Sophos Wireless Deployment Checklist

Most organizations already have wireless networks deployed, making it exceedingly rare for new wireless deployments to start from scratch rather than replace existing infrastructure. Any network change presents an opportunity to re-evaluate your organization's business and technical requirements.

The Sophos Wireless deployment checklist provides comprehensive guidance from initial pre-planning through post-deployment assessment to ensure the success of your wireless rollout.

Pre-Deployment Planning Task List	Completed	Notes
Define business and technical requirements, including coverage, capacity, roaming, and mission-critical applications.		
Determine the access point requirements: indoor, outdoor, or hybrid.		
Ensure the latest floor plans or site maps are available to achieve the proper coverage.		
Identify high-density and mission-critical areas that may require higher-capacity access points.		

Don't assume the existing wireless deployment meets all business or technical needs.

Site Survey Planning Task List	Completed	Notes
[Recommendation] Conduct a site survey. A passive site survey is the minimum requirement to determine signal strength, noise, and channel interference.		
For mission-critical deployments where wireless connectivity is essential to business operations, always conduct an active on-site survey.		
Identify potential RF interference sources, including microwave ovens, Bluetooth devices, and neighboring access points.		
Validate access point mounting locations. Confirm whether they will be ceiling- or wall-mounted and verify that cables and power are available at each location.		
During the on-site survey, save RF heatmaps for comparison against post-deployment coverage measurements.		

If you need help with a predictive site survey (passive), Sophos has presales resources available. Please submit all site survey requests via your Sophos partner or sales contact.

Infrastructure Planning and Design Task List	Completed	Notes
Select appropriate access point models for the deployment based on coverage requirements and feature needs.		
Plan channel allocation across 2.4 GHz, 5 GHz, and 6 GHz bands to minimize interference.		
Define SSID and VLAN mappings for network segmentation requirements.		
Verify network infrastructure capacity: Confirm sufficient PoE budget for all access points and ensure adequate switch port availability. Learn more about PoE considerations		
Assess cabling infrastructure and identify areas requiring new cable runs or drops.		

Don't assume the existing network infrastructure is sufficient if PoE++, 2.5GE, or VLAN support is needed to power, connect, or segment access points into the network.

Pre-Deployment Validation Testing Task List	Completed	Notes
Sophos recommends conducting validation testing before beginning full deployment.		
Deploy 2-4 access points in a lab environment or small area within the target building to create a controlled testing environment.		
Use this pilot deployment to evaluate mission-critical applications and devices, ensuring they function properly with newer wireless standards and updated encryption requirements.		
Assess roaming behavior between access points to verify that wireless devices connect and transition seamlessly.		
This pilot phase provides an ideal opportunity to complete pre-deployment preparation tasks: register all access points with Sophos Central, apply appropriate labels, update firmware to the latest versions, and configure devices for production deployment.		

Testing and validation are key to ensuring the newer wireless technology works well with mission-critical applications and all wireless devices.

Deployment Task List	Completed	Notes
Install access points at the correct mounting height and orientation as specified in the site survey.		
Position access points as close as possible to the surveyed locations to ensure adequate coverage and performance.		
After installation, verify that each access point receives sufficient power and appears online in Sophos Central.		
Once connectivity is confirmed, deploy the configuration from Sophos Central to complete the setup.		

The access point mounting position is critical to network performance. Consider the mounting height, antenna orientation, and whether each access point will be wall- or ceiling-mounted.

Post Deployment Task List	Completed	Notes
Conduct post-deployment coverage validation using wireless site survey tools such as Ekahau, NetSpot, or Insider to perform a comprehensive walk-through of all areas. Additional tools are available—contact your local Sophos partner for recommendations.		
Verify signal strength meets requirements, targeting RSSI values greater than -67 dBm in all coverage areas to ensure adequate connectivity and seamless roaming handoffs.[1]		
Test roaming performance and use survey data to adjust transmit power or channel assignments as needed.		
Validate guest access functionality by testing the captive portal across multiple mobile device types and operating systems to ensure a consistent user experience.		
Test mission-critical applications in various locations throughout the building to verify they perform as expected under real-world conditions.		

1. Sophos recommends contacting a wireless expert for assistance with mission-critical deployments.

The post-deployment assessment ensures optimal performance by identifying and resolving configuration issues before they affect users.

Additional Resources

The resource links below provide guidance and recommendations for AP6 Series access point deployments.

APX to AP6 Access Point Migration

AP6 Channel Selection Guide

AP6 Roaming Best Practices

Secure Wi-Fi Best Practices

Upgrading Your Wi-Fi Network: 7 Power-over-Ethernet Considerations

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