

Aruba Baltic Day 2022

Wi-Fi-6E

Extending Wi-Fi into the 6GHz band

John Schaap, Consulting Systems Engineer

November 2022



Agenda

Fundamentals

Design Considerations

ArubaOS Support

AP Discovery



The background features a complex, abstract geometric pattern. It consists of various shapes, including circles, squares, and irregular polygons, arranged in a grid-like fashion. The colors used are dark blue, orange, light blue, and white. The shapes are layered, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall effect is a vibrant, modern, and somewhat chaotic visual texture.

Fundamentals

Wi-Fi 6E Overview

- Wi-Fi 6E is Wi-Fi 6 (802.11ax) extended into the 6 GHz band (5.925 – 7.125) to increase total capacity and performance

Key Features of Wi-Fi 6E:

- 6 GHz allows for Wi-Fi 6 and OFDMA only which means APs / clients are not permitted to use *slower* legacy PHYs (such as 802.11a/b/g/n/ac)
- Cleaner RF due to lower noise floor (compared to 2.4 and 5 GHz bands)
- More bandwidth with use of the largest allocation of unlicensed spectrum in history
- Scheduling is based on the High Efficiency (802.11ax) IEEE standard
- PHY latency improvements through exclusive use of HE PPDU formats for preamble and channel access, restrictions on probe request transmissions, and signaling and discovery enhancements



Wi-Fi 6E General Requirements

Required support:

- Security
 - Protected Management Frames (PMF)
 - WPA3-{Personal, Enterprise}
 - WPA3-Enterprise with 192-bit cryptographic strength is optional (CNSA SuiteB)
 - Enhanced Open (OWE)
- Discovery
 - Out-of-band (2.4/5) signaling and discovery
 - In-band (6) signaling, discovery, and association
 - Primary Scanning Channel (PSC) and Non-PSC scanning rules
- Regulatory
 - Updated regulatory rules for 6 GHz (Power Spectral Density (PSD) and EIRP)
 - Updated 6 GHz channelization (1 – 233)
- Management Frame Information Elements
 - 6 GHz band and 6 GHz operations

Not allowed and not supported in 6 GHz:

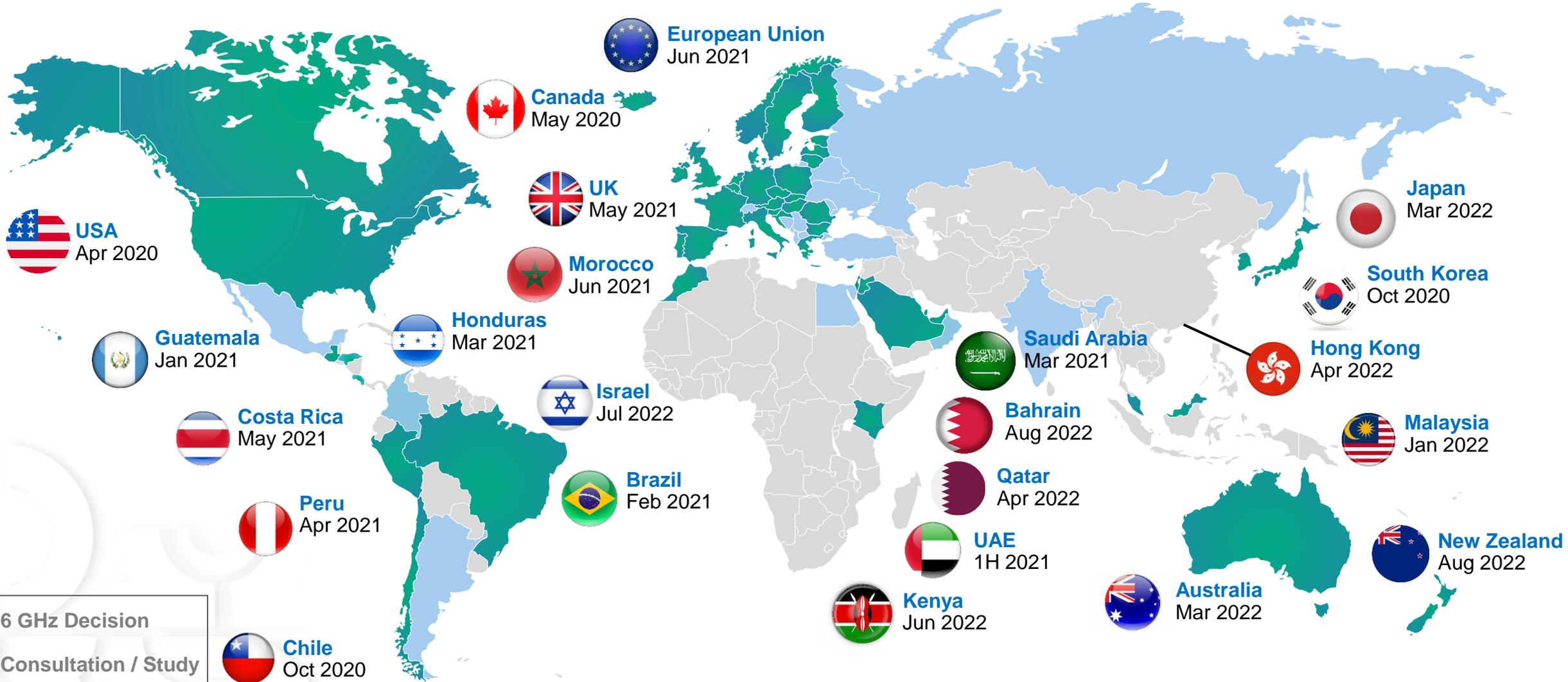
- Open Networks
- WEP and TKIP
- Legacy WPA2/WPA
- Transition Mode for WPA3 or Enhanced Open (OWE)

➔ **Take away? 6 GHz requires new SSID planning** ←

Key Acronyms

- EIRP – Effective Isotropic Radiated Power
- LPI – Lower Power Indoor
- PMF – Protected Management Frames
- PSC – Preferred Scanning Channel
- PSD – Power Spectral Density
- UTB – Ultra Tri Band

6 GHz Unlicensed: Global Momentum



53 Countries
As of 1 August 2022

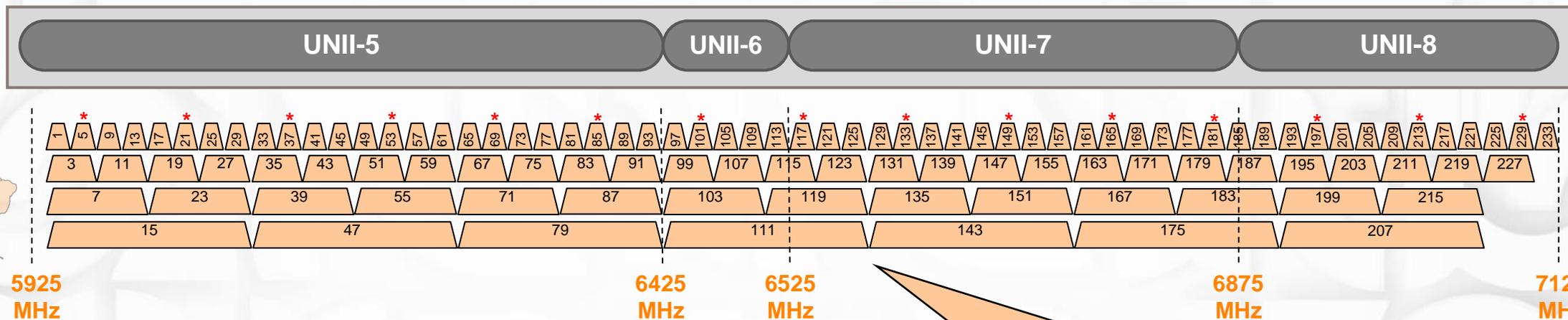
1.7B Citizens

6 GHz Channels in Americas & Europe/CEPT

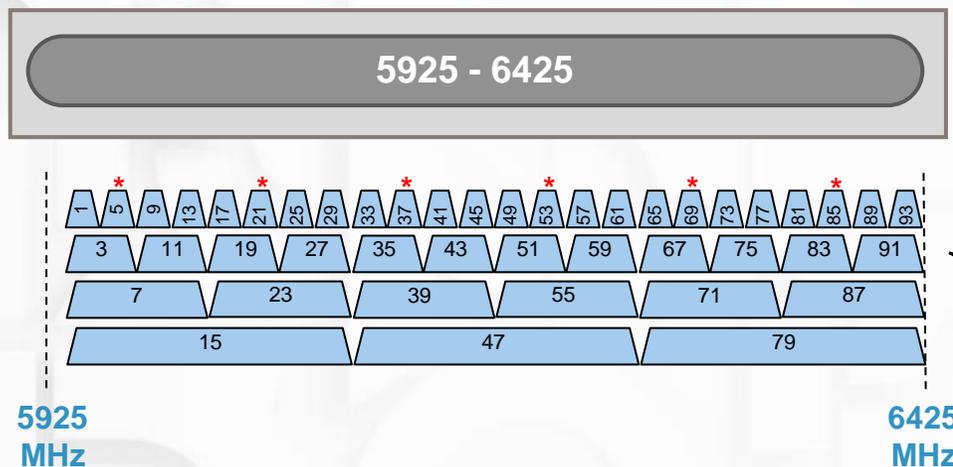
Countries Adopting 500 MHz are Limited to Sub-Gigabit Speeds



Americas Model



European Model



80 and 160 MHz channels will be the default for 1200 MHz countries
2x2 Client 160 MHz 1024 QAM = **2.4 Gbps**

20 and 40 MHz channels will continue to be default for 500 MHz countries
2x2 Client 40 MHz 1024 QAM = **574 Mbps**

| | European Model | Americas Model |
|---------|----------------|----------------|
| 20 MHz | 24 | 59 |
| 40 MHz | 12 | 29 |
| 80 MHz | 6 | 14 |
| 160 MHz | 3 | 7 |

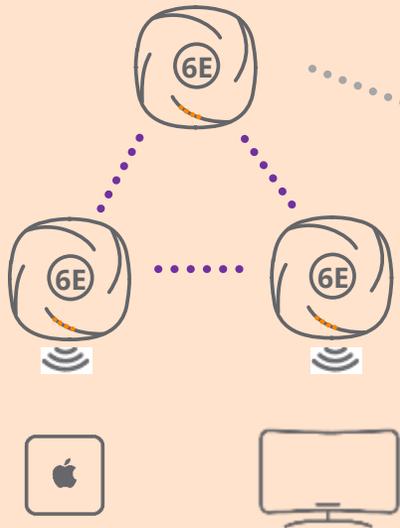


* Denotes Primary Scanning Channel (PSC)

