

FLUKE networks

# The importance of Wireless today

- Increasingly in the Corporate Environment, Wireless is becoming an enabling technology to facilitate workforce mobility.
  - There are dangers!
    - Design of the network needs to be correct.
    - · Security needs to be considered
    - Monitoring is a must
    - Troubleshooting can be difficult.



### Before we start designing!

- · Understand what applications and their requirements
  - Min coverage signal strength
  - coverage redundancy
  - max noise floor
  - interference tolerance
  - min data rate
  - User capacity
  - 802.11n
    - Channel bandwidth (20MHz/40MHz)
    - Operation mode (Legacy, mixed, green field)
    - MIMO streams and MCS`

The Wireless Network

The Wireless Network

Business-Critical
Applications

Security | Performance |
Compliance

Wireless LAN Infrastructure

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### **The Design**

- This is where the problems start, too frequently!
  - Suck it and see approach!
    - If we stick an AP here we should have coverage!
      - If not, we can add another AP
      - Run another GPO in to power it
      - Select any channel for the AP, mainly in 802.11 b/g band
        - » Only 3 non overlapping channels in b/g, Channels 1, 6 and 11
      - Leave the power turned right up
        - » Brute force approach
      - What "a" band?



## The WiFi design Dork!



- Sticks Access Points to parts of an office layout with Velcro and Cable ties.
- Walks around with a PC looking at signal strength bars and connectivity drop outs.
- Tends to use freebie tools.

WRONG! Where is the science here?

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## **The Design**

- · A structured, scientific approach is required.
  - Use professional tools!
    - Survey the environment first
      - Don't go in blind!
    - · Plan for the deployment
      - Simulate your coverage
      - Estimate the throughput rates from various locations
      - Generate a professional set of documents covering the deployment.



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### **The Survey**

- Key Reasons to do a WLAN Survey
  - Efficient use of WLAN Infrastructure
  - Understand the properties of location
  - Wireless environments change
  - Performance driven applications in the network
    - Their requirements need to be considered.



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### **The Survey**

- We need to achieve a complete accurate picture of WiFi Visibility.
  - Confirm coverage area, see black spots and potential interference areas
  - Measure real-world client performance in terms of connection speed, packet los and end-user capacity
- Output the result to the client in a clear intelligent manner.



### **The Survey**

#### Multiple Surveying Methods

#### Passive Surveys

- · Overview of the entire wireless environment
- Includes sources of noise and any wireless signals from neighboring networks

#### **Active Surveys**

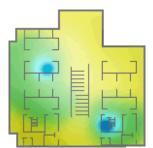
- Measure and map actual end-user network performance Associates to a specific AP
- See how users will perform in the "real-world"

#### **Iperf Surveys**

- Measure uplink/downlink end-user WLAN performance
   Mandatory for 802.11n deployments

#### **Voice Surveys**

Validate phone call quality and other voice statistics on the floor

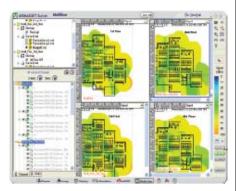


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### **The Survey**

#### • Try to achieve a Multi-View of the site

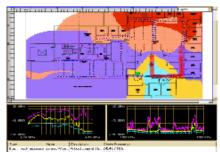
- · Helps re-use services of a single access point for multiple floors
- Lower equipment and deployment
- · See the effects of APs across multiple floors
- · Compare active surveys to passive designs to improve modeling accuracy.
  - More on modeling shortly.





### **The Survey**

- Don't forget a Spectral Analysis
  - There are things out there in the WiFi frequency range that are not part of the network, but they will affect the networks performance:
    - Microwave Ovens
    - > Hand portable phones
    - Bluetooth Devices
    - Wireless Modems



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# **The Survey**

- Deploying an outside network?
  - Make sure your survey tool accepts GPS data
  - Accept Maps in common formats
  - Potential export to Google Earth.





