

# 802.11c Wave 2 Access Points Comparative Performance

## Cisco Aironet 1852i, Aruba AP-325 & Ruckus R170

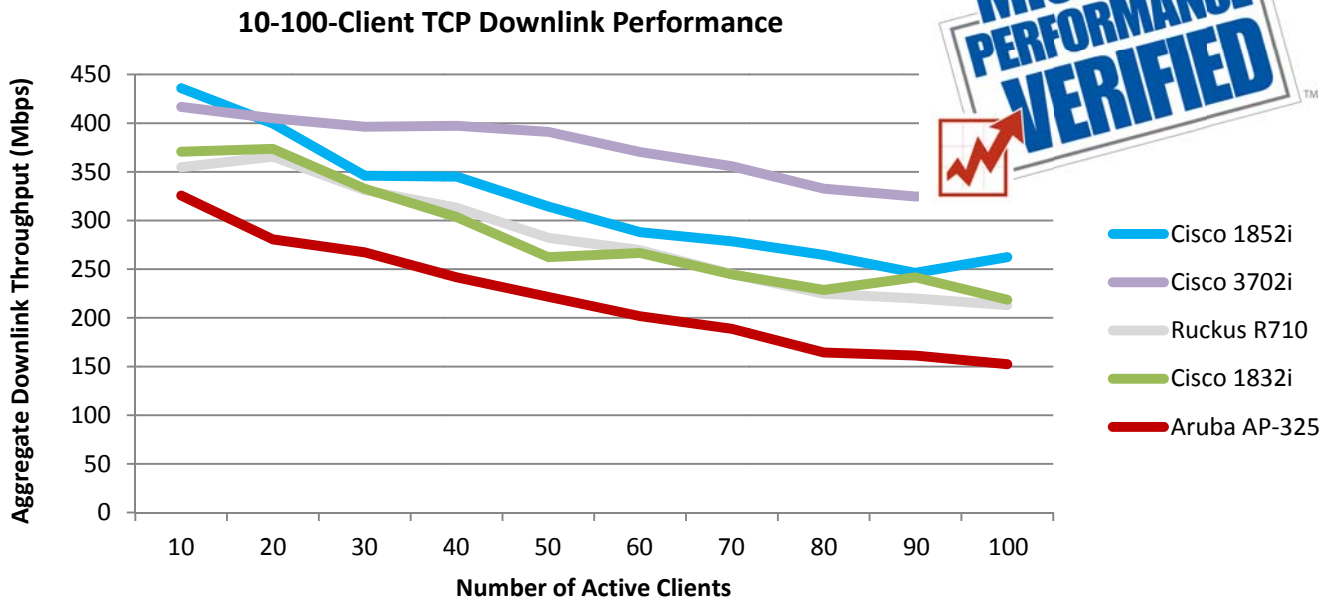
**WiFi Wave 2 AP Bake-off.** A leading Access Point vendor, Cisco Systems, claims its latest models, built to exploit Wave 2 – the IEEE’s most advanced 802.11ac WiFi specification – meet or exceed the performance of comparable models from competitors Aruba and Ruckus.

### How We Did It

A sophisticated test bed, consisting of 100 real WiFi client devices, was set-up in a well-equipped lab that in every way replicated a real-world user environment. Ixia IxChariot test systems were used to generate test traffic and measure throughput. Test scenarios measured: Throughput as client density per AP grows; Single- vs multi-user download throughput; and aggregate AP throughput. APs that were tested included the latest versions of: Aruba’s AP-235, Ruckus’ R710, and Cisco’s Aironet 1830, 1850 and 3700 series.

### Key Findings

- Cisco’s claims were categorically validated.
- The Cisco 1852i Wave 2 AP turned in the best performances in almost all tests.
- For maintaining high throughput as the number of clients grows from 10 to 100, the higher-end Cisco 3700 did the best; Aruba’s AP-325 fared the worst.
- Cisco’s low-cost APs did a better job delivering bandwidth to the most clients in high-density environments than either the Aruba or Ruckus APs.
- Cisco’s AP exhibited the best performance for multi-user MIMO clients.



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