

Troubleshoot 11n Speeds

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Introduction

This document covers common issues to consider when troubleshooting wireless throughput issues. This document includes usage of tools to measure performance and throughput of the wireless network, which includes different vendor 802.11n access points (APs) in comparison with the Cisco 1252 AP under similar test conditions.

Prerequisites

Requirements

Cisco recommends that you have these requirements:

- Tools such as iPerf, and network analyzers such as OmniPeek and Cisco Spectrum Analysis
- 802.11n supported 1140, 1250, 3500, and 1260 Series APs

Components Used

The information in this document is based on these software and hardware versions:

- WS-SVC-WiSM Controller running software version 6.0.182
- AIR-LAP1142-A-K9 APs

Conventions

Refer to Cisco Technical Tips Conventions for more information on document conventions.

Background Information

802.11n is born due to a number of changes made on the APs Frame Aggregation: A-MPDU and A-MSDU.

- Block Ack Size
- MCS and Channel Bonding
- MIMO

- Using 5GHz over 2.4 GHz: also mention Wi-Fi certifies channel bonding on 5GHz

Troubleshoot the Controller for 11n Speeds

Complete these steps:

1. Verify that 802.11n support is enabled on the controller.

```
(WiSM-slot3-2) >show 802.11a
802.11a Network..... Enabled
11nSupport..... Enabled
802.11a Low Band..... Enabled
802.11a Mid Band..... Enabled
802.11a High Band..... Enabled
802.11a Operational Rates
802.11a 6M Rate..... Mandatory
802.11a 9M Rate..... Supported
802.11a 12M Rate..... Disabled
802.11a 18M Rate..... Supported
802.11a 24M Rate..... Mandatory
802.11a 36M Rate..... Supported
802.11a 48M Rate..... Supported
802.11a 54M Rate..... Supported
802.11n MCS Settings:
MCS 0..... Supported
MCS 1..... Supported
MCS 2..... Supported
MCS 3..... Supported
MCS 4..... Supported
MCS 5..... Supported
```

2. N rates are attained two ways. Speeds up to Modulation Coding scheme (MCS) 7 can be attained without using channel bonding. For MCS rates above 7 and up to 15, channel bonding needs to be enabled. You can verify if channel bonding is enabled using this **show** command on the controller:

```
(WiSM-slot3-2) >show advanced 802.11a channel
Automatic Channel Assignment
Channel Assignment Mode..... AUTO
Channel Update Interval..... 600 seconds [startup]
Anchor time (Hour of the day)..... 0
Channel Update Contribution..... SNI.
Channel Assignment Leader..... 00:1d:45:f0:d2:c0
Last Run..... 371 seconds ago
DCA Sensitivity Level..... STARTUP (5 dB)
DCA 802.11n Channel Width..... 40 MHz
Channel Energy Levels
Minimum..... unknown
Average..... unknown
Maximum..... unknown
Channel Dwell Times
Minimum..... unknown
Average..... unknown
Maximum..... unknown
802.11a 5 GHz Auto-RF Channel List
Allowed Channel List..... 
36,40,44,48,52,56,60,64,149,
153,157,161
Unused Channel List..... 
100,104,108,112,116,132,136,
```

3. You can also configure channel width per AP using these commands:

```
(WiSM-slot2-2) >config 802.11a disable AP0022.9090.8e97
(WiSM-slot2-2) >config 802.11a chan_width AP0022.9090.8e97 40
Set 802.11a channel width to 40 on AP AP0022.9090.8e97
```

The Guard interval and corresponding MCS rates help determine the data rates that are seen on the 802.11n clients. These are the commands to verify this configuration:

```
(WiSM-slot3-2) >show 802.11a
802.11a Network..... Enabled
11nSupport..... Enabled
802.11a Low Band..... Enabled
802.11a Mid Band..... Enabled
802.11a High Band..... Enabled
802.11a Operational Rates
802.11a 6M Rate..... Mandatory
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802.11n MCS Settings:
MCS 0..... Supported
MCS 1..... Supported
MCS 2..... Supported
MCS 3..... Supported
MCS 4..... Supported
MCS 5..... Supported
MCS 6..... Supported
MCS 7..... Supported
MCS 8..... Supported
MCS 9..... Supported
MCS 10..... Supported
MCS 11..... Supported
MCS 12..... Supported
MCS 13..... Supported
MCS 14..... Supported
MCS 15..... Supported
802.11n Status:
A-MPDU Tx:
Priority 0..... Enabled
Priority 1..... Disabled
Priority 2..... Disabled
Priority 3..... Disabled
Priority 4..... Disabled
Priority 5..... Disabled
Priority 6..... Disabled
Priority 7..... Disabled
Beacon Interval..... 100
CF Pollable mandatory..... Disabled
CF Poll Request mandatory..... Disabled
--More-- or (q)uit
CFP Period..... 4
CFP Maximum Duration..... 60
Default Channel..... 36
Default Tx Power Level..... 1
DTPC Status..... Enabled
Fragmentation Threshold..... 2346
Pico-Cell Status..... Disabled
Pico-Cell-V2 Status..... Disabled
TI Threshold..... -50
Traffic Stream Metrics Status..... Disabled
Expedited BW Request Status..... Disabled
World Mode..... Enabled
EDCA profile type..... default-wmm
Voice MAC optimization status..... Disabled
Call Admission Control (CAC) configuration
Voice AC - Admission control (ACM)..... Enabled
Voice max RF bandwidth..... 75
```

