

Cisco Aironet 1500 and 1520 Series Access Points Software Release Guidelines

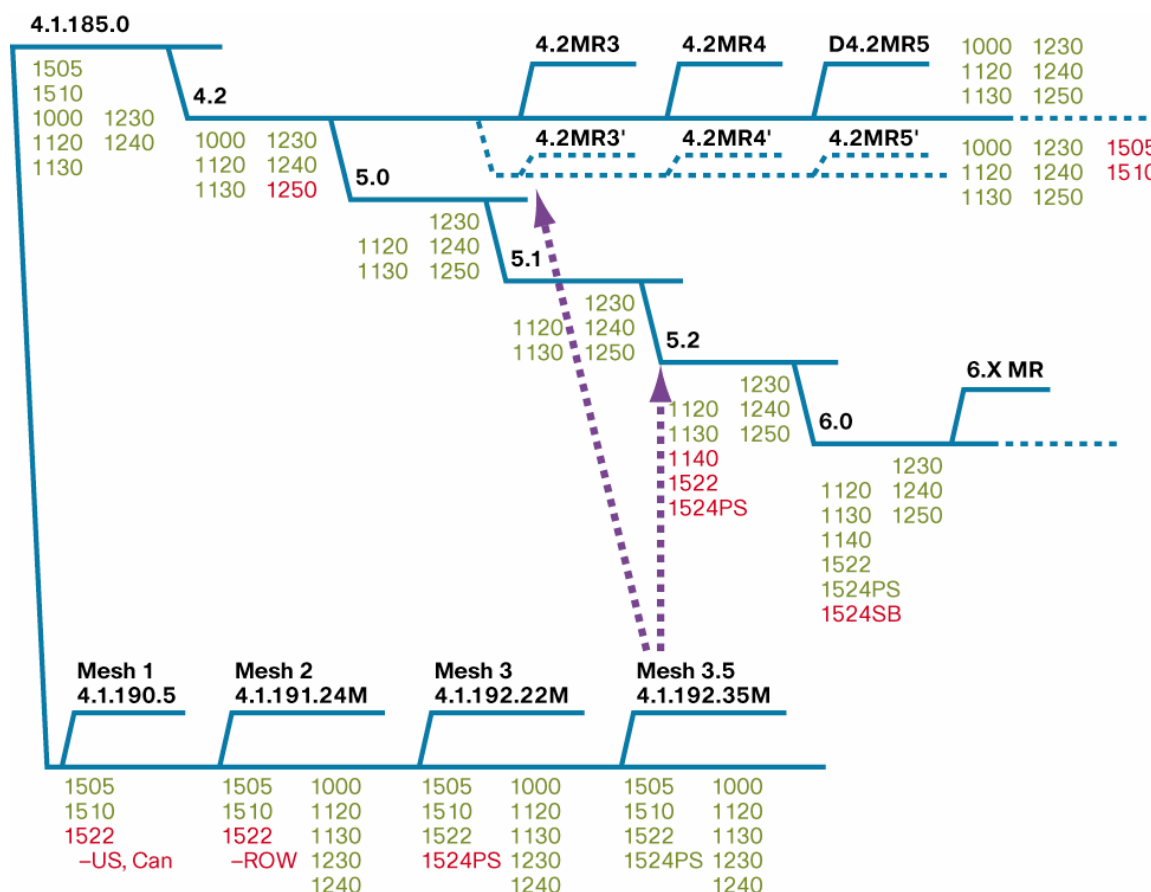
This document identifies the Cisco® WLAN Controller software releases that support the Cisco Aironet® 1500 and 1520 Series Access Points, and provides guidance for customers on what to use when they have various access points in their network.

Cisco announced the end of life for the Cisco Aironet 1505 and 1510 Lightweight Outdoor Mesh Access Points on May 30, 2008. The last sale date was November 30, 2008. When possible, customers are encouraged to migrate their networks to the Cisco Aironet 1520 Series to reap the benefits the new platform delivers.

The mesh platforms branched from the Mainline train after Cisco Wireless LAN Controller Software Release 4.1.185.0.

Four releases were introduced on the separate Mesh train that supported the Cisco 1510 and 1505 access points along with the new Cisco Aironet 1522 and 1524 Lightweight Outdoor Mesh Access Point platforms. Figure 1 shows how the releases branched.

Figure 1. Cisco WLAN Controller—Release Train and Platform Support



Supported APs are noted below the release. For APs in Red, support is new to a particular release.

Cisco merged back into the Mainline train following the fourth mesh release. Support for the mesh platforms is as follows:

- The 1510 and 1505 access points will be supported beginning with a maintenance release on the 4.2 branch. We are planning the third maintenance release, which should be available by June 2009. The 1510 and 1505 access points will continue to be supported with maintenance and bug fixes on the 4.2 branch. The 1510 and 1505 access points will **not** be supported on the Mainline train beyond the 4.2 branch.

Note that support of the 1510 and 1505 access points in the 4.2 branch will be in maintenance releases parallel to the standard maintenance release. This will minimize the impact of the reintroduction of 1510 and 1505 in the 4.2 branch to customers who do not have the requirement for 1510 and 1505. All platforms that are supported in the standard maintenance release will be supported in the parallel maintenance releases, along with the 1510 and 1505 platforms.

- The Cisco Aironet 1522 and 1524 access points will be supported in the Mainline train beginning with the 5.2 release. This version was released in November 2008. The 1522 and 1524 access points will not be supported before the 5.2 release—in particular, they will **not** be supported in the 4.2 branch.

Note that there will be no further releases on the Mesh 4.1.19x.x train.

Inter-Release Controller Mobility

Depending on the customer's feature requirements, customers with both 1510 and the 1505 and the 1522 and 1524 access points may need to use two controllers for the network. Because of this, we also plan to support mobility between controllers on different releases for customers in this situation. This will allow clients to roam between access points on different controllers (on different releases) without having to reauthenticate. Note that this feature is provided for the controllers and supports access points regardless of whether they are indoor access points or outdoor access points.

Support for mobility between controller releases will be provided beginning with the 6.x maintenance release—specifically, between that release and the most recent general deployment release. The most recent general deployment release is the 4.2 release. This means that mobility is provided for clients roaming between access points on the 4.2 release and access points on 6.x maintenance release.

Mixed-Release Mesh Sectors

Additionally, beginning with 6.x maintenance release, customers will be able to mix a single mesh sector with access points on different releases. Specifically, they can run their 1522 and 1524 access points on 6.x maintenance release and their 1510 and 1505 access points on release 4.2. Note that in this situation, only 1520 Series access points can be parents to 1510 and 1505 access point children. 1510 and 1505 cannot be parents to 1520 Series children unless all access points are running the same release (this latter configuration is only supported with all access points running Mesh Release 2, 3, or 3.5, but is discouraged since it will not be supported when the customer upgrades to the 6.x maintenance release).

Recommended Scenarios

For simplification of the recommended scenarios, assume the following:

- References to the 1510 access point and platform include the 1505 access point as well.
- References to the 1520 Series and platform refer to both the 1522 and 1524 access points.
- References to the 1000 Series include the 1010, 1020, and 1030 access points.
- References to the 1100/1200 Series access points include the 1120, 1130, 1230, and 1240 access points.

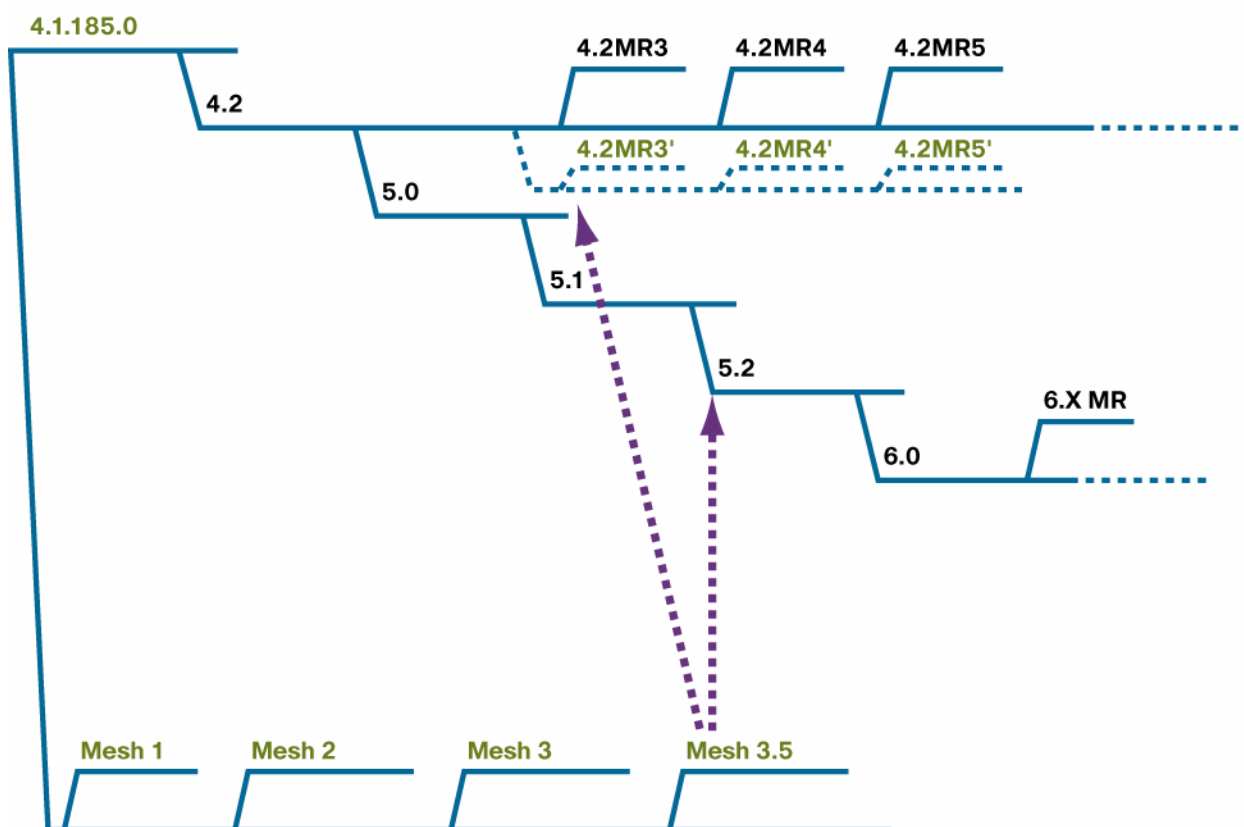
- References to newer-generation access points include the Cisco Aironet 1140 Series Access Points and other, future access point platforms.

