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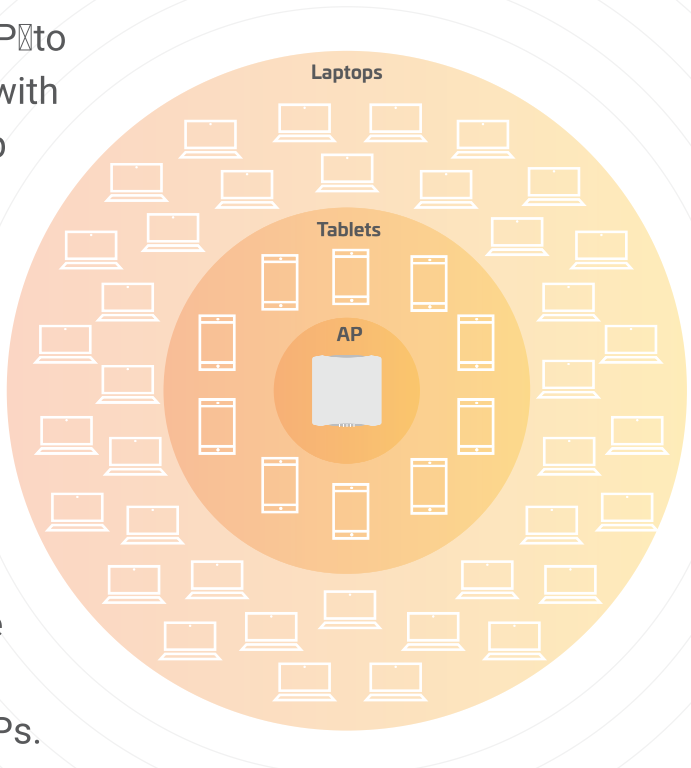
Which cloud-managed Wi-Fi 6 APs perform best under pressure?

A March 2021 Packet6 test of cloud-managed Wi-Fi 6 access points (APs) put five cloud-managed, 4-stream APs under pressure in a real-world, high-density environment. Under simultaneous data, voice and video demand from 60 clients, only the CommScope RUCKUS® AP met enterprise-grade service levels.

Vendors' best Wi-Fi put to the test

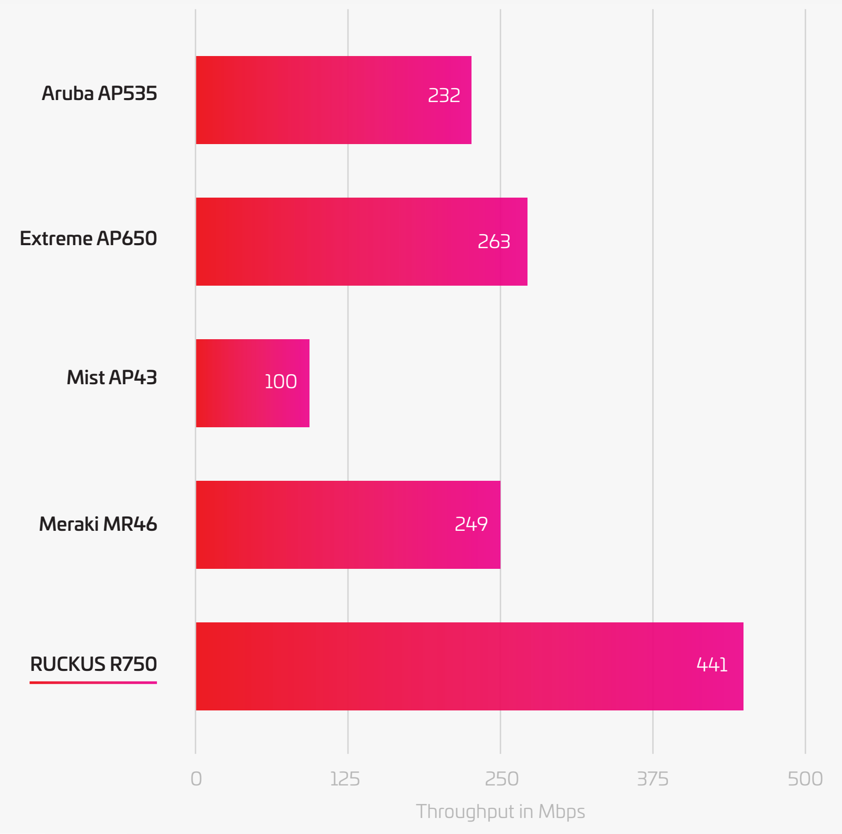
The test challenged each out-of-the-box AP to manage and prioritize traffic associated with 30 Wi-Fi 6 laptop clients streaming 1080p video; 20 Wi-Fi 5 laptop clients and five Wi-Fi 5 tablets downloading data; and five Wi-Fi 5 tablets running simulated bi-directional Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) calls.