4.	Voice reserved roaming bandwidth.....	6
	Voice load-based CAC mode.....	Enabled
	Voice tspec inactivity timeout.....	Disabled
	Video AC - Admission control (ACM).....	Disabled
	Voice Stream-Size.....	84000
	Voice Max-Streams.....	2
	Video max RF bandwidth.....	Infinite
	Video reserved roaming bandwidth.....	0

Ensure A-MPDU packet aggregation. For best effort, QoS levels are enabled via these commands:

- ◆ config 802.11a 11nSupport a-mpdu tx priority 0 enable
- ◆ config 802.11b 11nSupport a-mpdu tx priority 0 enable

5. All three antennas on the A radio must be used. Make sure the antennas are the same model.
6. On the WLAN configured for client connectivity, WMM should be allowed or required, and AES or open encryption only must be used. This can be verified using this command output:

```
(WiSM-slot2-2) >show wlan 1
WLAN Identifier..... 1
Profile Name..... wlab5WISMip22
Network Name (SSID)..... wlab5WISMip22
Status..... Enabled
MAC Filtering..... Disabled
Broadcast SSID..... Enabled
AAA Policy Override..... Disabled
Network Admission Control
NAC-State..... Disabled
Quarantine VLAN..... 0
Number of Active Clients..... 0
Exclusionlist Timeout..... 60 seconds
Session Timeout..... 1800 seconds
CHD per WLAN..... Enabled
Webauth DHCP exclusion..... Disabled
Interface..... management
WLAN ACL..... unconfigured
DHCP Server..... Default
DHCP Address Assignment Required..... Disabled
Quality of Service..... Silver (best effort)
WMM..... Allowed
CCX - AironetIE Support..... Enabled
CCX - Gratuitous ProbeResponse (GPR)..... Disabled
CCX - Diagnostics Channel Capability..... Disabled
Dot11-Phone Mode (7920)..... Disabled
Wired Protocol..... None
IPv6 Support..... Disabled
Peer-to-Peer Blocking Action..... Disabled
Radio Policy..... All
DTIM period for 802.11a radio..... 1
DTIM period for 802.11b radio..... 1
Radius Servers
Authentication..... Global Servers
Accounting..... Disabled
Local EAP Authentication..... Disabled
Security
802.11 Authentication:..... Open System
Static WEP Keys..... Disabled
802.1X..... Disabled
Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA/WPA2)..... Enabled
WPA (SSN IE)..... Disabled
WPA2 (RSN IE)..... Enabled
TKIP Cipher..... Disabled
AES Cipher..... Enabled
Auth Key Management
802.1x..... Enabled
```

PSK.....	Disabled
CCKM.....	Disabled
FT(802.11r).....	Disabled
FT-PSK(802.11r).....	Disabled
FT Reassociation Timeout.....	20
FT Over-The-Air mode.....	Enabled
FT Over-The-Ds mode.....	Enabled
CKIP	Disabled
IP Security.....	Disabled
IP Security Passthru.....	Disabled
Web Based Authentication.....	Disabled
Web-Passthrough.....	Disabled
Conditional Web Redirect.....	Disabled
Splash-Page Web Redirect.....	Disabled
Auto Anchor.....	Disabled
H-REAP Local Switching.....	Enabled
H-REAP Learn IP Address.....	Enabled
Infrastructure MFP protection.....	Enabled (Global Infrastructure MFP Disabled)
Client MFP.....	Optional
Tkip MIC Countermeasure Hold-down Timer.....	60
Call Snooping.....	Disabled
Band Select.....	Enabled
Load Balancing.....	Enabled

7. Antenna Diversity: if using only two antennas for any reason, you need to use antenna A and B for transmitter/receiver ports.