Device Classes in 6 GHz

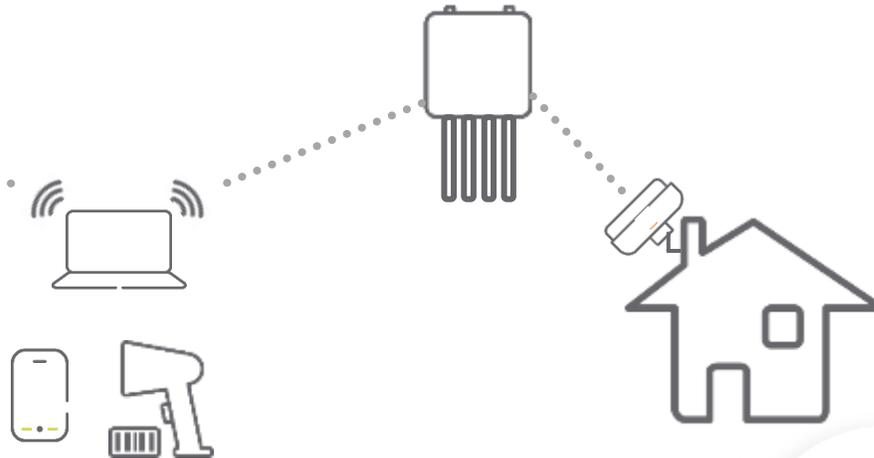
Low Power Indoor (LPI) AP

- Fixed indoor only
- No antenna connectors
- No weatherproofing
- Not battery powered
- Labeled for Indoor Use Only



Standard Power (SP) AP

- Fixed indoor / outdoor
- Controlled by AFC database
- Automated geolocation
- Pointing angle restriction

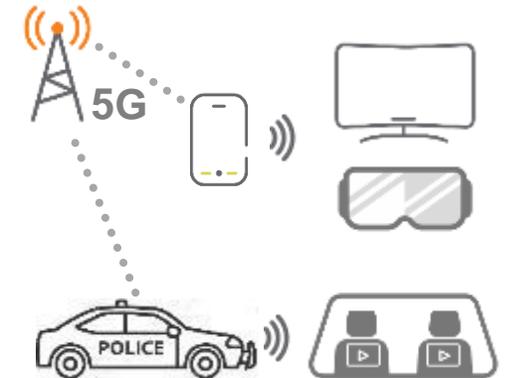


Mobile Client

- Indoor / outdoor
- 6 dB less power than connected AP

Very Low Power (VLP) AP

- Mobile indoor / outdoor
- 22 dB lower energy



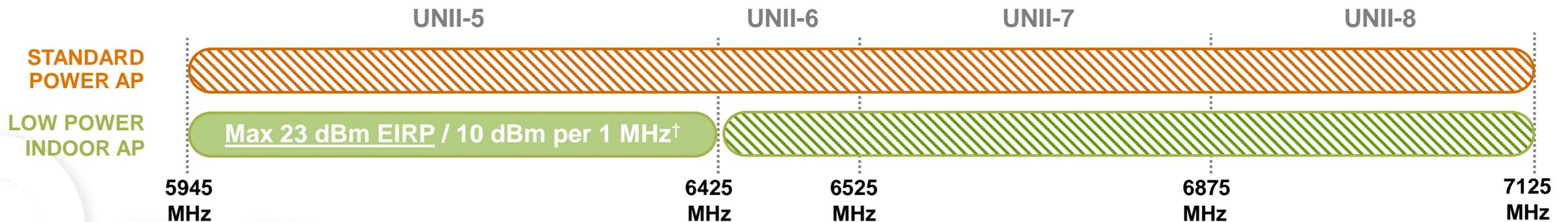
~2 Gbps throughput with sub-ms latency at 3m

Fixed CPE

- To run at full power, must behave like an AFC-controlled device

6 GHz Rules in Europe/CEPT

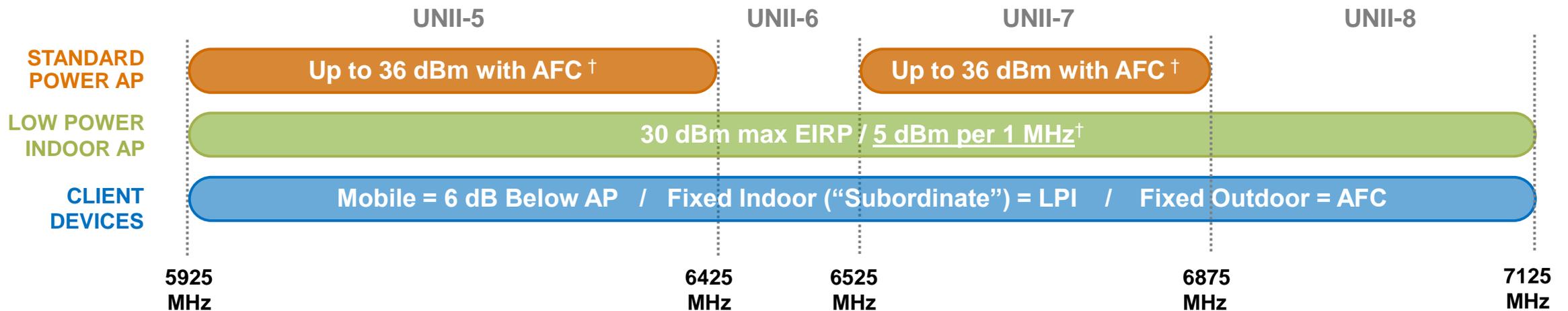
- Low power indoor across the first 500 MHz (UNII-5)
 - Up to 10 dBm per 1 MHz (PSD)
 - **Max EIRP of 23 dBm for AP or client**
- No Standard Power AP currently approved or planned
- No Low Power Indoor AP currently approved or planned for UNII-6/7/8



[†]PSD or EIRP limits in 6 GHz vary per regulatory domain – the most restrictive limit applies first

6 GHz Rules in United States

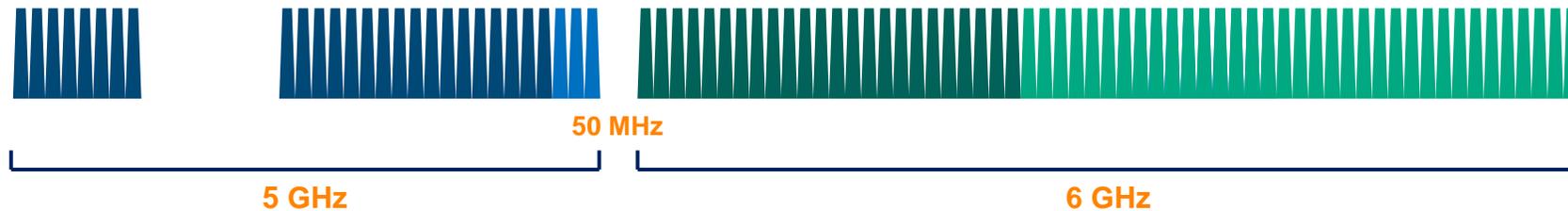
- Low power indoor across the entire band (UNII-5 through UNII-8) without AFC requirement
 - **5 dB per 1 MHz (PSD)**
 - Up to 30 dBm for AP or 24 dBm for client
- Automated Frequency Coordination (AFC) required in UNII-5/7 for “full” power indoor and all outdoor APs



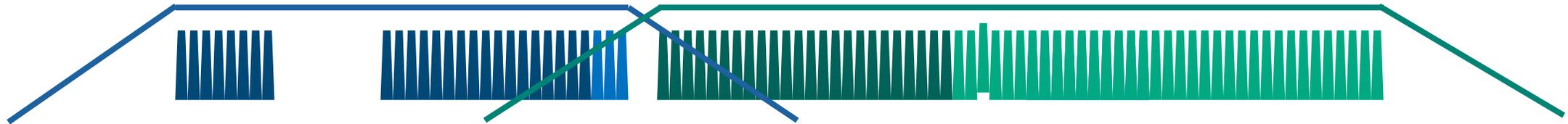
†PSD or EIRP limits in 6 GHz vary per regulatory domain – the most restrictive limit applies first

Challenge: Small Gap Between 5 GHz and 6 GHz

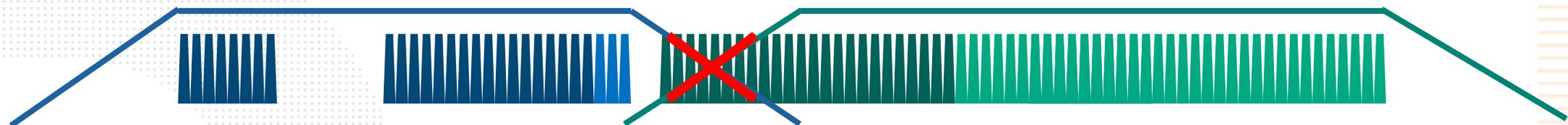
- Traditional filter solutions sacrifice some channels
 - The 5 GHz and 6 GHz bands are separated by a gap of just 50 MHz



- Traditional filter solutions to protect the 5 GHz and 6 GHz bands can not effectively block energy from channels in the other band close to the gap (need at least 200MHz separation)



- The typical way to deal with that is by sacrificing some channels. Typically, that would be the lower eight 6 GHz channels



Ultra-Tri Band filtering for max channel reuse

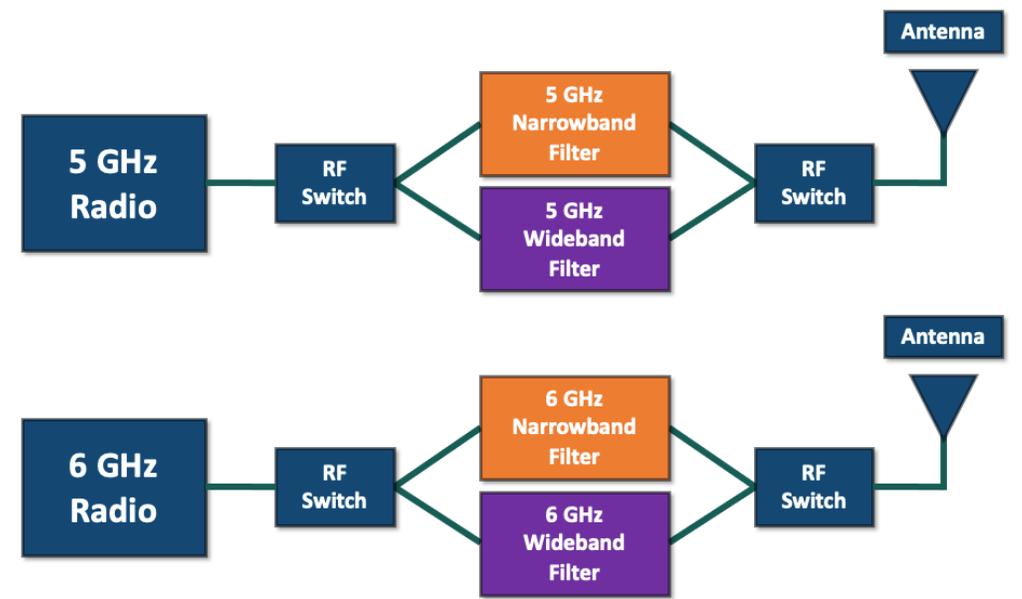
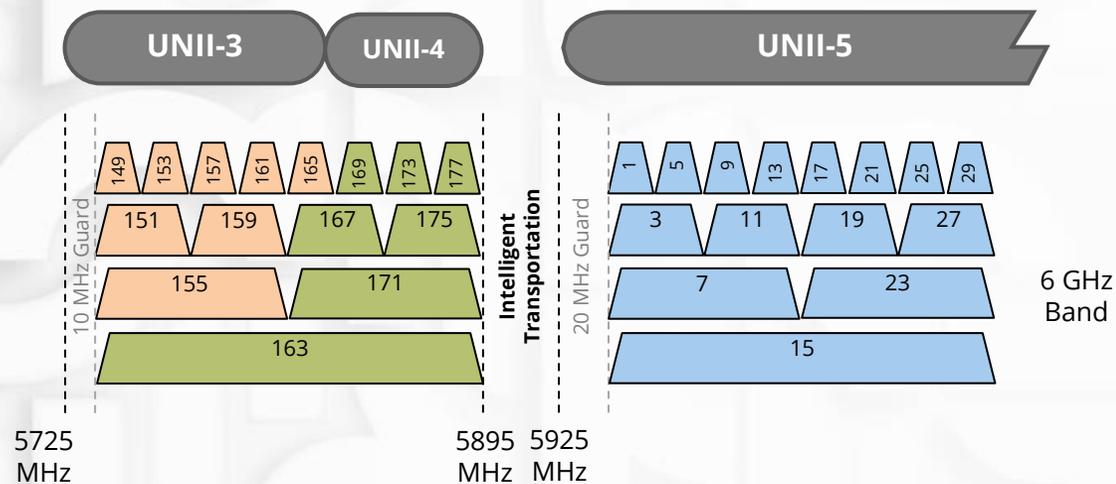
CHALLENGE:

The 5 and 6 GHz are separated by just 50 MHz, which may cause interference between radios using traditional filtering

SOLUTION:

Aruba's ultra tri-band technology delivers dynamic filtering

5 - 6 GHz Boundary



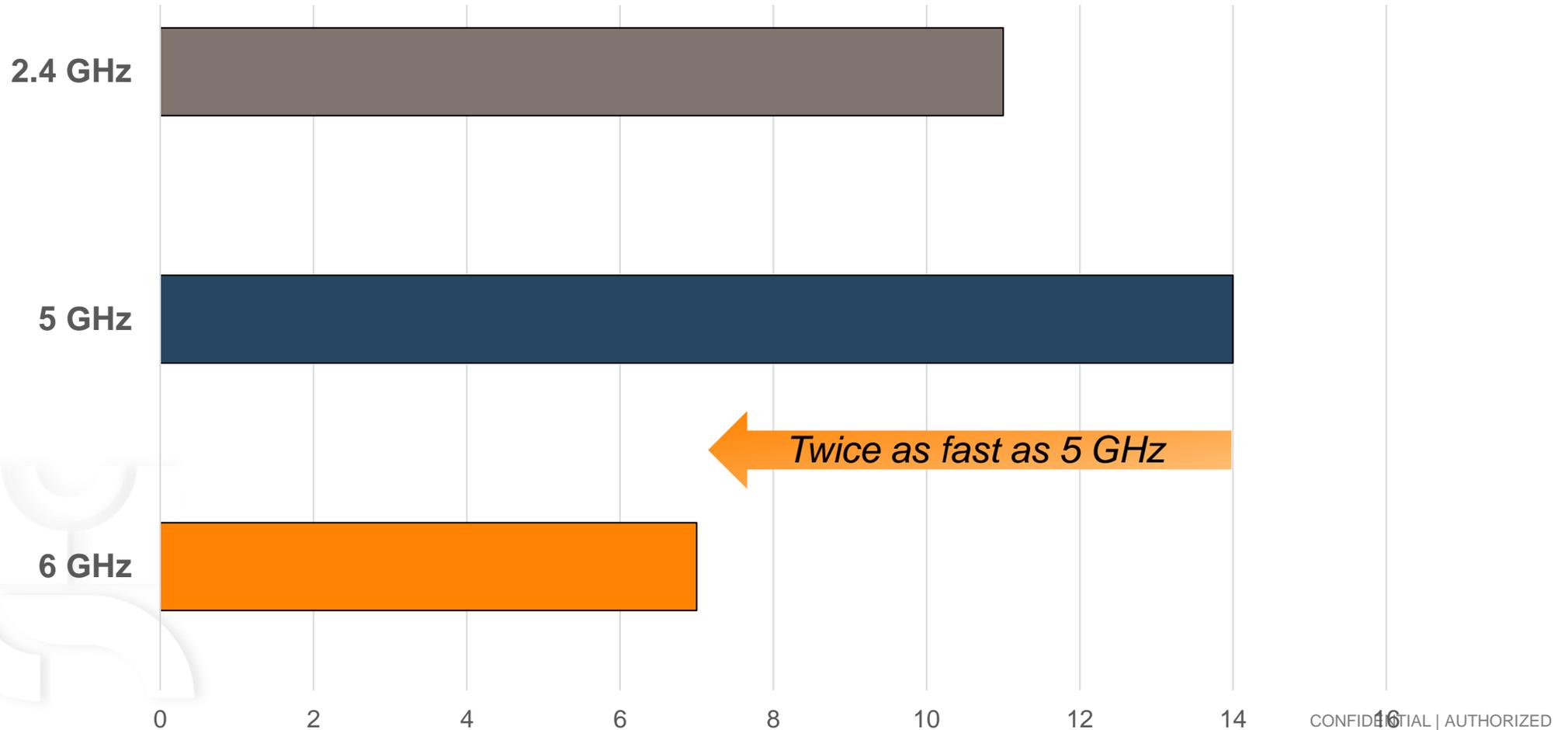
RESULT:

Less interference and unrestricted channel selection between radios for better spectrum utilization

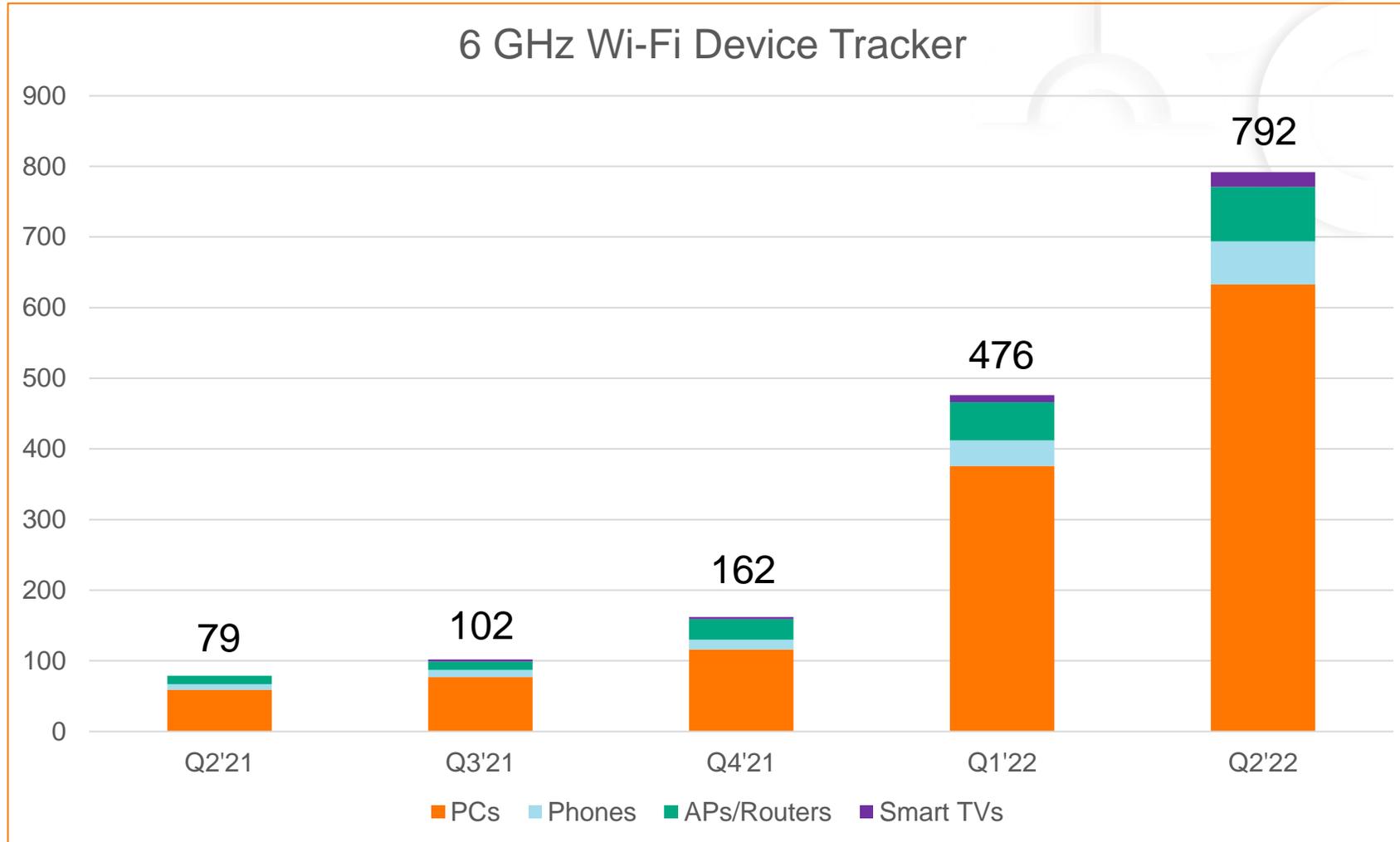
Wi-Fi 6E

Unprecedented Ecosystem Development

of Quarters to 500 Wi-Fi CERTIFIED Products
(from certification program launch)



The Wi-Fi 6E Ecosystem Diverse and Growing Rapidly



Source: Intel

Wi-Fi 6E device tracking summary is public information compiled by Intel from vendor websites, press releases, and third-party device reviews. Intel provides this assessment for informational purposes only, does not guarantee its accuracy, and it is subject to change without notice.