Customers with 1510 Access Point Platform Only

Customers with the 1510 access point platform only can use any release up through the 4.2 releases (with the exclusion of the initial and first two maintenance releases of 4.2) (see Figure 2). Customers can stay on the pre-split release (4.1.185.0), one of the mesh releases, or can upgrade to the 4.2 maintenance release when it is available (estimated for June 2009). Note that the 1510 access point is not supported beyond the 4.2 branch.

Note: Customers requiring Dynamic Frequency Selection (DFS), such as ETSI customers or Singapore customers, should not use 4.1.185.0 or Mesh Release 1.

Figure 2. Release Train and Platform Support for **Customers with 1510 Access Point Platform Only**



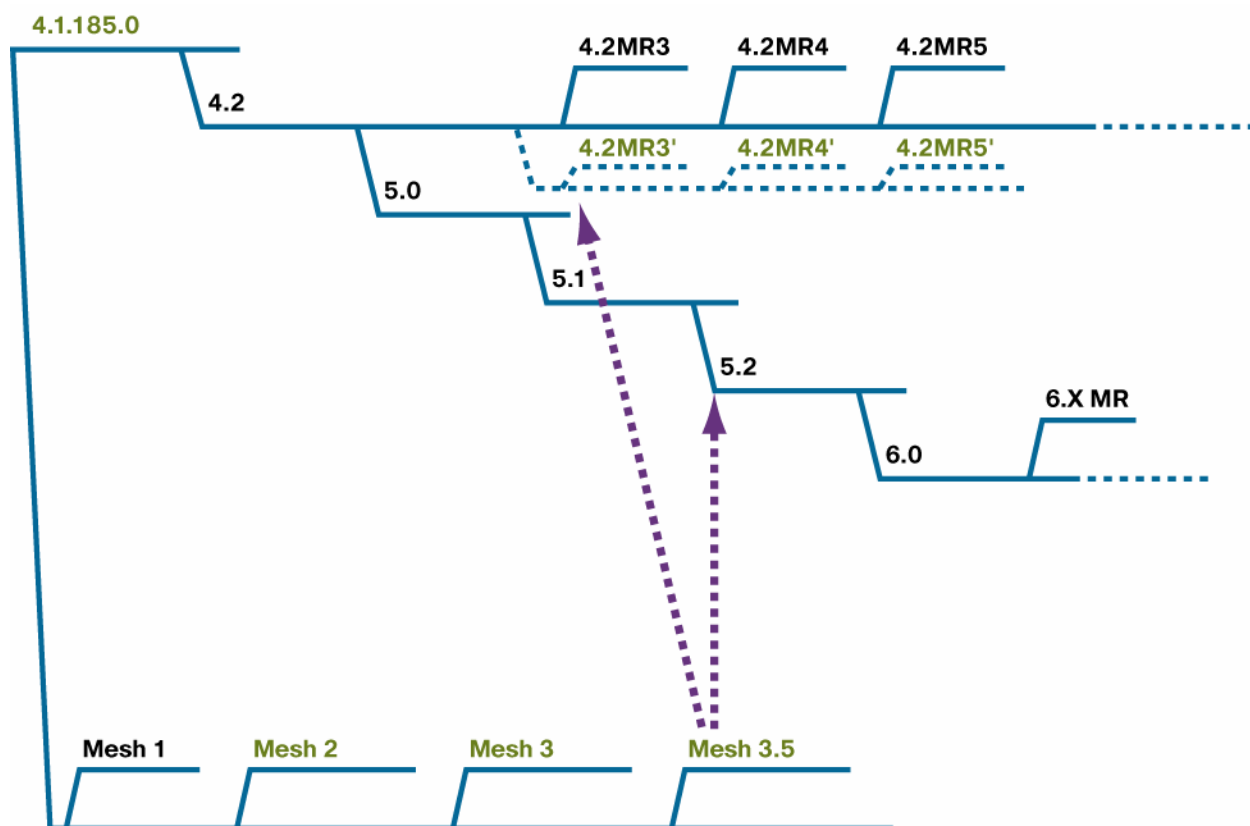
Releases in **Green** support the 1510 platform.

Customers with 1510 and 1000 Series Platforms

Customers with 1510 access point platform who also have 1000 Series access points can use either the pre-split release (4.1.185.0), Mesh Release 2, 3, or 3.5, or can upgrade to the 4.2 maintenance release when it is available (estimated for June 2009) (see Figure 3). Note that neither the 1510 access point nor the 1000 Series is supported beyond the 4.2 branch.

Note: Customers requiring Dynamic Frequency Selection (DFS), such as ETSI customers or Singapore customers, should not use 4.1.185.0 or Mesh Release 1.

Figure 3. Release Train and Platform Support for **Customers with 1510 and 1000 Series Platforms**



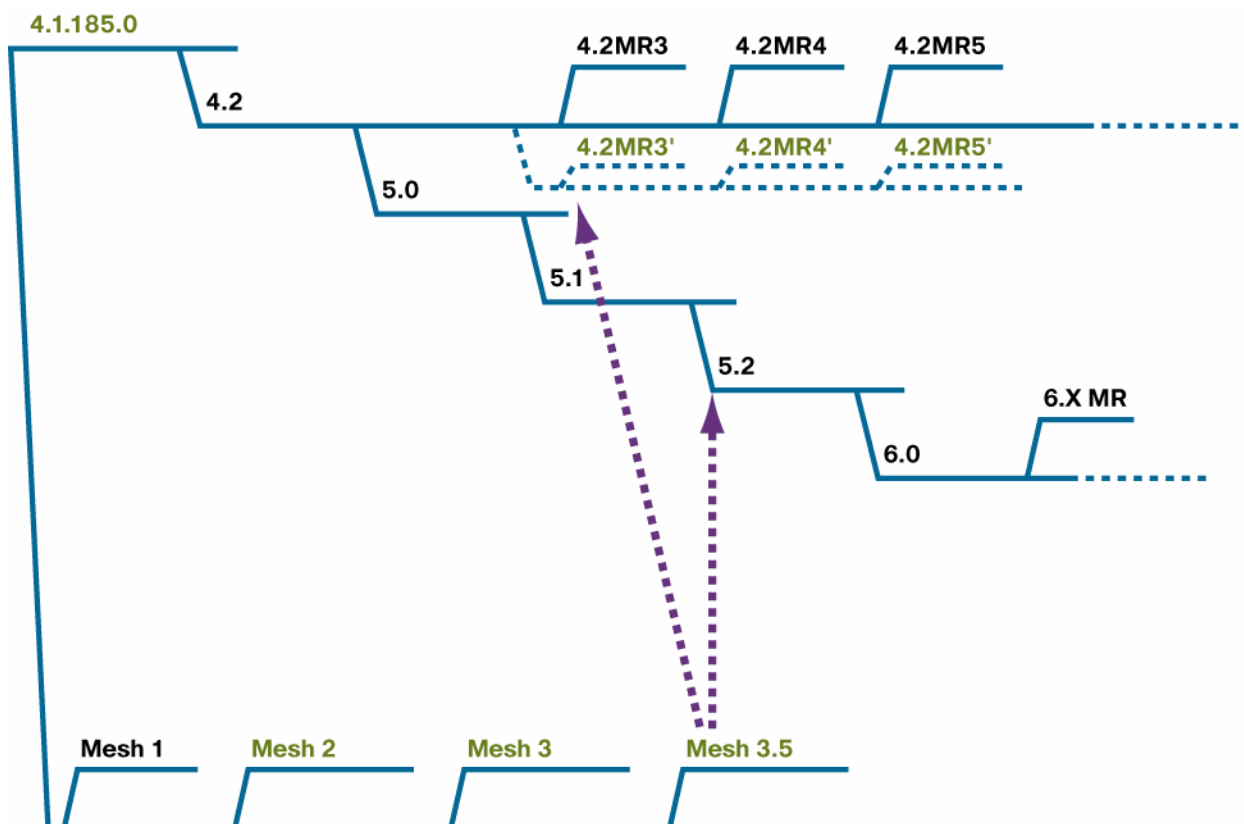
Releases in **Green** support the 1510 and 1000 platforms.

