

INTEROPERABILITY REPORT

Ascom i63

Cisco WLC

WLC controller platform

Cisco WLC v. 8.10.162

Ascom i63 v. 3.0.0

Morrisville, NC, USA

Feb 2022

ascom

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Introduction

This document describes a summary of the interoperability verification results of the Ascom's and Cisco's platform, necessary steps and guidelines to optimally configure the platforms and support contact details. The report should be used in conjunction with both Cisco's and Ascom's platform configuration guides.

About Ascom

Ascom is a global solutions provider focused on healthcare ICT and mobile workflow solutions. The vision of Ascom is to close digital information gaps allowing for the best possible decisions – anytime and anywhere. Ascom's mission is to provide mission-critical, real-time solutions for highly mobile, ad hoc, and time-sensitive environments. Ascom uses its unique product and solutions portfolio and software architecture capabilities to devise integration and mobilization solutions that provide truly smooth, complete and efficient workflows for healthcare as well as for industry, security and retail sectors.

Ascom is headquartered in Baar (Switzerland), has operating businesses in 18 countries and employs around 1,300 people worldwide. Ascom registered shares (ASCN) are listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange in Zurich.

About Cisco

Cisco (NASDAQ: CSCO) is the worldwide technology leader that has been making the Internet work since 1984. Our people, products and partners help society securely connect and seize tomorrow's digital opportunity today. Discover more at thenetwork.cisco.com and follow us on Twitter at @Cisco.

