

# Cisco 5500 Series Wireless Controllers



<p><b>Maximum Performance and Scalability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for up to 500 access points and 7000 clients.</li> <li>• 802.11n optimized for up to nine times the performance of 802.11a/g networks.</li> <li>• Enhanced uptime with the ability to simultaneously configure and manage 500 access points per controller</li> </ul>
<p><b>Improved Mobility and Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Larger mobility domain for more simultaneous client associations.</li> <li>• Faster RRM updates for uninterrupted network access when roaming.</li> <li>• Intelligent RF control plane for self-configuration, self-healing, and self-optimization.</li> <li>• Efficient roaming improves application performance such as toll quality, voice, and consistent streaming video and data backup.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Licensing Flexibility and Investment Protection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional access point capacity licenses may be added over time.</li> </ul>
<p><b>OfficeExtend Solution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure, simple, cost-effective mobile teleworker solution.</li> <li>• Up to 500 remote access points per controller.</li> <li>• Supports Unified Communications wireless phones for reduced cell phone charges.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Comprehensive Wired/Wireless Security</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full CAPWAP access point to controller encryption.</li> <li>• Supports rogue access point detection and denial-of-service attacks.</li> <li>• Management frame protection detects malicious users and alerts network administrators.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Enterprise Wireless Mesh</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dynamic wireless mesh networks support indoor and outdoor connectivity for areas that are difficult to wire.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Environmentally Responsible</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for adaptive power management to turn off access point radios during off-peak hours to reduce power consumption.</li> <li>• OfficeExtend solution reduces costs and supports green best practices by reducing commuting time and saving on gas, vehicle mileage, and insurance costs.</li> </ul>

The Cisco® 5500 Series Wireless Controller is a highly scalable and flexible platform that enables system wide services for mission-critical wireless in medium to large-sized enterprises and campus environments. Designed for [802.11n](#) performance and maximum scalability, the 5500 Series offers enhanced uptime with RF visibility and protection, the ability to simultaneously manage up to 500 [access points](#); superior performance for reliable streaming video and toll quality voice; and improved fault recovery for a consistent [mobility](#) experience in the most demanding environments.

## Features

Optimized for [high performance wireless](#) networking, the 5500 Series offers improved mobility and prepares the business for the next wave of mobile devices and applications. The 5500 Series supports a higher density of clients and delivers more efficient roaming, with at least nine times the throughput of existing 802.11a/g networks.

The 5500 Series automates wireless configuration and management functions and allows network managers to have the visibility and control needed to cost-effectively manage, secure and optimize the performance of their wireless networks. With integrated CleanAir technology the 5500 Series protects 802.11n performance by providing cross-network access to real-time and historic RF interference information for quick, troubleshooting and resolution. As a component of the Cisco Unified Wireless Network, this controller provides realtime communication between [Cisco Aironet® access points](#), the [Cisco Wireless Control System \(WCS\)](#), and the [Cisco Mobility Services Engine](#) to deliver centralized security policies, wireless intrusion prevention system (IPS) capabilities, award-winning RF management, and quality of service (QoS).

## Software Licensing Flexibility

Base access point licensing offers flexibility to add up to 500 additional access points as business needs grow. The licensing structure supports a variety of business mobility needs as part of the basic feature set, including the OfficeExtend solution for secure, mobile teleworking and Enterprise Wireless Mesh, which allows access points to dynamically establish wireless connections in locations where it may be difficult or impossible to physically connect to the wired network.

Table 1 lists the features of the Cisco 5500 Series [Wireless LAN Controllers](#).