Customers with 1510 Access Points and the 1000 series and 1100/1200 Series Platforms

Customers with either 1510 and/or 1000 Series platform and 1100/1200 Series access points can use either the pre-split release (4.1.185.0) or Mesh Release 2, 3, or 3.5, or they can upgrade to the 4.2 maintenance release when it is available (estimated for June 2009) (see Figure 4).

Note: Customers requiring Dynamic Frequency Selection (DFS), such as ETSI customers or Singapore customers, should not use 4.1.185.0 or Mesh Release 1.

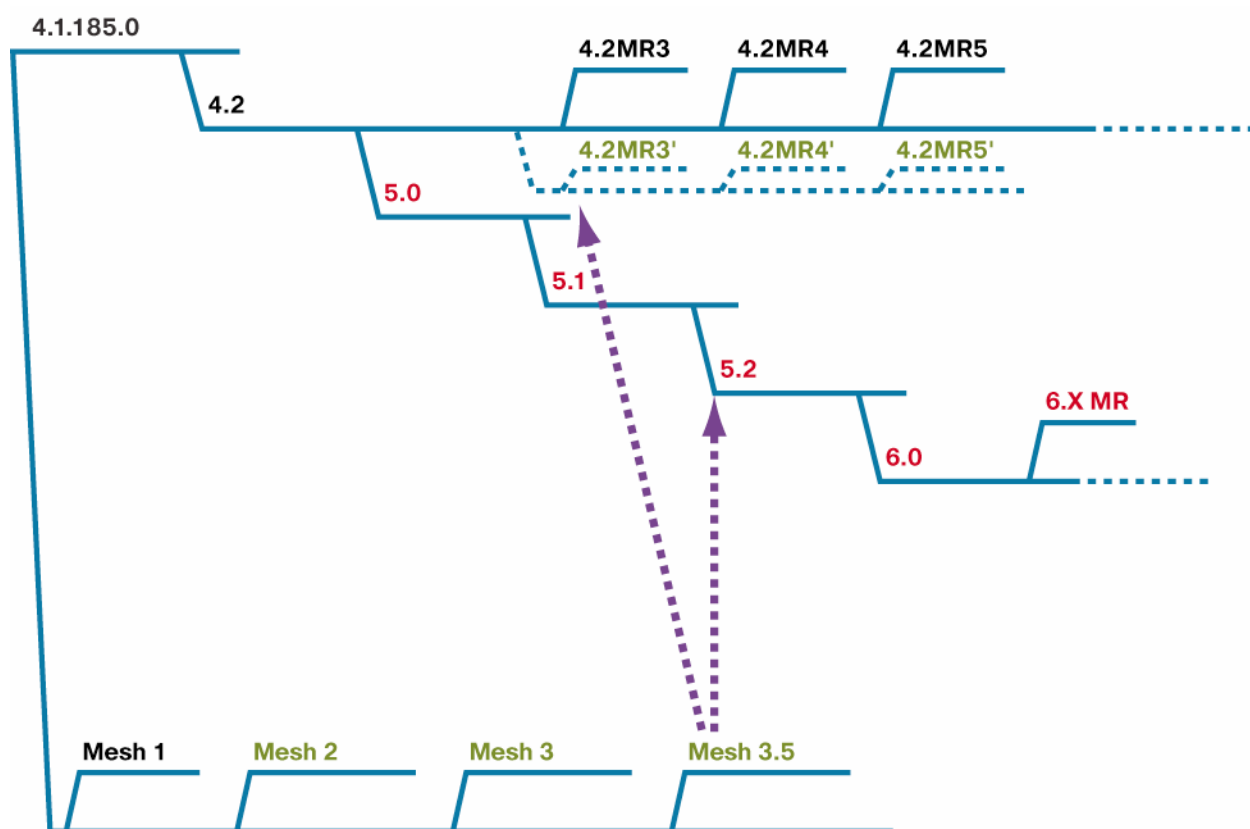
Figure 4. Release Train and Platform Support for Customers with the 1510 Access Point and the 1000 Series and 1100/1200 Series Platforms—Option 1



Releases in **Green** support the 1510, 1000, and 1100/1200 platforms.

Alternatively, if these customers need features provided after release 4.2 for their 1100/1200 Series access points, they will need to use two controllers: one to support 1510 access point and 1000 Series platforms on the 4.2 maintenance release when it is available (estimated for June 2009), and one to support 1100/1200 Series on the post-4.2 release (see Figure 5). Customers who run their 1100/1200 Series access points on the 6.x maintenance release will be able to have mobility between their access points on the 4.2 release and access points on the 6.x maintenance release. Customers should also be encouraged to take advantage of the Cisco Technology Migration Program to trade in their 1510 and 1000 Series access points to newer platforms, as doing so will eliminate the need for two separate controllers.

Figure 5. Release Train and Platform Support for Customers with the 1510 Access Point and the 1000 Series and 1100/1200 Series Platforms—Option 2

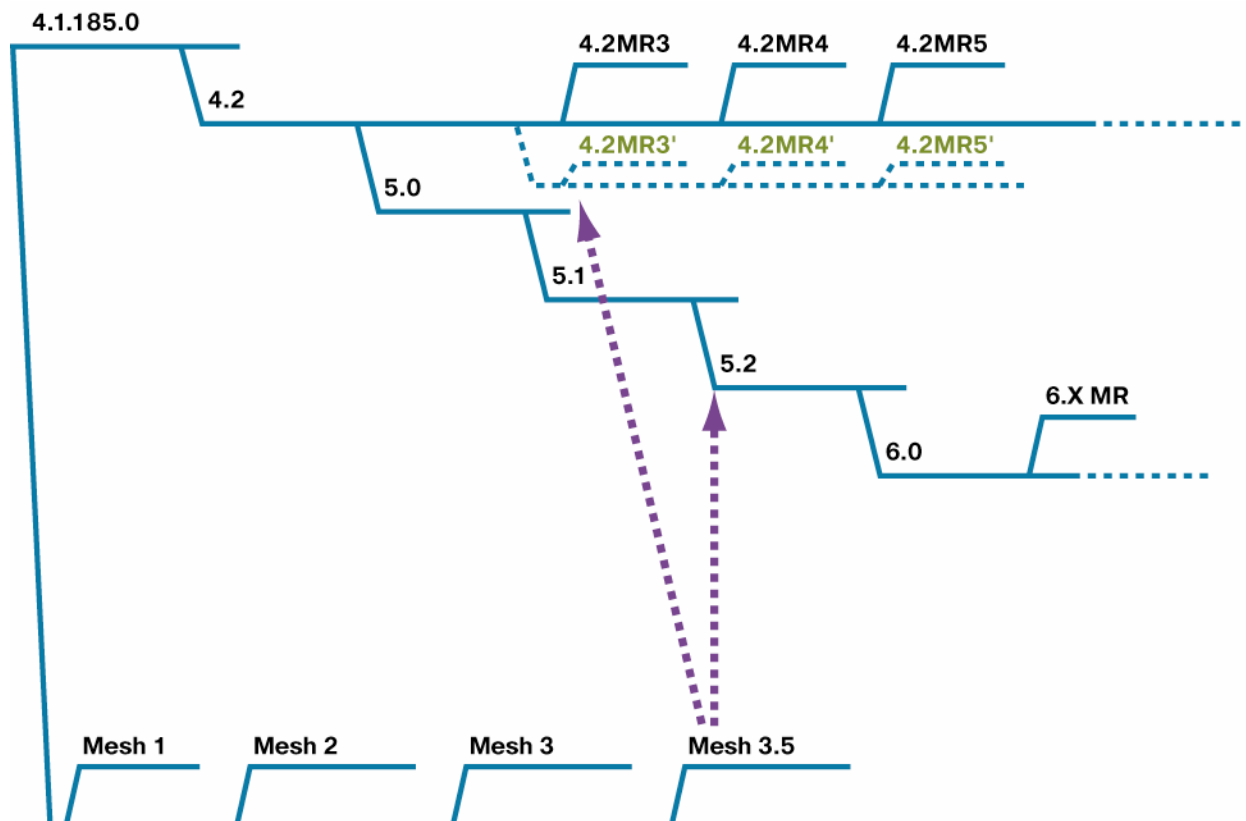


Releases in **Green** support the 1510 and 1000 platforms.
Releases in **Red** support the 1100/1200 platforms.

Customers with the 1510 Access Point and the 1000, 1100/1200, and 1250 Series Access Point Platforms

Customers with the 1510 access point platform and 1000, 1100/1200, and 1250 Series platforms will need to use the 4.2 maintenance release when it is available (estimated for June 2009) (Figure 6).

