

DOT11 Monitor FAQ

SUPPORTED DEVICES

Does DOT11 Monitor work with all vendors wireless access points?

DOT11 Monitor works only with those access points specified in the DOT11 Monitor spec sheet, and only with the respective vendors firmware specified in the spec sheet

Does DOT11 Monitor work with all vendors wireless client devices?

Yes. DOT11 Monitor will report the received signal strength (RSS) at the access point, of the power received from *any* Wi-Fi client device. To manage a client devices transmit power, the client device should be a CCX compatible device

http://www.cisco.com/web/partners/pr46/pr147/partners_pgm_partners_0900aecd800a7907.html

Does DOT11 Monitor require any special hardware?

No. DOT11 Monitor is a software application that resides on a Windows or Linux PC. No special appliance, sensor, or adaptor is required.

Does DOT11 Monitor require that the access point or client devices be configured a certain way?

SNMP must be enabled on the access point. No other special configurations are required.

WIRELESS SIGNAL

Does DOT11 Monitor transmit data packets wirelessly? Will it generate any wireless traffic?

No. DOT11 Monitor makes SNMP queries to the wireless access point through the data cable connected to the access point, generating a small amount of wire-line network traffic. The application generates *no wireless* data packets.

Can DOT11 Monitor report the received signal strength (RSS) at the client device?

Approximately. DOT11 Monitor reports the received signal strength (RSS) at the access point from the client device. Generally speaking, in a typical office environment, the communications channel is "reciprocal". This means the loss of the forward channel (AP to client) will be similar to the loss of the reverse channel (client to AP). If you set the client transmit power level to be the same as the AP transmit power level (a good practice in most cases), then DOT11 Monitor's report of received signal strength (at the AP) will be close to that which the client receives.

Can DOT11 Monitor report the Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR) at the client device?

Generally no. DOT11 Monitor reports the SNR at the access point, thereby revealing interference sources to the AP only. In some cases, an interference source close to the client device, but perhaps hidden from the access point, may create problems for the client device which are not revealed by DOT11 Monitor.

Can DOT11 Monitor tell me if the access point is poorly placed, or has a broken antenna or cable?

Yes, it will be evident from the poor received signal strength (RSS) reports that there is an issue with the access point.

Can DOT11 Monitor tell me if a client device is broken or malfunctioning.

Yes, in most cases, it will be evident from the DOT11 Monitor received signal strength (RSS) and access point association table if the client device is not operating properly.

SUPPORTED STANDARDS

Can the application monitor connectivity of 802.11 “a”, “b”, “g”, and “n” networks.

Yes. DOT 11 Monitor will report the received signal strength of 802.11 “a”, “b”, “g”, and “n” wireless packets, if the access point being monitored supports these protocols.

802.11n wireless access points use MIMO technology, and can provide a beamforming capability to improve reception at the access point. Does DOT11 Monitor work with 802.11n access points?

Yes, since DOT11 monitor is reporting the received signal strength at the access point, the report reflects the improved receive gain of the MIMO receiver.

NETWORK DESIGN and PERFORMANCE

How is DOT11 Monitor different from other wireless LAN monitoring and mgmt. products?

Some products use plug-in software and hardware in a laptop for walk-around spectrum analysis. Other vendor's products use dedicated sensors that are added as an overlay to the Wi-fi infrastructure. DOT11 Monitor requires only the information available from the infrastructure access points. This provides the most accurate and relevant RSS and SNR information for RF coverage validation.

Can DOT11 Monitor be used to determine if the wireless network is poorly designed or configured?

Yes, DOT11 monitor can show you if device connectivity is poor, if there are problems when roaming, if the client device is associated to the wrong AP, or if there are high levels of interference. It can show you if access points and client devices are set to power levels that are inappropriate for the design. DOT11 can also show you if an 802.11b client device is present in an otherwise 802.11g network, which will degrade network performance.

Can DOT11 Monitor measure data throughput?

No. DOT11 Monitor is designed to monitor signal strength and connectivity only, and can validate and support a wireless network design. Data throughput is highly dependent on the type of application, the hardware, O/S, client device, and other factors.

Is DOT11 Monitor a wireless Intrusion Detection System (IDS)? Can it detect rogue APs or clients

No. DOT11 Monitor will not provide the intrusion monitoring results that a true wireless IDS will.

INSTALLATION, USE, & SECURITY

Will DOT11 Monitor conflict with other applications?

DOT11 Monitor contains built-in Apache web and Firebird database servers. These services will co-exist with existing or future web or database server installs. If you require DOT11 Monitor to run using existing web servers, you must specify a port other than port 80 during installation. Please refer to installation instructions.

Can DOT11 Monitor work across subnets?

No, not at this time. DOT11 Monitor should be installed locally on a computer that resides on the same subnet as the access points to be monitored.

Is DOT11 Monitor Secure?

Yes. Use SNMP v3, which is encrypted, on the local network. When accessing remote sites, the remote site should be accessed via a VPN connection.

REMOTE MONITORING

Can DOT11 Monitor be used to remotely monitor multiple sites?

Yes, the DOT11 Monitor needs to be installed at each site so it can query the access points locally, but since the software has a web server, it can serve web pages to any browser across the Internet (see figure below). Talk to your Oberon sales representative about pricing when using multiple DOT11 Monitors at remote sites.

