Wi-Fi 6 is the latest specification standard from the Wi-Fi Alliance — and a vital migration for enterprises that want to digitally transform their operations. Compared to earlier iterations of wireless networking technology, Wi-Fi 6 provides the capabilities needed to compete in today's business environment.

Before moving to Wi-Fi 6, work these five considerations into your migration strategy:

1. **Leverage a wireless/radiofrequency planning tool and test the following to see how the new APs will behave, especially when migrating to Wi-Fi 6 from non-802.11AC, or from 802.11AC Wave 1 and 2 technologies:**

   Every Access Point (AP) model behaves differently in your environment, including its ability to transmit signals to the far reaches of the office space. Next, perform either a predictive or on-site RF design for the space to ensure adequate coverage and to meet application requirements. Also, remember the cabling if an RF design results in adding or relocating current APs.

2. **Start with a radiofrequency assessment to see how Wi-Fi 6 APs will function in your environment:**

   Wi-Fi 6 supports the capacity and throughput. Because of this increase, you will see an increased demand on your network. 1. Avoid having your access switch become a bottleneck for data traffic. Ensure that your existing network switches and routers can support the higher throughput demands from more clients, more data, and faster speeds. Consider deploying multigigabit-capable switches for AP connectivity to the LAN.

3. **Know that not all access points are created equal:**

   • In most cases, device types, client counts, and even structural elements of facilities have been adapted since the original wireless design.
   • The “rip-and-replace” strategy for APs falls short of business expectations.

4. **Don’t forget the underlying infrastructure:**

   WPA3 is the latest generation of Wi-Fi security certification for protecting enterprise networks. WPA3 is more secure than WPA2. WPA3 introduces encryption mechanisms and enhanced protection against brute-force attacks. However, it is still relatively new to the market. As with any new technology, it takes time for wireless devices across the organization to catch up. This means it will be a few years before many enterprise networks fully migrate to WPA3. In the meantime, consider leveraging WPA2 with stronger security mechanisms like 802.1x, rather than pre-shared keys, to greatly improve your security posture.

5. **Validate your optimal network performance:**

   In a perfect world, after the network is installed — and you performed and implemented a proper Wi-Fi design — it should function like a well-oiled machine. However, depending on the requirements for the original design, channel assignment, transmit power levels, and other areas might need to be tuned to get the most out of the network. It’s a good idea to perform a follow-up assessment to optimize the infrastructure.

For more information on how to approach a transition to Wi-Fi 6 as part of your transformation strategy, contact us at: solutions.insight.com/contact-us