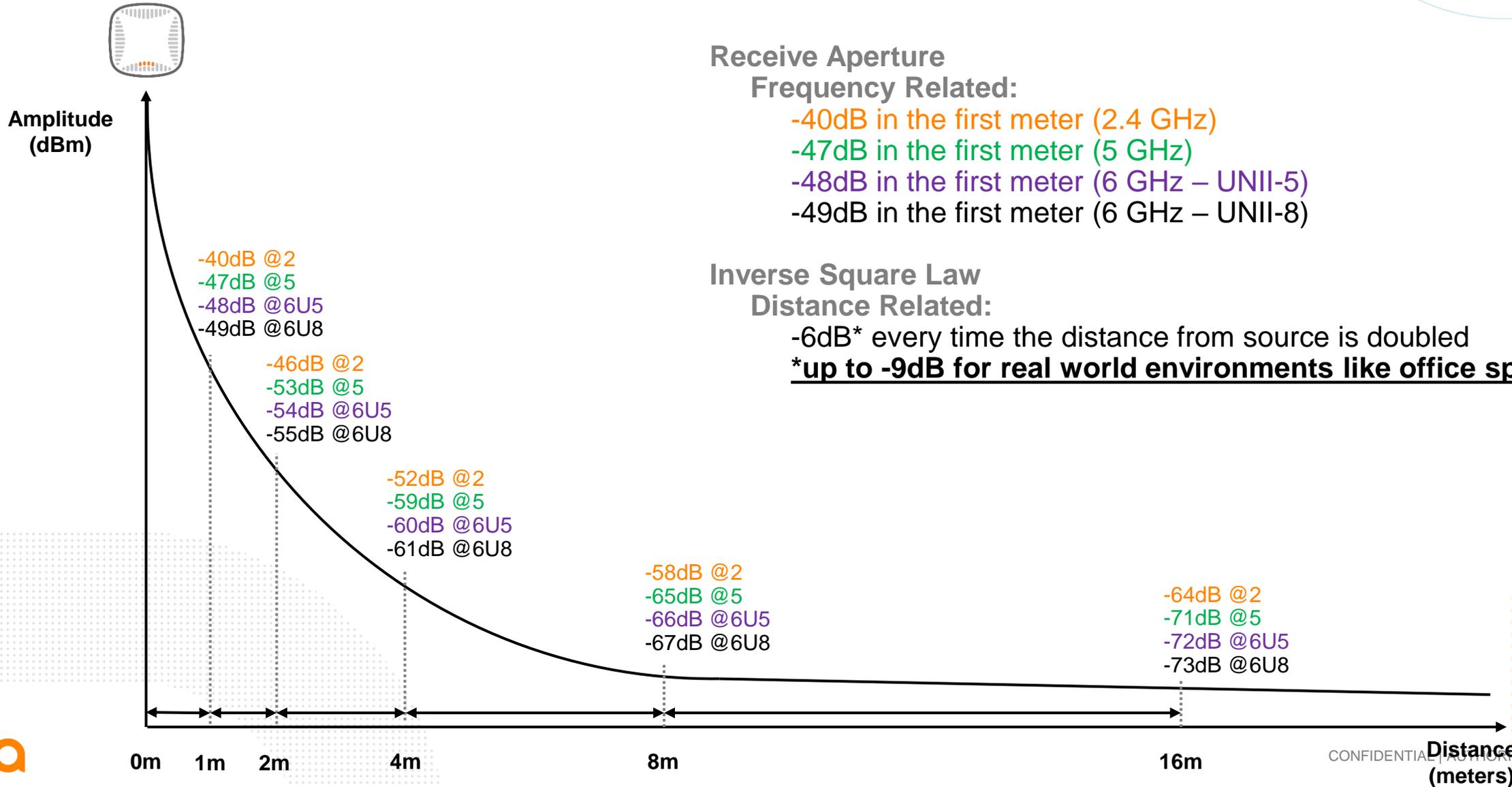
CONFIDENTIAL | AUTHORIZED



The background features a complex, abstract geometric pattern. It consists of various shapes, including circles, squares, and irregular polygons, in shades of dark blue, orange, light blue, and white. The shapes are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement, with some elements appearing to overlap or recede. The overall effect is a vibrant and modern aesthetic.

Design Considerations

Free Space Path Loss



Receive Aperture

Frequency Related:

- 40dB in the first meter (2.4 GHz)
- 47dB in the first meter (5 GHz)
- 48dB in the first meter (6 GHz – UNII-5)
- 49dB in the first meter (6 GHz – UNII-8)

Inverse Square Law

Distance Related:

- 6dB* every time the distance from source is doubled
- *up to -9dB for real world environments like office spaces**



5 GHz EIRP versus 6 GHz PSD

Low Power Indoor APs[†] in 6 GHz are limited to 5 dBm per 1 MHz Power Spectral Density (PSD). PSD compensates for noise floor rise, thus incentivizing use of wide channels.

| Channel Width | 20 MHz | 40 MHz | 80 MHz | 160 MHz | 320 MHz |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Noise Floor Rise vs. 20MHz | | +3 dB | +6 dB | +9 dB | +12 dB |
| 5 GHz UNII-2b EIRP | 30 dBm |
| PSD (dBm/MHz) | 17 | 14 | 11 | 8 | 5 |
| EIRP - Noise | 30 dBm | 27 dBm | 24 dBm | 21 dBm | 18 dBm |
| 6 GHz LPI EIRP | 18 dBm | 21 dBm | 24 dBm | 27 dBm | 30 dBm |
| PSD (dBm/MHz) | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| EIRP - Noise | 18 dBm |

“Effective EIRP” drops in wide channels due to noise floor rise

With constant PSD, the AP increases power to compensate added noise in wider channels



[†] Note: AFC APs in 6 GHz are limited by EIRP

New ways to think about network design with Wi-Fi 6E

– RF Design

- Advice on adding 6 GHz APs to your current WLAN deployment
- Present some ideas that *may* be useful for high density and shared real estate use cases, for example
- *Resource: https://www.arubanetworks.com/assets/wp/WP_Wi-Fi-6E.pdf*

– Power

- Power consumption varies by model and features, check your data sheet
- Aruba Intelligent Power Management (IPM) allows customization of power usage when access switch does not provide full power to the AP

– Throughput

- Aggregate throughput on a tri-band tri-radio AP can reach up to 2-4 Gbps depending on the configuration and model
- Access switch port rate needs to be considered to maintain the speed through the WLAN

– Redundancy

- Wireless as the primary connection medium is becoming the norm, not the exception, in the industry
- We will present design options to improve resiliency, considering wireless layout and wired connections



6E LPI RF Design: Evaluate Current Design

First! Wi-Fi 6E does not fix bad/no design

Q: What does the existing RF design look like today?

A: Current design *coverage* only? Using high power? No overlapping cells?

- Consider efforts to create a new design and RF plan
- Factor in considerations for density and capacity with both 5 and 6 GHz

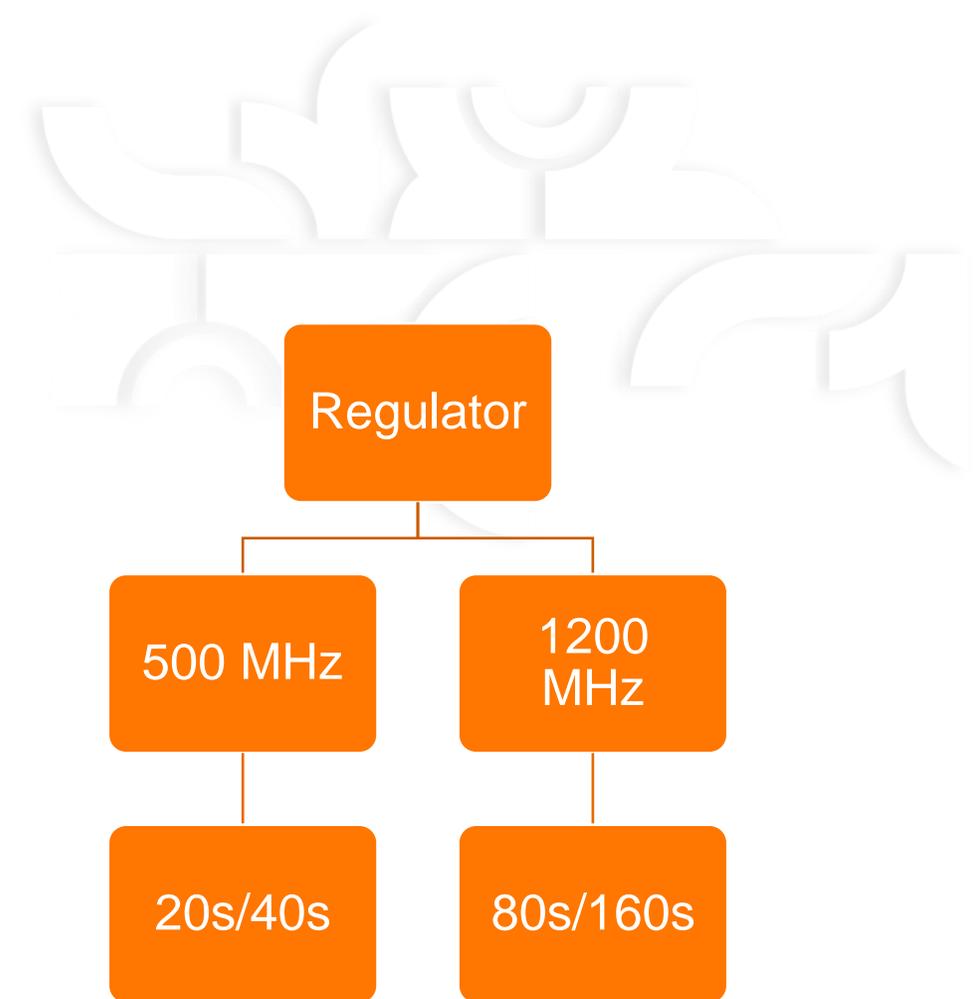
A: Current design *capacity* based? With overlapping primary and secondary cells?

- At the same EIRP, the “cell” size in 6 GHz will be similar to 5 GHz because the signal loss is minimal
 - Americas model assume -2 dB
 - European model assume -1 dB
- For attenuation, watch out for heavy and highly absorbent materials in walls like lead or concrete for both 5 and 6 GHz RF planning
- Design might be a candidate for 1:1

LPI 6 GHz RF Design: Channelization

- Available spectrum varies for each country (regulator)
- Consider different channel widths based on available spectrum
- Wider channels offer many benefits
 - More RUs = Greater simultaneous clients with OFDMA
 - Higher aggregate throughput
 - Higher effective EIRP for 6 GHz when limited by PSD

| | European Model | Americas Model |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 20 MHz | 24 | 59 |
| 40 MHz | 12 | 29 |
| 80 MHz | 6 | 14 |
| 160 MHz | 3 | 7 |

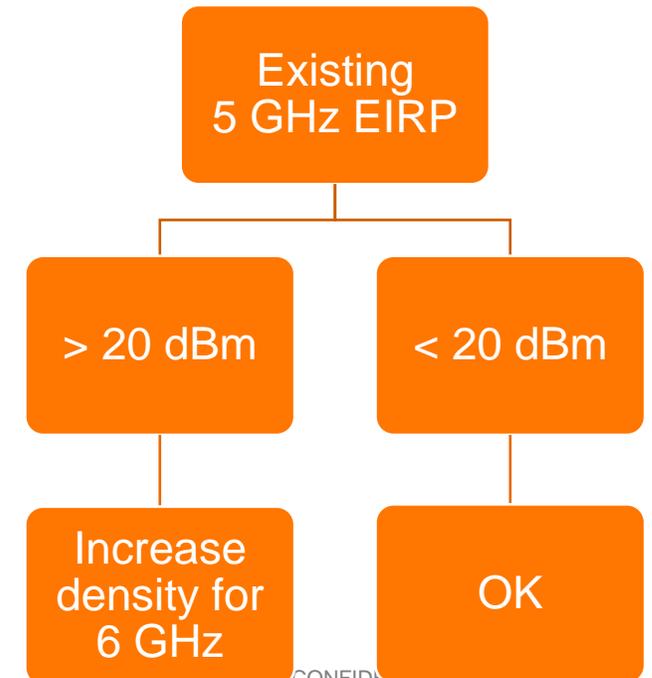


LPI 6 GHz RF Design: AP Density

- The different EIRP and PSD power capping mechanisms found in 5 GHz and 6 GHz force evaluation of current deployments in brownfield upgrade efforts.
- The LPI device class supports the required RF power for a typical indoor enterprise deployment
- When the *current* 5 GHz EIRP is **above 20 dBm**, the designer must consider increasing AP density to meet their 6 GHz capacity requirements.
- When the *current* 5 GHz EIRP is **below 20 dBm**, the nuance between bands is minimal for typical indoor enterprise deployments.

