

Go Green with Adaptive Wireless LAN Power Management



Challenge

Cost-effective IT solutions that embrace environmental responsibility are in demand as organizations start to reduce their carbon footprint. Solutions that are quick to implement, require little or no capital investment, are environmentally beneficial, and deliver an immediate and quantifiable financial return are highly valued. Organizations are looking for solutions that deliver measurable savings for the wireless network and support their Green IT initiatives.

Solution

Intelligent control measures can help in creating a culture of sustainable business. These measures and tools improve your operational efficiencies and reduce the energy consumption of your wireless network. By implementing these measures, your organization can gain momentum for its Green IT initiatives.

For the wireless network, Cisco offers adaptive power management capabilities that are built into the Cisco® Unified Wireless Network through its management platform Cisco Wireless Control System (WCS) running software release 5.1 and later. Cisco WCS adaptive power management allows you to shrink your carbon footprint immediately through measurable reductions in energy usage and operational expenses.

Cisco WCS Adaptive Power Management

Cisco WCS adaptive power management improves the power management of Cisco Aironet® lightweight access points and supports the Cisco Green IT initiative. This feature turns access point radios on or off periodically at scheduled intervals while leaving the access point powered, reducing the time required for network reconvergence (Figures 1 and 2).

Figure 1. Cisco WCS Adaptive Power Management Feature – Scheduling

The screenshot shows the 'Wireless Control System' interface with the 'AP/Radio Templates > 'Go Green'' configuration page. The 'AP Parameters' tab is selected, and the 'Apply/Schedule' sub-tab is active. A red box highlights the 'Schedule' section, which includes the following fields:

- Enable schedule:** ☒
- Start Date:** 04/10/2008 (Current server time: 04/10/2008 17:05:06)
- Start Time:** 19 Hr 00 Min
- Recurrence:** ☐ No Recurrence ☐ Hourly ☒ Daily ☐ Weekly
- Every:** 10000 Days(s)

Buttons for 'Save', 'Apply', and 'Schedule' are visible. The 'Schedule' button is highlighted with a red box. A link at the bottom states: '* To view the scheduled task reports, click here'.

Alarm Summary:

Alarm Type	Count	Severity
Malicious AP	0	0
Coverage Hole	0	0
Security	791	0
Controllers	4	0
Access Points	2	0
Location	1	0
Mesh Links	0	0
WCS	1	0

Figure 2. Cisco WCS Adaptive Power Management Feature – Access Point Parameters

The screenshot shows the 'Wireless Control System' interface with the 'AP/Radio Templates > 'Go Green'' configuration page. The 'AP Parameters' tab is selected, and the 'Apply/Schedule' sub-tab is active. The 'Admin Status' field is highlighted with a red box and set to 'Enabled'.

Select AP Parameters that needs to be applied:

- Location:** [Empty field]
- Admin Status:** ☒ Enabled
- AP Mode:** Local
- AP Height (feet):** 3.0
- Mirror Mode:** ☐ Enabled
- Country Code:** AR - Argentina
- Stats Collection Interval:** 0
- Cisco Discovery Protocol:** ☐ Enabled
- AP Failover Priority:** Low
- Controllers:**
 - Primary Controller Name: [Empty field]
 - Secondary Controller Name: [Empty field]
 - Tertiary Controller Name: [Empty field]
 - Group VLAN name: [Empty field]
 - H-REAP Configuration: ☐ Enabled
 - VLAN Support: ☐ Enabled
 - Native VLAN ID: 0
- Override Global Username Password:**
 - AP User Name: [Empty field]
 - AP Password: [Empty field]
 - Confirm AP Password: [Empty field]
 - Enable Password: [Empty field]
 - Confirm Enable Password: [Empty field]

Reboot AP: ☐ (Selecting this will reboot AP after making other selected updates, if any)

* To view the scheduled task reports, click here

Alarm Summary:

Alarm Type	Count	Severity
Malicious AP	0	0
Coverage Hole	0	0
Security	791	0
Controllers	4	0
Access Points	2	0
Location	1	0
Mesh Links	0	0
WCS	1	0

Realize Measurable Cost Savings

By using Cisco WCS adaptive power management to turn the access point radios on or off at scheduled intervals (hour, day, and week) you can reduce your power requirements, carbon footprint, and operating expenses. The power savings gained will vary based on the Cisco Aironet access point model deployed (Table 1).

Table 1. Measurable Cost Savings with Cisco WCS Adaptive Power Management

	Small Campus	Large Campus
Number of access points	400	5000
Estimated total watts saved every hour when both radios are turned off*	2800 W	35,000 W
Estimated cost savings per year when radios are turned off for 7 hours every day**	\$572	\$7,154

* 7 watts saved every hour, per access point (1250 Series) when both radios are turned off using Cisco WCS adaptive power management. The saved wattage includes power savings from the switch and power injectors that power the access point.

** \$0.08 saved per kilowatt-hour for a 365 day year

Benefits

Benefits of using the Cisco WCS adaptive power management feature include:

- Reduced operating expense
- Reduced power requirements
- Reduced carbon footprint
- Simplified management of WLAN security through the ability to restrict WLAN usage by day, time, or location

Summary

Organizations can realize measurable cost savings and reduce their carbon footprint by using the Cisco WCS adaptive power management feature to turn Cisco Aironet lightweight access point radios on or off at scheduled intervals. Using this feature can help organizations create a culture of sustainable business and gain momentum for their Green IT initiatives.

Solution Components

- Cisco Unified Wireless Network
- Cisco Aironet Access Points
- Cisco Wireless LAN Controllers
- Cisco Wireless Control System (WCS)

To learn more about the Cisco Wireless Control System, please visit <http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps6305/index.html>.

To learn more about the Cisco Unified Wireless Network, please visit <http://www.cisco.com/go/unifiedwireless>.



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San Jose, CA

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