Site Information

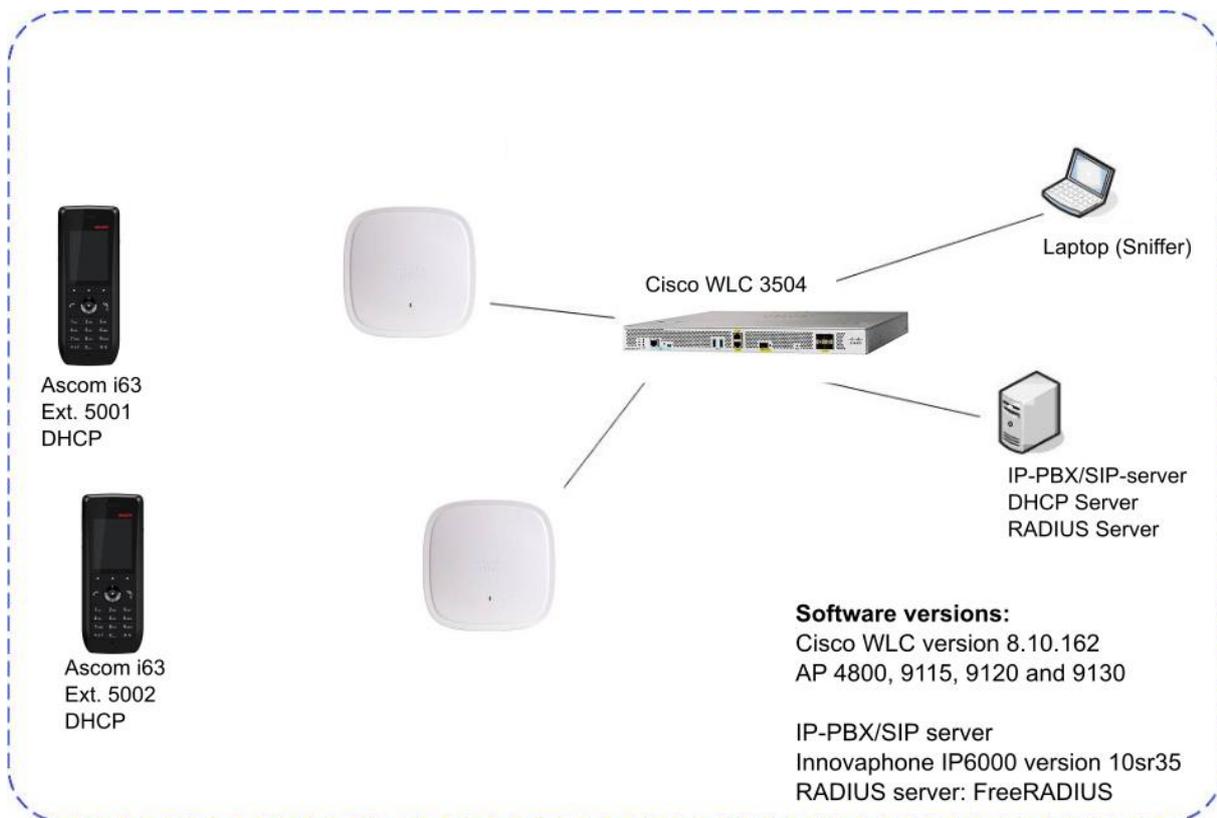
Verification site

Ascom US
300 Perimeter park drive
Morrisville, NC, US-27560
USA

Participants

Karl-Magnus Olsson, Ascom, Morrisville

Verification topology



Summary

General conclusions

The Ascom interoperability verification produced very good results with regards to authentication, stability and roaming.

This test is considered a regression test and some test cases that has previously been tested on the 8.10.x track has been left out. Test cases left out includes for example battery measurements and capacity tests.

OKC is no longer being tested and it is mandatory to use 11r/FT together with EAP based authentication. Also for PSK it its strongly recommended to use 11r/FT

Compatibility information

One Access point model from every product generation has been selected as a representation (4800, 9115, 9120 and 9130). By testing these access points we are considered cover all supported major Cisco access points based on chipset compatibility listed below

Supported Partner Access Points with SW version 8.10.162:

AP1832, 1852

AP2802, 3802, 4800

AP 9105, 9115, 9117, 9120, 9130

Supported Partner Controller Platforms with SW version 8.10.162:

Cisco 3504 Wireless Controller

Cisco 5520 Wireless Controller

Cisco 8540 Wireless Controller

Cisco Virtual Wireless Controller (vWLC)

Cisco Wireless Controllers for High Availability for Cisco 3504 WLC, Cisco 5520 WLC, and Cisco 8540 WLC.

Cisco Mobility Express Solution

Verification overview

WLAN Compatibility and Performance

High Level Functionality	Result	Comments
Association, Open with No Encryption	OK	
Association, WPA2-PSK / AES Encryption	OK	
Association, PEAP-MSCHAPv2 Auth, AES Encryption	OK	
Association with EAP-TLS authentication	OK	
Association with WPA3 SAE (Personal) authentication	N/A	Not tested due to know issues
Association with WPA3 Enterprise authentication	N/A	Not tested due to know issues
Association, Multiple ESSIDs	OK	
Beacon Interval and DTIM Period	OK	
PMKSA Caching	N/T	Not tested
WPA2-opportunistic/proactive Key Caching	N/T	Not tested
WMM Prioritization	OK	
802.11 Power-save mode	OK	
802.11e U-APSD	OK	
Roaming, WPA2-PSK, AES Encryption	OK *	Typical roaming time 40ms
Roaming, WPA2-PSK, AES Encryption, 802.11r/FT	OK	Typical roaming time 30ms
Roaming, PEAP-MSCHAPv2 Auth, AES Encryption	N/T *	802.11r required
Roaming, PEAP-MSCHAPv2 Auth, AES Encryption, 802.11r/FT	OK	Typical roaming time 30-40ms
Channel usage controlled by 802.11k	OK	

Average roaming times are measured using 802.11a/n/ac. Refer to Appendix B for detailed test results

*) 802.11r / FT is generally recommended to enhance roaming performance.

Known limitations

Description and Consequence	Workaround	Ticket(s) raised
WPA3-Personal and WPA3-Enterprise. Problem with roaming resulting on poor connectivity and audio gaps.	WPA3 is not supported. Use other authentication method such as WPA2.	WH2-3388
It's now mandatory to use 802.11r/FT with EAP authentication. OKC is no longer tested.		

For additional information regarding the known limitations please contact interop@ascom.com or support@ascom.com.

For detailed verification results, refer to Appendix B: Interoperability Validation Records.

