



WLAN Solution Comparison

Explore the WLAN comparison table to see a side-by-side comparison of Mist, Cisco-Meraki, Aruba, and Cisco. This guide shows key features to consider when upgrading your network architecture, operations, and indoor location analytics.

ARCHITECTURE

CORE DESIGN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern cloud • Microservices • Real-time event processing • Service containerization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st generation cloud • Hosted datacenter • Virtual controller architecture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monolithic software • Controller architecture • Multiple OS (10+) • Multiple non-integrated products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monolithic software • Controller architecture • Multiple OS (10+) • Multiple non-integrated products
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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE	<p>AI foundation for IT built on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich data/metrics • Data science • Machine learning • Natural language processing 	<p>No AI.</p>	<p>AI capabilities are isolated to security product (Introspect from acquisition of Niara).</p>	<p>No AI.</p>
SCALABILITY	<p>Elastic scale with microservices.</p>	<p>Virtual controllers hosted in co-located data centers.</p>	<p>Buy more controllers \$\$\$.</p>	<p>Buy more controllers. \$\$\$</p>
PROGRAMMABILITY	<p>100% accessible through APIs.</p>	<p>Limited set of APIs.</p>	<p>Limited set of APIs. Only Aruba 8xxx Wired Switch has full API access.</p>	<p>Limited set of APIs.</p>
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RESILIENCY	<p>Service containerization Microservices.</p>	<p>Redundant virtual Controllers.</p>	<p>Add more hardware \$\$\$ (Controllers, Mobility Masters).</p>	<p>Add more hardware \$\$\$ (Controllers).</p>
AGILITY	<p>Agile microservices architecture enables rapid updates.</p>	<p>1st generation cloud without microservices lacks agility and results in slow updates.</p>	<p>Monolithic software results in poor ability to update for new devices/apps/fixes and high risk to update.</p>	<p>Monolithic software results in poor ability to update for new devices/apps/fixes and high risk to update.</p>



OPERATIONS

SERVICE LEVEL MONITORING	<p>Realtime and inline service levels including: Throughput, Time to Connect, Roaming, Coverage, Capacity. User/Site/AP level monitoring. 100+ states monitored.</p>	<p>Basic non-realtime event log monitoring (future).</p>	<p>Basic non-realtime event log monitoring. Requires NetInsight appliances and subscription. \$</p>	<p>Basic non-realtime event log monitoring. Requires DNA appliances. \$\$\$</p>
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VIRTUAL ASSISTANT TO ACCELERATE HELP DESK	<p>Natural language queries with integrated helpdesk based on Marvis AI.</p>	<p>Not available.</p>	<p>Not available.</p>	<p>Not available.</p>
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DYNAMIC PACKET CAPTURE	<p>Proactively captures packets when an error event occurs in real-time. Eliminates need to reproduce issues.</p>	<p>Manual</p>	<p>Primarily manual. Limited auto capture on authentication failure events. Requires overlay network of Cape Networks wireless sensor hardware.</p>	<p>Manual</p>
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BASELINING AND ANOMALY DETECTION	<p>Proactive device/OS baselining and anomaly detection by AI system.</p>	<p>Basic anomaly detection.</p>	<p>Limited anomaly detection for a few states (DHCP, DNS, Assoc, Auth).</p>	<p>Limited anomaly detection. Requires DNA appliances. \$\$\$</p>
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ROOT CAUSE IDENTIFICATION	<p>Automated event correlation using machine learning across wireless/wired/device domains.</p>	<p>Only event logs.</p>	<p>Only available for the Aruba 8200/8400 Core Wired Switch.</p>	<p>Limited RCA. Requires DNA appliances. \$\$\$</p>
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INLINE MICROSEGMENTATION	<p>WxLAN classifies IoT/headless devices and segments by policy.</p>	<p>Stateful firewall in AP with device/app.</p>	<p>Stateful firewall in Controller. IoT classification requires ClearPass \$\$\$.</p>	<p>Requires ISE.</p>
PERSONAL WLAN (PRIVATE USER GROUPS)	<p>Self-serve Personal WLAN for segmentation. Unique PSK.</p>	<p>Shared PSK or requires one SSID per group.</p>	<p>Requires ClearPass \$\$\$ for user/role segmentation. Shared PSK.</p>	<p>Requires ISE \$\$\$ for user/role segmentation. Shared PSK.</p>
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REAL-TIME RF VIEW	<p>Real-time RF Glasses shows actual Wi-Fi and BLE coverage from both AP and Client.</p>	<p>Wi-Fi only; predicted, not actual RF coverage; not real-time.</p>	<p>Wi-Fi only; predicted, not actual RF coverage; not real-time. Requires AirWave appliance.</p>	<p>Wi-Fi only; predicted, not actual RF coverage; not real-time. Requires Prime appliance.</p>
FAST AP BOOT	<p>AP's boot under 20 seconds.</p>	<p>~1 minute</p>	<p>Several minutes.</p>	<p>Several minutes.</p>



