Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller

Overview

Q. What is the Cisco® 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controllers?

A. The Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controllers are part of the Cisco Wireless Controller family of products. The Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controllers support up to 6, 12, or 25 lightweight access points. Similar to other wireless LAN controllers, the Cisco 2100 Series work in conjunction with Cisco Aironet® Lightweight Access Points and the Cisco Wireless Control System (WCS) to provide systemwide, wireless LAN functions. The 2100 Series enables network administrators to securely manage WLANs and mobility services, such as enhanced security, voice, guest access, and location services.

Q. Who is the ideal customer for Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controllers?

A. These controllers provide basic, secure coverage at a more affordable price, making it a cost-effective solution for enterprise branch and retail deployments. It may also be used for single-controller deployments for small and medium-sized business (SMB) environments.

Q. How are the Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN controllers used in the retail Industry?

A. The new controllers are part of a Payment Card Industry (PCI) certified architecture, and are well suited for retail customers wishing to deploy transactional data applications such as scanners, kiosks, and voice. With the extended support of 12 and 25 access points, the Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controllers provide a cost effective solution for retailers to extend wireless coverage for larger stores and warehouses.

Q. How does the Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller differ from the Cisco 2006 Wireless LAN Controller?

A. The Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller is a replacement for the Cisco 2006 Wireless LAN Controller. The Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller features an expanded number of Ethernet ports (eight), two of which are Power over Ethernet (PoE) capable for use with Cisco Aironet Lightweight Access Points.

Features and Benefits

Q. What features are supported by the Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller?

A. The Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller provides the control and reliability that IT managers need to build secure, enterprise-scale indoor and outdoor 802.11 wireless networks. Features include:

- Support for 6, 12, or 25 Cisco Aironet access points
- Eight Ethernet ports, two of which can provide power directly to Cisco Aironet Lightweight Access Points
- Intelligent, adaptive, real-time RF management for self-configuration, self-healing, and self-optimization
- Enterprise reliability for mission-critical wireless networks and for automated recovery from failures

- Enterprise-class security with support for Wi-Fi security standards and flexible security policies that are adaptable to changing corporate security needs
- Intrusion detection, location, and containment to preserve the integrity of wireless networks and sensitive corporate information

Q. Is it possible to increase the support of access points with a software upgrade?

A. No, the Cisco 2112 and 2125 require new hardware to support 12 and 25 access points.

Q. What are the exact differences between the Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller and the Cisco 4400 Series Wireless LAN Controllers?

A. The Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN controllers are designed to provide basic, secure coverage, while Cisco 4400 Series controllers provide flagship performance and scale that is needed for campus and medium and large branch offices. While the Cisco 2100 Series supports transaction-oriented wireless environments, the 4400 Series is recommended for high-data-rate and multicast-intensive applications such as large data files, video, push-to-talk.

Q. What are the benefits of the Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controllers?

A. Important benefits of these new wireless LAN controllers include:

- Extended, secure coverage for larger stores and warehouses
- Integration with the Cisco PCI security-compliant reference design
- Component of the Cisco Unified Wireless Network
- 802.11n support for reliability and predictability

Product Specifications

Q. What access points are supported by the Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller?

A. The Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller supports Cisco Aironet access points running Lightweight Access Point Protocol (LWAPP) only. This includes any LWAPP-enabled Cisco Aironet 1130, 1230, 1240, 1250, and 1500 Series access points.

Q. What operating system is used by the Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller?

A. The Cisco 2100 Series uses the Linux operating system.

Q. What is the size of the Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller?

A. With its compact size (1.75 x 7.89 x 6.87 in. [4.45 x 20.04 x 17.45 cm]), the controller is designed for table top use, although an optional mounting kit allows it to be used in a server rack for flexiblity in deployment scenarios.

Q. What are the SKUs for the Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller?

A. The SKUs for the 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller are:

AIR-WLC2106-K9	Cisco 2106 Series Wireless LAN Controller for up to six Cisco Aironet access points
AIR-WLC2112-K9	Cisco 2112 Series Wireless LAN Controller for up to 12 Cisco Aironet access points
AIR-WLC2125-K9	Cisco 2125 Series Wireless LAN Controller for up to 25 Cisco Aironet access points

Q. What are the physical interfaces of the Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller?

A. The Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller provides eight Ethernet ports, two of which can provide power directly to Cisco Aironet Lightweight Access Points. All eight ports can be used in any combination of downlink to access points or uplinks to the LAN. Note that access points are not required to physically plug into the controller. The Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller has a serial port for direct console attachment and ships with an external power supply. The Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller has an expansion slot and two USB ports reserved for future use.

Q. Which software releases are supported by the Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller?

A. Cisco Unified Wireless Network Software Release 5.1 is the first software release to support the Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller. Future Cisco Unified Wireless Network Software releases will support this product. Cisco Unified Wireless Network Software Release 5.1 is designed for compatibility with the Cisco Wireless LAN Management Software (Cisco WCS) Release 5.1, Cisco 2700 Series Wireless Location Appliance Software Release 2.1.40.0, and Cisco Autonomous to Lightweight Mode Upgrade Tool 2.01.

Q. Will my existing Cisco WCS and Cisco 2700 Series Wireless Location Appliance support the Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller?

A. The software for both the Cisco WCS and the Cisco 2700 Series Wireless Location Appliance will need to be upgraded to support the Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller:

- Cisco Wireless LAN Management Software (Cisco WCS) Release 5.1 or later
- Cisco 2700 Series Wireless Location Appliance Software Release 2.1.40.0 or later

Q. Will my existing maintenance support the Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller?

A. Yes, the existing maintenance package applies to the entire Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller family.

Resources

Q. Where can I go to learn more about the Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller and the Cisco Unified Wireless Network?

A. For more information, visit the following websites:

- For more information about the Cisco 2100 Series Wireless LAN Controller, visit: http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps7206/index.html
- For more information about the Cisco Unified Wireless Network, visit: http://www.cisco.com/go/unifiedwireless.

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