Proactive WiFi Testing and Monitoring

(aka Continuous Validation Testing)

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Agenda



Design



Survey



Install



Verify: Validation Testing From Client Perspective



Verify: Automated Validation Testing Using Software Agents

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WiFi Survey Rig / AP on a Stick Setup Anyone?





Our Typical Design / Survey Process

Design Based On

- # of users
- # and types of devices
- Applications
- Use cases
- Floor plans
- Existing network details
- Model Network / AP Placement

Site / RF Survey

- Usually performed once before install
- · Verify floor plan
- · Verify building materials
- Verify RF characteristics
- Perform RF site survey (AP on a Stick)
- Access point mounting options
- Cable paths
- Data closet locations
- Measure spectrum







Install Plan

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Design

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Survey

o Install Plan • Take the design, tweak it with survey information and observations, in order to create the install plan.





Early on our own best practices was to design, survey, and collect RF validation and limited or no client testing.





Why Validation Is Needed: Confirm Install Will Meet Performance Requirements

Ideal

Actual

- Use all Design/Survey recommendations
 - Equipment type
 - Equipment quantity
 - Equipment location
 - Mounting types
- Access to all areas
- Perfect software models
- Unlimited budget!!!
- Clients behave the same as laptop/survey tool and USB adapter

- Adjust design and survey for install limitations
 - Can't use that room!
 - This wall wasn't in floor plan
 - Data closet issues space, power, switch ports, etc
- Customer special requests
 (dont mount that over my desk!)
- Installers didn't follow install plan
- Software modeling not 100% reliable
- Budget ☺
- Client behavior can be very different compared to survey / design tools









Validation Testing From Client Perspective









Client Perspective – Why Is It Important?

- Test with what will be used on network
 - Laptop / Mobile
 - Device model
 - OS type and version
 - Client power
 - Chipset capability

5 Minute Avg. RSSI Measurement

Test Device	Min	Max	Diff	Avg
NetScout AirCheck	56	57	1	56.5
Proxim 8494	53	63	10	58
Macbook 12" - Windows Bootcamp	58	62	4	60
Macbook 12" - OS X	59	67	8	63
iPad Pro 9.7"	60	67	7	63.5
Macbook Air 11" - OS X	64	70	6	67
Samsung Tablet	68	71	3	69.5
iPad Mini	67	73	6	70
GoogleFi Phone	69	72	3	70.5
iPhone 6+	71	78	7	74.5

Table from http://www.wlanpros.com/compensatenotcalibrate/





Validate Network & Clients

- Signal/RSSI is a must
 - Measure client hears AP
 - Measure how AP hears client
 - show controllers dot1 radio 1 | begin RSSI**
 - Next step is to collect actual network
 performance measurements
 - Latency
 - Speed up/down
 - DNS
 - Voice Quality



Cisco command line protip and image credit George Stefanick @wirelesssguru



Laptop + Utilities for Validation Testing

- Utilities / Apps for measuring validation metrics
 - · Operating system adapter info
 - Ping
 - DHCPing
 - Speed Testers
 - DNS Query Tool
 - WiFi Scanners (\$)
 - Survey Apps (\$\$\$)



Selected 2013 Retina MacBook Pro for this presentation

- Built in WiFi Cards
- Easy to find tools for testing
- Audience will be able to duplicate results at work / home



Connected Client Network Measurements

MacBook Pro airport icon drop down information or airport command

- Signal Strength
- Connected BSSID
- Connected Channel
- Noise level
- · Windows netsh command
- WiFi Scanner app (\$)
- Airport utility iOS



fast	(î;
Disconnect from fast	
IP Address: 172.16.12.165	
Router: 172.16.12.1	
Internet: Reachable	
Security: WPA2 Personal	
BSSID: 04:bd:88:7e:9a:30	
Channel: 36 (5 GHz, 80 MHz)	
Country Code: US	
RSSI: -56 dBm	
Noise: -95 dBm	
Tx Rate: 702 Mbps	
PHY Mode: 802.11ac	
MCS Index: 8	
slow	(î;
Test	(î:

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MacBook-Air:~ aa140\$./airport -I agrCtlRSSI: -55 agrExtRSSI: 0 agrCtlNoise: -95 agrExtNoise: 0 state: running op mode: station lastTxRate: 780 maxRate: 867 lastAssocStatus: 0 802.11 auth: open link auth: wpa2-psk BSSID: 4:bd:88:7e:9a:30 SSID: fast MCS: 9 channel: 36,80 MacBook-Air:~ aa140\$