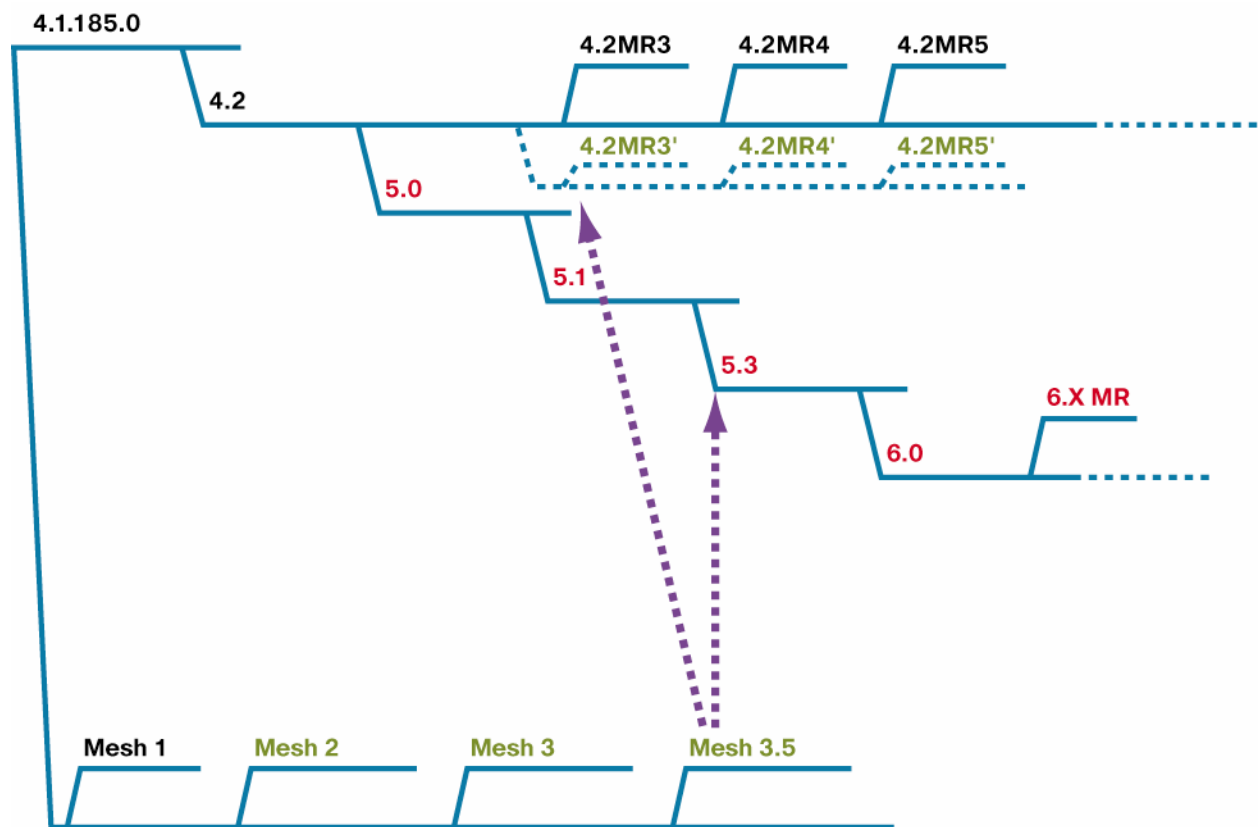
Figure 6. Release Train and Platform Support for Customers with the 1510 Access Point and the 1000, 1100/1200, and 1250 Series Access Point Platforms—Option 1



Releases in **Green** support the 1510, 1000, 1100/1200, and 1250 platforms.

Alternatively, if these customers need features provided after release 4.2 for their 1100/1200 and/or 1250 Series platforms, they will need to use two controllers: one to support 1510 and 1000 Series access points on the 4.2 maintenance release when it is available (estimated for June 2009), and one to support 1100/1200 or 1250 Series on the post-4.2 release (Figure 7). Customers who run their 1100/1200 and 1250 Series on the 6.x maintenance release will be able to have mobility between their access points on the 4.2 release and access points on the 6.x maintenance release. Customers should also be encouraged to take advantage of the Cisco Technology Migration Program to trade in their 1510 and 1000 Series to newer platforms, as doing so will eliminate the need for two separate controllers.

Figure 7. Release Train and Platform Support for Customers with the 1510 Access Point and the 1000, 1100/1200, and 1250 Series Access Point Platforms—Option 2

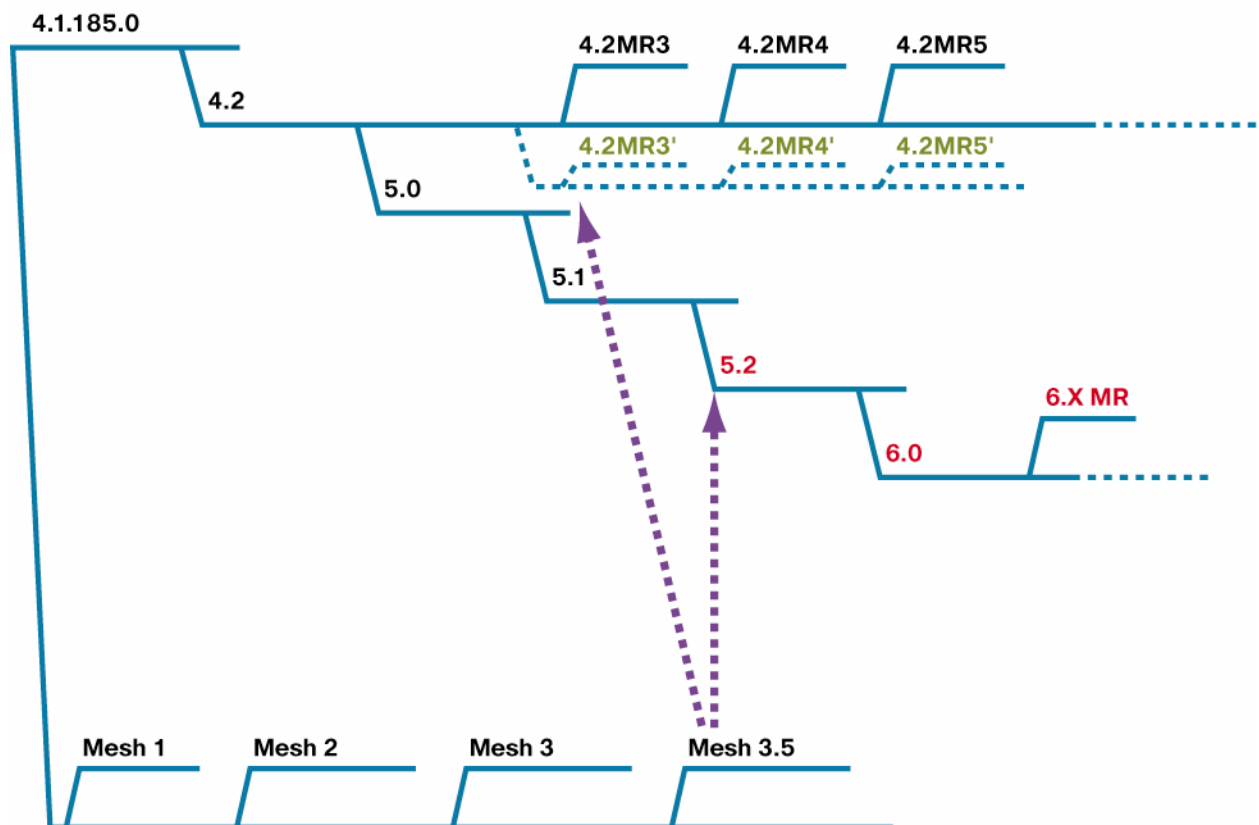


Releases in **Green** support the 1510 and 1000 platforms.
Releases in **Red** support the 1100/1200 and 1250 platforms.

Customers with the 1510 Access Point and the 1000, 1100/1200, 1140, and 1250 Series Access Point Platforms and Newer-Generation Access Point Platforms

Customers with older-generation access points (such as the 1510 and/or 1000 Series) and with newer-generation access points (such as the 1140 Series) will need to use two controllers: one to support the 1510 and 1000 Series on 4.2 maintenance release (estimated for June 2009), and one to support the 1140 Series on 5.2 release when it is available (or whichever release first supports the newer-generation platform). The 1100/1200 Series and the 1250 Series can be supported by either controller, although most customers will probably choose to run those access points on the latest 6.x release (Figure 8). Customers who run their 1100/1200, 1250, or 1140 Series and newer-generation access points on 6.x maintenance release will be able to have mobility between their access points on the 4.2 release and access points on the 6.x maintenance release. Customers should also be encouraged to take advantage of the Cisco Technology Migration Program to trade in their 1510 and 1000 Series to newer platforms, as doing so will eliminate the need for two separate controllers.