Appendix A: Validation Configurations

Cisco WLC platform Version 8.10.162

In the following chapter you will find screenshots and explanations of basic settings in order to get a Cisco WLC WLAN system to operate with an Ascom i63. Please note that security settings were modified according to requirements in individual test cases.

Security settings (PSK)

Layer 2 Security ⁶ WPA2+WPA3

Security Type Personal

MAC Filtering ⁹

AutoConfig iPSK Enable

WPA2+WPA3 Parameters

Policy WPA2 WPA3

Encryption Cipher CCMP128(AES)

Fast Transition

Fast Transition Enable

Over the DS

Reassociation Timeout 20 Seconds

Protected Management Frame

PMF Disabled

Authentication Key Management ¹⁹

PSK Format ²¹ ASCII

PSK Enable

PSK-SHA2 Enable

FT PSK Enable

WPA GTK-randomize State ¹⁴ Disable

Example of how to configure the system for PSK (WPA2-AES)

Security profile WPA2-PSK, AES encryption

- Select WPA2 Policy with AES encryption.
- Select PSK and enter a key (Here in ASCII format)
- It is strongly recommended to use Fast Transition (802.11r) for enhanced roaming performance
- Select both PSK and FT PSK for compatibility with i62 and Myco 1 & 2 on the same SSID.

Compatibility Note. 802.11r is not supported by Ascom i62 and Myco 1 & 2 but the devices have no problem operating on a SSIDs were 802.11r (FT) is advertised in conjunction with a legacy method.

General Security QoS Policy-Mapping Advanced

Layer 2 Layer 3 AAA Servers

Layer 2 Security ⁸ WPA2+WPA3

Security Type Enterprise

MAC Filtering ²

WPA2+WPA3 Parameters

Policy WPA2 WPA3

Encryption Cipher CCMP128(AES) CCMP256 GCMP128 GCMP256

Fast Transition

Fast Transition Enable

Over the DS

Reassociation Timeout 20 Seconds

Protected Management Frame

PMF Disabled

Authentication Key Management ¹⁹

802.1X-SHA1 Enable

802.1X-SHA2 Enable

FT 802.1X Enable

CCKM Enable

WPA GTK-randomize State ¹⁴ Disable

802.1X authentication (PEAP-MSCHAPv2).

Example of how to configure the system for .1X authentication

Configuration of authentication using external Radius server, 802.1X (Step 1). In this example is WPA2-AES used. Select 802.1X as Authentication Key Management.

- It is mandatory use Fast Transition (802.11r). OKC is no longer tested
- Select WPA2 Policy with AES encryption.
- Select both 802.1X and FT 802.1X for compatibility with i62 and Myco 1 and 2 on the same SSID.

In cases were i62 and Myco 1 & 2 using CCKM, select both CCKM and FT 802.1X for compatibility.

Compatibility Note.. 802.11r is not supported by Ascom i62 and Myco 1 & 2 but the devices have no problem operating on a SSIDs were 802.11r (FT) is advertised in conjunction with a legacy method.

WLANs > Edit 'Ciscointop1x'

General **Security** **QoS** **Policy-Mapping** **Advanced**

Layer 2 **Layer 3** **AAA Servers**

Select AAA servers below to override use of default servers on this WLAN

RADIUS Servers

RADIUS Server Overwrite interface Enabled
Apply Cisco ISE Default Settings Enabled

	Authentication Servers	Accounting Servers	EAP Parameters
Server 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabled IP:172.20.94.2, Port:1812	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabled None	Enable <input type="checkbox"/>
Server 2	None	None	
Server 3	None	None	
Server 4	None	None	
Server 5	None	None	
Server 6	None	None	

Authorization ACA Server Enabled **Accounting ACA Server** Enabled

Example of authentication configuration using external Radius server (Step 2). Select the server to use. The server is configured under tab Security/Radius. See configuration of server below.