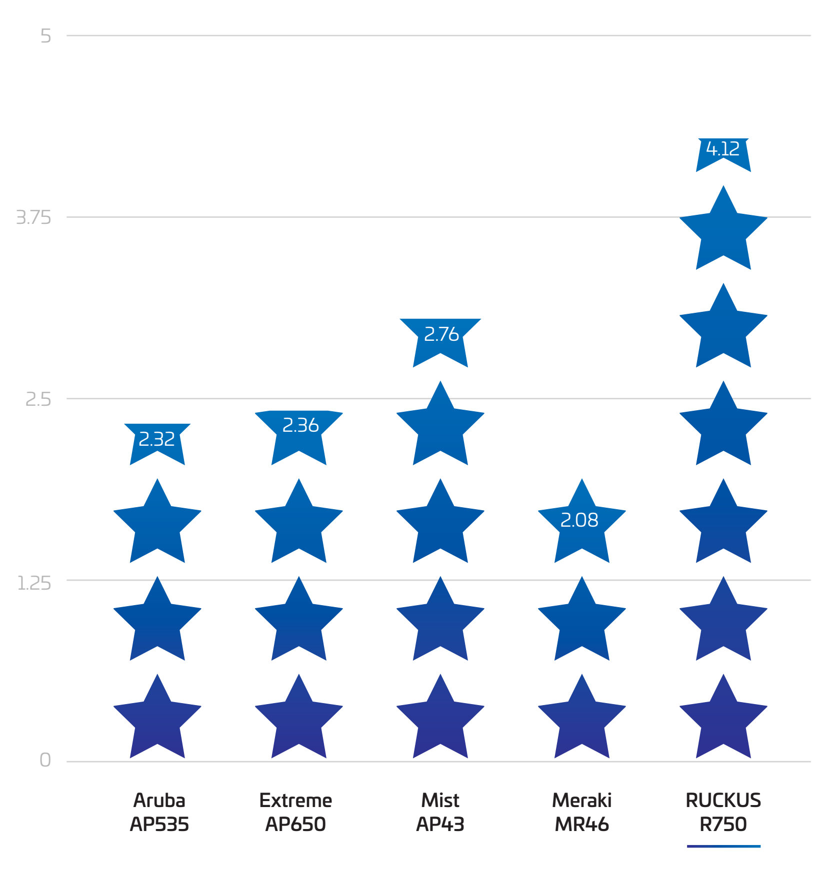


The RUCKUS R750 was the only AP that delivered stall-free video to all 30 clients and provided a "good" mean opinion score (MOS) to the VoIP clients, while delivering nearly twice the throughput of the other APs.

Network throughput

Throughput is a measure of the aggregate data traffic flowing between the AP and all of the clients in the network. A higher number is better, as it indicates that the AP can accommodate more users, devices and applications.