LAN/WAN Reachability and Predict VoIP Quality

- Impact Voice Quality
 - Latency
 - Jitter
 - Packet Loss
- · MOS (Mean Opinion Score)
 - 1 poor, 5 excellent
 - 4.2 4.4 very good and expected for good networks
 - can be estimated from ping results because we know latency, jitter, packet loss

MacBook-Air:~ aal40\$ ping -c 5 172.16.12.1 PING 172.16.12.1 <u>(172.16.12.1): 56 data bytes</u>

64 bytes from 172.16.12.1: icmp_seq=0 ttl=64 time=2.121 ms 64 bytes from 172.16.12.1: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=2.080 ms 64 bytes from 172.16.12.1: icmp_seq=2 ttl=64 time=2.126 ms 64 bytes from 172.16.12.1: icmp_seq=3 ttl=64 time=1.694 ms 64 bytes from 172.16.12.1: icmp_seq=4 ttl=64 time=1.473 ms

--- 172.16.12.1 ping statistics ---5 packets transmitted, 5 packets received, 0.0% packet loss round-trip min/avg/max/stddev = 1.473/1.899/2.126/0.267 ms MacBook-Air:~ aa140\$

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MacBook-Air:~ aa140\$ ping -c 5 google.com PING google.com (172.217.4.238): 56 data bytes 64 bytes from 172.217.4.238: icmp_seq=0 ttl=57 time=23.333 ms 64 bytes from 172.217.4.238: icmp_seq=1 ttl=57 time=24.929 ms 64 bytes from 172.217.4.238: icmp_seq=3 ttl=57 time=24.918 ms 64 bytes from 172.217.4.238: icmp_seq=4 ttl=57 time=24.438 ms

--- google.com ping statistics ---5 packets transmitted, 5 packets received, 0.0% packet loss round-trip min/avg/max/stddev = 23.333/24.609/25.426/0.710 ms MacBook-Air:~ aa140\$





DNS Performance Measurement

- Dig command dig (domain information groper) is a network administration command-line tool for querying Domain Name System (DNS) servers.
- Basic lookup
- **dig google.com** returns IP address of hostname and query time

• • •	â	aa140 -	– -bash -	- 80×24						
;; global options: +cmd ;; Got answer: ;; ->>HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 41554 ;; flags: qr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 8, AUTHORITY: 0, ADDITIONAL: 0										
:: OUESTION SECTION:										
;google.com.		IN	A							
;; ANSWER SECTION:										
google.com.	251	IN	A	63.88.73.24						
google.com.	251	IN	A	63.88.73.20						
google.com.	251	IN	A	63.88.73.21						
google.com.	251	IN	A	63.88.73.27						
google.com.	251	IN	A	63.88.73.23						
google.com.	251	IN	A	63.88.73.26						
google.com.	251	IN	A	63.88.73.25						
google.com.	251	IN	A	63.88.73.22						
<pre>;; Query time: 21 msec ;; SERVER: 172.16.12.1#53(172.16.12.1) ;; WHEN: Sun Sep 25 21:06:14 2016 ;; MSG SIZE rcvd: 156</pre>										





DNS Hostname Recursive Lookup Process

1. Client

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- 2. Local DNS / ISP DNS Server
- 3. Root Server
- 4. Top Level Domain Server (.com, .net, etc)
- 5. domain name server (domain.com)

99% of the time end user experience is based on performance of server #2 and how well is returns future lookups after initial lookup and cache



DHCP Server Availability / Performance Measurement

- dhcping sends a DHCP request to DHCP server to see if it is up and running
- 1. Find DHCP server on your network
- 2. DHCP response time

MacBook-Air:~ aa140\$ sudo dhcping -s 255.255.255.255 -r -v Got answer from: 172.16.12.1 received from 172.16.12.1, expected from 255.255.255.255 no answer MacBook-Air:~ aa140\$

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MacBook-Air:~ aa140\$ time sudo dhcping -s 172.16.12.1 Got answer from: 172.16.12.1

real 0m0.111s user 0m0.008s sys 0m0.011s MacBook-Air:~ aa140\$



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Speed Tests

- Download
- Upload

Make sure you understand how speed test site / service operates and calculates results.

