

## SOLUTION OVERVIEW

# ARUBA INSTANT WI-FI – POWERFUL, SIMPLE, AFFORDABLE.



The need to enhance workplace productivity and support the transition towards cloud-based services are driving organizations with limited IT resources to look for simpler, cost-effective ways to improve connectivity and improve user experience.

Aruba Instant combines simple setup and enterprise-grade networking to meet the needs of IT generalists and dedicated specialists alike. Instant provides IT generalists simplified deployment, configuration and ongoing management of their network. As network demands grow and IT resources expand, businesses can re-purpose Instant access points with a controller-based network to maximize deployment flexibility and investment protection.

By integrating advanced controller functionality directly within the access point hardware, IT can gain rich insight into wireless client health and application usage.

## BUSINESS-GRADE WI-FI IN AN INSTANT

Aruba Instant is a controllerless Wi-Fi solution that delivers superior Wi-Fi performance, business-grade security and flexibility. Aruba Instant is simple to setup and does not require network expertise to deploy and manage.

Simply power up your access points and one dynamically-elected AP will distribute your network configuration to the rest of the network. Organizations can also utilize zero-touch provisioning (ZTP) through Aruba Central or AirWave. The entire process takes as little as five minutes.

## SOLUTION BENEFITS

### Fastest network

- Gigabit Wi-Fi speeds with 802.11ac Wave 2
- Install enterprise-grade Wi-Fi in minutes
- Airtime fairness allows more clients to move faster on the network.
- Always-on scanning avoids performance-slowing interference.
- Aruba access points optimize Wi-Fi channel use and power to speed-up clients.

### Most resilient network

- Integrated spectrum management with Adaptive Radio Management improves client experience even around sources of Wi-Fi and non-Wi-Fi interference.
- Redundant ISP uplink and 3G/4G uplink option.

### Most flexible architecture

- Single architecture across headquarters, branch, and temporary sites improves investment protection.
- Cloud management available with Aruba Central, in addition to local and on-premises options.
- Traffic analysis with AppRF performs deep packet inspection and web content filtering.
- Internal RADIUS server on Aruba APs in Instant mode, plus flexible external AAA options.
- As network requirements grow, convert APs from Instant mode to controller-managed mode.

The built-in local management interface improves overall cost and offers a choice in management options. For multiple locations or branches, Aruba Central provides seamless management across Aruba Instant, switches, and branch gateways at the edge.

Even guest access to your network can be secure and uncomplicated for you and all your visitors. Simply create a guest network (SSID) and determine who gets access, how and what they have access to.

Use the simple built-in captive portal or a customizable externally hosted portal for guests to easily login. And secure the network by authenticating users with built-in guest accounts or integrate with external authentication servers.

## ENHANCE USER EXPERIENCE AND PRODUCTIVITY

Aruba access points provide enterprise-grade network performance that meets and exceeds the requirements for a high density of devices.

Aruba Instant comes with integrated Adaptive Radio Management (ARM) technology, which optimizes Wi-Fi behavior and automatically ensures that APs stay clear of RF interference, resulting in a more reliable, higher-performing wireless network.

It also integrates patented **ClientMatch** technology, which continuously gathers session performance metrics from mobile devices. These metrics are then used to intelligently steer individual clients to the best AP with the strongest Wi-Fi signal as users move.

The Aruba 802.11ac Wave 2 APs deliver enhanced ClientMatch with multi-user MIMO (MU-MIMO). By grouping MU-MIMO capable devices on the same stream, the network can take advantage of the simultaneous transmissions to these devices, increasing its overall network capacity and efficiency. These Wave 2 APs also have an integrated BLE Beacon to remotely manage battery-powered Aruba Beacons for advanced location and wayfinding applications.

## SECURE AND OPTIMIZE YOUR NETWORK WITH SMART APPLICATION HANDLING

AppRF technology in Aruba access points intelligently monitors application usage and web traffic to secure and optimize network performance.