On the Client side:

1. Supplicant used to control the wireless card, preferred to match the vendor of the supplicant to the wireless card.
2. Client drivers: you need to make sure the latest client drivers are running on the wireless cards.
3. Contact your wireless adapter vendor.
4. Make sure you are using 11n certified adapter to achieve 11n data rates.

Wi-Fi certified products:

http://www.wi-fi.org/certified_products.php

How to Improve Performance:

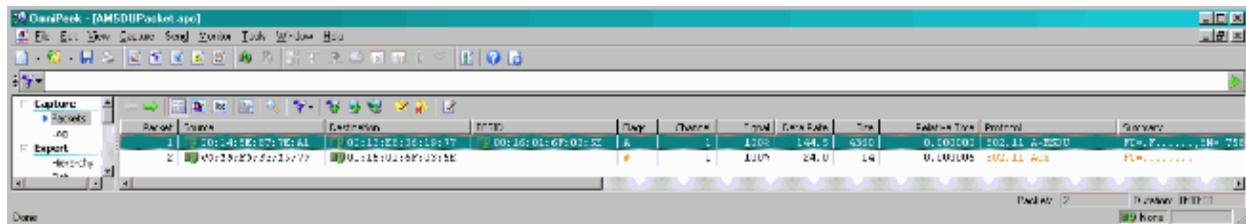
1. Channel utilization Network analyzers report channel utilization in percentage of time spent transmitting and receiving frames. This helps to measure the potential variance in speed due to distance from an access point. This will help monitor and see for example, if a channel is fully occupied transmitting at 1Mbps under ideal conditions would perform at 0.94Mbps under 100% utilization.
2. The physical medium used in wireless as well dictates the performances. Using 802.11g or 802.11a over 802.11b offers much higher throughputs, often up to 30 mbps over 802.11b where a 6mpbs radio capacity is divided between all the associated stations.
3. Cell Sizes It is recommended to shrink the cell sizes to have the clients as closer to the APs as possible. This will benefit the data rates at which the client can connect to the AP. This can be done by reducing the power levels on the AP to the lowest.
4. Shrinking cell size also decreases co-channel interference. If using RRM, the APs should pick channels dynamically per the deployment. However, if implementing dynamic channel assignment, ensure that you do not have two APs at high power levels on the same channel right next to each other.
5. Protection also causes throughput hit.

Run this command on the client side:

```
Iperf c  
<server IP address>  
-u b 50M 1 56k P
```

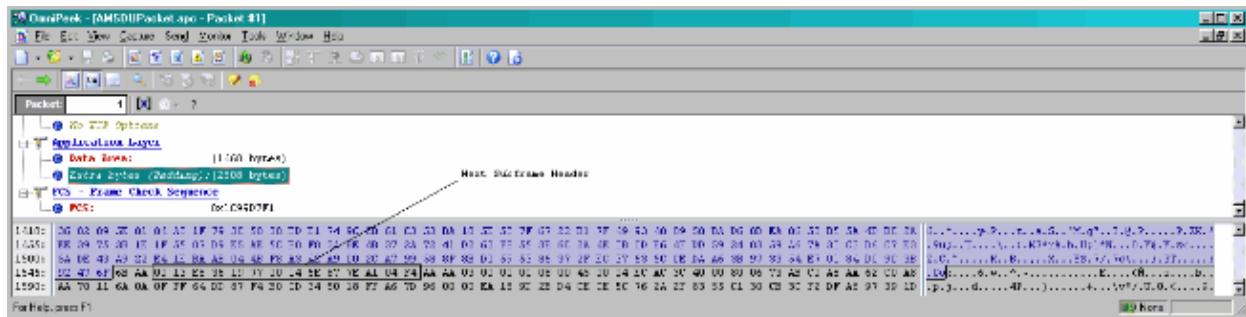
This is an example of OmniPeek captures to analyze **Aggregate MAC service data unit**:

A-MSDU trace shows one packet

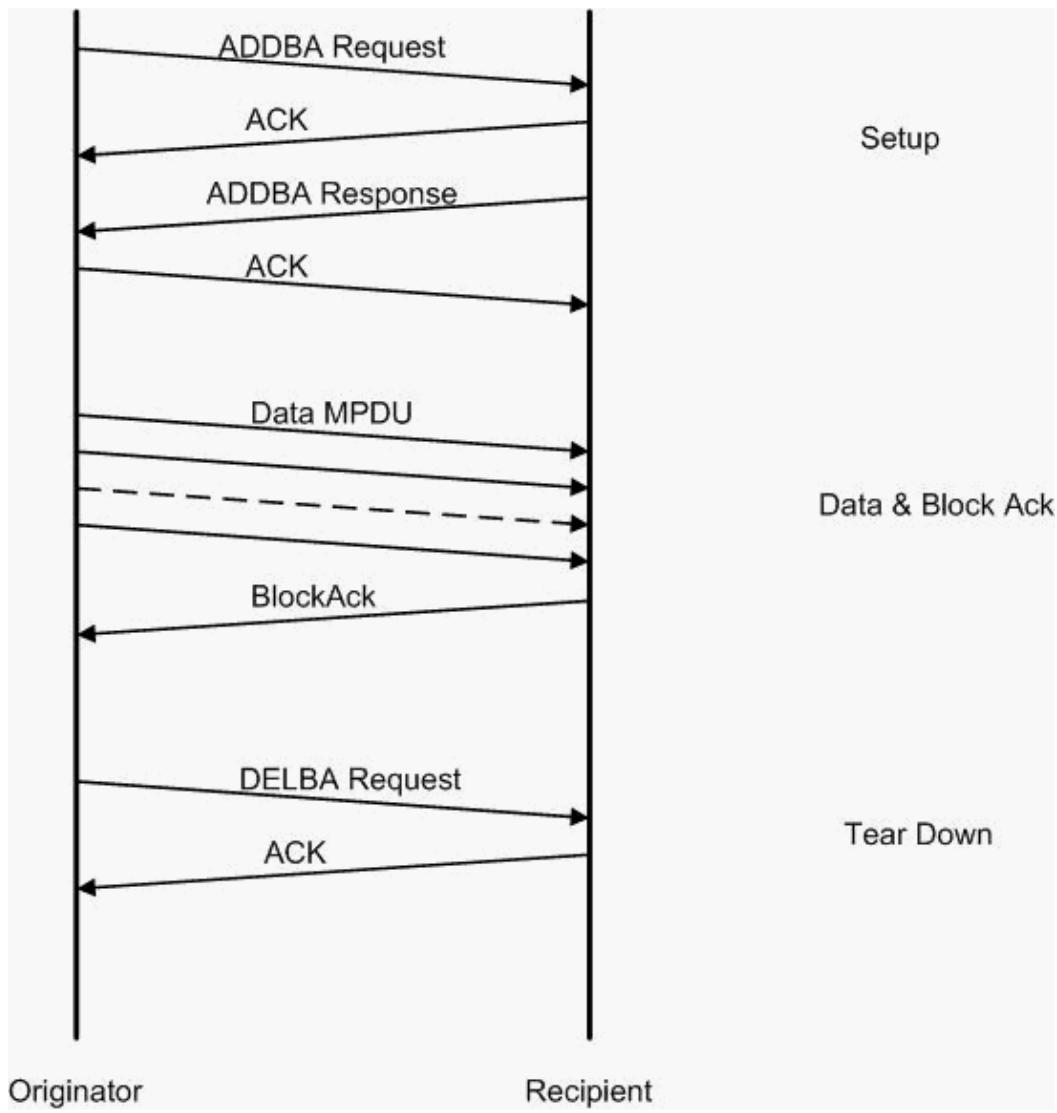


- Only the first sub frame is shown.
- Need to inspect hex dump to see additional sub frames.

A-MSDU next Sub frame shown appended

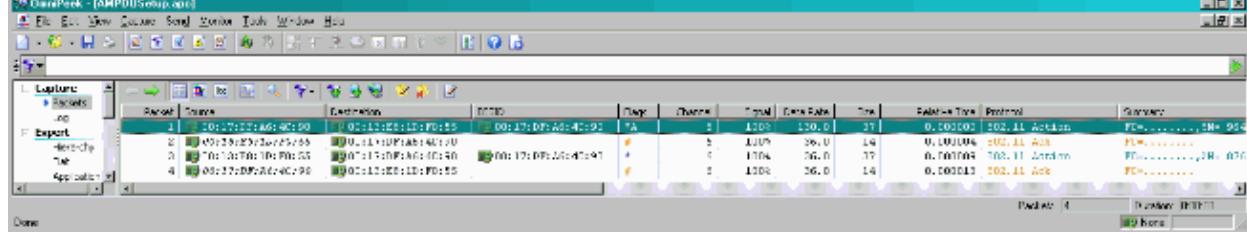


- An A-MPDU is a structure that contains multiple MPDUs, transported as a single PSDU by the PHY.
- Indication that packet is Data A-MPDU in Physical layer convergence procedure (PLCP).