Figure 8. Release Train and Platform Support for Customers with the 1510 Access Point and the 1000, 1100/1200, 1140, and 1250 Series Access Point Platforms and Newer-Generation Access Point Platforms



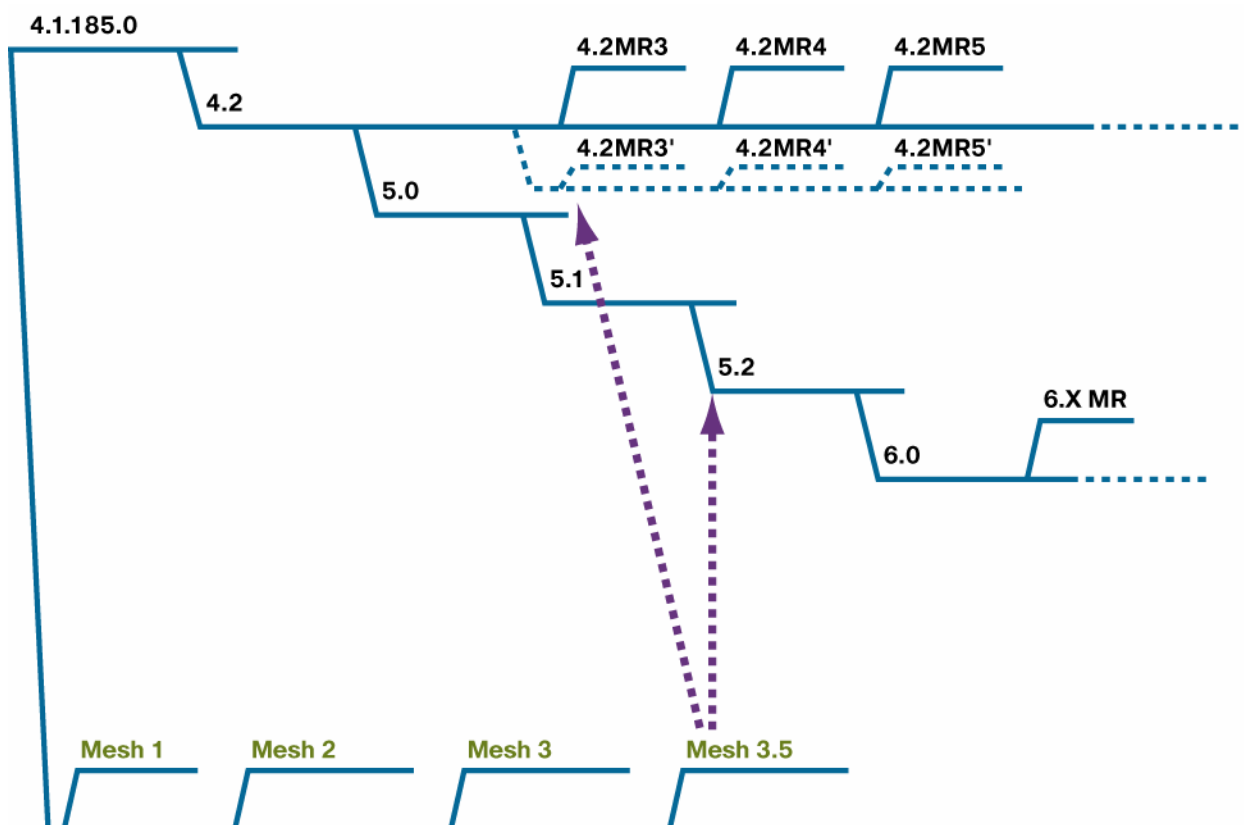
Releases in **Green** support the 1510, 1000, 1100/1200, and 1250 platforms.
Releases in **Red** support the 1100/1200, 1140, and 1250 platforms.

Customers with the 1510 Access Point and 1520 Access Point Platforms

Customers with both 1510 and 1520 mesh access points can use one of the mesh releases shown in Figure 9.

Note: Customers requiring Dynamic Frequency Selection (DFS), such as ETSI customers or Singapore customers, should not use 4.1.185.0 or Mesh Release 1.

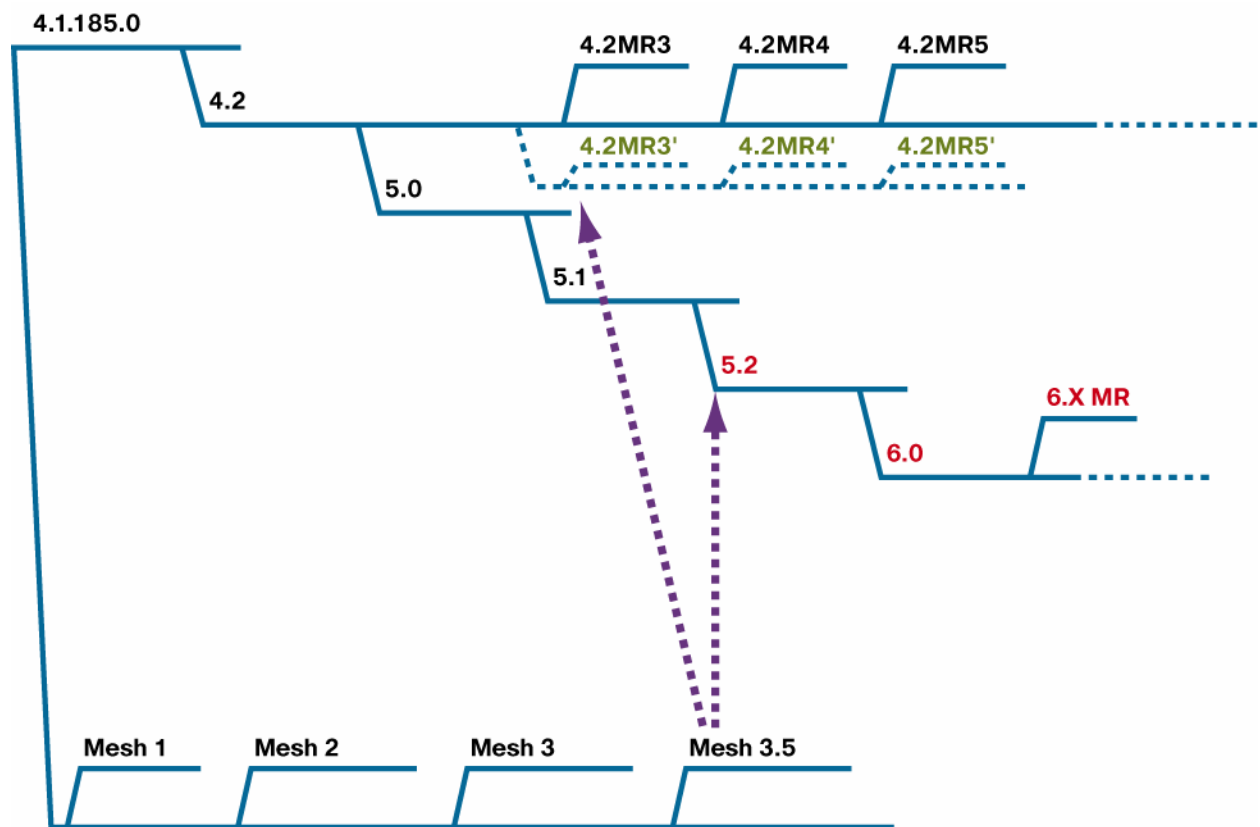
Figure 9. Release Train and Platform Support for Customers with the 1510 Access Point and 1520 Access Point Platforms—Option 1



Releases in **Green** support the 1510 and 1520 platforms.

Alternatively, if these customers need either the features provided in release 4.2 for their 1510 access point platform or the features in release 5.2 or later for their 1520 Series, they will need to use two controllers: one to support the 1510 on the 4.2 maintenance release when it is available (estimated for June 2009), and one to support 1520 Series on release 5.2 or later (Figure 10). Customers who run their 1520 Series on the 6.x maintenance release will be able to have mobility between their access points on the 4.2 release and their access points on the 6.x maintenance release. Customers should also be encouraged to take advantage of the Cisco Technology Migration Program to trade in their 1510 to newer platforms, as doing so will eliminate the need for two separate controllers.

Figure 10. Release Train and Platform Support for Customers with the 1510 Access Point and 1520 Access Point Platforms—Option 2

