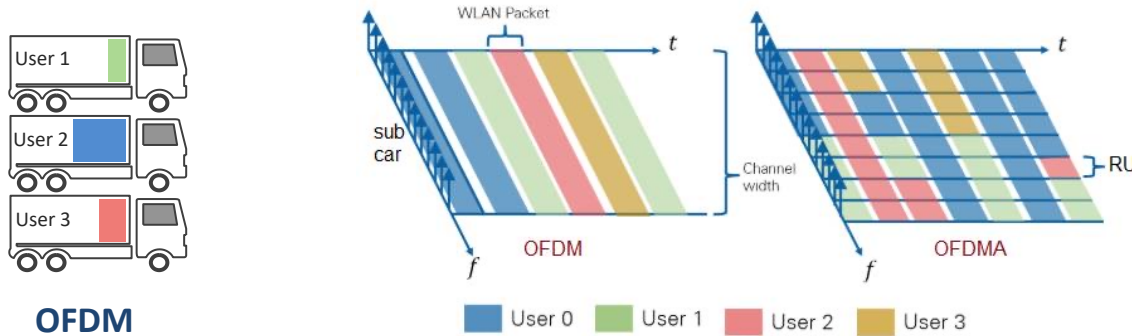
Both divide into sub-channels (carriers) but **OFDMA has more** and the concept of **resource units**.



OFDMA divides the same 20 MHz spectrum into many more smaller subcarriers that can carry small packets faster.

Using Resource Units (RU) it allows each subcarrier to handle multiple users

OFDM divides the available spectrum into sub-channels that can be independently modulated and demodulated **but each subcarrier has data for only one user at a time** - **OFDMA** = more users at a time.



All packets big and small get processed **MUCH FASTER**

Multi-User MIMO (MU-MIMO)

In 802.11ac MU-MIMO Clients are able to benefit in the **downstream** link higher aggregate throughput, better decoding, reducing interference

Single-User MIMO



Each Frame is sent to one client at a time

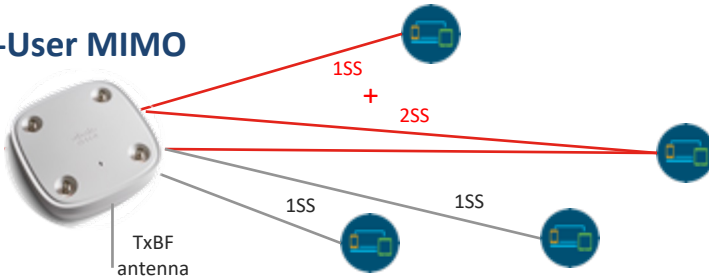


Multiple Streams to 1 client

Multi-User MIMO

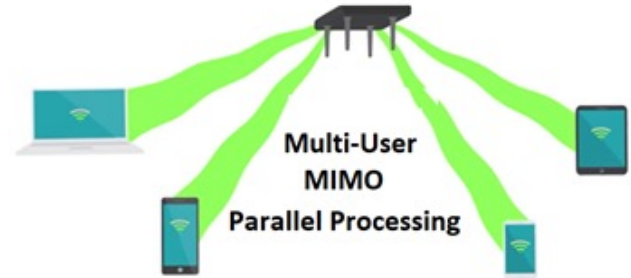
Up to 1+2SS
Or up to 1+1+1

Max 3SS



Data can be directed to Different clients in Concurrent streams in a 1+1, 1+1+1 or 1+2 stream combination

802.11ax drives Performance into the clients



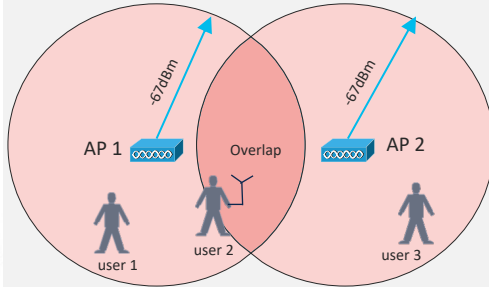
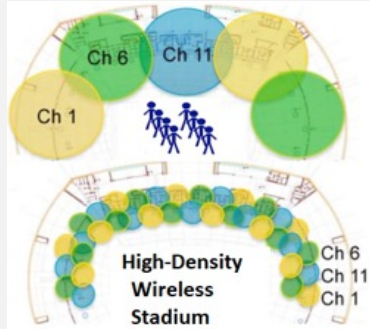
- 8 MU-MIMO transmissions (users in a group) up from 4
- **MU-MIMO client benefit in Downstream and Upstream**
- MU Station UL and DL ACKs come back in parallel **USING OFDMA**
- AP steer beams to different users (creating groups and managing)
- Each MU-MIMO transmission may have its own MCS rate

BSS Coloring – Spatial reuse and addressing interference

Issue with limited channels

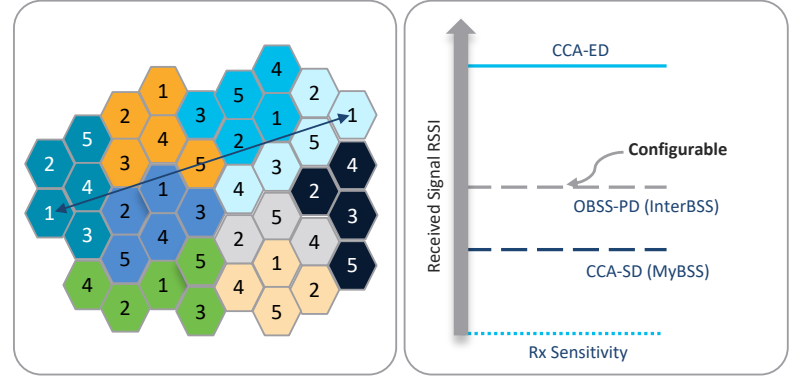
2.4 GHz - only 3 non-overlapping channels

5 GHz - more channels (reduced with channel bonding)

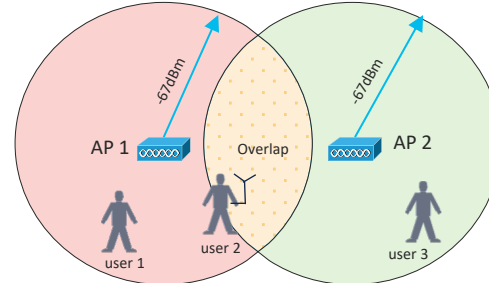


- The limiting factor is co-channel interference “CCI”.
- Frequency reuse is high! Cells using the same channel can be too close (and this is sometimes unavoidable)
- **OBSS CCI - High density clients running too much Tx pwr**
- Wi-Fi CCA is very sensitive, so clients have to back-off and wait
- Directional antennas and **Cisco’s RX-SOP** (adjustable squelch) is used today, but not dynamic and **requires RF experience**

Overcomes the limits of CCA



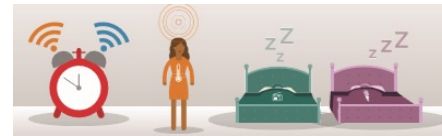
- Each BSS (AP) uses a different “color” (6 bits in the preamble)
- Each user (station) learns its BSS color upon association, and other BSS’s as OBSS
- Stations detecting the same BSS color (intra-BSS) use a lower RSSI threshold
- Stations detecting a different BSS color (Inter-BSS) use a higher RSSI threshold