Deep packet inspection (DPI) monitors mobile app usage and performance while optimizing bandwidth, priority and network paths in real time – even for apps that are encrypted or appear as web traffic. DPI is vital to understanding usage patterns that may require changes to network design and capacity.

AppRF provides application awareness for thousands of apps, including GoToMeeting, Box, Skype for Business, SharePoint, and Salesforce.com.

Optional WebCC subscription also provides web content filtering, enabling IT to control what users can browse on the Internet. WebCC redirects web URL requests to a cloud database that contains always-up-to-date content and reputation information about millions of web pages.

This information can be used to determine what types of web browsing and web apps are allowed on the network for different users or different times of day. You can even combine rules that allow Facebook traffic but block other social media or permit Netflix traffic only after business hours.

The WebCC cloud database is updated in real-time with new information about malicious web addresses.

## AVOID BUSINESS DISRUPTIONS DUE TO WI-FI FAILURE

Aruba Instant is a resilient network with advanced business-grade features that keep networks up and running. Key capabilities include:

- Network survivability to the last AP. The integrated controller function of an individual Instant network transitions seamlessly from one AP to the next to the last AP with no disruption or administrator intervention.



Figure 1: Aruba Central provides centralized application awareness for Aruba Instant networks.

- Dual Ethernet uplinks leverage already-strong uplink resiliency options. Internet connections from multiple different ISPs can now plug into one Instant AP. This feature gives you the best-possible Internet availability.
- Supports a variety of 3G/4G USB modems that slot into Aruba APs. Now you have the fastest available cellular uplink, either as a primary connection in hard-to-wire areas, initial deployment or as a backup for mission-critical applications.
- Flexible image upgrade features let you download firmware now and reboot later during off hours. This lets you leave the office on time and upgrade when no one is using the network.
- Spectrum load-balancing evens out the client load across channels in a dense deployment. Everyone gets faster access through more efficient use of the available wireless spectrum.

### CHOOSE A NETWORK MANAGEMENT OPTION RIGHT FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Manage your Instant network locally, in the cloud or on premises. Aruba access points in Instant mode include a free management interface that provides visibility into the network. All capabilities required to manage a single Instant network are available on the local interface.

Additionally, organizations can improve management and visibility over multiple distributed branch sites with the [Aruba Central](#) services platform, for network management hosted in the cloud or Aruba [AirWave](#) for an on-premises management system.

Aruba Central simplifies network operations by providing zero-touch setup, centralized management of multiple Aruba Instant networks, Aruba switches, Branch and Headend Gateways, historical data reporting, PCI compliance monitoring, and troubleshooting for networks located around town or around the world.

Aruba AirWave is a powerful network management system that not only manages Aruba APs and switches, but also wired and wireless infrastructures from a wide range of third-party manufacturers.

### MAKE A SMART INVESTMENT IN A COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTION

Aruba Instant is one of the most cost-effective business-grade Wi-Fi solutions available to day.

#### Low CAPEX

With Aruba Instant, you get enterprise-grade features and controller functions embedded in the AP. We eliminate the hardware and maintenance expense of a separate controller, but keep all the performance and reliability advantages.

#### Low OPEX

Aruba access points in Instant mode integrates everything into the AP – controller functions, security, ARM RF management, ClientMatch performance optimization, and AppRF to improve the use of bandwidth, priority and network paths. It's so easy to setup and manage that you won't need a dedicated wireless expert.

#### Investment protection

Aruba, a Hewlett Packard Enterprise company, offers controllerless and controller-managed Wi-Fi with public cloud, private cloud and on-premises management. You can even transition between them. You're not locked into one architecture, so when your needs change, you keep 100% of your investment.

No hardware changes. All Aruba APs can utilize VPNs to access centralized resources like guest access or authentication services from corporate headquarters.

At any time, APs in Instant mode can easily convert to controller-managed mode, enabling you to mix and match the right solution for the right location – headquarters, branch or home. No matter what you decide, your existing AP investments are fully protected.

Learn more about [Aruba access points](#).