**Table 1.** Cisco 5500 Series Wireless LAN Controller Features

Feature	Benefits
<b>Scalability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports 12, 25, 50, 100, 250 or 500 access points for business-critical wireless services at locations of all sizes.</li> </ul>
<b>High Performance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wire speed, non-blocking performance for 802.11n networks.</li> </ul>
<b>RF Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides both real-time and historical information about RF interference impacting network performance across controllers, via system wide CleanAir integration.</li> </ul>
<b>OfficeExtend</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports corporate wireless service for mobile and remote workers with secure wired tunnels to the Cisco Aironet® 1130 or 1140 Series Access Points.</li> <li>Extends the corporate network to remote locations with minimal set up and maintenance requirements (zerotouch deployment).</li> <li>Improves productivity and collaboration at remote site locations.</li> <li>Separate SSID tunnels allow both corporate and personal Internet access.</li> <li>Reduced CO2 emissions from decrease in commuting.</li> <li>Higher employee job satisfaction from ability to work at home.</li> <li>Improves business resiliency by providing continuous, secure connectivity in the event of disasters, pandemics, or inclement weather.</li> </ul>
<b>Comprehensive End-to-End Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offers Control and Provisioning of Wireless Access Points (CAPWAP) compliant DTLS encryption to ensure full-line-rate encryption between access points and controllers across remote WAN/LAN links.</li> </ul>
<b>Enterprise Wireless Mesh</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allows access points to dynamically establish wireless connections without the need for a physical connection to the wired network.</li> <li>Available on select Cisco Aironet access points, Enterprise Wireless Mesh is ideal for warehouses, manufacturing floors, shopping centers and any other location where extending a wired connection may prove difficult or aesthetically unappealing.</li> </ul>
<b>High Performance Video</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrates VideoStream technology as part of the Cisco Medianet framework to optimize the delivery of video applications across the WLAN.</li> </ul>
<b>End-to-end Voice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports <a href="#">Unified Communications</a> for improved collaboration through messaging, presence, and conferencing.</li> <li>Supports all <a href="#">Cisco Unified Communications Wireless IP Phones</a> for cost-effective, real-time voice services.</li> </ul>
<b>High Availability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An optional redundant power supply helps to ensure maximum availability.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmentally Responsible</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizations may choose to turn off access point radios to reduce power consumption during off peak hours.</li> </ul>

Table 2 lists the product specifications for Cisco 5500 Series Wireless Controllers.

**Table 2.** Product Specifications for Cisco 5500 Series Wireless Controllers

Item	Specifications
<b>Wireless</b>	IEEE 802.11a, 802.11b, 802.11g, 802.11d, WMM/802.11e, 802.11h, 802.11n
<b>Wired/Switching/Routing</b>	IEEE 802.3 10BASE-T, IEEE 802.3u 100BASE-TX specification, 1000BASE-T, 1000BASE-SX, 1000-BASE-LH, IEEE 802.1Q Vtagging, and IEEE 802.1AX Link Aggregation.

Item	Specifications
<b>Data Request For Comments (RFC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RFC 768 UDP</li> <li>• RFC 791 IP</li> <li>• RFC 2460 IPv6 (pass through Bridging mode only)</li> <li>• RFC 792 ICMP</li> <li>• RFC 793 TCP</li> <li>• RFC 826 ARP</li> <li>• RFC 1122 Requirements for Internet Hosts</li> <li>• RFC 1519 CIDR</li> <li>• RFC 1542 BOOTP</li> <li>• RFC 2131 DHCP</li> <li>• RFC 5415 CAPWAP Protocol Specification</li> <li>• RFC 5416 CAPWAP Binding for 802.11</li> </ul>
<b>Security Standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WPA</li> <li>• IEEE 802.11i (WPA2, RSN)</li> <li>• RFC 1321 MD5 Message-Digest Algorithm</li> <li>• RFC 1851 The ESP Triple DES Transform</li> <li>• RFC 2104 HMAC: Keyed Hashing for Message Authentication</li> <li>• RFC 2246 TLS Protocol Version 1.0</li> <li>• RFC 2401 Security Architecture for the Internet Protocol</li> <li>• RFC 2403 HMAC-MD5-96 within ESP and AH</li> <li>• RFC 2404 HMAC-SHA-1-96 within ESP and AH</li> <li>• RFC 2405 ESP DES-CBC Cipher Algorithm with Explicit IV</li> <li>• RFC 2406 IPsec</li> <li>• RFC 2407 Interpretation for ISAKMP</li> <li>• RFC 2408 ISAKMP</li> <li>• RFC 2409 IKE</li> <li>• RFC 2451 ESP CBC-Mode Cipher Algorithms</li> <li>• RFC 3280 Internet X.509 PKI Certificate and CRL Profile</li> <li>• RFC 3602 The AES-CBC Cipher Algorithm and Its Use with IPsec</li> <li>• RFC 3686 Using AES Counter Mode with IPsec ESP</li> <li>• RFC 4347 Datagram Transport Layer Security</li> <li>• RFC 4346 TLS Protocol Version 1.1</li> </ul>
<b>Encryption</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WEP and TKIP-MIC: RC4 40, 104 and 128 bits (both static and shared keys)</li> <li>• AES: CBC, CCM, CCMP</li> <li>• DES: DES-CBC, 3DES</li> <li>• SSL and TLS: RC4 128-bit and RSA 1024- and 2048-bit</li> <li>• DTLS: AES-CBC</li> <li>• IPsec: DES-CBC, 3DES, AES-CBC</li> </ul>
<b>Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IEEE 802.1X</li> <li>• RFC 2548 Microsoft Vendor-Specific RADIUS Attributes</li> <li>• RFC 2716 PPP EAP-TLS</li> <li>• RFC 2865 RADIUS Authentication</li> <li>• RFC 2866 RADIUS Accounting</li> <li>• RFC 2867 RADIUS Tunnel Accounting</li> <li>• RFC 2869 RADIUS Extensions</li> <li>• RFC 3576 Dynamic Authorization Extensions to RADIUS</li> <li>• RFC 3579 RADIUS Support for EAP</li> <li>• RFC 3580 IEEE 802.1X RADIUS Guidelines</li> <li>• RFC 3748 Extensible Authentication Protocol</li> <li>• Web-based authentication</li> <li>• TACACS support for management users</li> </ul>

