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Wi-Fi Upgrade Guide

MAKE AN INTELLIGENT WI-FI INVESTMENT

Top 6 considerations for upgrading your Wi-Fi solution

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The growing need for users to be productive on their mobile devices is driving organizations everywhere to look for ways to cost-effectively build and support Wi-Fi networks that deliver the best connectivity and user experience.

Aruba, a Hewlett-Packard Enterprise company, surveyed over 4,000 individuals to better understand the current pain points and unique requirements of Wi-Fi buyers. Respondents represented solution providers working with small and medium business (SMB) customers across the USA, Canada, and Latin America.

Based on this research, we've outlined the top six factors that should be taken into consideration when choosing the right Wi-Fi solution for your small or medium business:

PERFORMANCE
Meet user expectations

PRICE
Make a smart investment

GUEST WI-FI
Automate secure guest access

FLEXIBILITY
Manage it your way

VISIBILITY
Get your apps under control

SIMPLICITY
Deploy without an expert

PERFORMANCE   Meet user expectations

7 in 10
businesses get user complaints **about poor Wi-Fi**

There are two primary reasons why businesses get user complaints about poor Wi-Fi:

- Too many devices connecting to old networks
- Networks unable to support increasing application traffic

RECOMMENDATION Consider upgrading your 802.11a/g/b/n network to the latest Wi-Fi standard – 802.11ac. The need for gigabit speed, improved capacity, and reliability is amplified as mobile users, devices, and application usage continue to grow rapidly.

PRICE   Make a smart investment

50%
of Wi-Fi buyers **are very cost-conscious**

When choosing a cost-effective solution that fits your budget, keep in mind that it's not just about the initial cost of access points. Additional hardware, licenses, and subscriptions can drive up the total cost of ownership, increasing your capital and operational expenses.

RECOMMENDATION Look for a complete Wi-Fi solution with lifetime hardware warranties and zero to low recurring costs for software licenses or subscriptions.

GUEST WI-FI   Automate secure guest access

85%
of businesses are currently **giving network access** to their guests

Providing customers, contractors, and other visitors with guest access to the Wi-Fi network has become mandatory for almost all businesses. The majority of these businesses are offering network access via pre-shared key (PSK), which can have security implications and puts the network at risk.

RECOMMENDATION Consider a solution that offers secure guest access features like a customizable captive web portal, self-registration for guests, and back end reporting.

FLEXIBILITY Manage it your way

Over half
of businesses prefer
cloud-managed Wi-Fi

Choosing how you want to manage your network can be tricky. Some vendors might try to lock you into a mandatory management option, but a one-size-fits-all approach can't possibly meet your needs as your business evolves.

RECOMMENDATION Consider a solution that offers the flexibility of cloud vs. on-site management but also the ability to scale with advanced networking options as your business grows.

VISIBILITY Get your apps under control

95%
of businesses demand
application visibility and control

Getting visibility and control of the applications running on your network is necessary to secure and optimize network performance and also provide a seamless user experience.

RECOMMENDATION Consider a solution that offers granular application layer visibility, enabling you to prioritize, block, or limit bandwidth for specific apps.

SIMPLICITY Deploy without an expert

6 in 10
SMB customers **do NOT have** on-staff networking expertise

Complex Wi-Fi solutions can be a drain on IT resources. Many SMB IT teams don't have Wi-Fi experts on staff to deploy, manage, and monitor their networks.

RECOMMENDATION Consider a Wi-Fi solution that offers quick, out-of-the-box deployment and automates advanced features like RF management, intrusion detection and prevention, and guest management.

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MAKE AN INTELLIGENT WI-FI INVESTMENT WITH ARUBA INSTANT

ARUBA INSTANT IS A PURPOSE-BUILT WI-FI SOLUTION THAT MEETS THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF SMALL TO MEDIUM BUSINESSES. It delivers superior Wi-Fi performance, enterprise-grade security, and the simplicity of zero-touch deployment — all at an affordable price.

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