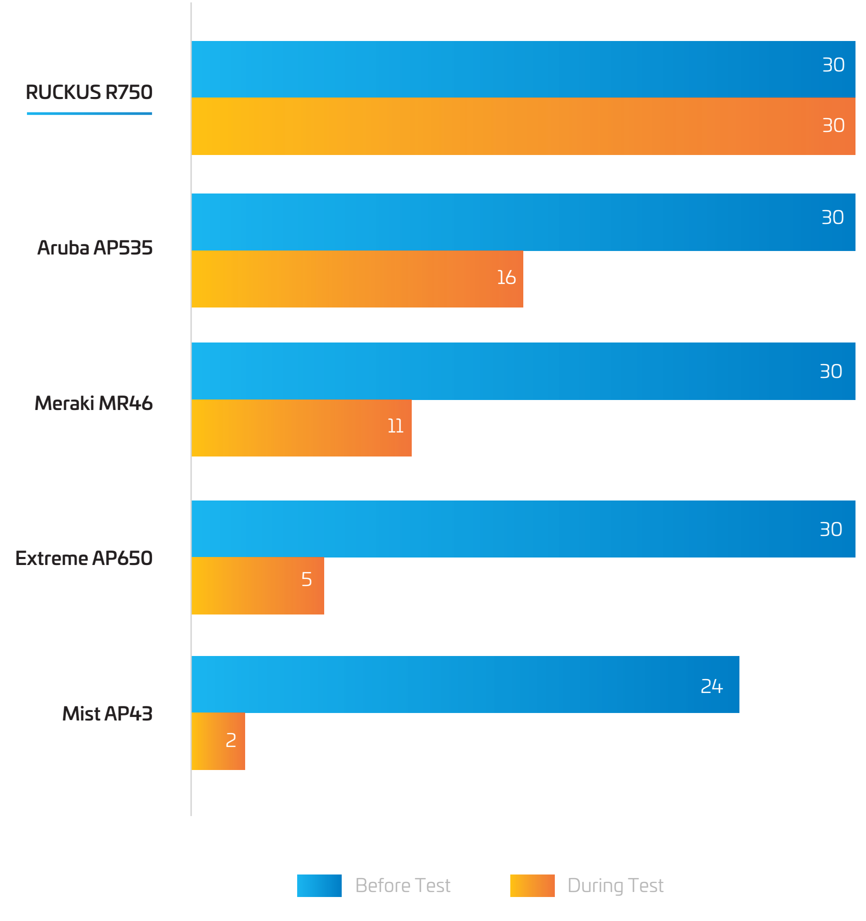


Voice MOS

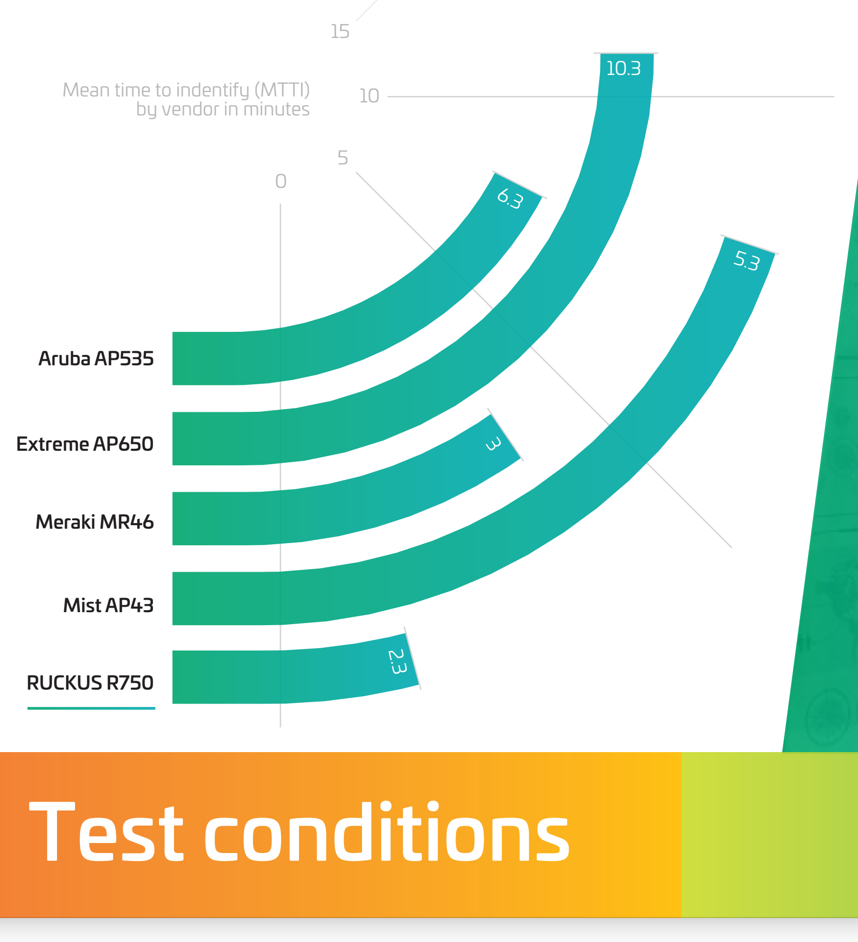
Voice mean opinion score (MOS) is a commonly used measure of user-perceived voice quality during a PSTN or VoIP call. The higher the score, the higher the call quality. A high-performing network prioritizes voice traffic over other data traffic to ensure good call quality.

Stall-free streaming video

Streaming video and other video formats are common in work and school environments. When videos stall, it creates a poor user experience and may result in extra IT work. The score indicates the number of videos, out of 30, that were delivered without stalling.