Item	Specifications
<b>Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SNMP v1, v2c, v3</li> <li>• RFC 854 Telnet</li> <li>• RFC 1155 Management Information for TCP/IP-Based Internets</li> <li>• RFC 1156 MIB</li> <li>• RFC 1157 SNMP</li> <li>• RFC 1213 SNMP MIB II</li> <li>• RFC 1350 TFTP</li> <li>• RFC 1643 Ethernet MIB</li> <li>• RFC 2030 SNTP</li> <li>• RFC 2616 HTTP</li> <li>• RFC 2665 Ethernet-Like Interface types MIB</li> <li>• RFC 2674 Definitions of Managed Objects for Bridges with Traffic Classes, Multicast Filtering, and Virtual Extensions</li> <li>• RFC 2819 RMON MIB</li> <li>• RFC 2863 Interfaces Group MIB</li> <li>• RFC 3164 Syslog</li> <li>• RFC 3414 User-Based Security Model (USM) for SNMPv3</li> <li>• RFC 3418 MIB for SNMP</li> <li>• RFC 3636 Definitions of Managed Objects for IEEE 802.3 MAUs</li> <li>• Cisco private MIBs</li> </ul>
<b>Management Interfaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Web-based: HTTP/HTTPS</li> <li>• Command-line interface: Telnet, Secure Shell (SSH) Protocol, serial port</li> <li>• Cisco Wireless Control System (WCS)</li> </ul>
<b>Interfaces and Indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uplink: 8 (5508) 1000BaseT, 1000Base-SX and 1000Base-LH transceiver slots</li> <li>• Small Form-Factor Pluggable (SFP) options (only Cisco SFPs supported): GLC-T, GLC-SX-MM, GLC-LH-SM</li> <li>• LED indicators: link</li> <li>• Service Port: 10/100/1000 Mbps Ethernet (RJ45).</li> <li>• Service Port : 10/100/1000 Mbps Ethernet (RJ45) For High Availability for future use</li> <li>• LED indicators: link,</li> <li>• Utility Port: 10/100/1000 Mbps Ethernet (RJ45)</li> <li>• LED indicators: link</li> <li>• Expansion Slots: 1 (5508)</li> <li>• Console Port: RS232 (DB-9 male/RJ-45 connector included), mini-USB</li> <li>• Other Indicators: Sys, ACT, Power Supply 1, Power Supply 2</li> </ul>
<b>Physical and Environmental</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dimensions (WxDxH): 17.30 x 21.20 x 1.75 in. (440 x 539 x 44.5 mm)</li> <li>• Weight: 20 lbs (9.1 kg) with 2 power supplies</li> <li>• Temperature: Operating temperature: 32 to 104°F (0 to 40°C); Storage temperature: -13 to 158°F (-25 to 70°C)</li> <li>• Humidity: Operating humidity: 10 95%, noncondensing; Storage humidity: up to 95%</li> <li>• Input power: 100 to 240 VAC; 50/60 Hz; 1.05 A at 110 VAC, 115 W Maximum; 0.523 A at 220 VAC, 115 W Maximum; Test Conditions: Redundant Power Supplies, 40C, Full Traffic.</li> <li>• Heat Dissipation: 392 BTU/hour at 110/220 VAC Maximum</li> </ul>
<b>Regulatory Compliance</b>	<p>CE Mark</p> <p>Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UL 60950-1:2003</li> <li>• EN 60950:2000</li> <li>• EMI and susceptibility (Class A):</li> <li>• U.S.: FCC Part 15.107 and 15.109</li> <li>• Canada: ICES-003</li> <li>• Japan: VCCI</li> <li>• Europe: EN 55022, EN 55024</li> </ul>