Recommendations:

- Deployments with EIRP > 20 dBm
 - Example: 5 GHz coverage only based deployment
 - Likely requires increased AP density to support 6 GHz
- Deployments with EIRP < 20 dBm
 - Example: Existing 5 GHz capacity-based deployment with overlapping cells
 - OK for 6 GHz



Wi-Fi 6E SSID Planning

Possible security modes in 6 GHz:

- **Enhanced Open (OWE)**
 - Leverages Opportunistic Wireless Encryption to replace Open System Authentication
 - Diffie-Hellman exchange encrypts all wireless traffic
 - Offers encryption without user authentication
- **WPA3-Personal (SAE)**
 - Simultaneous Authentication of Equals replaces the one-way key generation found in WPA2-PSK with Diffie-Hellman key exchange
- **WPA3-Enterprise**
 - Offers widest compatibility for legacy and new .1X clients sharing the same ESSID
 - Operation in 2.4 and 5 GHz shares the same key management and ciphers as WPA2-Enterprise; Difference: PMF capable (optional)
- **WPA3-Enterprise (operation in 6 GHz)**
 - New key management (SHA-256); CCMP-128 ciphers; PMF required
- **WPA3-Enterprise with 256 bits**
 - New key management (SHA-256); GCMP-256 ciphers; PMF required
- **WPA3-Enterprise with CNSA suite**
 - New key management (SHA-384); GCMP-256 ciphers; PMF required; strong EAP-TLS methods only (no mix and match)

| 2.4 GHz Radio | 5 GHz Radio |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Corp_SSID (802.1X) | Corp_SSID (802.1X) |
| Guest_SSID (Open) | Guest_SSID (Open) |
| IOT_SSID (PSK) | IOT_SSID (PSK) |

Conventional Dual-Band SSIDs

| 2.4 GHz Radio | 5 GHz Radio | 6 GHz Radio |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| | Corp_SSID (802.1X) | Corp_SSID (802.1X) |
| IOT_SSID (PSK) | Guest_SSID (OWE) | Corp_6Only_SSID (802.1X) |

Potential Tri-Band 6E SSID Strategy



ArubaOS Support

Release history and required ArubaOS versions for Wi-Fi 6E

On-Premises Managed Deployments-

- Mandatory Wi-Fi 6 feature functionality per Wi-Fi Alliance certification has been available on capable hardware and supported since ArubaOS 8.6.0.2
- Wi-Fi 6E FCS support in ArubaOS 8.9.0.0 for InstantOS (controller-less) and ArubaOS (controller-based)
- AP-655 FCS with ArubaOS 8.10.0.1 (LSR)
- Mobility Conductors / Controllers managed by Central On-Premises (COP) 2.5.4+

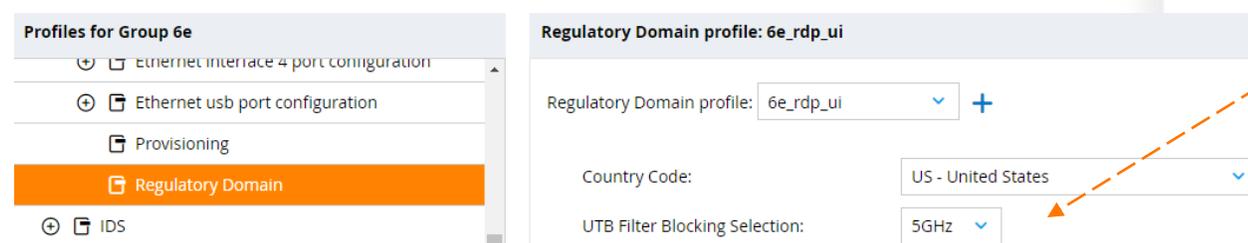
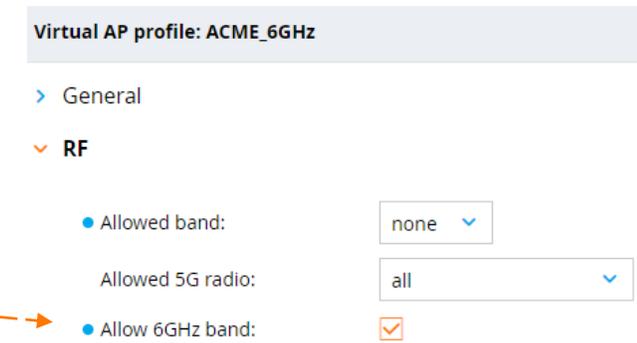
Cloud Managed Deployments-

- Central 2.5.5 introduced UI support for 6E which can manage AP-635 or AP-655 running InstantOS 8.10 code
- No current AOS 10 support for 6E as of presentation
 - *Target AOS 10 support for AP-635 or AP-655 is Central 2.5.6 and AOS 10.4*



Known Limitations: Configuration

- ArubaOS 8.9.0.0 FCS supports only up to 4 SSIDs in 6 GHz MBSSID beacon
 - This is a max beacon size limitation from chipset vendors
 - Support for more than 4 SSIDs is planned for future release
- Existing VAPs will not automatically apply to the 6 GHz radio
 - On SSID config creation, 6 GHz is disabled by default
 - Administrator must explicitly enable it per VAP
- Open and WPA2 security opmodes are not allowed in 6 GHz (Wi-Fi Alliance)
 - SSID configuration must use one of the WPA3 modes or Enhanced Open (OWE)
- Non-UTB hardware
 - To enable lower 6 GHz channels on non-UTB capable AP (AP635v1), user must explicitly set filter block to 5 GHz
 - The utb-filter-block default setting is 6 GHz and is user configurable in the *Regulatory Domain Profile*
 - On APs with UTB support (e.g., AP-635v2 and any AP-655), there is no restriction on channel selection and the utb-filter-block setting is automatically ignored



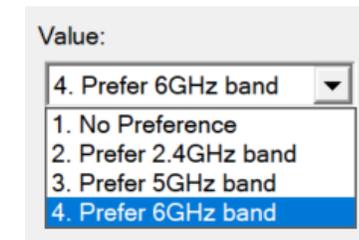
Known Limitations: Client Behavior

If multi-radio AP is in single radio mode with only 6 GHz enabled and 2.4 / 5 GHz is disabled, some clients may not discover/connect to 6 GHz SSID-

- Why? No Reduced Neighbor Report (RNR) IE in 2.4 / 5 GHz management frames to help with out-of-band discovery

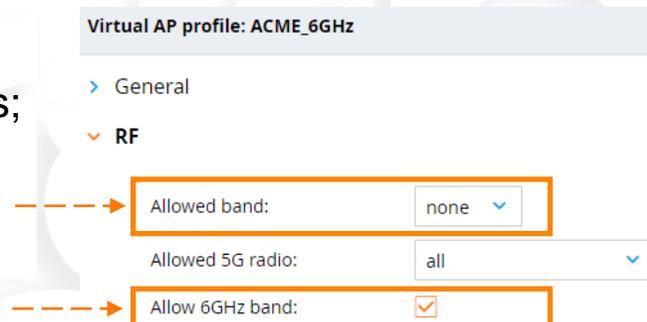
With same SSID operating on two radios (5 / 6) or three radios (2.4 / 5 / 6), some capable 6 GHz clients may not connect or prefer the 6 GHz radio-

- Clients are *primarily* responsible for discovery and association decisions
- Intel and Windows troubleshooting tip:
 - The Advanced Intel driver settings allows configuration of Preferred Band
 - Preferred Band will affect which band is typically used



Need to force 6 GHz connectivity? Recommended method to force 6 GHz connectivity is to configure a unique SSID and allow operation on 6 GHz only-

- How does discovery work when the SSID isn't the same in 6 GHz as 2.4 / 5 GHz?
- The RNR IE is automatically appended to the Beacon frames across VAPs in 2.4 / 5 GHz and provides 6 GHz connection information for capable devices; even if SSID is not the same!



The background features a complex, abstract pattern of overlapping geometric shapes. The primary color is a dark, muted blue. Interspersed throughout are various shapes in bright orange and a pale, light blue. These shapes include curved lines, semi-circles, and angular forms, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall aesthetic is modern and tech-oriented.

Enterprise AP Platforms

Campus AP Wi-Fi 6 & 6E Platforms

802.11ax Wi-Fi 6

550 Series (AP-555)

802.11ax (Wi-Fi 6) 8x8:8SS / 4x4:4SS, tri-radio mode, 5.4Gbps
2x 5GE, USB, BLE, 15.4, 37RU, MU-MIMO
Wi-Fi 6 flagship, 802.3bt, IPM, Smart POE



530 Series (AP-53x)

802.11ax (Wi-Fi 6) dual 4x4:4SS, 3.0Gbps
2x 5GE, USB, BLE / 15.4, 37RU, MU-MIMO
Wi-Fi 6 high-performance, 802.3at, IPM, Smart POE



510 Series (AP-51x)

802.11ax (Wi-Fi 6) 4x4:4SS / 2x2:2SS, 2.7Gbps
1x 2.5GE + 1x 1GE, USB, BLE / Zigbee, 16RU, MU-MIMO
Wi-Fi 6 mid-range, 802.3at, IPM



500 Series (AP-50x)

802.11ax (Wi-Fi 6) dual 2x2:2SS, 1.5Gbps
1x 1GE, USB, BLE / 15.4, 8RU
Wi-Fi 6 entry-level, 802.3af, IPM



802.11ax Wi-Fi 6E

650 Series (AP-655)

802.11ax (Wi-Fi 6E) triple 4x4:4SS, 7.8Gbps
2x 5GE, USB, BLE / 15.4, 37RU, MU-MIMO
Wi-Fi 6E flagship, 802.3af/at/bt, IPM, Smart POE



630 Series (AP-635)

802.11ax (Wi-Fi 6E) triple 2x2:2SS, 3.9Gbps
2x 2.5GE, USB, BLE / 15.4, 8/37RU
Wi-Fi 6E mid-range, 802.3at/bt, IPM, failover



Entry-level: 610 Series (AP-615)

802.11ax (Wi-Fi 6E) dual / tri-band 2x2:2SS, 3.6Gbps
1x 2.5GE, USB, BLE / 15.4, 8RU
Wi-Fi 6E entry-level, 802.3af/at, IPM



AP-6xx Campus Access Points – Size and Weight



AP-555
260 x 260
1570g



AP-655
260 x 260
1800g



AP-635
220 x 220
1300g



AP-615
160 x 160
520g



AP-505
160 x 160
500g



The background features a complex, abstract pattern of overlapping geometric shapes. The primary color is a dark, muted blue. Interspersed throughout are various shapes in bright orange and light blue. These shapes include thick, curved lines, semi-circles, and rectangular blocks, some of which appear to be layered or cut out, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall effect is a modern, digital aesthetic.