The screenshot displays the Cisco WLC configuration interface for RADIUS Authentication Servers. The left sidebar shows the navigation menu under 'Security' > 'AAA' > 'RADIUS'. The main content area is titled 'RADIUS Authentication Servers > Edit' and shows the configuration for server index 1. The configuration includes the following fields:

Server Index	1
Server Address(Ipv4/Ipv6)	192.168.0.2
Shared Secret Format	ASCII
Shared Secret	•••
Confirm Shared Secret	•••
Key Wrap	<input type="checkbox"/> (Designed for FIPS customers and requires a key wrap compliant RADIUS server)
Port Number	1812
Server Status	Enabled
Support for CoA	Enabled
Server Timeout	2 seconds
Network User	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enable
Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enable
Management Retransmit Timeout	2 seconds
Tunnel Proxy	<input type="checkbox"/> Enable
IPSec	<input type="checkbox"/> Enable

Configuration of authentication using external Radius server (Step 3). The IP address and the secret must correspond to the IP and the credential used by the Radius server. Tests were performed using FreeRadius as RADIUS server.

Note. Depending on authentication method used it might be necessary to add a certificate into the i63. PEAP-MSCHAPv2 requires a CA certificate and EAP-TLS requires both a CA certificate and a client certificate.

Note. Refer to the i63 section in for matching handset configurations.

General settings (QoS, Radio)

The screenshot shows the Cisco WLC configuration interface for editing the 'CiscolntopPSK' WLAN. The 'QoS' tab is selected. The 'Quality of Service (QoS)' dropdown menu is highlighted with a red box and set to 'Platinum (voice)'. Other settings include Application Visibility (disabled), AVC Profile (none), Flex AVC Profile (none), Netflow Monitor (none), and Fastlane (Disable). Below this is the 'Override Per-User Bandwidth Contracts (kbps)' section with input fields for Average Data Rate, Burst Data Rate, Average Real-Time Rate, and Burst Real-Time Rate, all set to 0. A 'Clear' button is also present.

Set QoS to "Platinum (Voice)"

The screenshot shows the Cisco WLC configuration interface for editing the 'CiscolntopPSK' WLAN. The 'Policy-Mapping' tab is selected. The 'WMM Policy' dropdown menu is highlighted with a red box and set to 'Required'. Below this are checkboxes for '7920 AP CAC' and '7920 Client CAC', both of which are disabled. The 'Lync Policy' section has dropdown menus for Audio, Video, Application-Sharing, and File-Transfer, all set to 'Silver'.

Make sure that WMM policy is set to "Required" or "Allowed"

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced' configuration page for a Cisco Wireless LAN Controller. The 'Policy-Mapping' tab is selected. Several settings are highlighted with red boxes:

- Coverage Hole Detection:** Enabled (checkbox checked).
- DTIM Period (in beacon intervals):** 802.11a/n (1 - 255) is set to 2, and 802.11b/g/n (1 - 255) is set to 2.
- Load Balancing and Band Select:** Both 'Client Load Balancing' and 'Client Band Select' are disabled (checkboxes unchecked).

Other visible settings include: Allow AAA Override (Disabled), Enable Session Timeout (Disabled), Aironet IE (Disabled), Diagnostic Channel (Enabled), Override Interface ACL (IPv4: None, IPv6: None), Layer2 Acl (None), URL ACL (None), P2P Blocking Action (Disabled), Client Exclusion (Disabled), Maximum Allowed Clients (0), Static IP Tunneling (Enabled), Wi-Fi Direct Clients Policy (Disabled), Maximum Allowed Clients Per AP Radio (200), Clear HotSpot Configuration (Enabled), DHCP (DHCP Server: Override, DHCP Addr. Assignment: Required), MFP Client Protection (Optional), and NAC State (None).

- Make sure "Session timeout" is disabled or set to a very large value.
- Coverage Hole Detection can be left enabled if RRM is used in the system.
- Aironet IE is not needed for i63
- Ascom recommends a DTIM period of at least 2 but no higher than 5.
- Make sure Client Load Balancing and Client Band select is disabled.