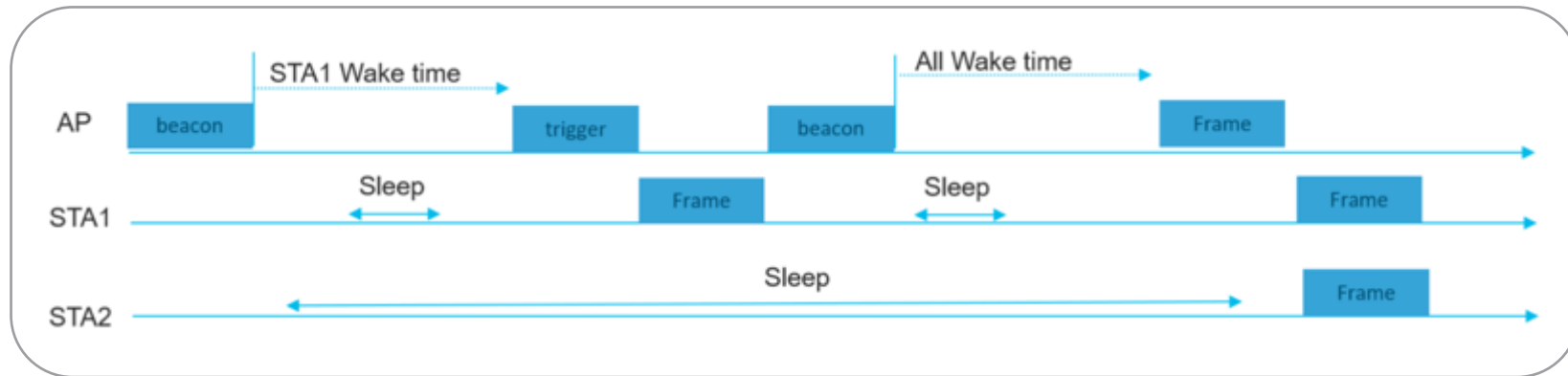
The closer the client is to the AP, THE LOWER it’s transmitted power can be

Target wake time – Putting devices to sleep

Target Wake Time (TWT) provides an effective mechanism to schedule transmissions in time



- With Target Wake Time (TWT), the AP can schedule phones and IoT devices sleep for long durations (**up to 5 years**) and then wake the individual device up.
- Devices can be configured to wake up as a group to communicate at the same time sharing the channel for increased network capacity and reduced battery drain.
- Use of BSS Color field and UL/DL flag in preamble to enable intra PPDU power Saving

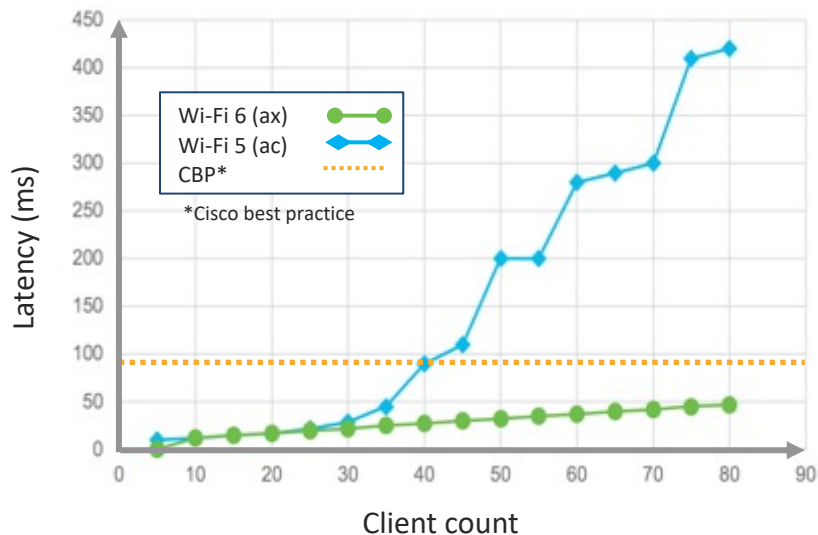


Phones, IoT devices can sleep conserving battery life and then wake to take advantage of multi-user transmissions, and coexist in high-density RF environments

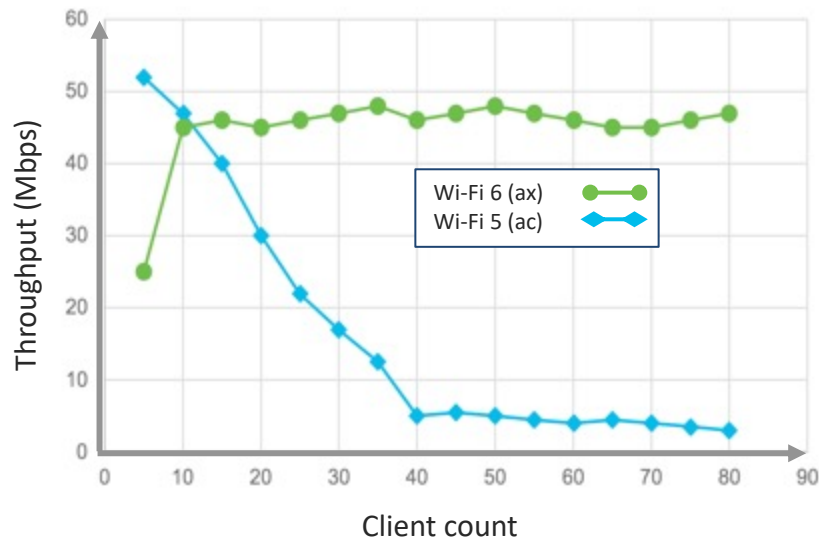
802.11ax (OFDMA) provides determinism at scale:

Enabling high-quality voice/video/data services cost effectively

Linear **VOICE** delay



Consistent **DATA** throughput

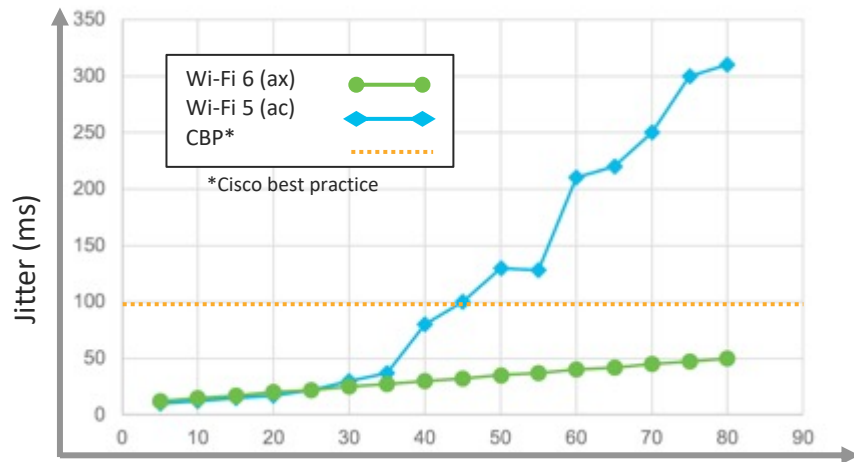


802.11ax is not only cost-effective and ubiquitous but is now capable of delivering SLAs