Access Point Discovery

In-Band Discovery Techniques Overview

| Technique | Airtime Efficiency | Faster AP Discovery | Notes |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|---|
| Preferred Scanning Channels (PSCs) | | Yes | One in four 20 MHz channels designated for beacons and in-band discovery |
| Beacon Changes | Yes | | Remove information elements for older generations. Add parameters to Wi-Fi 6 information elements. |
| Multi-BSSID Beacon | Yes | | For multiple virtual APs on a single radio, transmit one beacon with elements for VAP deltas, rather than multiple beacons. |
| Rules for Probing | Yes | | No probing on non-PSC channels unless beacon is received. Restricted Probing on PSC channels. |
| Unsolicited Broadcast Probe Responses (UPR) | | Yes | Short AP announcement every 20 msec (vs 102 msec for a beacon) |
| Fast Initial Link Setup (FILS) Announcements | | Yes | Short AP announcement every 20 msec (vs 102 msec for a beacon) |



In-Band Discovery Options

Multi-Band APs



Single-Band APs



Option 1: In-Band Active

Active Probing on PSC

- Preferred Scanning Channels

Option 2: In-Band Passive

FILS Discovery*

- Concise beacon
(action frame every 20 TU)

Unsolicited Probe Response*

- Pre-empt active probing in time to speed roaming



*if implemented

Preferred Scanning Channels (PSCs)

- One in every four 20 MHz channels is designated for beacons and discovery[^]
- For in-band network discovery, clients only scan up to 15 channels
- The 20 MHz PSC is also the primary channel in bonded channels
- Current European model uses 5 – 85 (first 500 MHz)

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| European Model | Americas Model |
|----------------|----------------|

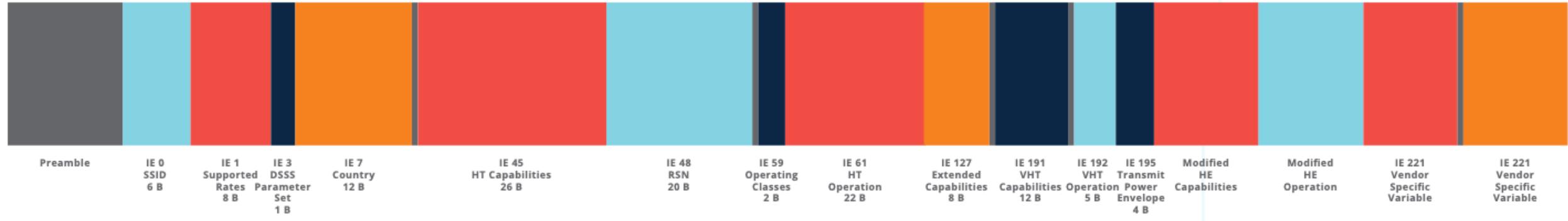
| PREFERRED SCANNING CHANNEL | CHANNEL CENTER FREQUENCY (GHz) |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 5 | 5.975 |
| 21 | 6.055 |
| 37 | 6.135 |
| 53 | 6.215 |
| 69 | 6.295 |
| 85 | 6.375 |
| 101 | 6.455 |
| 117 | 6.535 |
| 133 | 6.615 |
| 149 | 6.695 |
| 165 | 6.775 |
| 181 | 6.855 |
| 197 | 6.935 |
| 213 | 7.015 |
| 229 | 7.095 |



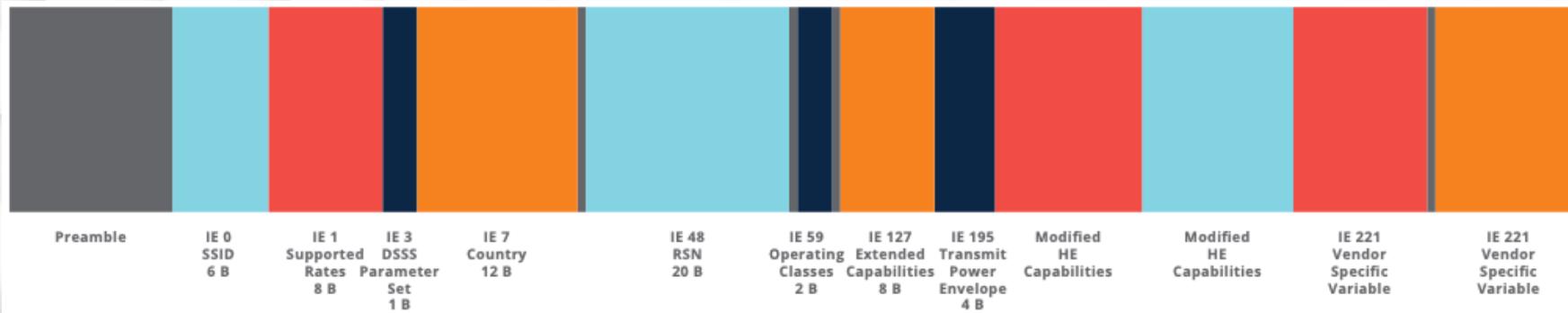
[^] beginning with channel 5

In-Band Beacon Optimization

- Wi-Fi 6 (802.11ax HE) beacon example in 5 GHz



- Wi-Fi 6 (802.11ax HE) beacon example in 6 GHz



In-Band Discovery Multiple BSSID (MBSSID) Beacon Frame

- MBSSID introduced with 802.11v but was optional and not implemented
- In 6 GHz, MBSSID is mandatory for clients and APs to support
- What is it? A single beacon with details for all VAPs
 - Compare to 2.4 / 5 GHz where each VAP has a separate beacon
 - Optimizes airtime by consolidating beacons
- ArubaOS currently has a 4 BSSID limit in 6 GHz
 - Future versions will likely address this limit by using multiple MBSSID beacons when 5 or more VAPs are enabled in 6 GHz (exact behavior TBD)

| Transmitter address | Receiver address | Type/Subtype | Frequency | Channel | SSID |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------|---------|-----------------------------|
| 34:8a:12:f8:1... | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Beacon frame | 6855MHZ | 181 | ACME, ACME_6GHz, ACME_Guest |


```
> IEEE 802.11 Beacon frame, Flags: .....C
v IEEE 802.11 Wireless Management
  > Fixed parameters (12 bytes)
  v Tagged parameters (415 bytes)
    > Tag: SSID parameter set: ACME
    > Tag: Supported Rates 6(B), 9, 12(B), 18, 24(B), 36, 48, 54, [Mbit/sec]
    > Tag: Traffic Indication Map (TIM): DTIM 0 of 1 bitmap
    > Tag: Quiet Count: 58 Period: 200 Duration: 29 Offset: 19
    > Tag: Country Information: Country Code US, Environment 0x04
    > Tag: Power Constraint: 0
    > Tag: TPC Report Transmit Power: 21, Link Margin: 0
    > Tag: RSN Information
    > Tag: QBSS Load Element 802.11e CCA Version
  v Tag: Multiple BSSID
    Tag Number: Multiple BSSID (71)
    Tag length: 88
    Max BSSID Indicator: 4
  v Subelement: Nontransmitted BSSID Profile
    Subelement ID: Nontransmitted BSSID Profile (0)
    Length: 27
    Nontransmitted Profile: 53021115000941434d455f3647487a55030101000b050000006876
    > Tag: Non Transmitted BSSID Capability
    > Tag: SSID parameter set: ACME_6GHz
    > Tag: Multiple BSSID Index
    > Tag: QBSS Load Element 802.11e CCA Version
  v Subelement: Nontransmitted BSSID Profile
    Subelement ID: Nontransmitted BSSID Profile (0)
    Length: 56
    Nontransmitted Profile: 53021115000a41434d455f47756573745503020100301a010000fac0
    > Tag: Non Transmitted BSSID Capability
    > Tag: SSID parameter set: ACME_Guest
    > Tag: Multiple BSSID Index
    > Tag: RSN Information
    > Tag: QBSS Load Element 802.11e CCA Version
```



In-Band Discovery Fast Initial Link Setup (FILS) Discovery Frames

- FILS Discovery support is planned in future release.
- Automatically enabled when AP-6xx is operating with a single active radio in 6 GHz.
- What is FILS Discovery?
 - A broadcast action frame from the AP
- FILS Discovery is a smaller frame sent at 4x rate of the MBSSID beacon

| Transmitter address | Receiver address | Type/Subtype | Frequency | Channel | SSID | Frame len | Info |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------|------------------------|
| 34:8a:12:f8:41:60 | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Action | 5975MHz | 5 | | 132 | FILS Discovery, BI=100 |
| 34:8a:12:f8:41:60 | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Action | 5975MHz | 5 | | 132 | FILS Discovery, BI=100 |
| 34:8a:12:f8:41:60 | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Action | 5975MHz | 5 | | 132 | FILS Discovery, BI=100 |
| 34:8a:12:f8:41:60 | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Action | 5975MHz | 5 | | 132 | FILS Discovery, BI=100 |
| 34:8a:12:f8:41:60 | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Beacon frame | 5975MHz | 5 | ACME,ACME... | 402 | Beacon frame, SN=3482, |
| 34:8a:12:f8:41:60 | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Action | 5975MHz | 5 | | 132 | FILS Discovery, BI=100 |
| 34:8a:12:f8:41:60 | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Action | 5975MHz | 5 | | 132 | FILS Discovery, BI=100 |
| 34:8a:12:f8:41:60 | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Action | 5975MHz | 5 | | 132 | FILS Discovery, BI=100 |
| 34:8a:12:f8:41:60 | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Action | 5975MHz | 5 | | 132 | FILS Discovery, BI=100 |
| 34:8a:12:f8:41:60 | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Beacon frame | 5975MHz | 5 | ACME,ACME... | 402 | Beacon frame, SN=3487, |
| 34:8a:12:f8:41:60 | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Action | 5975MHz | 5 | | 132 | FILS Discovery, BI=100 |
| 34:8a:12:f8:41:60 | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Action | 5975MHz | 5 | | 132 | FILS Discovery, BI=100 |
| 34:8a:12:f8:41:60 | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Action | 5975MHz | 5 | | 132 | FILS Discovery, BI=100 |
| 34:8a:12:f8:41:60 | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Action | 5975MHz | 5 | | 132 | FILS Discovery, BI=100 |
| 34:8a:12:f8:41:60 | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Beacon frame | 5975MHz | 5 | ACME,ACME... | 402 | Beacon frame, SN=3492, |

- > IEEE 802.11 Action, Flags:C
- ∨ IEEE 802.11 Wireless Management
 - > Fixed parameters
 - ∨ Tagged parameters (27 bytes)
 - > Tag: Reduced Neighbor Report
 - > Tag: Tx Power Envelope
 - > Tag: Tx Power Envelope

In-Band Client Probe Request Rules

- Client may discover in-band by probing which is restricted to Primary Scanning Channels (PSCs) and how often
- To enforce more efficient probing behavior, several rules are in place for 6 GHz to reduce excessive probing and encourage device makers to optimize their probing algorithms.

| Type of Probe Request | | | Condition to Send Probe Request | Purpose |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|---|
| Destination Address | BSSID | SSID | | |
| Broadcast | Wildcard | Wildcard | Not Allowed | Ban indiscriminate probe responses from all BSSs from all ESSs. |
| Broadcast | Wildcard | SSID | Not more than 1 per 20 ms. | Probe ESS but with reduced frequency. |
| Broadcast | BSSID/Non-transmitted BSSID | | Not more than 3 per 20 ms. | Probe specific BSS with reduced frequency. |

In-Band Probe Request and Response Frame Examples

- This is a **slower** discovery method and does not work for all scenarios in 6 GHz on its own
- Note that in 6 GHz, *if there is a probe request*, the response to probe request (from AP to client) must be broadcast (ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff) rather than unicast – like in 2.4 / 5 GHz
- MBSSID Information Element also found in Probe Response

- Probe Request

| Transmitter address | Receiver address | Type/Subtype | Frequency | Channel | SSID |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------|---------|------|
| 64:79:f0:55:ae:79 | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Probe Request | 6855MHz | 181 | ◆ |
| 7e:30:da:d2:65:fc | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Probe Request | 6855MHz | 181 | ACME |

```
> Frame 5007: 197 bytes on wire (1576 bits), 197 bytes captured (1576 bits) on
> Radiotap Header v0, Length 56
> 802.11 radio information
> IEEE 802.11 Probe Request, Flags: .....C
< IEEE 802.11 Wireless Management
  < Tagged parameters (113 bytes)
    > Tag: SSID parameter set: ACME
    > Tag: Supported Rates 6(B), 9, 12(B), 18, 24(B), 36, 48, 54, [Mbit/sec]
    > Tag: Extended Capabilities (10 octets)
    > Ext Tag: FILS Request Parameters: Undecoded
    > Ext Tag: HE Capabilities
    > Ext Tag: HE 6 GHz Band Capabilities
    > Ext Tag: Short SSID
    > Tag: Vendor Specific: Microsoft Corp.: Unknown 8
    > Tag: Vendor Specific: Broadcom
    > Tag: Vendor Specific: Wi-Fi Alliance: Multi Band Operation - Optimized
```