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced' configuration page for a Cisco Wireless LAN Controller, specifically the 'NAC' section. The 'Policy-Mapping' tab is selected. Two sections are highlighted with red boxes:

- 11k:** Neighbor List is Enabled (checkbox checked), Neighbor List Dual Band is Disabled (checkbox unchecked), and Assisted Roaming Prediction Optimization is Disabled (checkbox unchecked).
- 11v BSS Transition Support:** BSS Transition is Enabled (checkbox checked), Disassociation Imminent is Disabled (checkbox unchecked), Disassociation Timer(0 to 3000 TBTT) is set to 200, Optimized Roaming Disassociation Timer(0 to 40 TBTT) is set to 40, BSS Max Idle Service is Enabled (checkbox checked), and Directed Multicast Service is Enabled (checkbox checked).

Other visible settings include: Maximum Allowed Clients Per AP Radio (200), Override DNS (Disabled), NAT-PAT (Disabled), Central Assoc (Disabled), Lync Server (Disabled), 802.11ax BSS Configuration (Down Link MU-MIMO, Up Link MU-MIMO, Down Link OFDMA, Up Link OFDMA all Enabled), PMIP Realm, Universal AP Admin Support (Universal AP Admin Disabled), Tunneling (Tunnel Profile: None, EOGRE Vlan Override Disabled), mDNS (mDNS Snooping Disabled), and TrustSec.

- Make sure 11k – Neighbour list is enabled (Default setting).
- 11v BSS Transition Support is not supported by Ascom i63 but can be left enabled per default configuration.

Note for mixed device installation. Ascom i62 and Myco 1 & 2 do not support 11k but have no problem operating on an SSID were these settings are enabled. (Assuming i62 version 6.0.0 and later)

AP Name	Radio Slot#	Base Radio MAC	Sub Band	Admin Status	Operational Status	Channel	CleanAir/SI Admin Status	CleanAir/SI Oper Status	Mesh Radio Role	Radio Role	Power Level	Antenna
AP00A6.CA36.210E	1	00:6b:f1:55:18:20	-	Enable	UP	(36,40)	Enable	UP	NA	Client Serving (Local)	4	Internal
AP7069.5A74.7EC8	1	50:12fa:81:76:09:40	-	Enable	UP	(36,40)	NA	NA	NA	Client Serving (Local)	3	External

Channel configuration. See next picture for additional information.

Ascom recommended settings for 802.11b/g/n are to only use channel 1, 6 and 11. For 802.11a/n/ac use channels according to the infrastructure manufacturer, country regulations and per guidelines below.

Note that Tx power level and channel was manually set for test purpose. A typical setup will rely on the Global setting for channel and power configuration.

General guidelines when deploying Ascom i63 handsets in 802.11a/n/ac environments:

1. For environments not utilizing 802.11k Neighbor Report - Enabling more than 8 channels will degrade roaming performance. (In situations where UNII1 and UNII3 are used, a maximum of 9 enabled channels can be allowed) Ascom does not recommend exceeding this limit unless 802.11k is in use.
2. Ascom do support and can coexist in 80MHz channel bonding environments. The recommendations is however to avoid 80 MHz channel bonding as it severely reduces the number of available non overlapping channels.
3. Make sure that all non-DFS channel are taken before resorting to DFS channels. The handset can cope in mixed non-DFS and DFS environments; however, due to “unpredictability” introduced by radar detection protocols, voice quality may become distorted and roaming delayed. Hence Ascom recommends if possible avoiding the use of DFS channels in VoWiFi deployments.

802.11a Global Parameters

General

802.11a Network Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabled
Beacon Period (milliseconds)	<input type="text" value="100"/>
Fragmentation Threshold (bytes)	<input type="text" value="2346"/>
DTPC Support	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabled
Maximum Allowed Clients	<input type="text" value="200"/>
RSSI Low Check	<input type="checkbox"/> Enabled
RSSI Threshold (-60 to -90 dBm)	<input type="text" value="-80"/>

802.11a Band Status

Low Band	Enabled
Mid Band	Enabled
High Band	Enabled

Data Rates**

6 Mbps	Disabled
9 Mbps	Disabled
12 Mbps	Mandatory
18 Mbps	Supported
24 Mbps	Supported
36 Mbps	Supported
48 Mbps	Supported
54 Mbps	Supported

CCX Location Measurement

Mode Enabled

TWT Configuration ***

Target Waketime Enabled

Broadcast TWT Support Enabled

The default data rate set will work just fine, however Ascom recommends disabling the lowest data rates and have 12Mbps as lowest data rate.