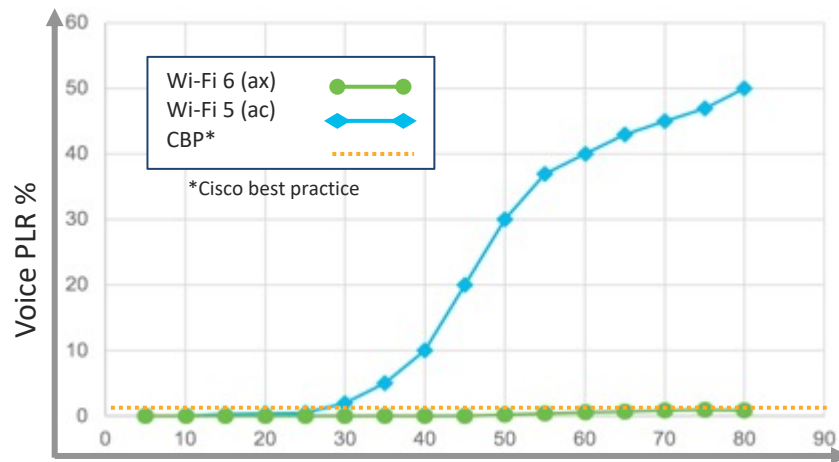


802.11ax provides higher VOICE/VIDEO capacity

Lower Jitter and PLR (Packet Loss Rate) at increased density



Client count



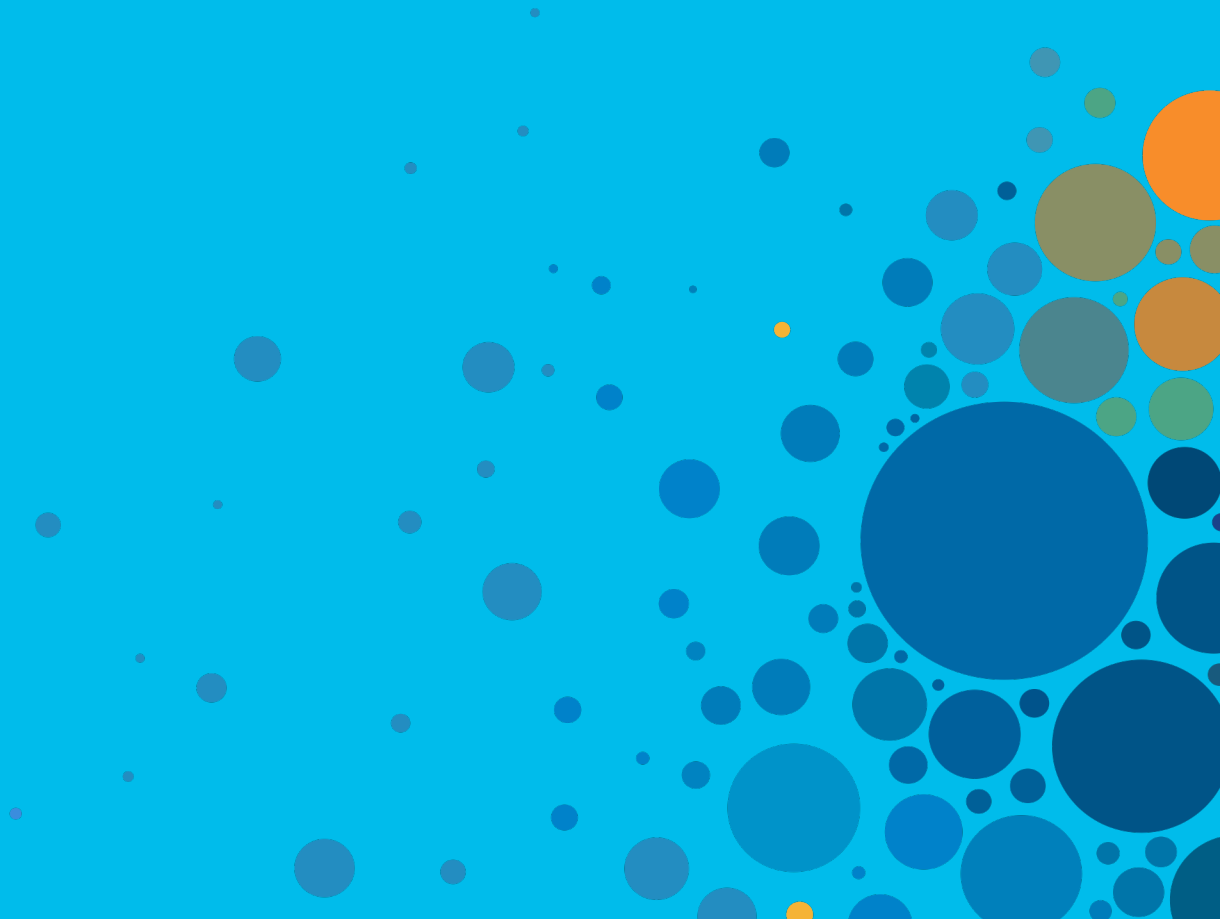
Client count



802.11ax can achieve up to 3x the VOICE capacity over 802.11ac in High-Density (HD)

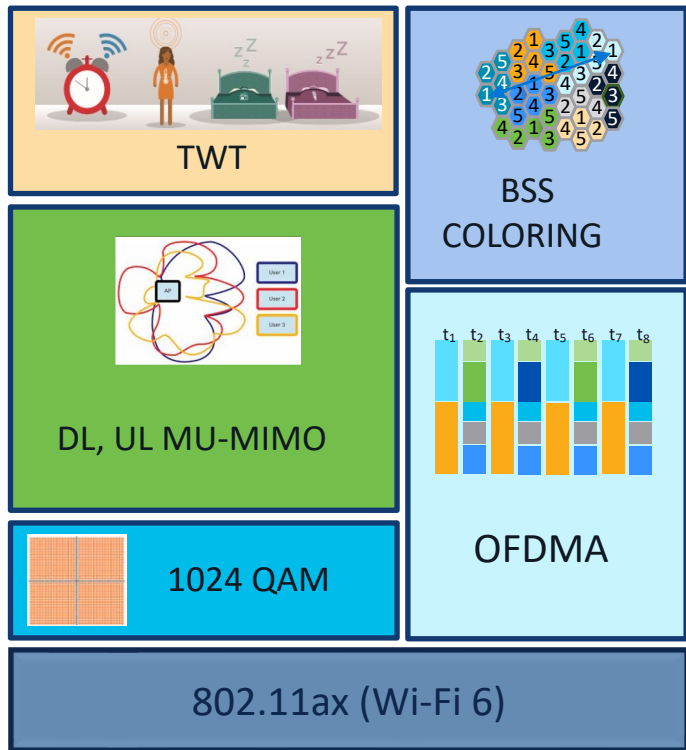


Wi-Fi 6E



Wi-Fi 6E

Wi-Fi 6 and 6GHz are friends!



1

Additional Spectrum

1200 MHz (5.925 to 7.125 MHz) – US
500 MHz (5.925 to 6.425) - EU

2

Security Upgrade

WPA3 and OWE Mandatory

3

Clean RF

(Fixed Mobile Service Operators in
UNII-5 and UNII-7)