## The Survey

- 802.11n site survey challenges
- 11n Fundamentally Changes WLAN Survey
- MIMO and many other options that impact performance are locationspecific, making signal strength not an accurate indicator of performance
- 11n Requires Active Surveying
- Use iPerf functionality to actively test both uplink and downlink performance



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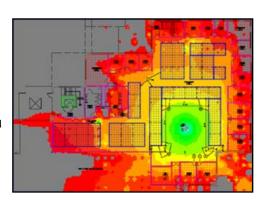
## **Planning the Network**

- · A complete survey is only half the battle.
  - We now know what is there.
  - What we do not know is how our deployment will work.
    - · Using a planning/modeling tool offers many advantages
      - Uses building floor plans
      - Allows simulated placement of APs
      - Allows experimentation with Antenna designs and AP output power settings
      - Allows experimentation on the effects of furniture and office lay outs
      - Generates a 'Heat Map' of Network coverage

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# **Planning the Network**

- Using a modeling tool gives many benefits to the designer
  - Optimised AP count
  - Optimised layout and configuration for maximised coverage and performance.

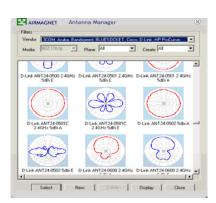


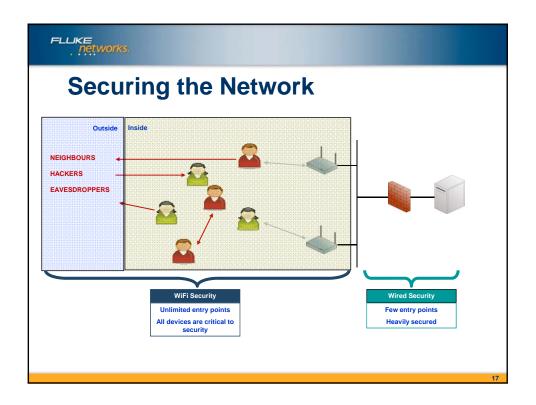
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# **Planning the Network**

- Knowing the Antenna Radiation pattern is important.
  - By modifying the antenna we can alter the WiFi coverage of the AP
    - Most APs come with Omni Directional antennas
    - Black spots can be covered with directional antennas
    - Radiation outside you building can be regulated by changing antenna designs





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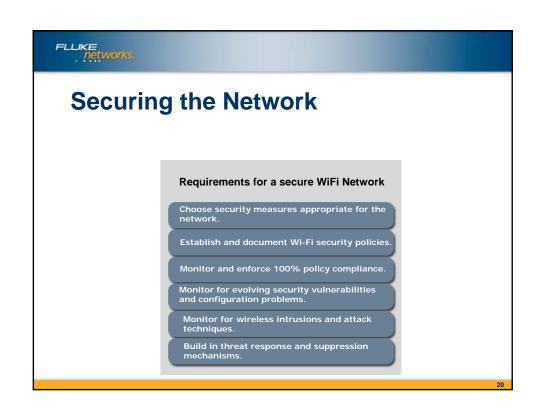
# **Securing the Network**

- Some of the common threats we have to defend the network from:
  - Rouge AP or Station
  - Penetration Attack
    - Honeypot AP. Man-in-the-Middle, Aircrack, ASLEAP
    - Dictionary Attacks, Hotspotter, etc.
  - Denial-of-Service Attacks
    - 802.11/802.1x Protocol Attacks against AP/Station
    - RF jamming against WiFi infrastructure



# **Securing the Network**

- Configuration Vulnerability and Policy Violation
  - Enterprise authentication and encryption scheme
  - AP SSID bcast, Config Changes, Default Config
  - Client Ad-hoc mode, Exposed WiFi, Unauthorised Association
- WiFi Anomalies
  - After-hour traffic
  - Excessive 802.11 packet fragmentation
  - Netstumber, Wellenwreiter probing
  - Protocol fussing





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# **Securing the Network**

- Choose best practices when looking at Security protocols and Encryption.
  - Two Way Authentication
  - Strong Encryption Algorithms
- Considered best practice at the moment?
  - WPA2/802.11i
    - Uses 802.1X Radius for two way Authentication
    - Strong Encryption





# **Securing the Network**

 Comparison between commonly used WiFi Security mechanisms

<b>Standard Name</b>	WEP	WPA	802.11i/WPA2
Encryption Type	WEP	TKIP	CCMP
Cipher	RC4 40 or 128 bits 24 Bit IV	RC4 128 Bits 48 Bit IV	AES 128 Bits 48 Bits IV