- Probe Response

| Transmitter address | Receiver address | Type/Subtype | Frequency | Channel | SSID |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------------------------|
| 34:8a:12:f8:11:f0 | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Probe Response | 6855MHz | 181 | ACME, ACME_6GHz, ACME_Guest |
| 34:8a:12:f8:11:f0 | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Probe Response | 6855MHz | 181 | ACME, ACME_6GHz, ACME_Guest |
| 34:8a:12:f8:11:f0 | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Probe Response | 6855MHz | 181 | ACME, ACME_6GHz, ACME_Guest |
| 34:8a:12:f8:11:f0 | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Probe Response | 6855MHz | 181 | ACME, ACME_6GHz, ACME_Guest |
| 34:8a:12:f8:11:f0 | ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff | Probe Response | 6855MHz | 181 | ACME, ACME_6GHz, ACME_Guest |

```
> IEEE 802.11 Probe Response, Flags: .....C
< IEEE 802.11 Wireless Management
  > Fixed parameters (12 bytes)
  < Tagged parameters (383 bytes)
    > Tag: SSID parameter set: ACME
    > Tag: Supported Rates 6(B), 9, 12(B), 18, 24(B), 36, 48, 54, [Mbit/sec]
    > Tag: Country Information: Country Code US, Environment 0x04
    > Tag: Power Constraint: 0
    > Tag: TPC Report Transmit Power: 21, Link Margin: 0
    > Tag: RSN Information
    > Tag: QBSS Load Element 802.11e CCA Version
    > Tag: Multiple BSSID
    > Tag: RM Enabled Capabilities (5 octets)
    > Tag: AP Channel Report: Operating Class 131, Channel List : 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25, 29,
    > Tag: BSS Available Admission Capacity
    > Tag: Extended Capabilities (11 octets)
    > Tag: Tx Power Envelope
    > Tag: Tx Power Envelope
    > Ext Tag: HE Capabilities
    > Ext Tag: HE Operation
    > Ext Tag: MU EDCA Parameter Set
    > Ext Tag: HE 6 GHz Band Capabilities
    > Tag: Vendor Specific: Microsoft Corp.: WMM/WME: Parameter Element
    > Tag: Vendor Specific: Qualcomm Inc.
    > Tag: Vendor Specific: Qualcomm Inc.
    > Tag: Vendor Specific: Aruba, a Hewlett Packard Enterprise Company: AP Name (ap655_811e)
```

Wi-Fi 6E Features: Out-of-Band Discovery Reduced Neighbor Report (RNR)



- WFA Optimized Connectivity (OCE) feature
- Lists adjacent radios in same housing
- Broadcast both bands in Beacon frame, or supplied to client in Probe Response frame
- TBTT provides client accurate time to go off-channel from current AP and passively scan for the beacon of the 6 GHz BSSID
- RNR supports ClientMatch from day one
- Supports Airtime Efficiency and Faster AP Discovery
- **Applied automatically to 2.4 / 5 GHz and SSID does not need to match.**

The background features a complex, abstract pattern of overlapping geometric shapes. The primary color is a dark, muted blue. Interspersed throughout are various shapes in vibrant orange and a pale, light blue. These shapes include curved lines, semi-circles, and angular forms, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall effect is a modern, digital aesthetic.

Signal Propagation Testing

Testing Setup



Test Client



5 GHz
6 GHz



Test AP
(AP-635 & AP-655)

Eth1



TB 3
1/2.5/5/10 GbE
Smart Rate compatible dongle



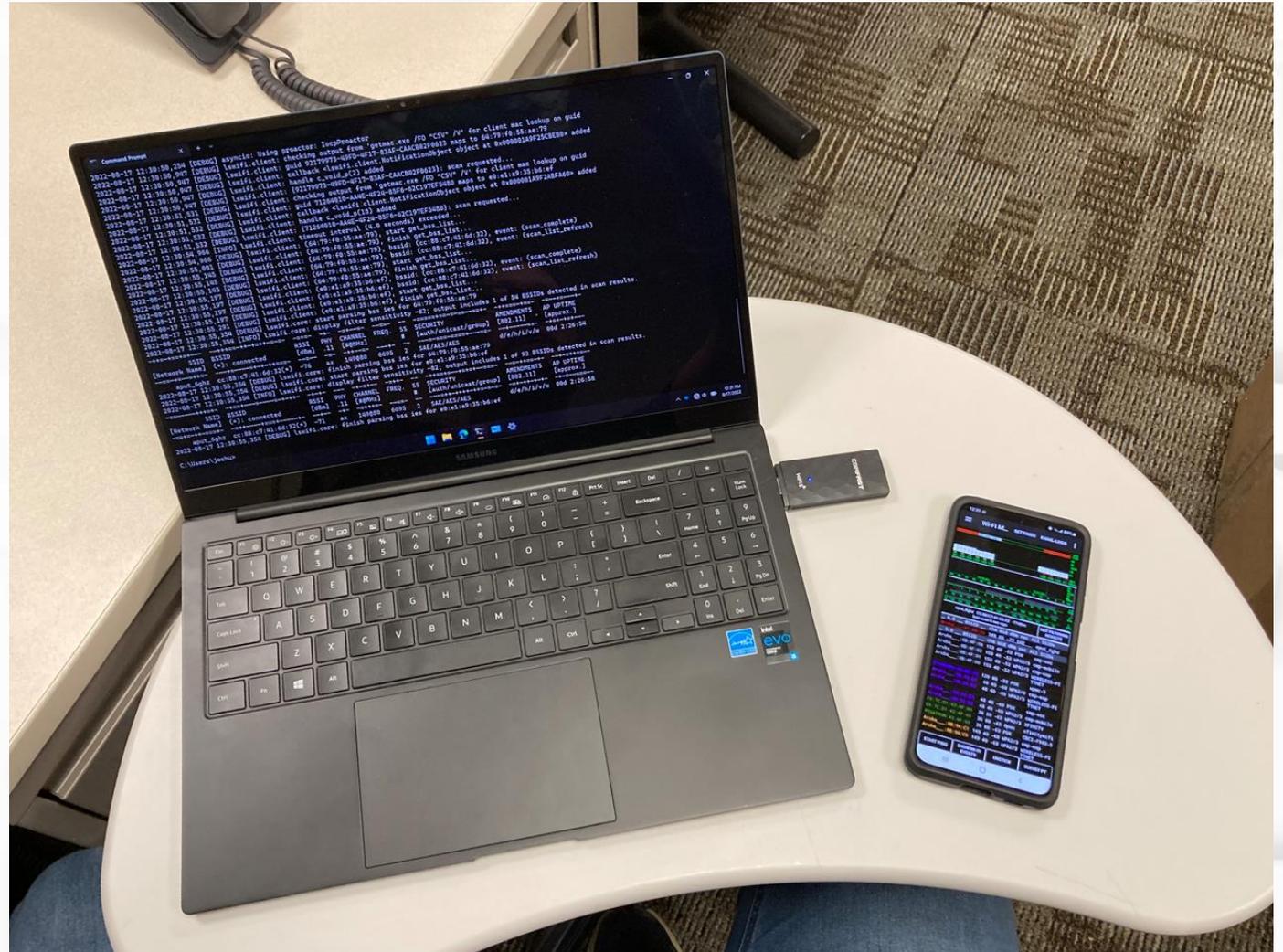
M1 MBA
iPerf3 server

Eth0 SR CL6 PSE



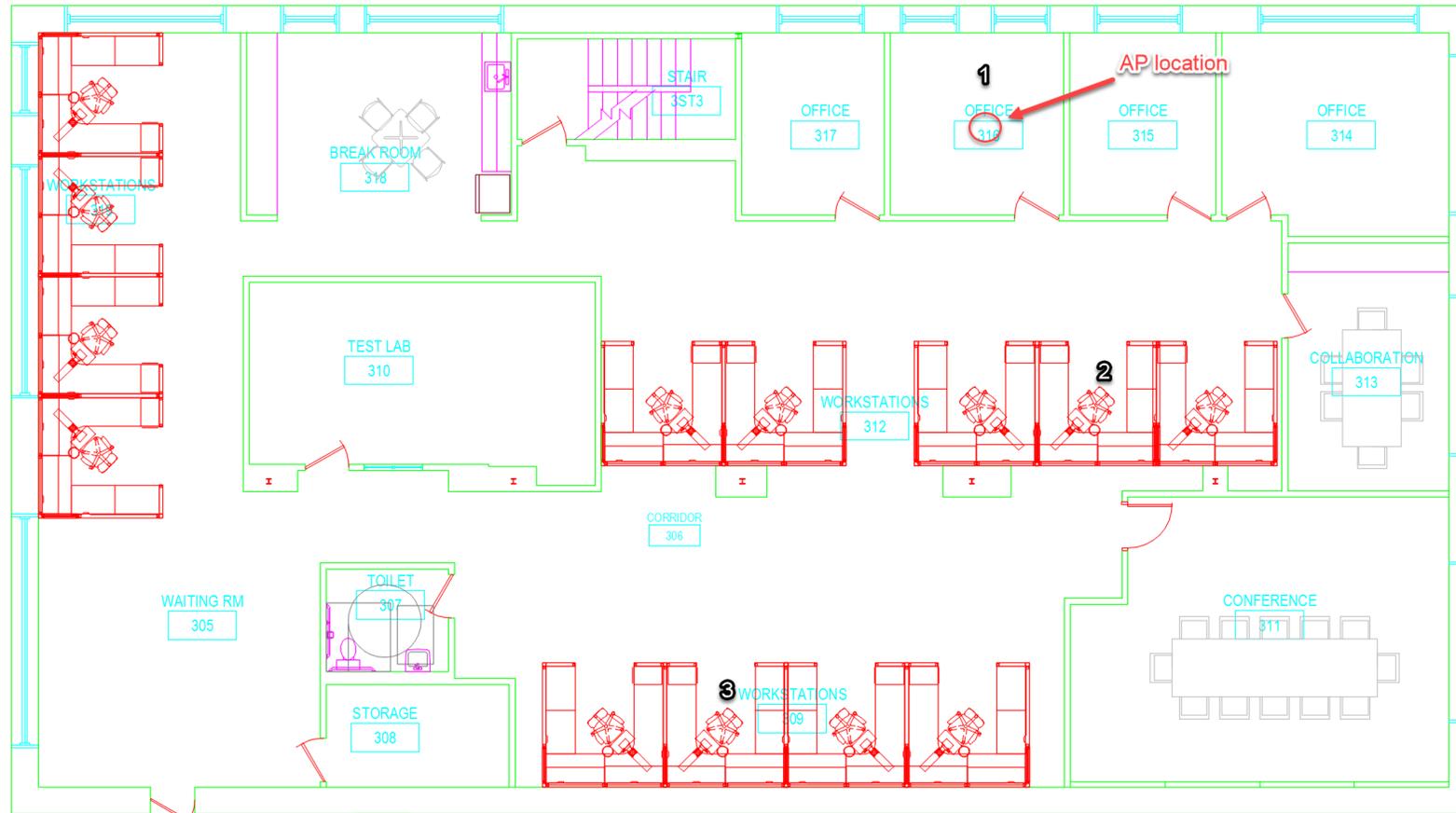
Test devices

- Samsung Galaxy Book with AX210
- Comfast CF951AX USB dongle
 - MT7921U (supports HE80 & 6 GHz)
- Samsung Galaxy S21 Ultra 5G



