Topic

Avoiding 100 Series access points power amplifier failure

Products covered by this bulletin

All 100 Series access points: AP-104/105, IAP-104/105.

Summary

The combination of the Wi-Fi chipset and radio transmit power amplifiers (PAs) used on the Aruba 100 Series access points is susceptible to a failure mechanism that can damage the power amplifiers of the 5GHz radio. In certain circumstances, the chipset may generate short and unintended power spikes that exceed the specified operating range of the PAs, which can lead to permanent damage to one or both of the 5GHz PAs, ultimately resulting in a failure of the access point (5GHz radio non-functional).

The following software versions introduced a partial fix that avoids this problem in the majority of cases:

- ArubaOS 5.0.4.10, 6.1.3.6, 6.2.0.0 and later
- Aruba Instant 3.1.0.2, 3.2.0.0 and later

While this fix is effective in most modes of operation (including dedicated spectrum analysis mode), the failure may still occur when hybrid mode (spectrum monitoring while in AP mode) is enabled for the 5GHz radio on these access points. A software workaround for this is not available. Note that hybrid mode is not supported in ArubaOS 5.0.

To avoid the risk of PA failure altogether, the hybrid mode will be disabled for the 5GHz radio on the affected access point models in future software versions.

Call to action

When using any of the 100 Series access points, upgrade to the software versions mentioned above (or later) and make sure the hybrid mode is disabled for the 5GHz radio. The 2.4GHz radio can continue to operate in either dedicated or hybrid mode.

	2.4GHz radio	5GHz radio
Dedicated spectrum analysis mode	Yes	Yes
Hybrid spectrum analysis mode	Yes	No

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