4

No Legacy (Slow) Devices

Improves performance

5

6 GHz WLAN Discovery

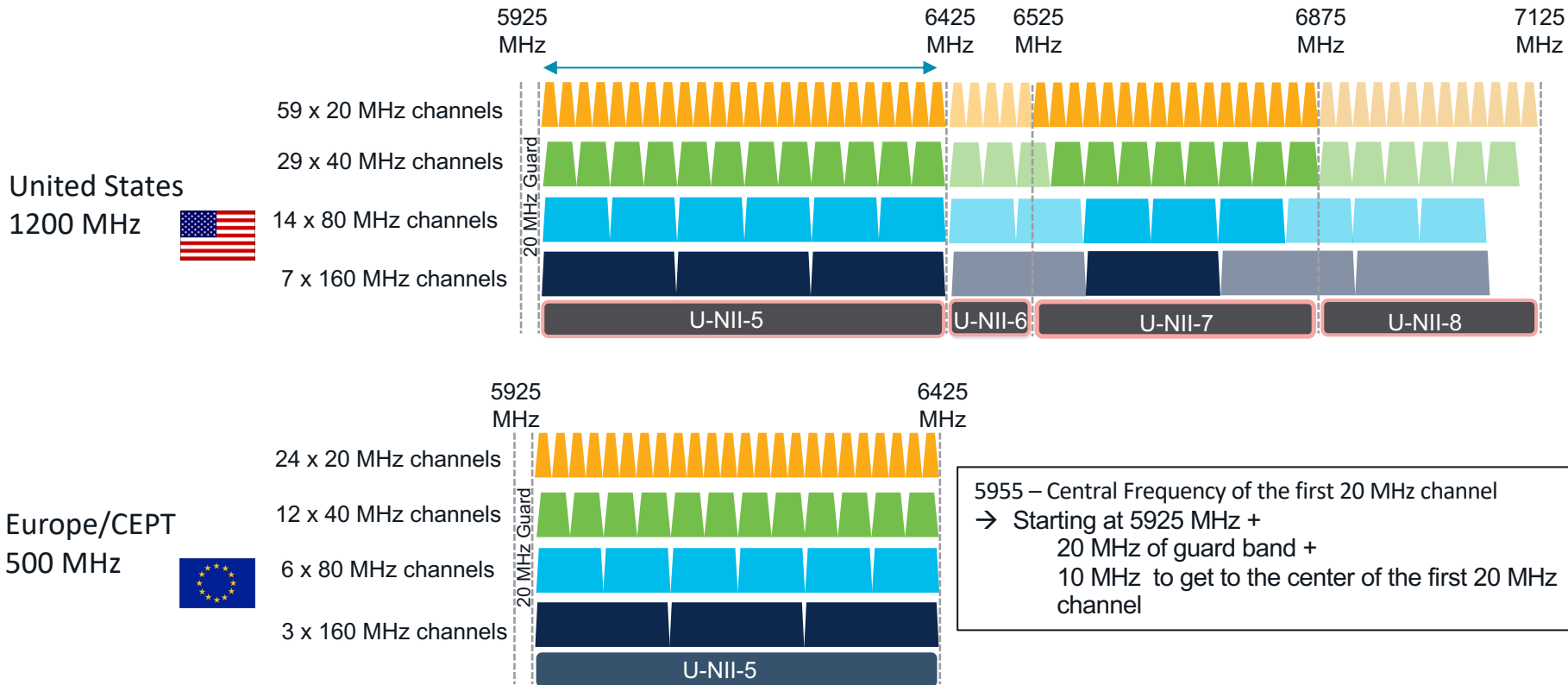
Airtime Efficiency

6

Wider RF Channels

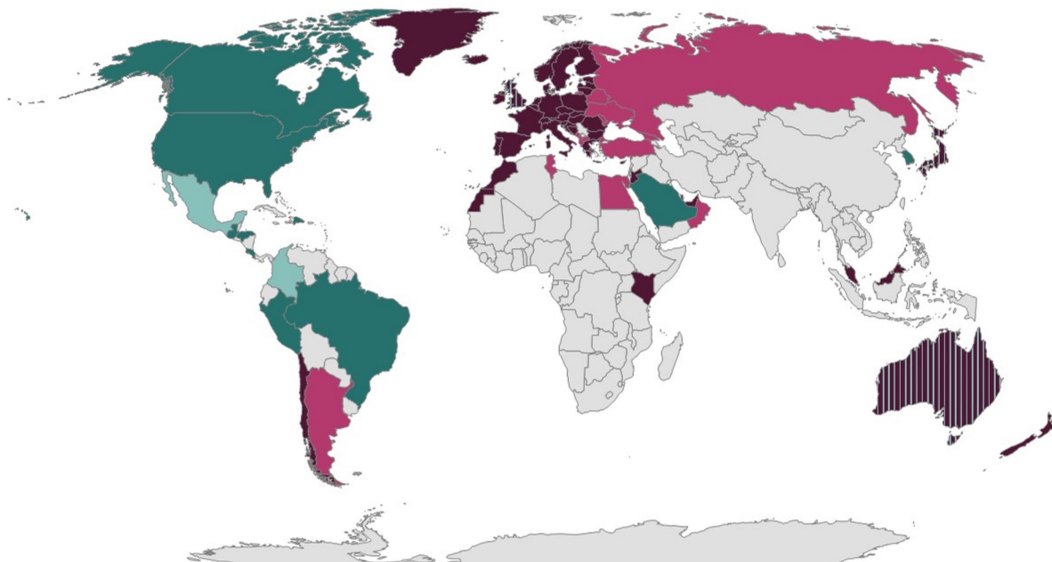
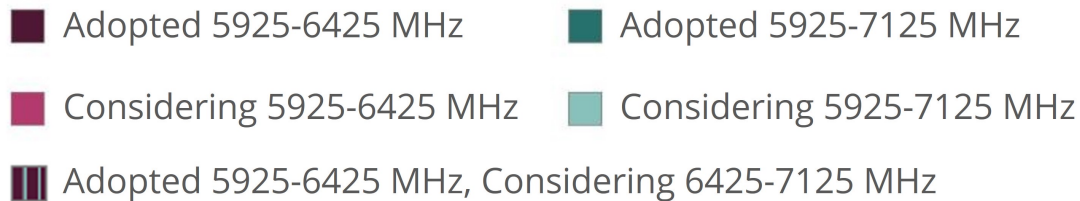
80 MHz channels are now a reality

The new 6 GHz band :



Global availability of 6 GHz band for Wi-Fi

(<https://www.wi-fi.org/countries-enabling-wi-fi-6e>)



6 GHz – New Device Classes

Wi-Fi 6E introduces new device classes for optimized capability



Low Power Indoor AP

- Indoor Only
- Integrated Antenna Required
- Can use the full 1200 MHz
- Wired Power



Standard Power AP

- Indoor or Outdoor
- Integrated or External Antenna
- UNII-5 and UNII-7 Only (US)
- Requires AFC (Automatic Frequency Control)



Very Lower Power AP

- Mobile Indoor or Outdoor
- Limited Range
- Can use the full 1200 MHz
- Does not require AFC