LOCATION ENGAGEMENT AND INSIGHT

BLE ANTENNA IN APS	<p>Patented 16-element BLE antenna array enables dynamic beam-forming.</p>	<p>Single integrated omni-directional BLE antenna. Additional 3rd party battery-powered BLE beacons required for coverage.</p>	<p>Single integrated omni-directional BLE antenna. Additional Aruba battery-powered BLE beacons required for coverage.</p>	<p>Single integrated omni-directional BLE antenna. Additional 3rd party battery-powered BLE beacons required for coverage. Only available with Cisco 4800 AP.</p>
	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>
VIRTUAL BEACONS	<p>Unlimited virtual beacons per AP.</p>	<p>No virtual beacons.</p>	<p>No virtual beacons.</p>	<p>No virtual beacons.</p>
	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>
SITE CALIBRATION (UNSUPERVISED MACHINE LEARNING)	<p>Unsupervised machine learning calibrates the site and devices without administrator input.</p>	<p>Requires 3rd party integration, not native. Does not adapt/learn radio performance for new devices.</p>	<p>Requires accurate BLE coverage planning and manual beacon placement with mobile app during installation. Does not adapt/learn radio performance for new devices.</p>	<p>Requires 3rd party BLE integration. Does not adapt/learn radio performance for new devices.</p>
	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>
LOCATION ALGORITHM	<p>Unsupervised machine learning in the cloud triangulates and adapts to varying BLE clients and changing RF.</p>	<p>Triangulation dependent on accurate map placement. Errors introduced by variance in BLE clients.</p>	<p>Triangulation dependent on accurate map placement. Errors introduced by variance in BLE clients.</p>	<p>Requires 3rd party BLE integration. Triangulation dependent on accurate map placement. Errors introduced by variance in BLE clients.</p>
	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>
LOCATION ANALYTICS	<p>BLE & Wi-Fi.</p>	<p>Wi-Fi only.</p>	<p>Wi-Fi only Requires additional appliance (ALE).</p>	<p>Wi-Fi only Requires additional appliance (CMX).</p>
	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>
ASSET TRACKING	<p>Tracking of 3rd party BLE asset tags.</p>	<p>No asset tracking.</p>	<p>Tracking of Aruba BLE asset tags. Requires Aruba 3xx model APs with integrated BLE beacon or overlay deployment of Aruba AS-100 Wireless Sensors.</p>	<p>Wi-Fi RFID tags only. Requires additional appliance (CMX Operational Visibility).</p>
	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>
BLE OVERLAY FOR EXISTING WI-FI DEPLOYMENTS	<p>vBLE APs available.</p>	<p>No BLE overlay solution.</p>	<p>Requires many wall-plug Aruba AS-100 Wireless Sensors.</p>	<p>No BLE overlay solution.</p>
	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>WATCH VIDEO</p>

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