Speedtest.net



WiFi Speed Test App on Mac App Store



Speedtest.net opens multiple connections to test servers which are located at ISP close to your Internet gateway WiFi Speed Test app supports local LAN speed testing (requires configuring php script for up/down speed testing)





Scale Manual Process to Validate Entire Network







Ideal Validation Conditions



= testing location

- Unlimited number of tests
- Unlimited locations to test from (every last inch...)
- Constant data to account for the variations that occur
- Test in peak usage times
- Test with every device

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Nothing in the building ever changes





Practical Validation Conditions

Choose your validation spots wisely to maximize the benefits of the results

- Possible problem areas?
- Roaming points between APs?
- High volume areas?
- Important rooms?

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We chose 14 spot locations for the 7 APs in this small office.





Record WiFi Network Validation Measurements

- Signal Coverage
- Noise
- Channel Plan
- Local and Internet Speed Test
- · LAN / WAN Delay
- DNS Performance
- DHCP Server Availability
- Application Testing



	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н		J	K
1	Client	Location	BSSID	Channel	Signal	Noise	LAN Ping	WAN Ping	DNS	Download	Upload
2	MacBook Pro	Front Cubes	02:18:5A:5A:64:61	149	-38	-88	1.322	96.723	36	41.93	35.87
3							6.849	97.073	97	42.61	15.88
4							3.848	98.648	42	44.6	28.39
5							1.363	96.103	154	39.72	31.78
6							12.365	93.809	43	40.87	17.01
7											
8	MacBook Pro	Conference Room	02:18:5A:5A:64:61	149	-61	-91	131.988	19.685	75	42.11	25.47
9							1.288	19.736	88	39.83	19.73
10							1.368	19.697	44	43.14	12.74
1							3.961	19.965	44	38.14	24.91
12							1.406	134.873	198	42.91	27.13
13											
4	MacBook Pro	Back Cubes	02:18:5A:5A:35:F1	100	-48	-88	53.746	19.9	41	43.67	37.26
15							104.202	20.608	43	43.68	24.41
16							1.444	19.781	46	41	24.61
17							1.175	22.305	48	43.55	24.42
8							4.054	22.419	43	43.76	29.14



Set Thresholds

- Acceptable, Warning, Unacceptable
- Are you happy with Signal strength and coverage?
- Are the speeds you found reasonable/expected?
- Any outliers?
- Did they mostly fall within your "Acceptable" range?

These thresholds are set by you or your client. They act as the baseline of what you want the network to accomplish.

Signal Strength 65 dBm LAN Ping Latency(Avg) : 49 ms Jitter : 49 ms	-66 dBm to -80 dBm 50 ms to 150 ms	81	dBn ms
65 dBm LAN Ping Latency(Avg) : 49 ms Jitter : 49 ms	-66 dBm to -80 dBm 50 ms to 150 ms	81	dBn ms
LAN Ping Latency(Avg) : 49 ms Jitter : 49 ms	50 ms to 150 ms	151	ms
Latency(Avg) : 49 ms Jitter : 49 ms	50 ms to 150 ms	151	ms
49 ms	50 ms to 150 ms	151	ms
Jitter : 49 ms	50 mo to 150 mo	151	_
49 ms	50 ms to 150 ms	151	
	ou ms to 1ou ms	131	ms
Packet Loss :			_
19 %	20 % to 45 %	46	%
MOS :			
3.5	3.4 to 2.1	2.0	
WAN Ping			
google.com	0		
Latency(Avg) :		151	-



Drawing Conclusions Using Network Thresholds

- Acceptable, Warning, Unacceptable
- · What met your expectations?

We used excel formulas tweaked to our thresholds to show what was acceptable, warnings, and unacceptable.

	A	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н		J	к
1	Client	Location	BSSID	Channel	Signal	Noise	LAN Ping	WAN Ping	DNS	Download	Upload
2	MacBook Pro	Front Cubes	02:18:5A:5A:64:61	149	-38	-88	1.322	96.723	36	41.93	35.87
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17							1.175	22.305	48	43.55	24.42
18							4.054	22.419	43	43.76	29.14



Drawing Conclusions

- Are the thresholds OK for this network?
- Is WiFi network meeting expectations?
- Are there anomalies in the results?
- How efficient was the process?
- How long did this take? Is this a scalable practice?
- What if validation tests could be automated and proactive?