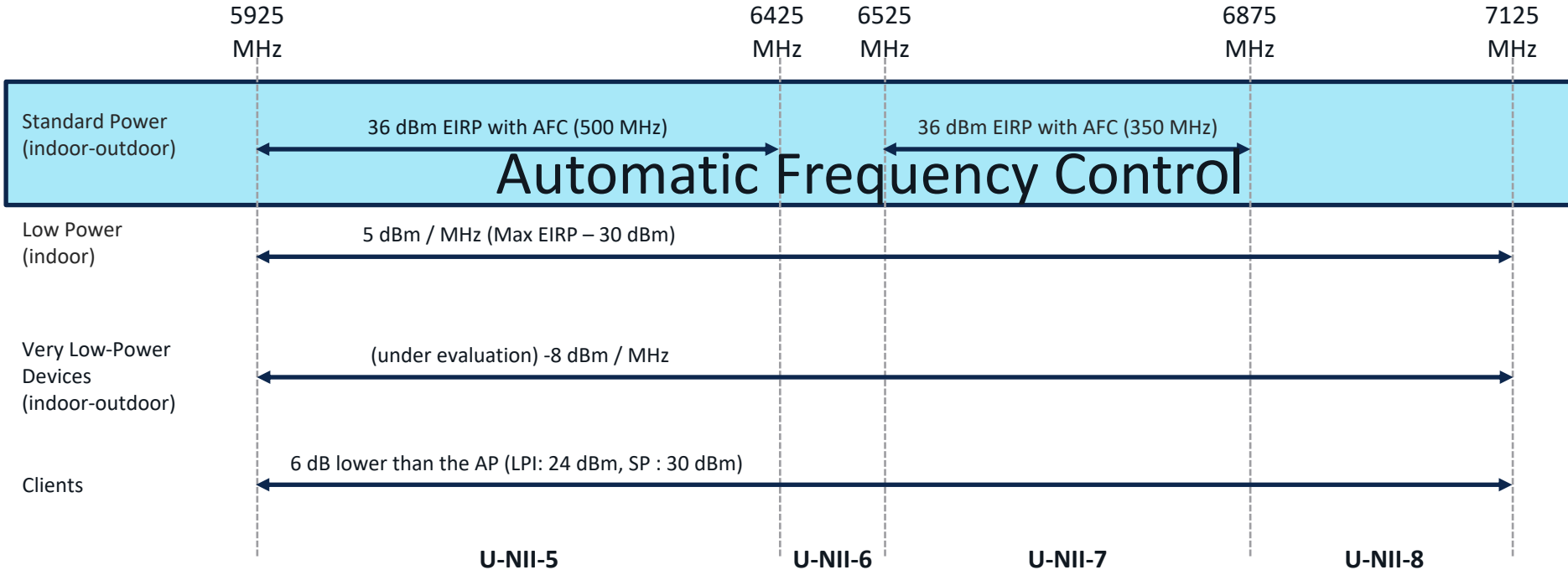


Client Devices

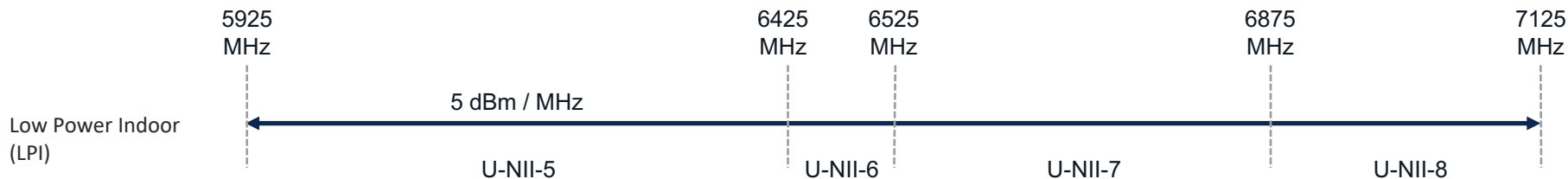
- Indoor or Outdoor
- Only Indoor under control of LPI AP
- 6 dBm lower power than AP

Regulations vary by country

The new power levels



Low-Power Access Points (indoor)



6 GHz power is measured as **Power Spectral Density (PSD)** a
Maximum of 5 dBm/MHz is permitted for LPI

5 dBm = 3.162278 mW

$3.162278 \text{ mW} \times 20 \text{ MHz} = 63.24556 \text{ mW} = 18 \text{ dBm}$

$3.162278 \text{ mW} \times 40 \text{ MHz} = 126.4911 \text{ mW} = 21 \text{ dBm}$

Client power also has a PSD rule of 6 dB less than the AP's
max EIRP

Channel BW	AP EIRP	Client EIRP
20 MHz	18 dBm	12 dBm
40 MHz	21 dBm	15 dBm
80 MHz	24 dBm	18 dBm
160 MHz	27 dBm	21 dBm

Note: Indoor AP's with an external antenna, must operate
under the Standard Power rules, LPI only applies to I models



Wi-Fi 6E

some protocol specifics

Wi-Fi 6E Beacon Changes

Legacy HT/VHT Information Element Removed

Wi-Fi 6 Beacon



Comparison of Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E Beacon Frame

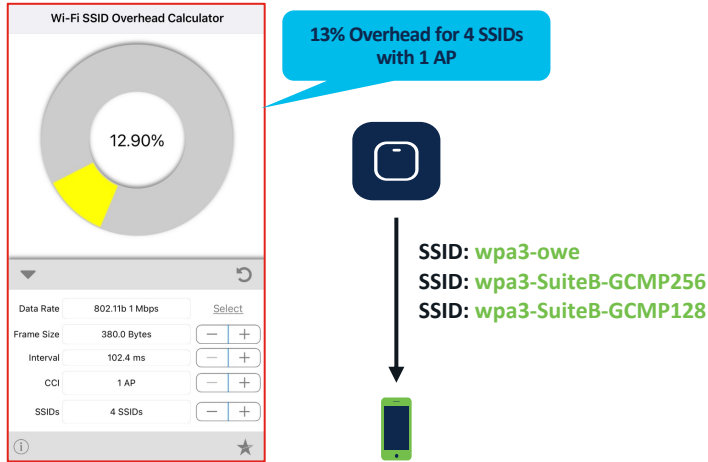
Wi-Fi 6E Beacon



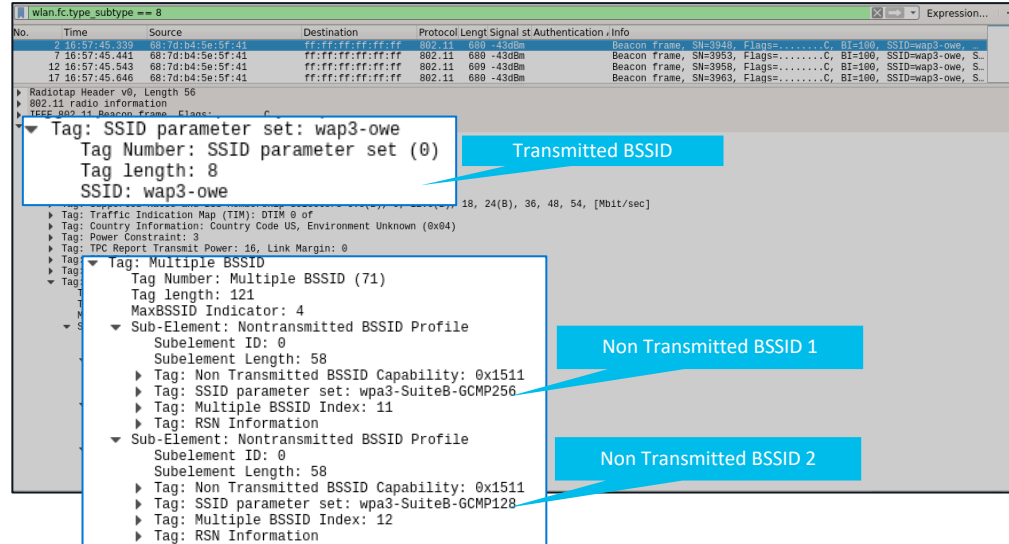
Reduced Beacon Size

Multiple BSSID

- Capability originally specified in 802.11v
- Combines multiple SSID information in a single beacon frame



- Conserves Air Time
- Mandated in Wi-Fi 6E



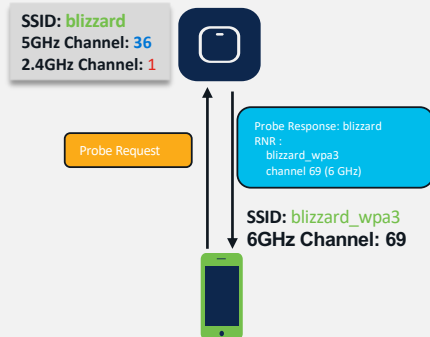
Wi-Fi 6E - New AP Discovery Mechanisms



Out of Band

Reduced Neighbor Report

Co-located Discovery



In Band

Passive Scan:

Fast Link Setup (FILS) Discovery Frames



Unsolicited Probe Response Frames

Reduced probe requests with probe response BROADCASTs every 20ms, with all info as beacon

Active Scan:

Preferred Scanning Channels (PSC)



PSC Channel List:
5, 21, 37, 53, 69, 85, 101, 117, 133, 149, 165, 181, 197, 213 and 229

Wi-Fi 6E Security



Wi-Fi 6E uplevels security with WPA3 and OWE



No backward compatibility with Open and WPA2 Security



Requires Protected Management Frame (PMF) in both AP and Clients



WPA3 and Enhanced Open Security made mandatory for Wi-Fi 6E certification

WPA3 provides a greater value proposition than WPA2 for enterprise Wi-Fi networks



Enhanced security for open
Wi-Fi networks with
encryption of
unauthenticated traffic



Robust password protection
against
brute-force
dictionary attacks



Superior data
reliability for sensitive
information with
192-bit encryption



Wi-Fi 6E – Client Eco System

Wi-Fi 6E Client Device Eco System

Wide range of client support ..