Table 3 and Table 4 list the ordering and accessories information for Cisco 5500 Series Wireless Controllers.

**Table 3.** Ordering Information for Cisco 5500 Series Wireless Controllers

Part Number	Product Name	SMARTnet 8x5xNBD
AIR-CT5508-12-K9	5500 Series Wireless Controller for up to 12 Cisco access points	CON-SNT-CT0812
AIR-CT5508-25-K9	5500 Series Wireless Controller for up to 25 Cisco access points	CON-SNT-CT0825
AIR-CT5508-50-K9	5500 Series Wireless Controller for up to 50 Cisco access points	CON-SNT-CT0850
AIR-CT5508-100-K9	5500 Series Wireless Controller for up to 100 Cisco access points	CON-SNT-CT08100
AIR-CT5508-250-K9	5500 Series Wireless Controller for up to 250 Cisco access points	CON-SNT-CT08250
AIR-CT5508-500-K9	5500 Series Wireless Controller for up to 500 Cisco access points	CON-SNT-CT08500

**Table 4.** Accessories for Cisco 5500 Series Wireless Controllers

Part Number	Product Name
AIR-PWR-5500-AC=	5500 Series Wireless Controller Redundant AC Power Supply
AIR-FAN-5500=	5500 Series Wireless Controller Fan Tray
AIR-CT5500-RK-MNT	5500 Series Wireless Controller Spare mounting kit

## Additive Capacity Upgrade Licenses

The following additive capacity upgrade licenses are available for the Cisco 5500 Series:

**Table 5.** Ordering Information for Cisco 5500 Series Wireless Controllers Additive Capacity Licenses (e-delivery PAK's)

	Part Number	Product Description	SMARTnet 8x5xNBD
<b>e-License</b>	L-LIC-CT5508-UPG	Primary upgrade SKU: Pick any number or combination of the following options under this SKU to upgrade one or many controllers under one product authorization key	CON-SNT-LCTUPG
	L-LIC-CT5508-25A	25 AP Adder License for the 5508 Controller (eDelivery)	CON-SNT-LCT25A
	L-LIC-CT5508-50A	50 AP Adder License for the 5508 Controller (eDelivery)	CON-SNT-LCT50A
	L-LIC-CT5508-100A	100 AP Adder License for the 5508 Controller (eDelivery)	CON-SNT-LCT100A
	L-LIC-CT5508-250A	250 AP Adder License for the 5508 Controller (eDelivery)	CON-SNT-LCT250A

**Table 6.** Ordering Information for Cisco 5500 Series Wireless Controllers Additive Capacity Licenses (Paper PAK's)

	Part Number	Product Description	SMARTnet 8x5xNBD
<b>Paper License</b>	LIC-CT5508-UPG	Primary upgrade SKU: Pick any number or combination of the following options under this SKU, to upgrade one or many controllers under one product authorization key.	CON-SNT-LCTUPG
	LIC-CT5508-25A	25 AP Adder License for the 5508 Controller	CON-SNT-LCT25A
	LIC-CT5508-50A	50 AP Adder License for the 5508 Controller	CON-SNT-LCT50A
	LIC-CT5508-100A	100 AP Adder License for the 5508 Controller	CON-SNT-LCT100A
	LIC-CT5508-250A	250 AP Adder License for the 5508 Controller	CON-SNT-LCT250A

The additive capacity licenses allow for the increase in access point capacity supported by the controller upto a maximum of 500 Access points. As an example, if a controller was initially ordered with the 250 access point support, that capacity could be later increased to upto 500 access points by purchasing a 250 access point additive capacity license (1x-LIC-CT5508-250A).

A certificate with a PAK is required to add additional access point capacity on the Cisco 5500 Series Wireless Controller.

