



At a glance



HPE Aruba Networking Central and AIOps

Peer comparisons: A new level of optimization





No two sites are exactly alike

Keeping your LAN and WAN up and running is a big responsibility. Even a bigger challenge if you have multiple sites all in remote locations. They might seem similar, but with more users and endpoints in one, or roaming, and traffic throughout the day in some, they're different. All you know is that each site must deliver the best experience possible. But without a big IT team or the right tools, it's hard to keep track.

Fixing performance issues is difficult

Unfortunately, IT teams will use common wireless, wired, and SD-WAN configurations per site, and unless something is broken, users learn to live with the status quo—even if it's not ideal. Legacy management tools are not designed to monitor for changes across sites dynamically, or to provide optimization tips. Some solutions even prompt IT teams to define these service level expectations manually, per site, to look for issues. They expect things to stay consistent or something has to break before providing actions to take.

It's not the most effective way to operate a network today.

Dynamic baselines with peer comparisons are the answer

Modern AIOps solutions and automation are the answer. HPE Aruba Networking Central includes AI and machine learning to dynamically give you a baseline for each of your sites. This provides a benchmark that shows you where you can gain a performance boost per site based on the volume of users, traffic, coverage, and more. Not only are you seeing how your own individual sites compare to one another, but you also see how they measure up to similar baselines run by other organizations. Machine learning that takes advantage of environmental classification and clustering algorithms across our vast data lake is the difference.

Even if managing a site with one to hundreds of access points, peer comparisons ensure that if similar sites are performing better, you'll automatically receive on-going optimization tips. No manual setup, time away from other tasks, or trial and error—all common with other solutions. HPE Aruba Networking Central with built-in AI networking provides troubleshooting and optimization models that take IT efficiency to the next level.



A real-life example

Because of today's customer retention challenges, the IT team at a large retailer was looking to boost their network's performance and modernize their management tools for better insights. They lacked an easy way to identify coverage and performance gaps from store to store—the information and insights they needed to meet growing user experience demands.

They tested a few competitive wireless and cloud management solutions with AI during a proof of concept (PoC) phase. While each solution could fix certain site-specific connectivity issues, only the Peer Comparisons feature in HPE Aruba Networking Central delivered performance gains by recommending configuration changes by looking at similar sites across the data lake. The other solutions primarily focused on identifying troubleshooting related issues, not optimization improvements.

It turned out that baselines for similar stores outside of their organization exhibited 6X better performance metrics than the customer's stores, even those where competitive PoC tests had been performed. To match how the performance seen in peer sites, the AI-powered network insights in Central recommended the use of DFS channels and fewer SSIDs to reduce channel interference.

After implementing the actions to take, the conclusion was that the site under test was not experiencing any anomalies due to radar signals and saw a 3x drop in interference as well. In fact, the endpoint devices used by associates, like those from Zebra, saw 50% performance gains versus those at other stores and competing PoC sites. In conclusion: The recommendation provided would be beneficial in over 95% of their sites worldwide without on-site visits or the purchase of additional hardware or software.

Summary

While anomaly detection is one of ITs biggest concerns, IT organizations should be asking for management solutions to include optimization actions to take as they're a smart way of getting ahead of issues. Another thing to consider is that HPE Aruba Networking Central is the only solution that offers Peer Comparisons without any additional licensing and delivers at least a 15% performance gain per recommendation—for the life of your deployment.

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