Strength in Numbers

Linksys AP Clustering simplifies IT management

Single Point Control
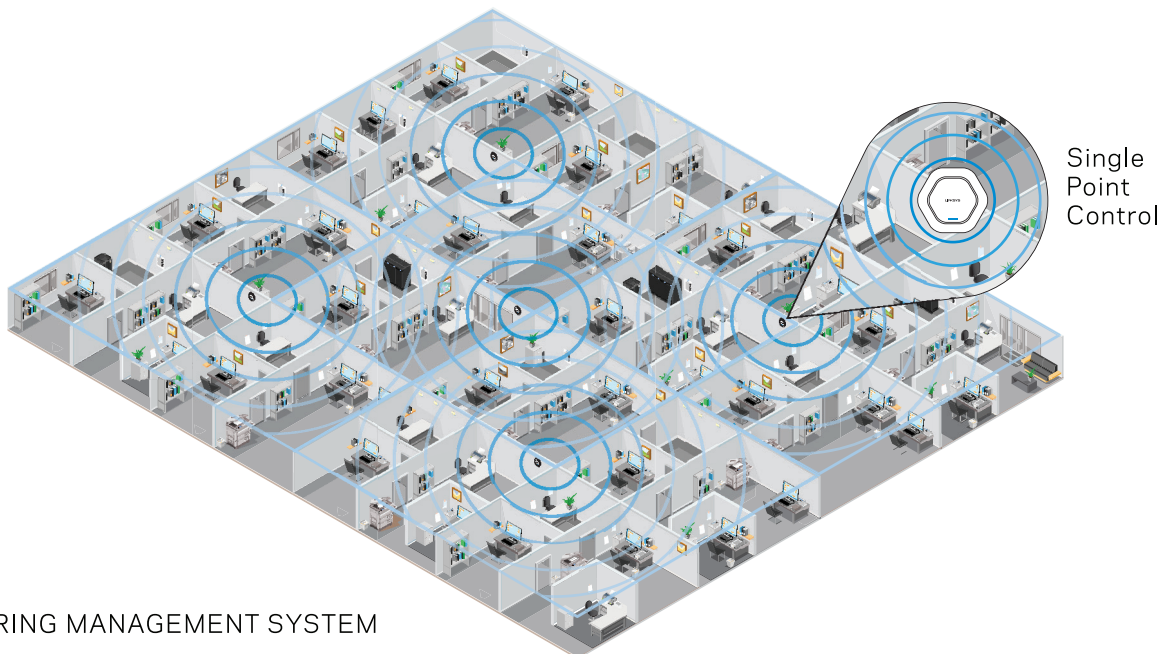
CLUSTERING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Key Features

- **Single View of APs:**
  Wireless access points can be viewed together as a cluster on a single screen, allowing administrators to check the health of every AP in a single glance.

- **Automatic Synchronized Configuration:**
  Changes can be pushed automatically and simultaneously to all the access points in a cluster, rather than having to configure each one separately. Adding an additional access point to the cluster is almost plug and play.

- **Shared User Authentication Database when using Captive Portal:**
  Clustering enables access points to share resources, simplifying security and administration.

- **Wireless User Session View:**
  A consolidated view of all clients connected to the cluster makes it easy for administrators to monitor the status and overall health of wireless connections.

- **Dynamic Channel Selection:**
  Each wireless channel can be monitored for congestion, and access points adjusted periodically to optimize data flow.

Needs

Small businesses need a scalable wireless network solution that is easy to deploy and manage, fits seamlessly into their growing environment and works within their budget.

Deploying wireless access points in a business setting provides superior coverage as well as the ability to grow and scale the wireless network as connectivity demands increase. However, access points also need to be managed to optimize performance of the network.

Small businesses need an efficient way to optimize, maintain, and secure their wireless network infrastructure. The simplest method to manage an access point solution is to manually configure each individual access point. However, as the network grows and number of access points increase—this method becomes inefficient and prone to errors. Alternatively, a business may choose to implement a wireless management solution. Many of the solutions on the market today are built for the needs of large enterprises and require either a costly hardware controller or a cloud-based management solution with a recurring fee.

An access point solution that includes clustering provides the ability to configure and secure up to 16 APs from a single point of control. All Linksys AC wireless access points feature clustering at no additional cost, providing easy management of core AP functionality without the cost and complexity of cloud-based controllers or hardware wireless LAN controllers.

Small business customers need quality, scalable, and affordable solutions designed specifically for their unique environments and to accommodate their growing business needs. Clustering is just one example of how Linksys provides these companies with the solutions they need to operate, manage, and grow their business.

Competitive Comparison

	Linksys Clustering	Controller-based Wireless Manager	Cloud-based Controller
Software license cost	Free	Up to $70/year per AP*	$100/year per AP*
Target market	10–100 users	10–250 users	250+ users
Multiple APs from a single interface	Yes	Yes	Yes
Number of APs	8–16	10–100	100+
Dynamic channel management	Yes	Yes	Yes
Load balancing	No	Yes	Yes
Seamless roaming	No	No	No

* Pricing based on average of in-market solutions at time of publication.

Target Users

Linksys AP Clustering is purpose-built for small businesses (fewer than 100 employees) that make wireless networking part of their day-to-day operations. Clustering enables network administrators to implement and manage the core AP functionality without the cost and complexity of cloud-based controllers or hardware wireless controllers.

Linksys AP Clustering is ideal for small businesses:
- Charter schools
- Coffee shops
- Medical clinics and private practices
- Restaurants
- Retail shops
- Small hotels and motels
- Small office buildings
- Warehouses

Reseller Advantages

Resellers and vendors who deal with small businesses share in the benefits of Linksys AP Clustering.

- Ease of Administration: Changes to the access point like SSID, wireless scheduler settings, and more can be accomplished from one administrative screen.
- Faster Service: Managed solution providers who charge a fixed monthly fee can minimize the time and effort involved in administering their customer's wireless network.
- Satisfied Customers: System integrators can test and reconfigure wireless access points as a cluster, resolving problems and restoring access quickly. Happy customers are repeat customers.