The certificate may be expedited via email. If a paper certificate is required for customs, it should be ordered to ship via U.S. mail. Each additive capacity license and PAK must be registered prior to installation.

Ordering and installing the Cisco 5500 Series Wireless Controller additive capacity licenses is a three-step process:

1. Select the correct SKU for email or paper delivery.
2. Register the PAK certificate. (See [Registering PAK Certificate](#)).
3. Install the license on the Cisco 5508 Series Wireless Controller. (See [Installing License](#)).

Please review the Cisco Wireless LAN Controller Configuration Guide, Release 6.0, for detailed ordering, registration and installation information for the 5500 Series additive capacity licenses.

Electronic delivery of the same PAK's is available by ordering the e-License SKUs as listed in Table 4. If a paper certificate is required, please use the SKUs listed in Table 5.

### PAK Certificate Registration

Customers are required to register a PAK certificate for all upgrade licenses for the Cisco 5500 Series Wireless Controllers. Customer email address and host name are required to register the PAK certificate at <http://www.cisco.com/go/license>.

### Installing License on Cisco WCS Server

Follow these steps to install a license file. If you need additional help, contact Cisco Technical Assistance Center (TAC) at 800 553-2447 or [tac@cisco.com](mailto:tac@cisco.com).

1. Install Cisco WCS software if not already completed.
2. Save the license file (.lic) to a temporary directory on your hard drive. (You will receive an email from Cisco with an attached license file).
3. Open a supported version of the Internet Explorer browser.
4. In the location or address field, enter the following URL, replacing IP address with the IP address or host name of the Cisco WCS server: **https:// <IP address>**.
5. Log in to the Cisco WCS server as system administrator. (Be aware that usernames and passwords are casesensitive.).
6. From the Help menu select **Licensing**.
7. On the Licensing page, from the command menu select **Add License**
8. On the Add License page, click **Browse** to navigate to the location where you saved the .lic file.
9. Click **Download**. The Cisco WCS server imports the license.

Table 7 shows the optional paper PAK license for Cisco 5500 Series Wireless Controllers. DTLS license is designated for customers who purchase a controller with DTLS disabled due to import restrictions but get permission to add DTLS support after initial purchase. This optional DTLS license is required for OfficeExtend deployment.

**Table 7.** Optional Licensing for Cisco 5500 Series Wireless Controllers (Paper PAKs)

Part Number	Description
LIC-CT5508-LPE-K9	Cisco 5508 Controller DTLS License (Paper Certificate – US Mail)

## Service and Support

### Cisco Wireless LAN Services

Cisco and our specialized partners offer a broad portfolio of end-to-end services to help you improve your organization's productivity and collaboration by assisting with the readiness, deployment and optimization of your [wireless](#) network and mobility services. Our services help you successfully deploy the 5500 Series Wireless Controller and integrate mobility solutions effectively to lower the total cost of ownership and secure your wireless network. To learn more about Cisco Wireless LAN Service offers, please visit <http://www.cisco.com/go/wirelesslanservices>.

Cisco WLAN Advanced Services Consulting is available for the planning and deployment stages to help ensure the successful integration of the Cisco 5500 Series Wireless Controller in your network. Cisco WLAN Advanced Services Consulting can be ordered with the SKU listed in Table 6.

Please contact your Cisco Sales representative with the information required for a pricing quote:

- Number of sites
- Desired coverage area (square feet or square miles)
- Estimated number of access points per site
- Advanced Mobility Services and required applications

**Table 8.** Ordering Information for planning and deployment consulting services for the Cisco 5500 Series Wireless Controllers

Part Number	Service Name
AS-WLAN-CNSLT	Cisco WLAN Advanced Services Consulting

## Summary

The Cisco 5500 Series Wireless Controller is designed for 802.11n performance and offers maximum scalability for enterprise and service provider wireless deployments. It simplifies deployment and operation of wireless networks, helping to ensure smooth performance, enhance security, and maximize network availability. The Cisco 5500 Series Wireless Controller manages all of the Cisco access points within campus environments and branch locations, eliminating complexity and providing network administrators with visibility and control of their wireless LANs.

## For More Information

For more information about Cisco wireless controllers, contact your local account representative or visit <http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps6366/index.html>.

For more information about the Cisco Unified Wireless Network framework, visit <http://www.cisco.com/go/unifiedwireless>.



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