802.11h Global Parameters

Power Constraint

Local Power Constraint(0-30) dB

Channel Switch Announcement

Channel Announcement

Channel Quiet Mode

Radar Blacklist

Smart DFS

As Ascom i63 do support Channel Switch Announcement it's recommended to have this setting enabled in the system (only applicable when DFS channels are used)

MCS (Data Rate) Settings

0 (7 Mbps)	<input type="checkbox"/> Supported
1 (14 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
2 (21 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
3 (29 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
4 (43 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
5 (58 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
6 (65 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
7 (72 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
8 (84 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
9 (99 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
10 (130 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
11 (144 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
12 (173 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
13 (195 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
14 (217 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
15 (242 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
16 (270 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
17 (300 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
18 (333 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
19 (369 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
20 (408 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
21 (450 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
22 (495 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
23 (543 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
24 (594 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported
25 (648 Mbps)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supported

Ascom does support both usage of “11n Mode” and “11ac Mode” including 40 MHz and 80MHz channels. Its possible to also disable the lowest MCS data rates for optimal performance.

Follow the recommendations “General guidelines when deploying Ascom i63 handsets in 802.11a/n/ac environments“

Data Rates**

1 Mbps	Disabled
2 Mbps	Disabled
5.5 Mbps	Disabled
6 Mbps	Disabled
9 Mbps	Disabled
11 Mbps	Disabled
12 Mbps	Mandatory
18 Mbps	Supported
24 Mbps	Supported
36 Mbps	Supported
48 Mbps	Supported
54 Mbps	Supported

The default data rate set will work fine, however for optimization Ascom recommends disabling the lowest data rates and have 12Mbps as lowest mandatory rate.

The screenshot shows the Cisco Wireless configuration interface. The top navigation bar includes MONITOR, WLANs, CONTROLLER, WIRELESS, SECURITY, MANAGEMENT, COMMANDS, HELP, and FEEDBACK. The left sidebar lists various configuration options under 'Wireless', including Access Points, Advanced, Mesh, RF Profiles, FlexConnect Groups, 802.11a/n/ac, and 802.11b/g/n. The main content area is titled 'General' and contains the following settings:

- EDCA Profile: Voice Optimized (dropdown menu)
- Enable Low Latency MAC: (checkbox)

Below these settings, there is a note: "Turn this ON only if DSCP marking is correct for media (RTP) and signaling packets. Low latency Mac feature is not supported for 1140/1250/3500 platforms if more than 3 data rates are enabled."

Ascom recommends “EDCA Profile”: Voice Optimized

Make sure Low Latency MAC is disabled. (Both 802.11a/n/ac and 802.11b/g/n)

Note. Using EDCA Profile “WMM” is acceptable but “Voice Optimized” is to prefer when voice clients are present in the system.