- Small office building:
 - 6,000 sq ft.
 - 7 APs
 - 14 "spot" locations for validation tests
 - 2 minutes running tests and recording information at each location
 - 28 minutes
- 1,000,000 sq ft = over 77.5 hours (analysis and sorting through information not included)





Scaling and Automating Validation Testing







WiFi Scanner Manager (WFSM): Proactive Testing and Monitoring

- Ready to deploy software for all major OSes: Mac, Windows, Android, iOS
- Load software on existing equipment, and turn them into WFS Agents
- WFS Agents collect network metrics in the background and feeds them to a WiFi Scanner Manager account.
- WFS Agents also run on demand tests initiated by client or from manager.







How Do You Collect RSSI On IOS Devices?

9:41 AM 7 8 100%
 WiFi Scanner Agent
 Sign Out
 Connected Registered Active
 Indext Connected Connected Active
 Registered Active

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- Manually interface with Apple's Official Airport Utility + Our iOS Agent
 - Run WiFi Scan in Airport Utility
 - Share data with our iOS agent
 - · Agent parses text file
 - · Send data to manager for remote viewing
- Not background scanning but only way today without jail breaking







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		WiFi Scanner Manager																+
Dashboard WiFi Scan	ner P	erformanc	e 🗕 C	onfigura	tion	- Acco	unt	- ~	Last	Updated:	22:45:4	3 [Downl	oad Age	ents			
🛎 Agents Q 🛛 🎅	+†↓							Agent St	atus	Charts								
🖃 📝 💋 6S0UKA	Back																	
MacBookAir-zk-main	Mac Mac	lookAir-zk-m	in 09/26/20	016 01:00 F	PM - 02:0	0 PM												
	WiFi					LAN				WAN				Speed				
DESKTOP-mini	Time 🔷	SSID	BSSID	Channel	Signal	Latency	Jitter	Packet Loss	MOS	Latency	Jitter	Packet Loss	MOS	DNS	Download	Upload	Result	
aa140-mba-spare	01:09 pm	MAA-HQ	02:18:5A:	100	-46	10.69 ms	21.18 ms	0 %	4.38	41.28 ms	4.3 ms	0 %	4.38	51 ms			FAIL	
	01:10 pm	MAA-HQ	02:18:5A:	100	-50	2.22 ms	1.43 ms	0 %	4.4	42.08 ms	5.13 ms	0 %	4.38	12 ms			PASS	
googleNexus 7	01:11 pm	MAA-HQ	02:18:5A:	100	-51	1.79 ms	0.91 ms	0 %	4.4	42.17 ms	5.9 ms	0 %	4.38	12 ms			PASS	
	01:12 pm	MAA-HQ	02:18:5A:	100	-51	1.2 ms	0.22 ms	0 %	4.4	42.73 ms	5.22 ms	0 %	4.38	15 ms			PASS	
	01:13 pm	MAA-HQ	02:18:5A:	100	-50	1.2 ms	0.18 ms	0 %	4.4	39.96 ms	1.1 ms	0 %	4.38	17 ms			PASS	
	01:14 pm	MAA-HQ	02:18:5A:	100		1.49 ms	0.69 ms	0 %	4.4	46.07 ms	9.06 ms	0 %	4.37	14 ms			PASS	
	01:15 pm	MAA-HQ	02:18:5A:	100	-51	1.16 ms	0.16 ms	0 %	4.4	43.99 ms	7.3 ms	0 %	4.37	18 ms			PASS	
	01:16 pm	MAA-HQ	02:18:5A:	100	-51	1.48 ms	0.4 ms	0 %	4.4	40.31 ms	1.57 ms	0 %	4.38	17 ms			PASS	
	01:17 pm	MAA-HQ	02:18:5A:	100	-51	1.57 ms	0.72 ms	0 %	4.4	98.06 ms	76.06 ms	0 %	3.99	102 ms			FAIL	
	01:18 pm	MAA-HQ	02:18:5A:	52	-60	1.35 ms	0.18 ms	0 %	4.4	77.89 ms	0.2 ms	0 %	4.36	13 ms			FAIL	=



Benefits for Network Operators and Consultants / Integrators



- Software Agents available with all major operating systems and all devices types (mobile, portable and even wired)
- Web based manager compatible with all major browsers.
- Minimal up front investment software-as-a-service
- Leverage investment in existing client devices
- Track impact of network equipment and configuration changes in real-time or historical information
- · Client / User level view of network performance
- Offer services to internal / external operators on performance optimization



wifiscanner.com/cloud.html

Stop by AccessAgility Expo table for a demo and #WiFiStickers

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