Samsung Galaxy
Ultra S21/S22



Samsung Galaxy Z Fold



Google Pixel 6 /Pro



xiaomi



Xiaomi Mi 11 /Ultra



ASUS Zenfone 8 and 8 Flip



Motorola Edge (2021)

Samsung Galaxy Tab S8, S8+



Laptops with Intel AX210/AX211/AX411 Chipset



Redmagic 6s Pro



Wi-Fi 6E Chipsets



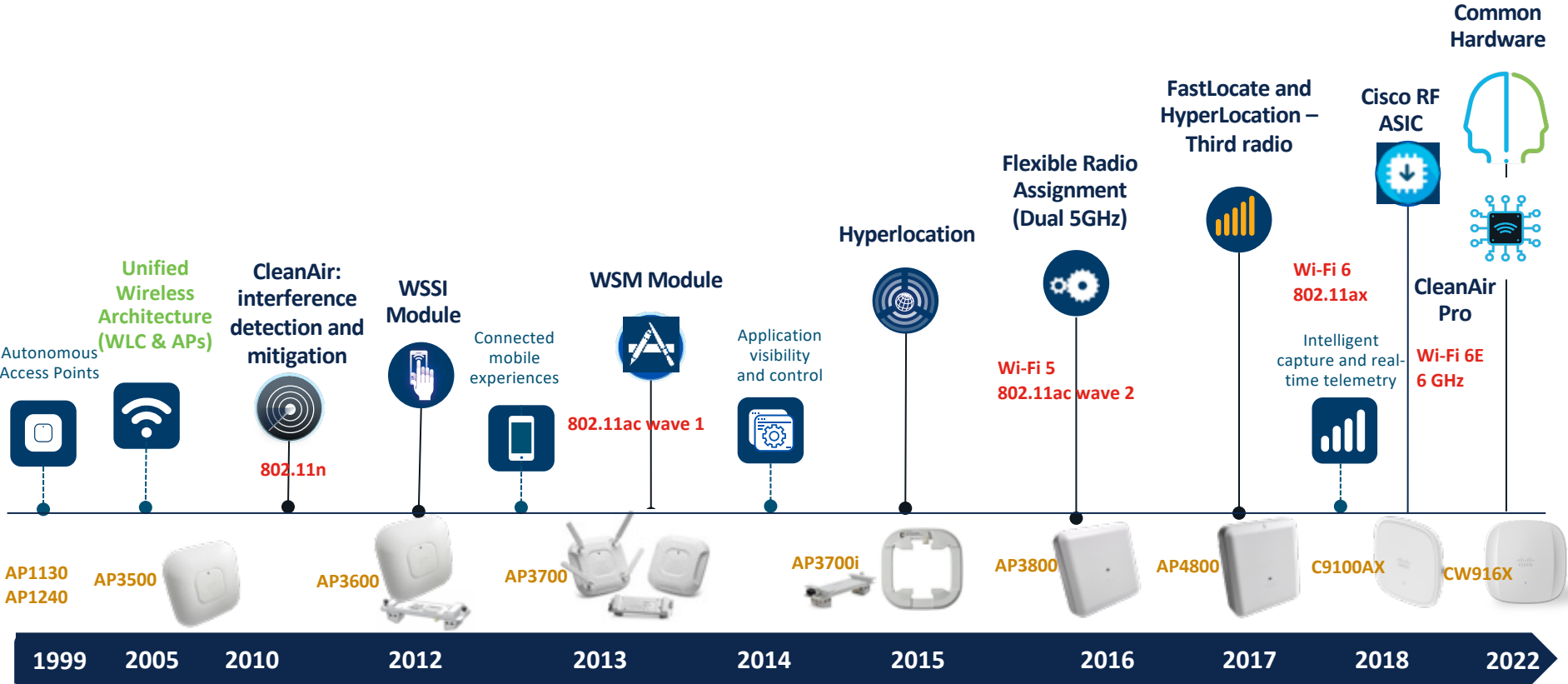
with more coming soon



Cisco Catalyst Wi-Fi 6/6E Access Points

Cisco Wi-Fi innovations

For every major change in WLAN over the last 20+ years

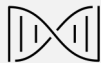


Cisco's complete Wi-Fi 6E and Wi-Fi 6 wireless stack

Enabling next-generation mobility powered by Wi-Fi 6/6E



Cisco Catalyst™ 9800 Series Wireless Controllers



Managed by
Cisco DNA Center



Translate business intent into network policy
and capture actionable insights



Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points

Industry's best and broadest Wi-Fi 6/6E portfolio



Digitized by
Cisco Spaces

Digitize people, spaces, and things

Full-stack network intelligence

Why the Cisco RF ASIC?

Cisco Secret Sauce-meets- Portable Feature Parity



Services/Features need Spectrum Information

Location Services	Requires 4 AP's at greater than -75 dB
RRM	Must constructively coordinate the spectrum
CleanAir	Identify and manage non Wi-Fi interference sources
aWIPS/WIDS	Effective security monitors all threat vectors
Rogue Detection	Must monitor all channels for clear resolution
DFS Detection	Highly Regulated, very Important
IoT	Are you the party to whom I have called?



Cisco custom silicon
Real-Time spectrum analysis

RF ASIC not Available on C9105/C9115

With Cisco Catalyst Wireless, extend security to infrastructure



Interference/Rogue detection



RF Snapshots



Standards compliant, enhanced security on open Wi-Fi



Enhanced threat detection with ETA



Enhanced device classification and segmentation



Secure and trustworthy systems

Cisco Catalyst 9100 – The most secure wireless access points

Trustworthy systems help ensure that your IT Infrastructure is secure



Cisco Catalyst Wi-Fi 6 portfolio

Ideal for small to medium-sized
deployments

Mission critical

Best in Class

Outdoor



9105AX

- 2x2 + 2x2
- MU-MIMO, OFDMA
- Spectrum intelligence
- IoT ready
- 1x 2.5 mGig (WP)
- TWT



9115AX

- 4x4 + 4x4
- MU-MIMO, OFDMA
- Spectrum intelligence
- 1 x 2.5 mGig | 1 x 5 mGig
- TWT



Powered by
Cisco RF ASIC

9120AX

- 4x4 + 4x4
- Cisco RF ASIC for Next Gen CleanAir
- Dual 5GHz, Next Gen HDX
- IoT ready
- 1 x 2.5 mGig
- TWT



Powered by
Cisco RF ASIC

9130AX

- 8x8 + 4x4; 4x4 + 4x4 + 4x4
- Tri-radio: Dual 5GHz + 2.4GHz
- Cisco RF ASIC for Next gen CleanAir
- Full iCap with data packets
- Dual 5GHz, Next Gen HDX
- IoT ready
- Smart Antennas supporting up to 8x8
- 1 x 5 mGig
- First 8x8 AP with external antennas
- TWT



9124AX

- 4x4; 4x4 + 4x4
- Dual 5GHz + 2.4GHz
- Cisco RF ASIC for Next gen CleanAir
- Full iCap with data packets
- Dual 5GHz, Next Gen HDX
- IoT ready
- 1 x 5 mGig, SFP
- TWT