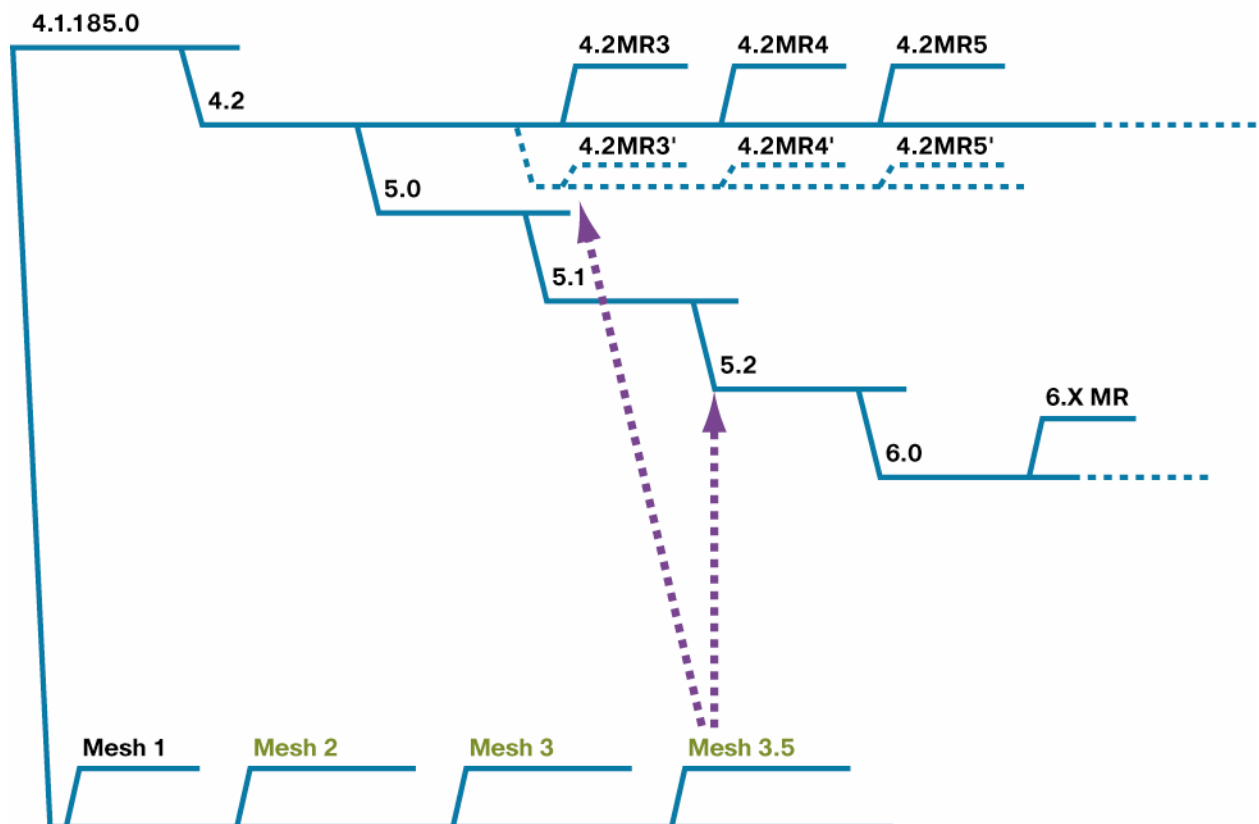


Releases in **Green** support the 1510 platform.
Releases in **Red** support the 1520 platform.

Customers with the 1510 Access Point and the 1520 and 1000 Series Access Point Platforms

Customers with 1510 and 1520 and 1000 Series access points can use either Mesh Release 2, 3, or 3.5 (Figure 11).

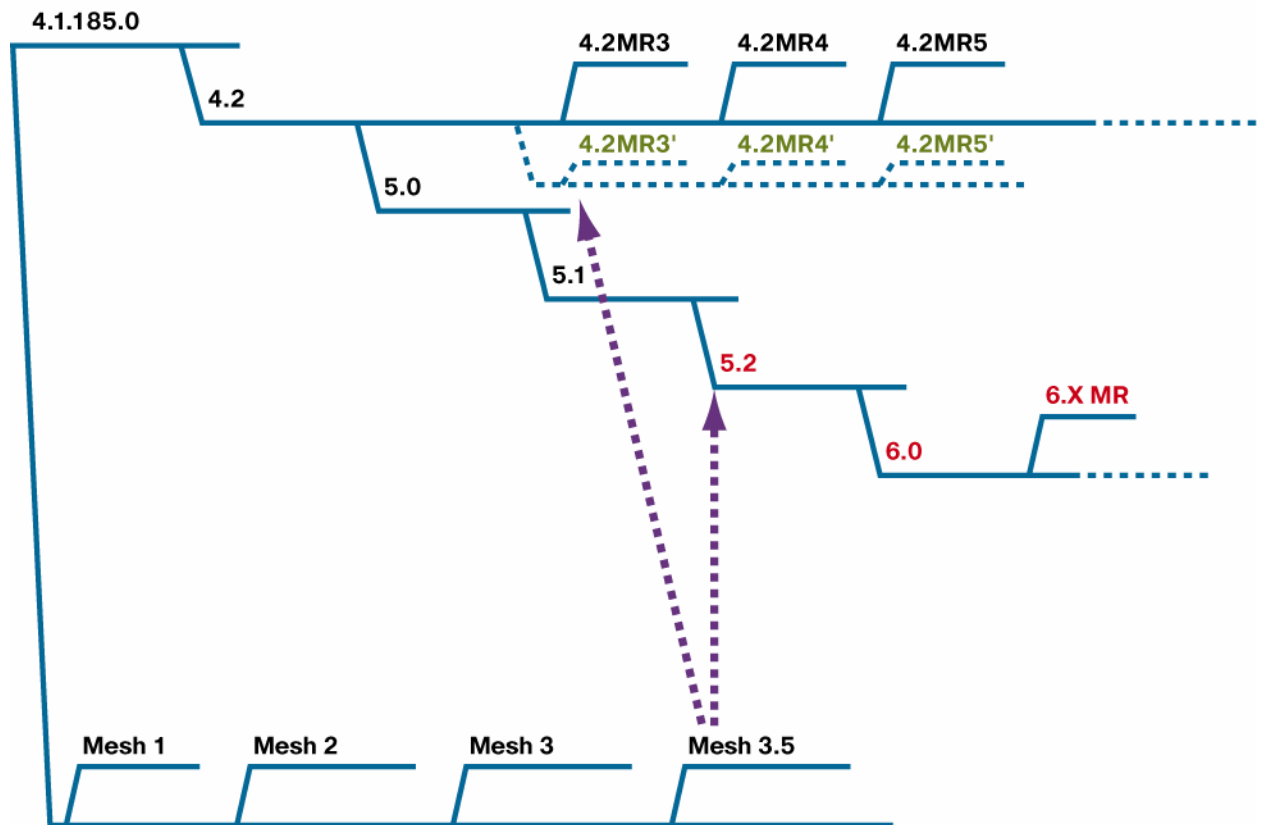
Figure 11. Release Train and Platform Support for Customers with the 1510 Access Point and the 1520 and 1000 Series Access Point Platforms—Option 1



Releases in **Green** support the 1510, 1520, and 1000 platforms.

Alternatively, if these customers need either the features in the 4.2 release for their 1510 or 1000 access points, or they need the features released in 5.2 or later with their 1520 Series, they will need to use two controllers: one to support 1510 and 1000 on the 4.2 maintenance release when it is available (estimated for June 2009), and one to support the 1520 Series on 5.2 or later (Figure 12). Customers who run their 1520 Series on the 6.x maintenance release will be able to have mobility between their access points on the 4.2 release and access points on the 6.x maintenance release. Customers should also be encouraged to take advantage of the Cisco Technology Migration Program to trade in their 1510 and 1000 Series to newer platforms, as doing so will eliminate the need for two separate controllers.

Figure 12. Release Train and Platform Support for Customers with the 1510 Access Point and the 1520 and 1000 Series Access Point Platforms—Option 2

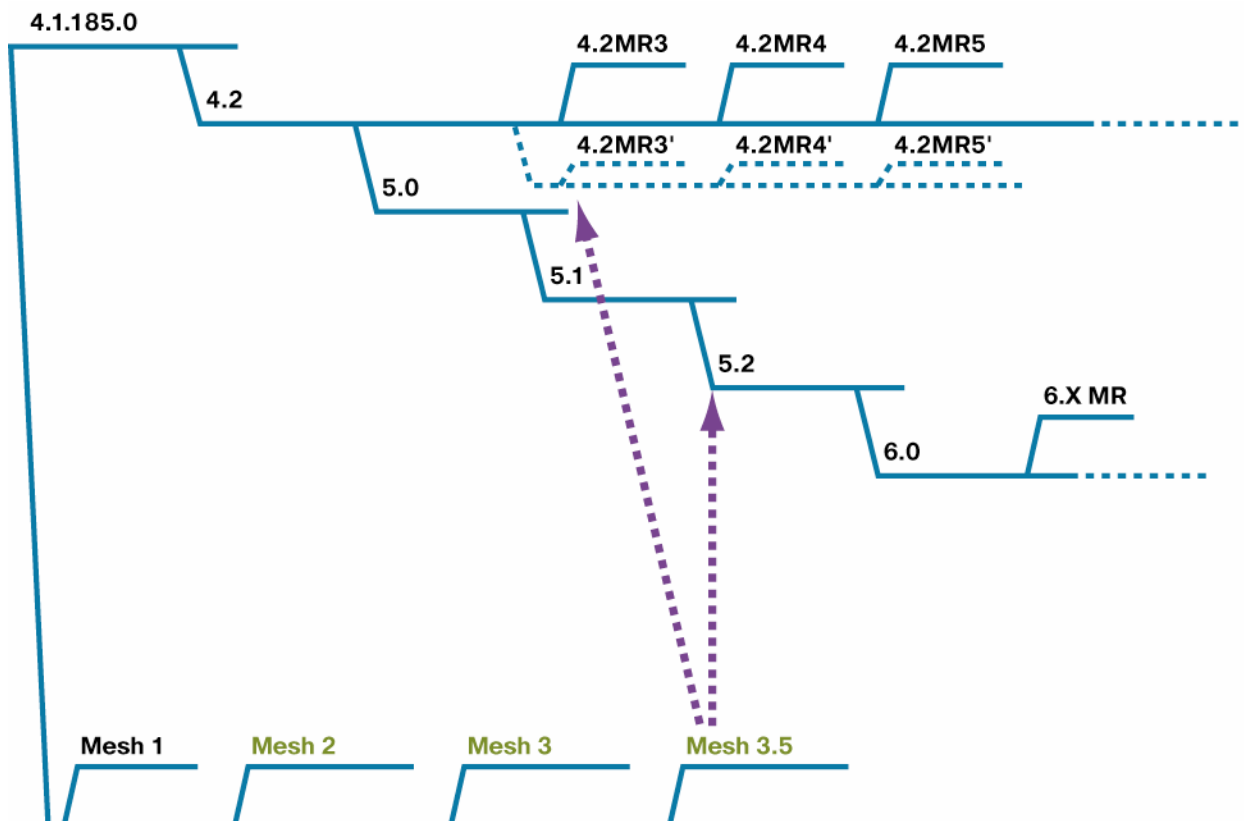


Releases in **Green** support the 1510 and 1000 platforms.
Releases in **Red** support the 1520 platform.