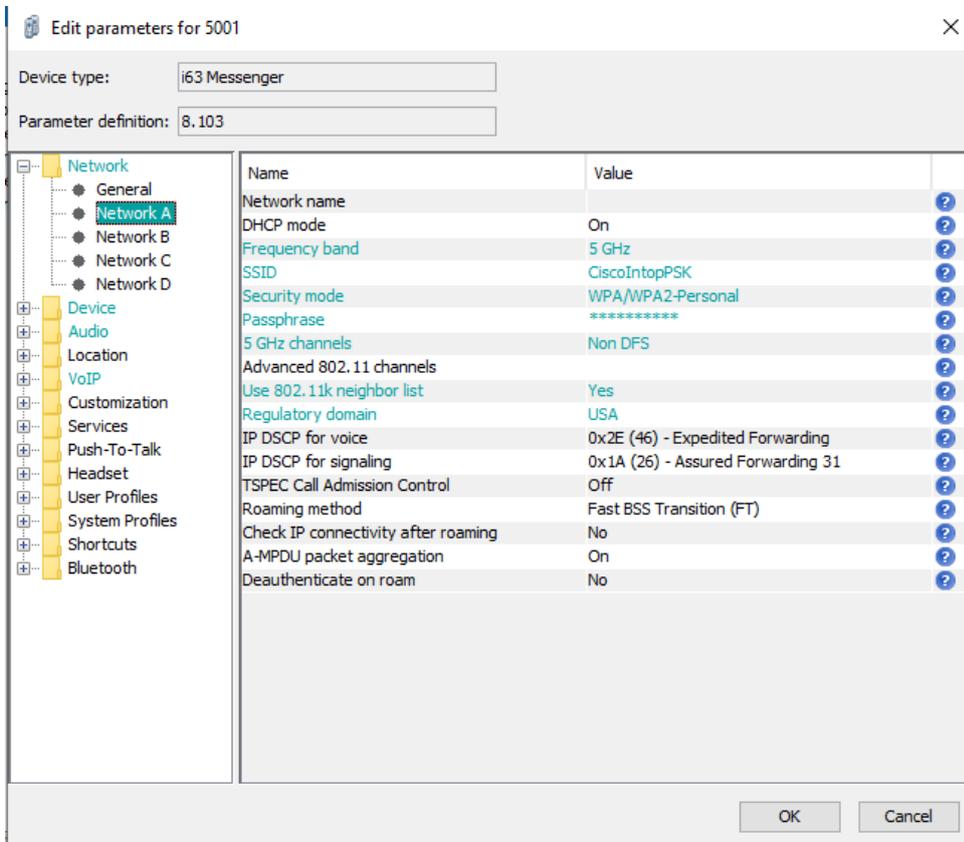
The screenshot shows the Cisco Wireless configuration interface for editing a QoS profile. The top navigation bar is the same as in the previous screenshot. The left sidebar lists various configuration options under 'Wireless', including Access Points, Advanced, Mesh, ATF, RF Profiles, FlexConnect Groups, OEAP ACLs, Network Lists, 802.11a/n/ac, 802.11b/g/n, Media Stream, Application Visibility And Control, Lync Server, Country, Timers, Netflow, and QoS. The main content area is titled 'Edit QoS Profile' and contains the following settings:

- QoS Profile Name: platinum
- Description: For Voice Applications
- Per-User Bandwidth Contracts (kbps) *

	DownStream	UpStream
Average Data Rate	0	0
Burst Data Rate	0	0
Average Real-Time Rate	0	0
Burst Real-Time Rate	0	0
- Per-SSID Bandwidth Contracts (kbps) *

	DownStream	UpStream
Average Data Rate	0	0
Burst Data Rate	0	0
Average Real-Time Rate	0	0
Burst Real-Time Rate	0	0
- WLAN QoS Parameters
 - Maximum Priority: voice (dropdown menu)
 - Unicast Default Priority: voice (dropdown menu)
 - Multicast Default Priority: voice (dropdown menu)
- Wired QoS Protocol
 - Protocol Type: None (dropdown menu)

Depending on the infrastructure (switches) "Protocol Type" may have to be disabled.