Bluetooth 5

USB

Integrated or External Antenna

Cisco DNA Assurance with iCAP

The Cisco Catalyst Wi-Fi 6E portfolio



Ideal for small to medium-sized deployments



Best in class, flexible



Mission critical, resilient

Catalyst® 9162I*

- 2x2, 2x2, 2x2
- 2.5 Gbps Multigigabit
- DC power
- IoT radio/Bluetooth 5.x
- 4.5W USB

Catalyst 9164I

- 2x2, 4x4, 4x4
- 2.5 Gbps Multigigabit
- DC power
- IoT radio/Bluetooth 5.x
- 4.5W USB

Catalyst 9166I

- 4x4, 4x4, 4x4 (XOR 5/6)
- 5 Gbps Multigigabit
- DC power
- IoT radio/Bluetooth 5.x
- 4.5W USB
- Full Intelligent Capture
- Zero-wait Dynamic Frequency Selection (DFS)
- Environmental sensor

Catalyst 9136I

- 4x4, 8x8, 4x4
- Dual 5 Gbps Multigigabit, active failover
- IoT radio/Bluetooth 5.x
- 9W USB
- Full Intelligent Capture
- Zero-wait DFS
- Environmental sensor

Full radio capability (6 GHz @ LPI) on single 30W PoE+.

AP power optimization | Dedicated radio for CleanAir® Pro | Same bracket, same industrial design

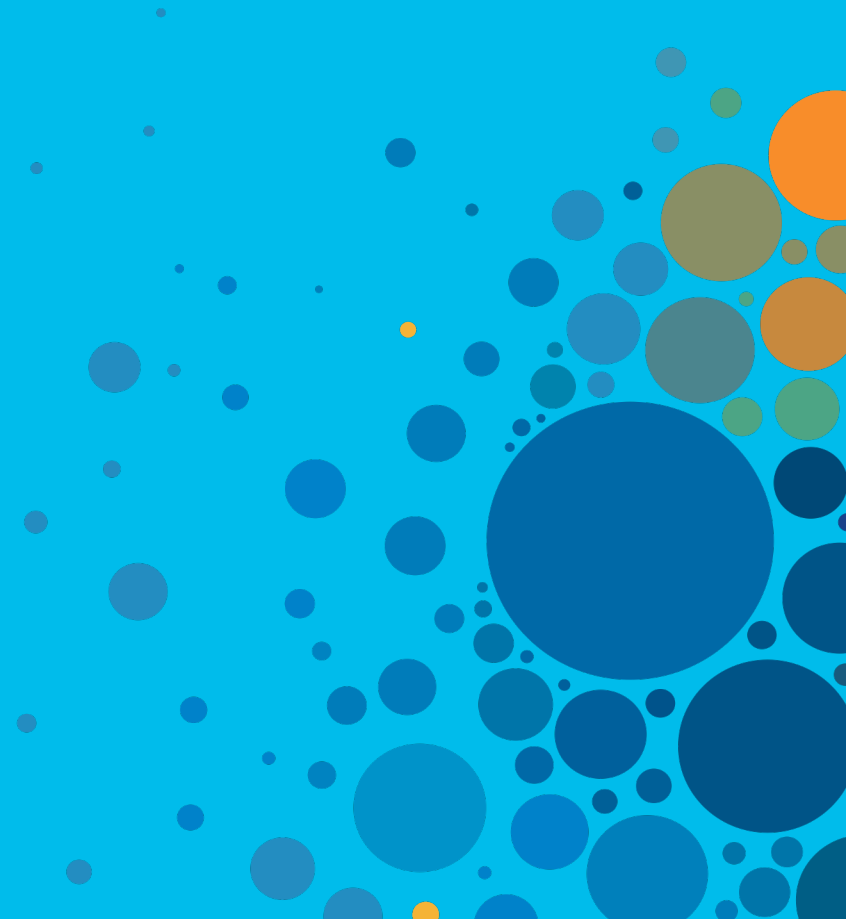
Wi-Fi 7: IEEE 802.11be

Sometimes is *not* about revolution...

