

CA Spectrum - Wireless Monitoring



At a Glance

People are using mobile devices on corporate networks at an explosive rate, in part because companies are embracing bring your own device (BYOD) and offering employees access to corporate resources on their phones and tablets. The result? Managing the wireless network has become a full-time task for network operators.

CA Spectrum® is the single source of truth for root cause analysis (RCA) and fault isolation for wired and wireless networks. Via a single interface, the solution empowers the IT department by monitoring, reporting and performing root cause analysis on the entire network—wired, wireless, virtual and software defined networks (SDNs).

Key Benefits/Results

Consistent monitoring: Keep tabs on wired and wireless networks, without a learning curve.

Minimize alarms: Triage faster using patented RCA functions for wireless networks.

Improve service quality: Monitor connected users and upload/download volume on an AP.

Gain better visibility and control: Manage your entire network with a holistic view of your wireless infrastructure.

Key Features

Discover and model wireless LAN controller (WLC) and AP: Gain the ability to automatically discover and model wireless controllers and their connected APs, without needing SNMP enabled on those APs.

Configure threshold alarms: Use this capability to be alerted when path changes exceed the configured tolerance.

AP switchover: Support AP switchover and migration to ensure a high-availability wireless network.

Business Challenges

In today's hyper-competitive business environments, organizations can't afford interruptions to wired or wireless networks. Network downtime to wired, wireless or virtual networks, no matter how brief, affects user productivity, and ultimately, the bottom line.

The increasing demand to support mobile devices on corporate networks is challenging network operators. Wireless monitoring requires companies to either monitor wireless devices as generic Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) devices or use hardware-specific monitoring tools and forward the alarms to a monitor application. In the past, no single interface existed to help network operators fully comprehend the environment topology and show critical information about the wireless network, such as access points (APs), Service Set Identifiers (SSIDs), devices and their names connected to the SSID, and Internet Protocol (IP). Network operators were forced to rely on multiple tools to determine if thresholds were being exceeded or when path changes were causing delays and outages.

Solution Overview

The CA Spectrum wireless solution holistically brings wireless device management within the purview. From a single pane of glass, users can now see physical and virtual routers, switches and servers, plus the connected wireless controllers and APs to these routers and switches.

Not only does Spectrum automatically discover controllers, APs, give information about connected devices, and drive RCA and alarm suppression, but it actually gives control back to the administrator.

With CA Spectrum, administrators can:

- Control the number of access points connecting to one WLC
- Control the number of active users per AP, as well as the amount of data uploaded or downloaded by each user per AP

Being able to control the number of APs, number of users on each AP and the amount of data transfer puts your network operators in a proactive position to manage your wireless network.

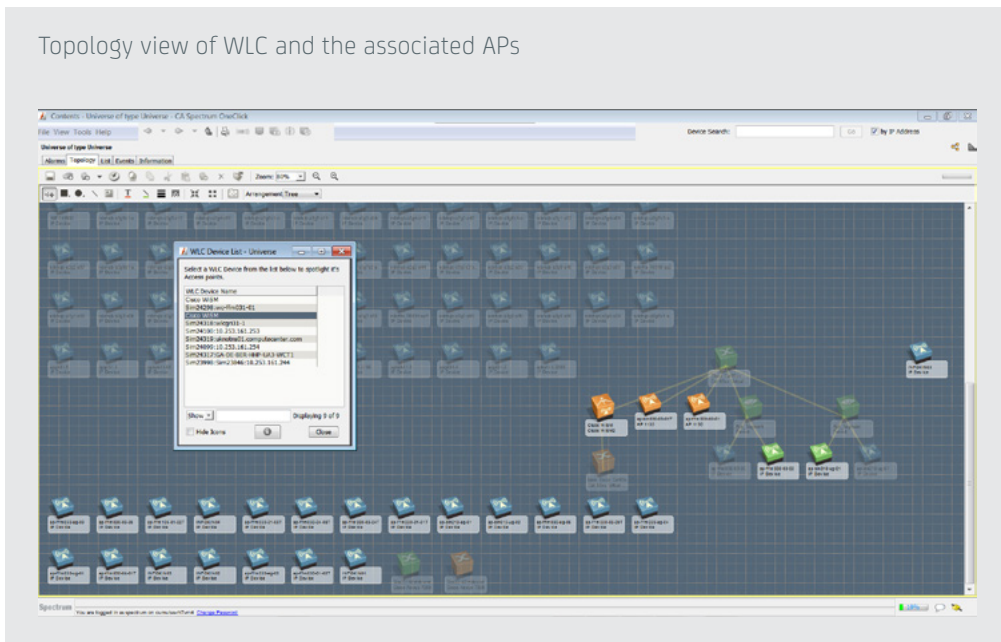
Additionally, the solution alerts you if a new AP has popped up in the environment or if an AP has moved away to a different WLC. With CA Spectrum, IT operations gains a holistic view of the entire network—with root cause and impact analysis on a large scale.

Critical Differentiators

Most wireless monitoring solutions are vendor specific and don't connect the wireless network back to the wired network. If you manage and monitor your wireless network in isolation, you run the risk of missing out on critical information to be proactive. CA Spectrum brings your wireless network logically into spectrum management, without treating it as an isolated technology.

Far too often, network teams learn about wireless problems from users and after gathering information to triage the problem, only to uncover that the AP was overloaded. Specifically designed for a proactive approach to managing your wireless network, CA Spectrum gives network operators the tools to manage and control the wireless network—which helps reduce outages and make your wireless network as stable as your wired network.

Topology view of WLC and the associated APs



For more information, please visit ca.com/Spectrum

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