Troubleshooting with network analytics tools



Mean time to identify

Mean time to identify (MTTI) is the time a network administrator needs to determine the root cause of a network issue or incident. A shorter average MTTI reduces the trouble-shooting burden on IT while improving user experience by allowing IT to more effectively limit incident duration and impact.

Test conditions

- Two rooms simulating office or educational environment
- Real-world client mix of device types, Wi-Fi standards and operating systems
- 80 MHz-wide channels
- Out-of-the-box AP configuration

Reporting

- AP testing observed and validated by independent industry consultant, Rowell Dionicio (CWNE #210), of Packet6
- Network analytics testing conducted by Packet6
- Methods and results publicly available in Packet6 report

RUCKUS delivers where others don't

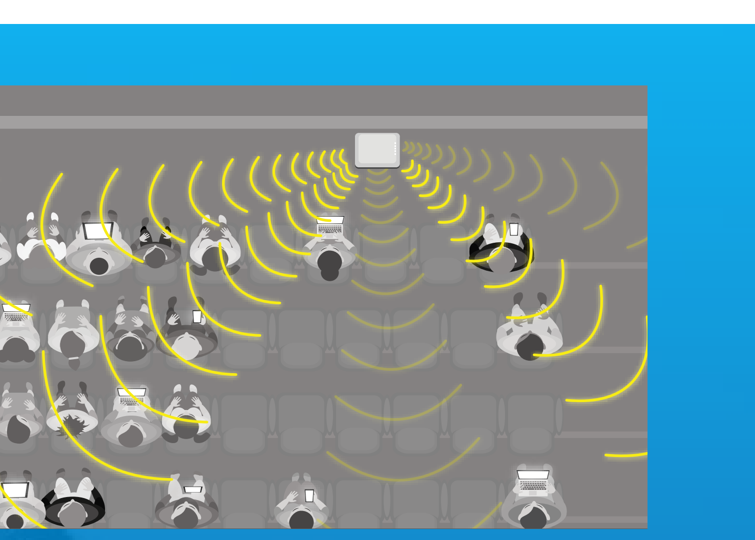
- Reliable Wi-Fi connectivity while under real-world stress
- Better real-world application performance for every client
- Up to two times greater throughput, supporting more users and devices
- Out-of-the-box QoS mechanisms that ensure high-quality VoIP calls
- AI- and ML-powered analytics that reveal root cause faster

Download the report

RUCKUS technology powers peak performance

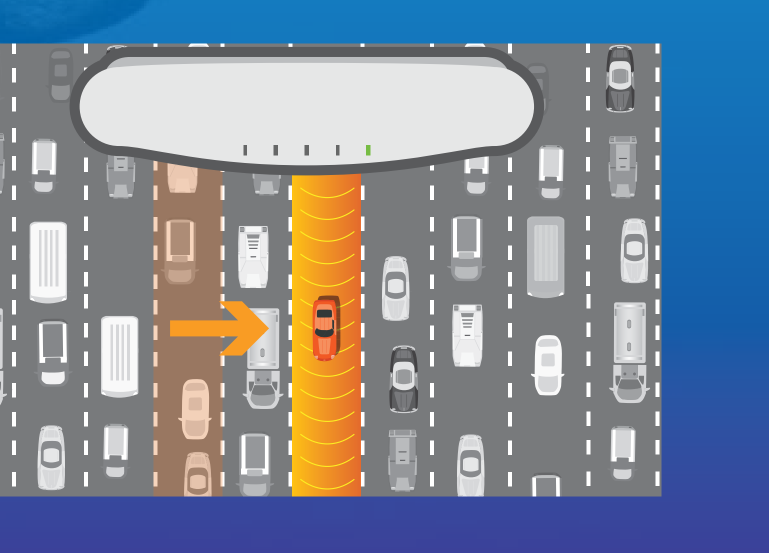
BeamFlex+®

Automatically adjusts antenna patterns in real-time, packet-by-packet, maximizing throughput for every client device.



ChannelFly®

Automatically switches a client from a crowded channel to one that's less congested.



SmartCast™

Combines sophisticated scheduling and queuing mechanisms with advanced heuristic algorithms that automatically identify and characterize traffic based on its unique behavior.

AI-powered incident analytics

RUCKUS Analytics automatically classifies service incidents by severity, traces root causes and recommends steps for remediation to deliver the best end-user experience

Explore more RUCKUS technology

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