Customers with the 1510 Access Point and the 1520, 1000, and 1100/1200 Series Access Point Platforms

Customers with 1510 or 1520, 1000 and 1100/1200 Series access points can use either Mesh Release 2, 3, or 3.5 (Figure 13).

Figure 13. Release Train and Platform Support for Customers with the 1510 Access Point and the 1520, 1000, and 1100/1200 Series Access Point Platforms—Option 1



Releases in **Green** support the 1510, 1520, 1000, and 1100/1200 platforms.

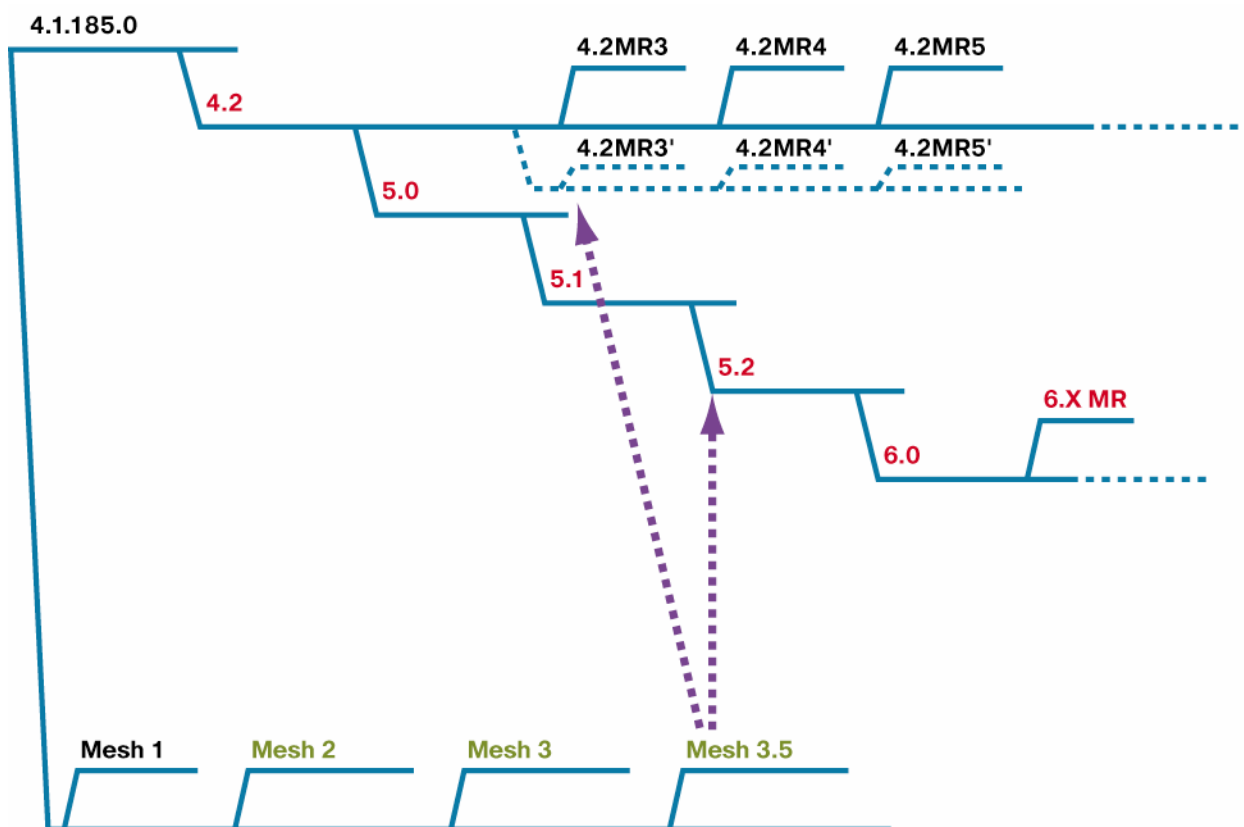
Alternatively, if these customers need either the features in release 4.2 for their 1510 or 1000 Series access points, or they need the features in the 5.2 release or later with their 1520 Series, they will need to use two controllers: one to support 1510 and 1000 Series on the 4.2 maintenance release when it is available (estimated for June 2009), and one to support 1520 Series on 5.2 or later. The 1100/1200 Series can be supported by either controller, although most customers will probably choose to run those access points on the latest 6.x release (Figure 14). Customers who run their 1100/1200 Series and 1520 Series on the 6.x maintenance release will be able to have mobility between their access points on the 4.2 release and access points on the 6.x maintenance release. Customers should also be encouraged to take advantage of the Cisco Technology Migration Program to trade in their 1510 and 1000 Series to newer platforms, as doing so will eliminate the need for two separate controllers.



Customers with the 1510 Access Point and the 1520, 1000, 1100/1200, and 1250 Series Access Point Platforms

Customers with the 1510 and 1520, 1000, 1100/1200 Series and 1250 Series access points need to use two separate controllers. They can use one controller to support the 1510, 1520, 1000, and 1100/1200 Series on Mesh Release 2, 3, or 3.5 and one controller to support 1250 Series on release 4.2 or later (Figure 15).

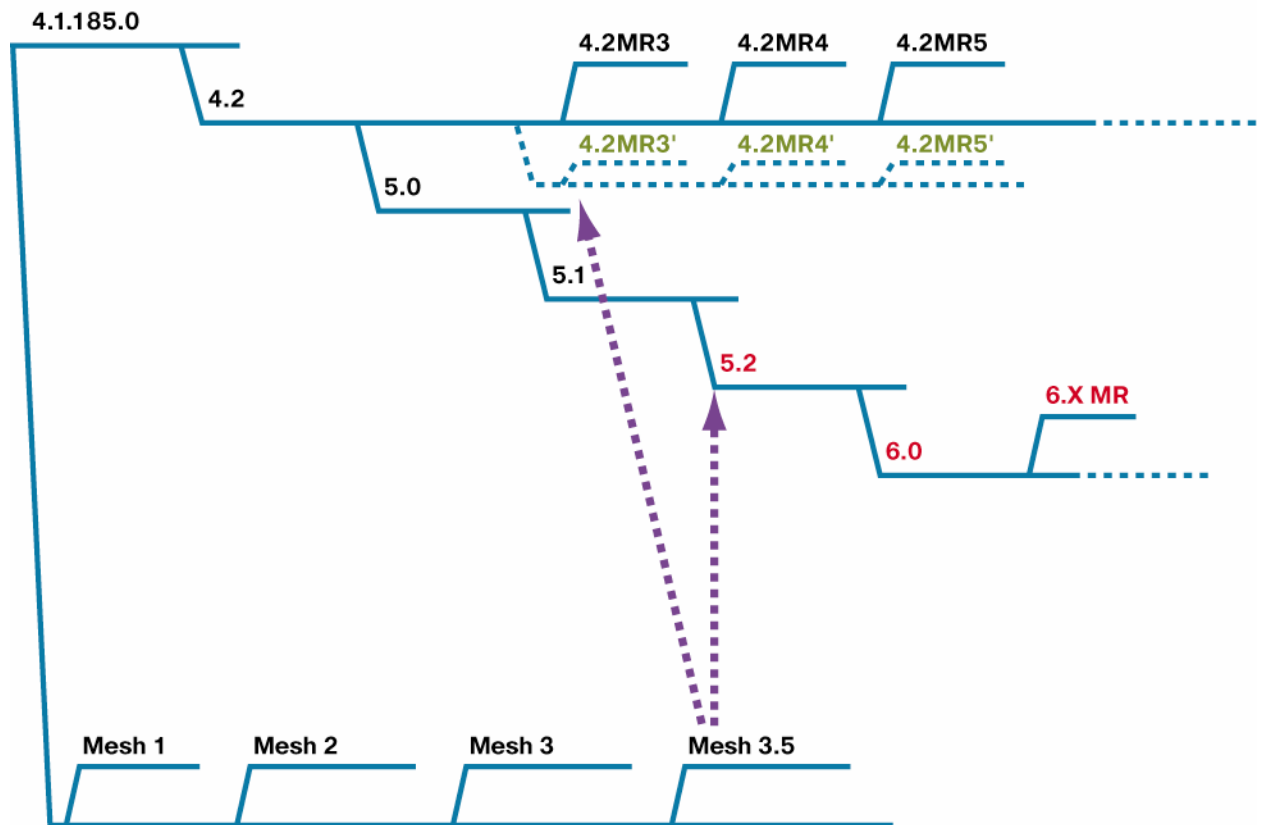
Figure 15. Release Train and Platform Support for Customers with the 1510 Access Point and the 1520, 1000, 1100/1200, and 1250 Series Access Point Platforms—Option 1



Releases in **Green** support the 1510, 1520, 1000, and 1100/1200 platforms.
Releases in **Red** support the 1250 platform.

Alternatively, they can use one controller to support the 1510 and 1000 Series on the 4.2 maintenance release when it is available (estimated for June 2009), and one controller to support the 1520 and 1250 Series on the release 5.2 or a later release. The 1100/1200 Series can be supported by either controller, although most customers will probably chose to run those access points on the latest 6.x release (Figure 16). Customers who run their 1520, 1100/1200 Series and 1250 Series on the 6.x maintenance release will be able to have mobility between their access points on the 4.2 release and access points on the 6.x maintenance release. Customers should also be encouraged to take advantage of the Cisco Technology Migration Program to trade in their 1510 and 1000 Series to newer platforms, as doing so will eliminate the need for two separate controllers.