Test Locations

- 3rd floor with cubicles and metal cabinets
- Spread for 3 testing locations is roughly 1m/3ft – 5m/16ft – 12m/40ft
- Door closed when testing at spots 5m / 12m locations



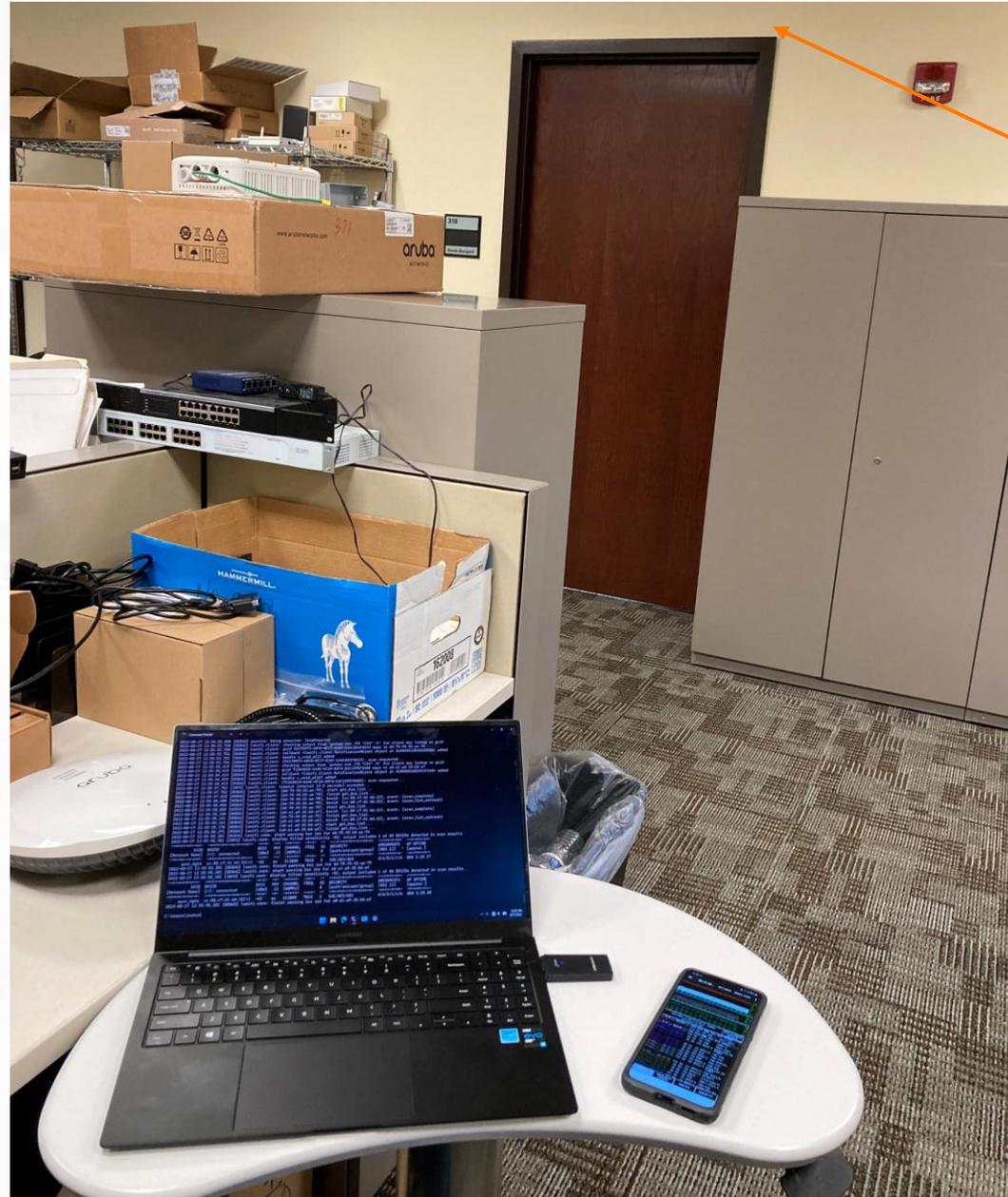
AP location: Center Office



Test location # 1 – 1m/3ft



Test location # 2 – 5m/16ft



AP is in this office



**Test location
3 – 12m/40ft**

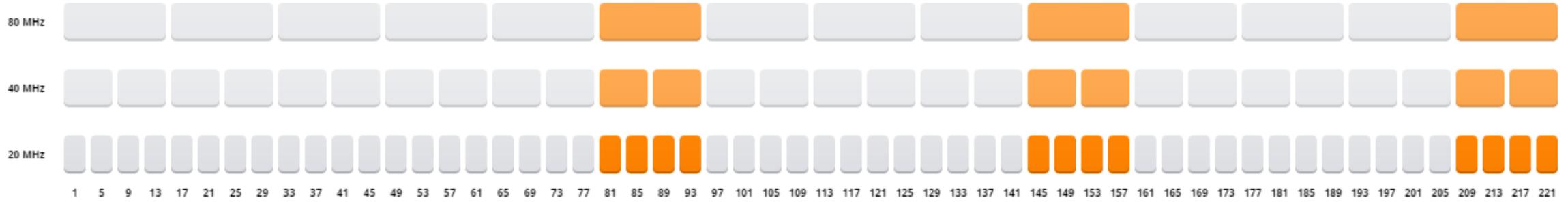


AP is in this office



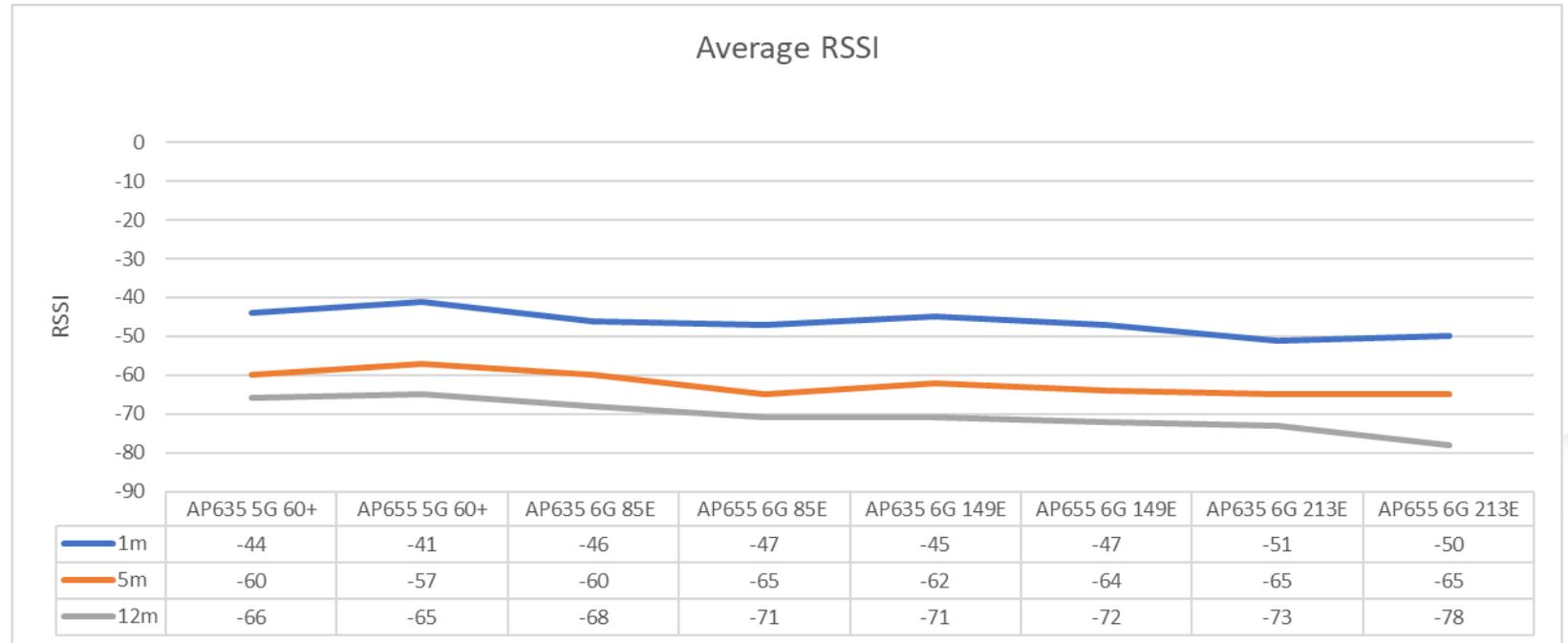
Overall Results

*Values are an average of all clients



Test Parameters

- 5 GHz
 - 60+ @ 18 dB
- 6 GHz
 - 85E @ 21 dB
 - 149E @ 21 dB
 - 213E @ 21 dB
- APs
 - AP-635
 - AP-655

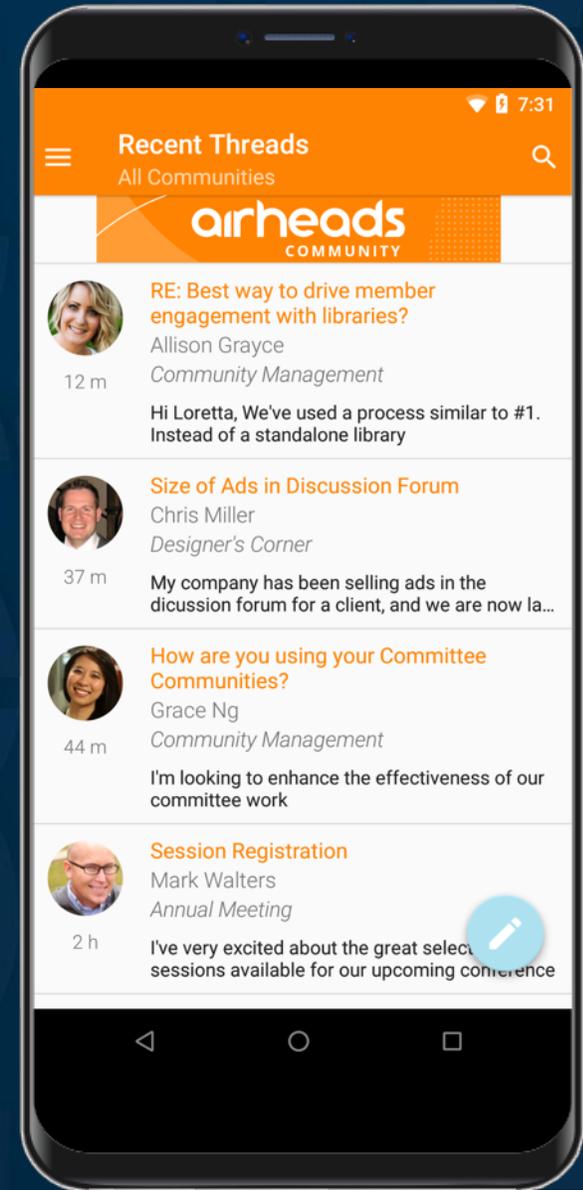


airheads

COMMUNITY

Still not part of the Airheads Community?

Sign up today:
www.community.arubanetworks.com





Thank you

john.schaap@hpe.com