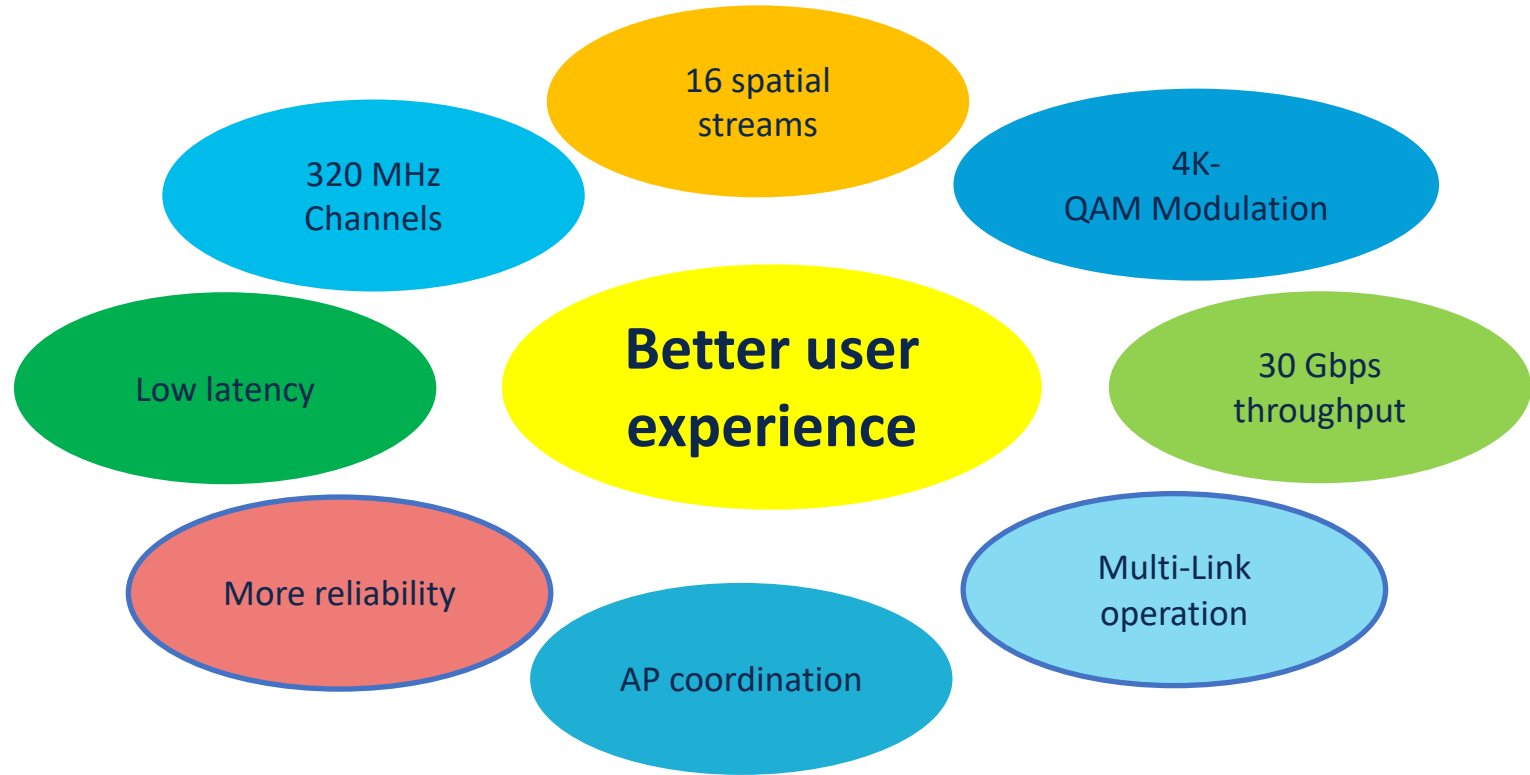
... it's about evolution

Wi-Fi 6 meets your requirements *today*

Wi-Fi 7 will meet your requirements *tomorrow*

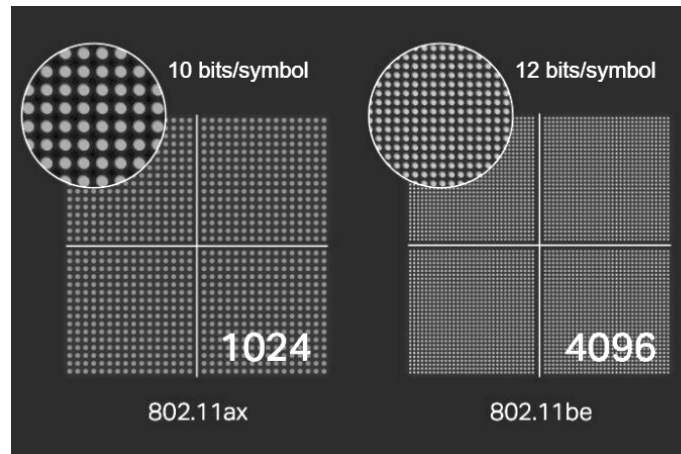


Wi-Fi 7: Wi-Fi 6E and so much more!



What Wi-Fi 7 brings to the table?

- Wi-Fi 7 will be in 4K QAM and 16 SS support
- 12 bits/Symbol
- Increased throughput - higher MCS 12 & 13 support



QAM

1K



will be

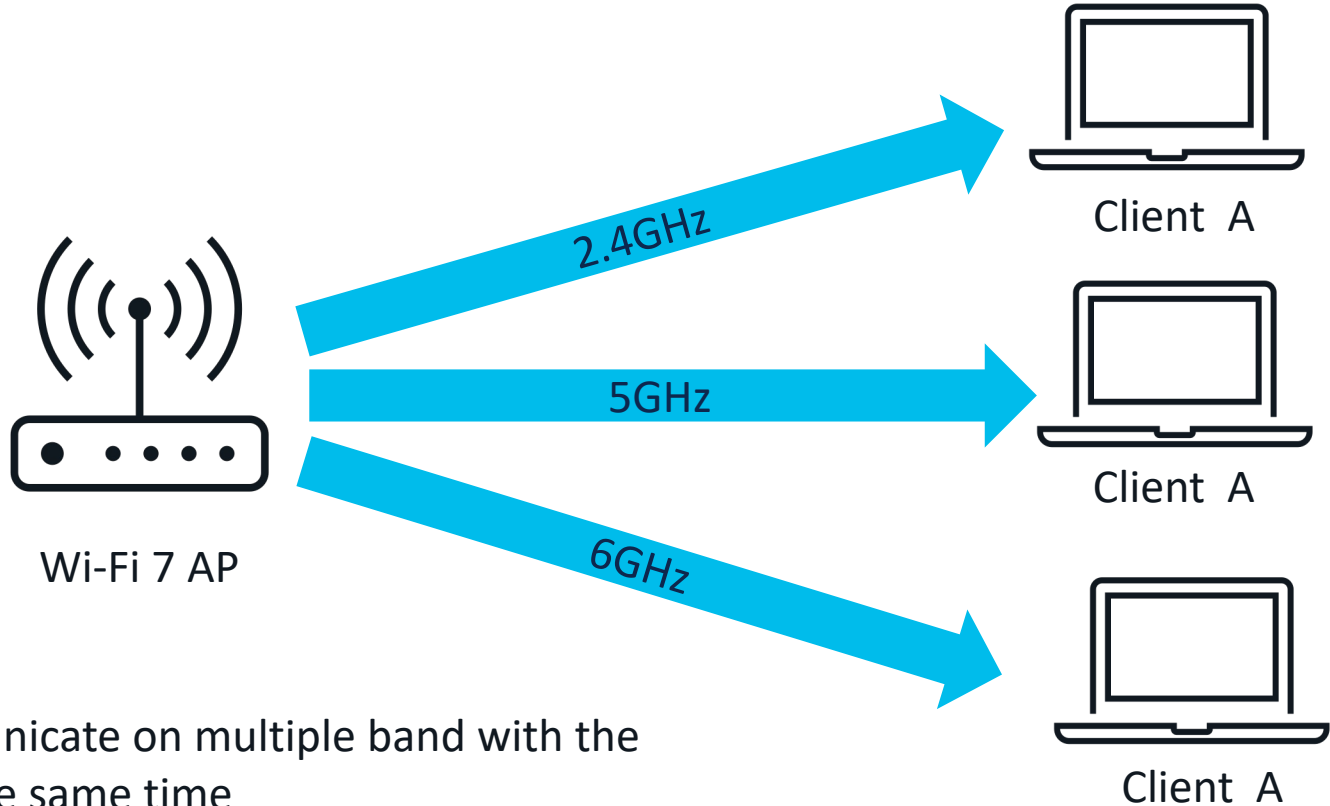


QAM

4K



Wi-Fi 7: Works simultaneously on all bands



MultiLink

Ability to communicate on multiple band with the same client at the same time

How did we get to Wi-Fi 7?

2007

- Wi-Fi 4 (802.11n) ~0.6Gbps
- Use of multiple antennas for high speed

2013

- Wi-Fi 5 (802.11ac) ~3.5Gbps
- Aimed for moving large amount of data from wireless devices

2019-2022

- Wi-Fi 6/6E (802.11ax) ~9.6Gbps
- Improves co-ordination of data transfer between client devices and AP

~2024

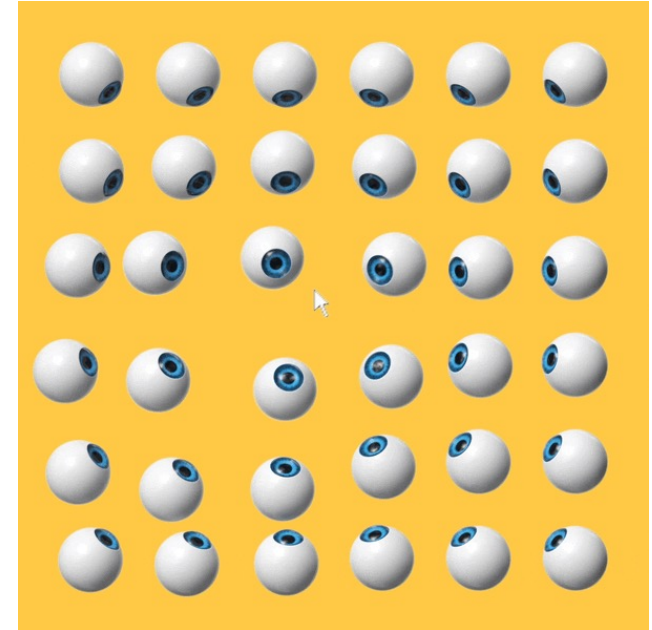
- Wi-Fi 7 (802.11be) ~46Gbps
- Bring developed for extremely high throughput over the wireless medium



4GIFs.com

Cisco as One – tracking Wi-Fi 7

- Tracking the IEEE organization very closely as they finalize Wi-Fi 7 draft standard
- Working together as Cisco to track client device vendors for Wi-Fi 7 development
- Keeping everyone in loop as the industry moves towards newer standards



THANK YOU!