Figure 16. Release Train and Platform Support for Customers with the 1510 Access Point and the 1520, 1000, 1100/1200, and 1250 Series Access Point Platforms—Option 2

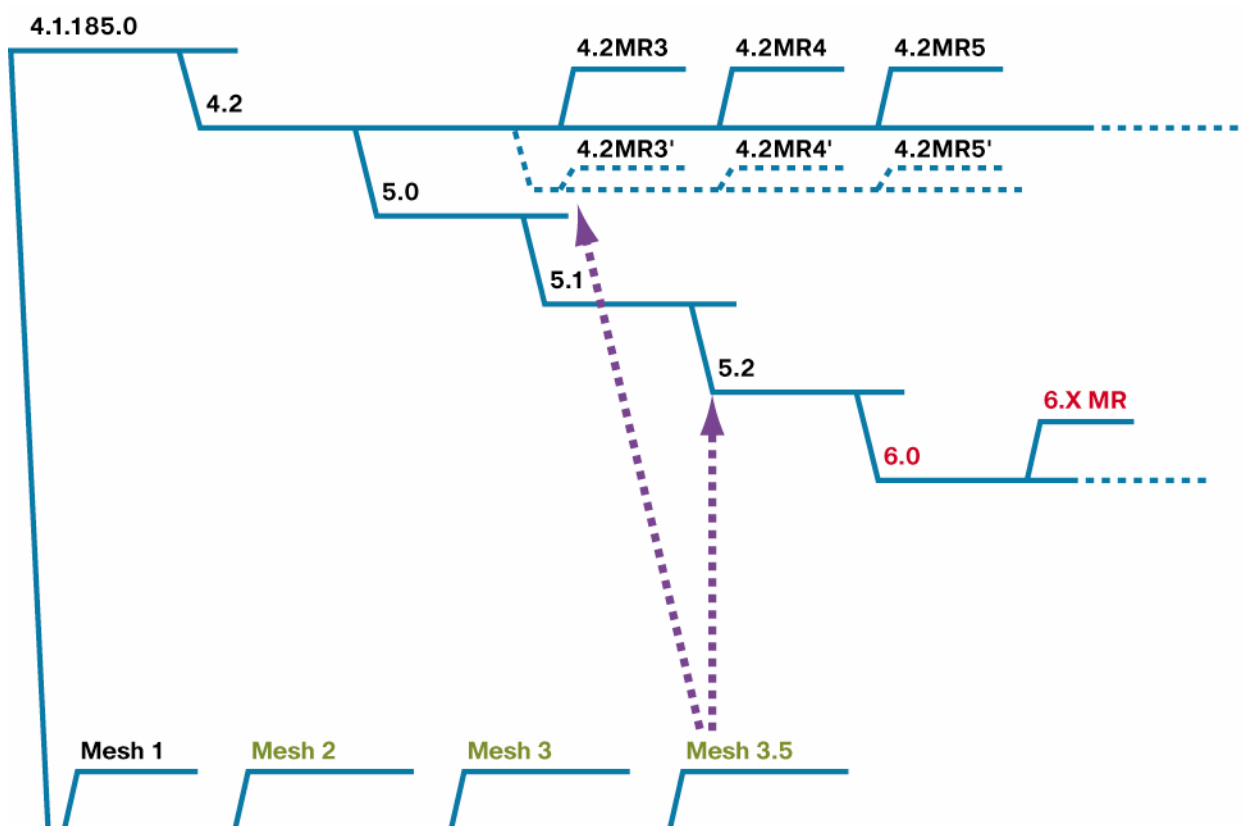


Releases in **Green** support the 1510, 1000, and 1100/1200 platforms.
Releases in **Red** support the 1520, 1100/1200, and 1250 platforms.

Customers with 1510 and the 1520, 1000, 1100/1200, 1250 Series and Newer-Generation Access Point Platforms

Customers with the 1510 and the 1520, 1000, 1100/1200, 1140, and 1250 Series, and newer-generation access points need to use two separate controllers. They can use one controller to support 1510 and the 1520, 1000, and 1100/1200 Series on Mesh Release 2, 3, or 3.5, and one controller to support the 1140 and 1250 Series and newer-generation access points on the 6.x maintenance release when it is available (or whichever release first supports the new platform) (see Figure 17).

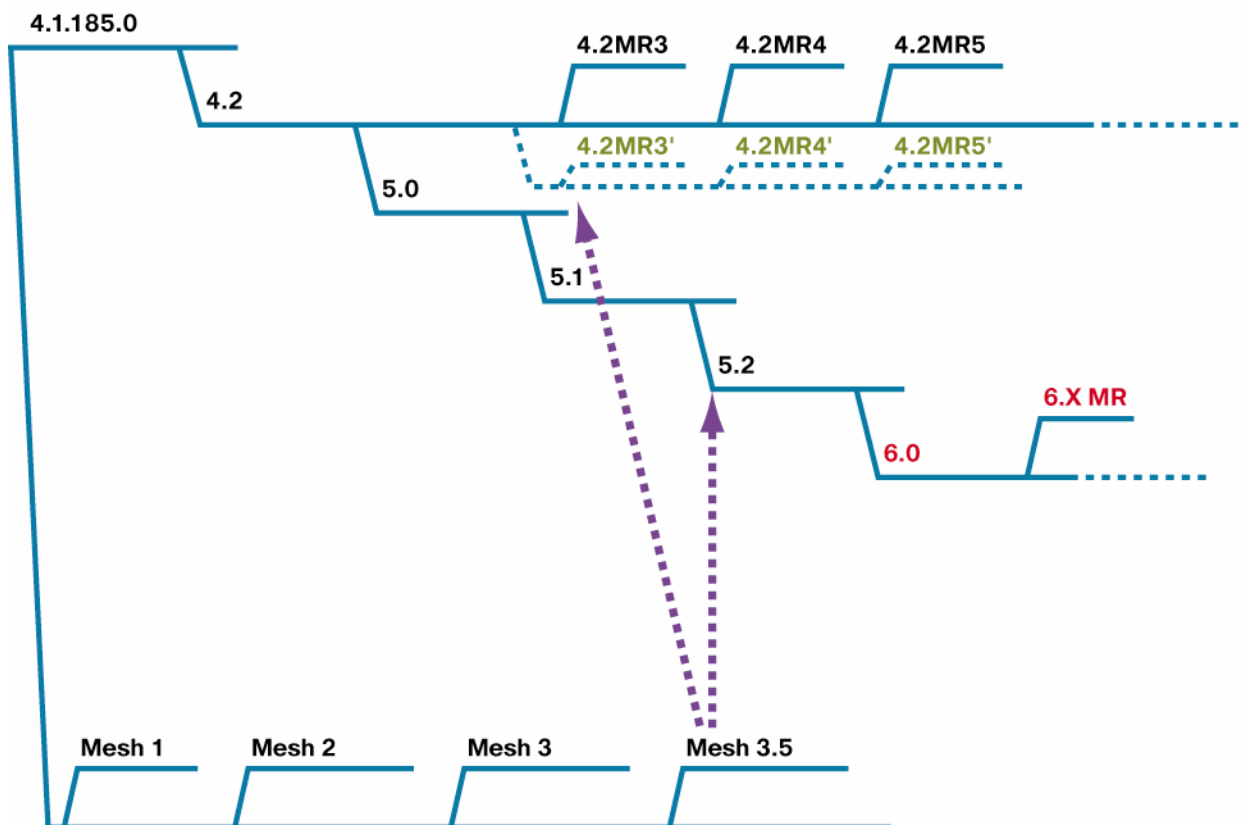
Figure 17. Release Train and Platform Support for Customers with 1510 and the 1520, 1000, 1100/1200, 1250 Series and Newer-Generation Access Point Platforms—Option 1



Releases in **Green** support the 1510, 1520, 1000, and 1100/1200 platforms.
Releases in **Red** support the 1520, 1100/1200, 1140, and 1250 platforms.

Alternatively, they can use one controller to support the 1510 and the 1000 Series on the 4.2 maintenance release when it is available (estimated for June 2009), and one controller to support 1520, 1140, and 1250 Series and newer-generation access points on the 6.x maintenance release or later (Figure 18). The 1100/1200 Series can be supported by either controller, though most customers will probably choose to run those access points on the latest 6.x release. Customers who run their 1520, 1100/1200, 1140, and 1250 Series and newer-generation access points on the 6.x maintenance release will be able to have mobility between their access points on the 4.2 release and access points on the 6.x maintenance release. Customers should also be encouraged to take advantage of the Cisco Technology Migration Program to trade in their 1510 and 1000 Series to newer platforms, as doing so will eliminate the need for two separate controllers.

Figure 18. Release Train and Platform Support for Customers with 1510 and the 1520, 1000, 1100/1200, 1250 Series and Newer-Generation Access Point Platforms—Option 2



Releases in **Green** support the 1510, 1000, and 1100/1200 platforms.
 Releases in **Red** support the 1520, 1100/1200, 1140, and 1250 platforms.



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