More reading:

http://www.isaac.cs.berkeley.edu/isaac/wep-faq.html

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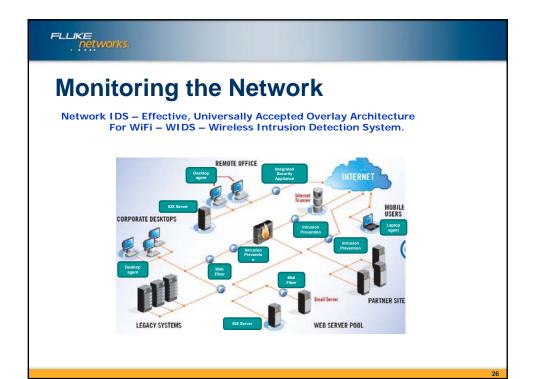
# **Monitoring the Network**

- The network is now installed and in production, we now need to consider monitoring that network.
  - Who is on my network?
    - · What are they doing?
  - Are there any new WiFi networks coming up?
    - Source of interference and performance drop
  - Am I under Attack?
    - · Who is doing it and where are they?
  - Do I have a rougue AP?
    - Where is it and who did it?



- Remember, the infrastructure <u>can not</u> monitor itself. Self protection is NOT effective, you need to be pro-active.
  - Network infrastructure is designed to effectively move and control protocol traffic and application data.
  - Network monitoring equipment is purpose built to analyse traffic behaviour.
  - Points of presence effective network monitoring requires inspection where problems occur.

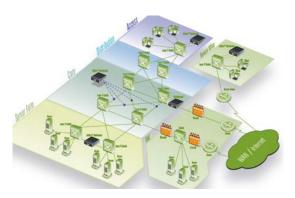
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Distributed Traffic capture – Effective, Proven Overlay Architecture

Great compliment to Network IDS and Wireless IDS.



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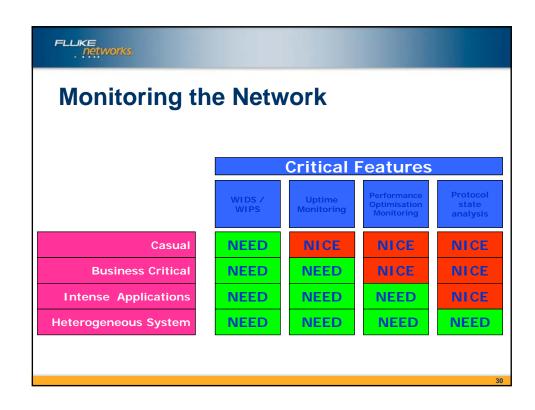
# **Monitoring the Network**

- We also need to consider the WiFi Networks operating mode.
  - <u>Casual</u> WLAN used for complimentary connectivity to enable employee mobility, guest internet access, hotspot service.
  - <u>Business Critical</u> WLAN used to support critical real-time business applications.
  - <u>Intense Applications</u> WLAN used for applications / devices with strong QoS requirements.
  - <u>Heterogeneous System</u> WLAN devices from several vendors blended into multi-function application platform.

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# **Monitoring the Network**

- With each operating mode, there are issues to be addressed
  - Casual Comprehensive WIDS
  - <u>Business Critical</u> <u>PLUS</u> uptime monitoring, remote troubleshooting.
  - <u>Intense Applications</u> <u>PLUS</u> performance optimisation monitoring.
  - <u>Heterogeneous System</u> <u>PLUS</u> detailed protocol state analysis.





- Important Monitoring recommendations
  - 24/7 dedicated overlay system
    - You don't miss a thing, part time AP based... you may miss something critical
  - Look for Historical data collection
    - Gives forensic post analysis capability, you didn't have to be watching the screen when the event happened.

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# **Monitoring the Network**

- Important Monitoring recommendations
  - Very Deep WIDS Event Detection capability
    - Find every WiFi attack and hack currently known
  - Look for comprehensive reporting
    - The "Boss" report, regulatory compliance PCI, SoX
  - Ability to integrate with existing solutions
    - Enterprise NWM system



- Important Monitoring recommendations
  - Be able to detect, locate and remotely remediate rogue
     APs and client devices.
    - · Wireless Blocking, wired tracing and port killing
  - For an Enterprise system, to be remotely accessible
    - Troubleshoot and investigate from Head Office
  - Spectrum Analysis Capability
    - It may not be a WiFi problem

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#### In conclusion

- Wireless is becoming an important part of today's Enterprise Network fabric.
  - You need to check the environment before deploying your solution.
  - Your solution should be designed scientifically for not only today's requirement but also for the future.
  - Monitor your wireless network just as you would your wired network.

