Cisco Catalyst 9100 Frequently Asked Questions

Wireless data traffic is growing at a phenomenal rate. As more data is generated and more devices connect to the network, wireless access points are critical in providing a great user experience.

Cisco Catalyst 9100 access points are built to take care of that demand. Supporting the Wi-Fi 6 standard, also known as 802.11ax, the Catalyst 9100 addresses current and future network needs.

Benefits of the Cisco Catalyst 9100 access points

Higher performance with increased capacity

Wi-Fi 6 supports more data to more clients than any prior version of the 802.11 standard. With speeds up to four times faster than 802.11ac Wave 2, you'll have more simultaneous throughput for more devices. Catalyst 9100 access points make sure your network is ready for the data onslaught.

Better experience with reduced latency

With Wi-Fi 6 you can connect more than 100 devices per access point with latency-sensitive apps like voice over IP (VoIP) and video conferencing. That is three times more compared to prior standards, thanks to reduced latency provided by Catalyst 9100 access points.

Investment protection with multigigabit

The Cisco Catalyst 9100 access points support NBase-T and IEEE 802.3bz Ethernet compatibility to seamlessly offload network traffic without bottlenecks. With multigigabit technology, you can use your Cat 5e or Cat 6 cable to achieve speeds up to 10 Gbps. This scalable solution provides higher throughputs and saves money by minimizing cabling investments.

Better power efficiency for mobile and IoT

Devices such as smartphones, tablets, and IoT will see up to four times less energy consumption with Wi-Fi 6 when compared to prior standards.

For additional information be sure to click here to learn more.

Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points portfolio

Q **What is the portfolio transition from the Cisco Aironet® 1800 Series to the Cisco Catalyst 9100 platform?**

A The Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points consist of the Cisco Catalyst 9115 and 9117 and are the follow-ups to the Cisco Aironet 1800 Series Access Points, specifically the Cisco Aironet 1830 and 1850 Series, The Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points come equipped with Wi-Fi 6 capabilities, better industrial design, and improved RF performance, and deliver reliability, security, and intelligence at scale.

Q **What feature sets do the Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points support?**

A The Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points support the packaging of features into Essentials and Advantage packages. The details of the features in each package are listed in the data sheets.

Q **Will Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points work with existing 802.11ac networks?**

A Yes. For Cisco investment protection, ensuring that Wi-Fi 6 seamlessly coexists with existing 802.11ac Wave 1 and Wave 2 products is the number one priority. The industry has carefully designed Wi-Fi 6 to interact naturally with 802.11ac and older APs and clients. Cisco Catalyst 9100 APs supporting the Wi-Fi 6 standard adhere to the requirement that a Wi-Fi 6 device must support all the mandatory modes of 802.11a/g/n and 802.11ac. They can communicate with 802.11a/g/n and 802.11ac clients using 802.11a/g/n or 802.11ac formatted Physical Protocol Data Units (PPDUs).

Q **What controller and management options are available for the Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points?**

A The Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points can be managed by all Cisco Catalyst 9800 Series Wireless Controllers. In addition, they are supported by the Cisco 3504, 5520, and 8540 wireless controllers and the Cisco Virtual Wireless Controller (vWLC) in local, flex, and fabric modes. Support for Cisco Catalyst 9100 in Mobility Express will be available in the future.

The Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points are designed to work with Cisco DNA Center (Release 1.2.10 and later) for simplified network management and orchestration, with automation, assurance, and topology support. They can also be managed by Cisco Prime® Infrastructure (Release 3.6 and later).

Q **What cable category will be needed to connect the Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points?**

A An 80-MHz, 8SS, 1024-Quadrature Amplitude Modulation (1024-QAM) Wi-Fi 6 radio, plus a second Wi-Fi 6 radio with 5 GHz at80 MHz, 4SS, 1024-QAM approaches 5 Gbps of wired traffic. Forthis reason, Cisco recommends using Category 6a cables to eachAP and suggests 2.5- or 5-Gbps Cisco Catalyst Multigigabit ports for the access switch.

Q **What are Cisco's solutions for 2.5-Gbps and 5-Gbps connections to Access Points?**

A Cisco offers stackable Cisco Catalyst 9300 Series Switch models that support 10-, 5-, 2.5-, and 1-Gbps, and 100-Mbps interfaces. This dense solution will allow a single stack of eight units to support up to 384 ports, connected using the industry's highest stack bandwidth, Cisco StackWise®-480. All ports also support Cisco Universal Power over Ethernet (Cisco UPOE®), Power over Ethernet Plus (PoE+), and Power over Ethernet (PoE). You can find other options here.

