# Enabling Borderless Network Access with Cisco Wired and Wireless Technologies

## What Is the Value of Cisco Solutions for Borderless Network Access?

Users have rising expectations for network access: to securely connect to anyone, anywhere, using any device. Businesses need a strategic partner with expertise in all network access technologies to help ensure their network is capable of providing the business agility their users require. Cisco is the best choice for architecting and deploying a holistic, cost-effective network access architecture.

## What Problems Does It Help Solve?

IT directors and network architects are being asked to make their businesses agile while reducing complexity and operational expenses. With so many technologies to choose from, IT executives are excited about the options, but concerned and confused regarding the short-term and longer-term implications. They want a "future-proof" network access strategy they can have faith in.

Common IT challenges include:

- Providing high-performance connectivity at all times
- Making sense of multiple, disconnected management platforms
- Managing a multivendor infrastructure
- Building a future-proof network while saving money

## Cisco Solutions for Borderless Network Access

Your business is filled with a diverse set of users and devices that require network access to a growing list of applications—from traditional, mission-critical to the newest collaborative applications. Some require wired access; others take advantage of the latest wireless technologies. To address both, Cisco takes a holistic approach to tailoring a network access architecture. With the ratification of the 802.11n Wi-Fi standard, WLANs are now viewed as mainstream access networks for mobile employees. As a result, there is a need to ensure a seamless experience as users, devices, and applications roam across traditional Ethernet-based LANs and newly deployed WLANs. An end-to-end solution from Cisco helps IT synchronize the network with the needs of the business and the expectations of your users:

- **Seamless video collaboration experience:** The 802.11n-based Cisco® Unified Wireless Network enhanced with Cisco VideoStream technology extends wired-video quality to wireless networks for a seamless end-user experience.

- **Simplified network configuration:** Cisco Auto Smartports address the hidden costs associated with unused and improperly configured ports by dynamically configuring them. Auto Smartports also simplify wireless deployments by provisioning the ports connected to Cisco access points with predefined parameters for security, quality of service, and 802.11n support, resulting in lower operational expenses.

- **Network location services:** The Cisco Context-Aware Mobility solution with the Cisco Catalyst® portfolio offers complete network visibility and control, including tracking of wired and wireless assets for quick problem resolution and identification, tracking, and mitigation of rogue devices.

- **Flexible and secure guest access:** The Cisco Guest Access solution offers a flexible, secure, and simple way to provide guest users with network connectivity so that they can access applications.

- **Easy deployment of interoperable switching, routing, and wireless products:** With support for Power over Ethernet (PoE), Cisco Catalyst switches meet the power requirements of dual-radio 802.11n access points. What's more, the integration of wireless with Cisco Integrated Services Routers offers a lower-cost, flexible deployment model for branch offices.

Invest in an architectural approach that defines a comprehensive network access strategy, and that meets your immediate needs and scales for the future.

## Why Cisco?

Cisco, with its industry-leading portfolio of wireless, switching, routing, and security products, is the only vendor that can offer end-to-end network access solutions that enable IT to meet business demands. Cisco's high-performance 802.11n WLAN network solutions, together with its portfolio of PoE-ready, network-edge switches, provide a foundation for enabling collaboration and deploying business-transformative applications that can't be matched by pure-play vendors or other integrated network solution vendors. Customers can now rely on a single vendor for meeting their worldwide needs from services and support, thereby reducing the burden on IT.

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