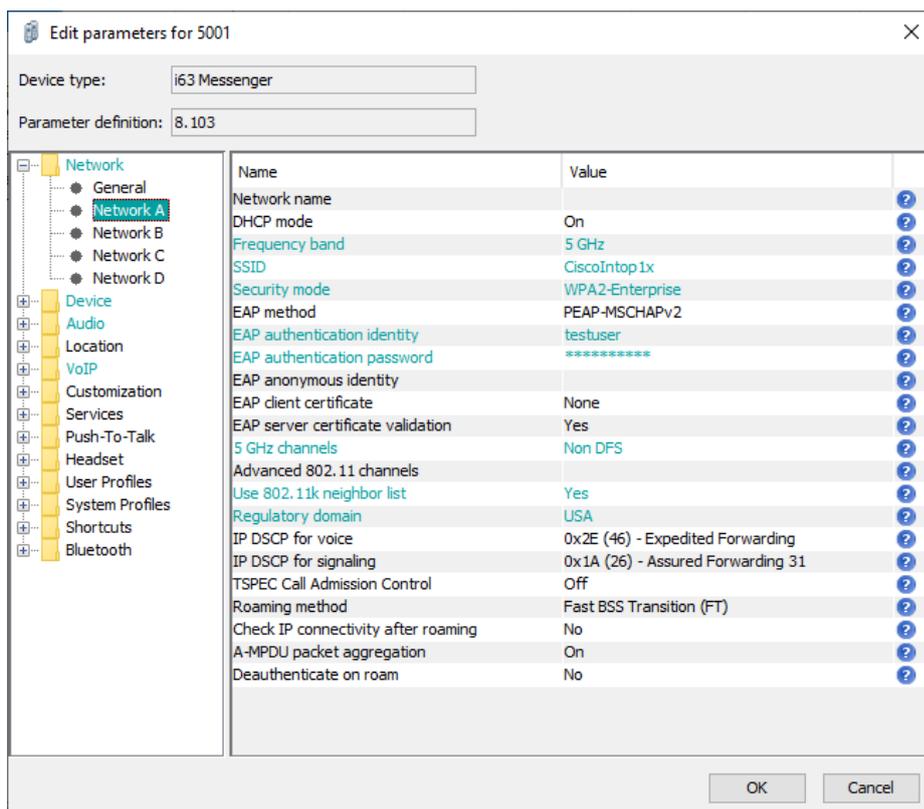


Network settings for WPA2-PSK

Make sure that the enabled channels in the i63 handset match the channel plan used in the system.

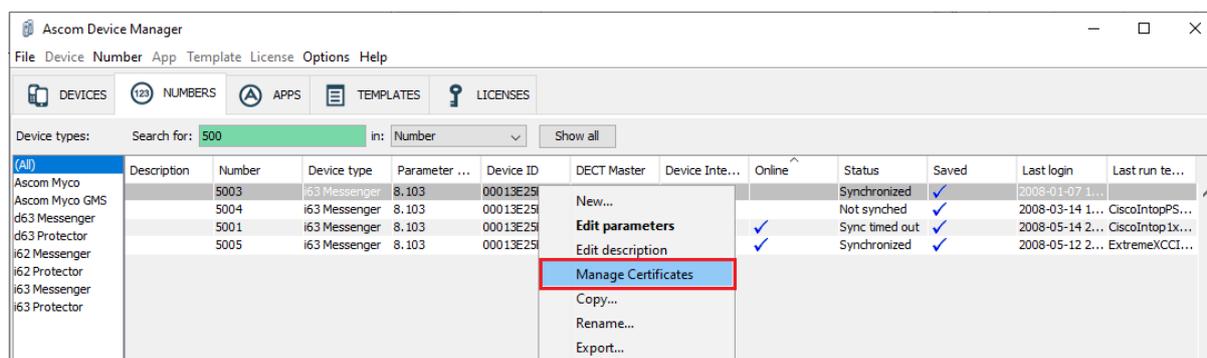
802.11k neighbor list will improve roaming performance especially when the number of channels in the system exceed the 9 non-DFS channels .

Note. FCC is no longer allowing 802.11d to determine regulatory domain. Devices deployed in USA must set Regulatory domain to “USA”.



Network settings for .1X authentication (PEAP-MSCHAPv2)

802.11k neighbor list will improve roaming performance especially when the number of channels in the system exceed the non 9 non-DFS channels .



802.1X Authentication requires a CA certificate to be uploaded to the phone by “right clicking” -> Edit certificates. EAP-TLS will require both a CA and a client certificate.

Note that both a CA and a client certificate are needed for TLS. Otherwise only a CA certificate is needed. Server certificate validation can be overridden in version 4.1.12 and above per handset setting.

Appendix B: Interoperability Validation Records

Pass	17
Fail	0
Comments	2
Not verified	9
Total	28

Refer to the attached file for detailed verification results.

Refer to the verification specification for explicit information regarding each verification case.

The specification can be found here (requires login):

<https://www.ascom-ws.com/AscomPartnerWeb/en/startpage/Sales-tools/Interoperability/Templates/>

Document History

Rev	Date	Author	Description
P1	4-Feb-20	SEKMO	Draft
R1	10-Feb-2022	SEKMO	Minor corrections after internal review.