Q **What are Cisco's options for site survey for Catalyst 9100 deployment?**

A Customers can choose 3rd party planning and site survey tools for initial deployments. In addition, Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points are capable of running Cisco Mobility Express (ME) which a virtual wireless controller function embedded on an Access Point. ME also supports internal DHCP server which enables Access Point to be used for Site Survey. Mobility Express support is not available at FCS of Catalyst 9115 and Catalyst 9117.

Q **Will the mounting brackets of 1850 series work with Catalyst 9115 and 9117 Access Points?**

A Yes. The new Access Points are designed to support mounting bracket, AIR-AP-BRACKET-1/ AIR-AP-BRACKET-2, used for 1850 series. Thus reducing installation costs.

Q **Will the Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points support the new Cisco Catalyst 9800 Series Wireless Controllers?**

A Yes. The new Cisco Catalyst 9800 Wireless Controllers will be fully supported by both the Cisco Catalyst 9100 and existing 802.11ac Access Points. With the Cisco Catalyst 9800 Series, your infrastructure Wi-Fi network will be ready to be upgraded to Wi-Fi 6.

Q **Do Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points support Bluetooth?**

A All models have native hardware support for Bluetooth 5.

Q **What type of PoE will be needed to power the Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points?**

A This depends primarily on the mode of operation. For the current Cisco Catalyst 9100 SKUs, we recommend 802.3at (PoE+) for full functionality. Some of these APs may have restricted functionality when 802.3af (PoE) is provided.

Warranty and support

Q **What is the warranty coverage plan on the Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points?**

A The Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Point comes with a limited lifetime warranty, similar to the Cisco Aironet Access Points. The warranty includes 10-day advance hardware replacement and ensures that software media are defect-free for 90 days. For more details, visit https://www.cisco.com/go/warranty.

Ordering

Q **Where can I find the complete SKU list, shipping list or datasheets for the Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points?**

A A complete list of PIDs is available in the platform-specific data sheets: (Cisco Catalyst 9115 Access Points: Datasheet & Cisco Catalyst 9117 Access Points: Datasheet)

Services

Q **Are any services available to support the Cisco Catalyst Q 9100 Access Points?**

A Yes. With Cisco Services, you can achieve infrastructure excellence faster with less risk. From initial WLAN readiness assessment to implementation, full solution support and in-depth training, our services for the Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points provide expert Q guidance to help you successfully plan, deploy, manage, and support your new Access Points. With unmatched networking expertise, best practices, and innovative tools, Cisco Services can help you reduce overall upgrade, refresh, and migration costs as you introduce new hardware, software, and protocols into the network. With a comprehensive lifecycle of services, Cisco experts will help you minimize disruption and improve operational efficiency to extract maximum value from your Cisco DNA ready infrastructure. Learn more.

Licensing and migration

Q **What are the licensing options for Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points?**

A Cisco DNA term-based licenses (AIR-Cisco DNA Licenses) are mandatory at the purchase of Catalyst 9100 Access Points. These Access Points support three types of Cisco DNA Licenses: Cisco DNA Essentials, Cisco DNA Advantage and Cisco DNA Premier. Cisco DNA subscription licenses have to be purchased for a 3-, 5-, or 7-year subscription term. However, upon expiry of Cisco DNA license, Cisco DNA features will expire, whereas network essentials and network advantage features will remain.

Q **Can Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points connect to AireOS and Catalyst 9800 Controller? If so, what are the licensing options?**

A Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points can connect to both AireOS 3504/5520/8540 controllers and Catalyst 9800 Controllers. These Access Points require mandatory Cisco DNA License to connect to either AireOS controllers or Catalyst controllers.

Q **Are Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Points' licenses portable?**

A Cisco DNA Licenses of Catalyst 9100 Access Points are portable across Cisco Catalyst 9100 product family, AireOS controllers and Catalyst wireless controllers.

Q **What are the options for migrating existing Cisco DNA li- censes when purchasing the Cisco Catalyst Access Points?**

A Use Perpetual to Cisco DNA subscription migration credits:

For Perpetual Licenses and Access Point licenses tied to legacy wireless LAN controllers – Customers can purchase Cisco DNA Advantage/Cisco DNA Premier along with Cisco Catalyst 9100 Access Point and receive credits based on existing perpetual licenses.

Q **What are the options for migrating existing Cisco DNA licenses when purchasing the Cisco Catalyst Access Points?**

A Customers who have purchased Cisco DNA Licenses may receive $ credits for the unused term. These credits can be used to purchase Cisco DNA License with Catalyst 9100 Access Points. Also, the credits may be applicable while moving to the same license tier or above.

Q **Are Cisco DNA Licenses Enterprise Agreement (EA) eligible?**

A Yes. Cisco DNA licenses are currently eligible for Enterprise Agreements.