This is an example of Omnipcap captures to analyze **Aggregate MAC protocol data unit**:

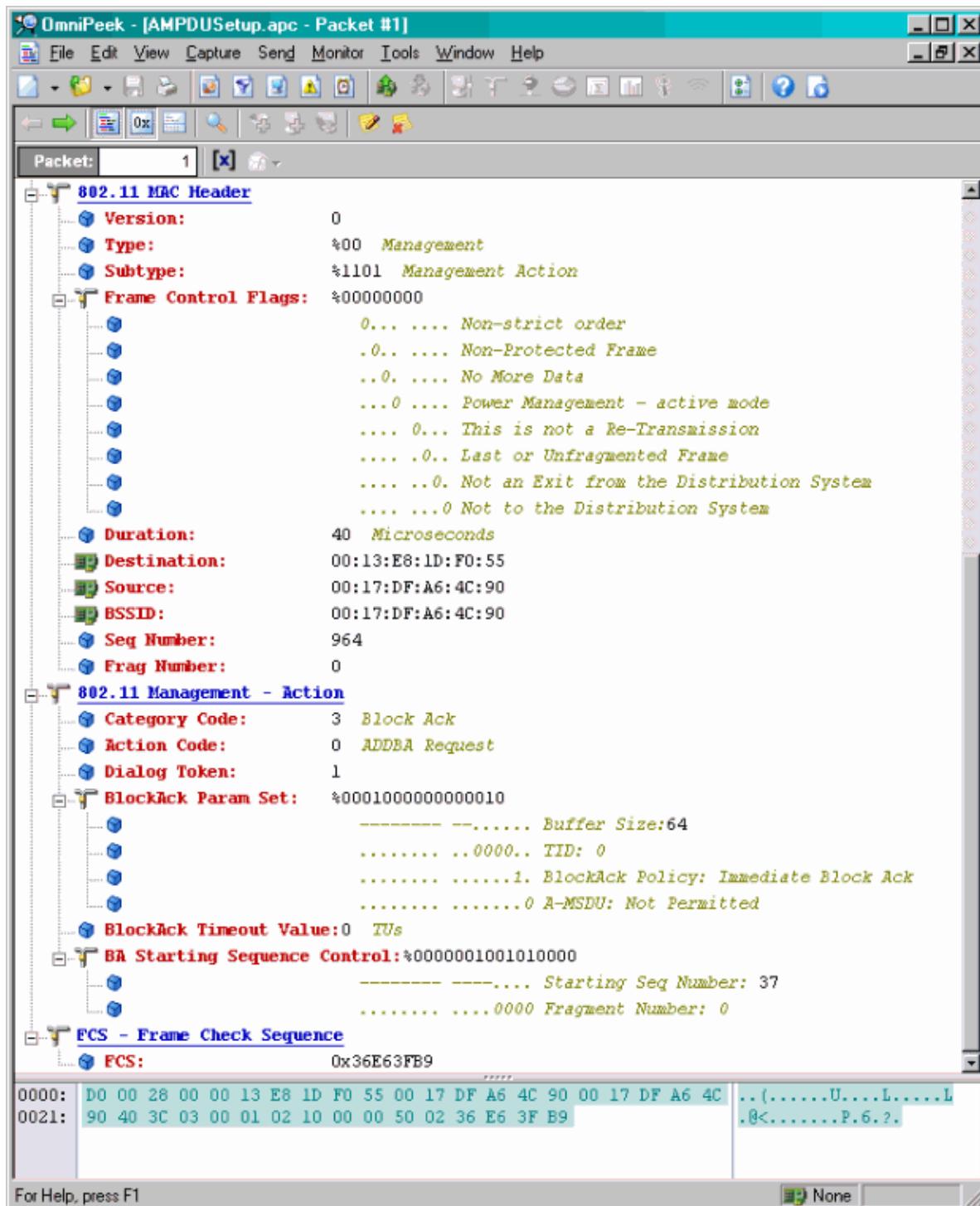
A-MPDU Setup



- ADDBA Add Block Acknowledgement
- ADDBA Request Contains identifier, Block Ack Policy, Buffer Size, etc.
- ADDBA Response Can change policy and buffer size.

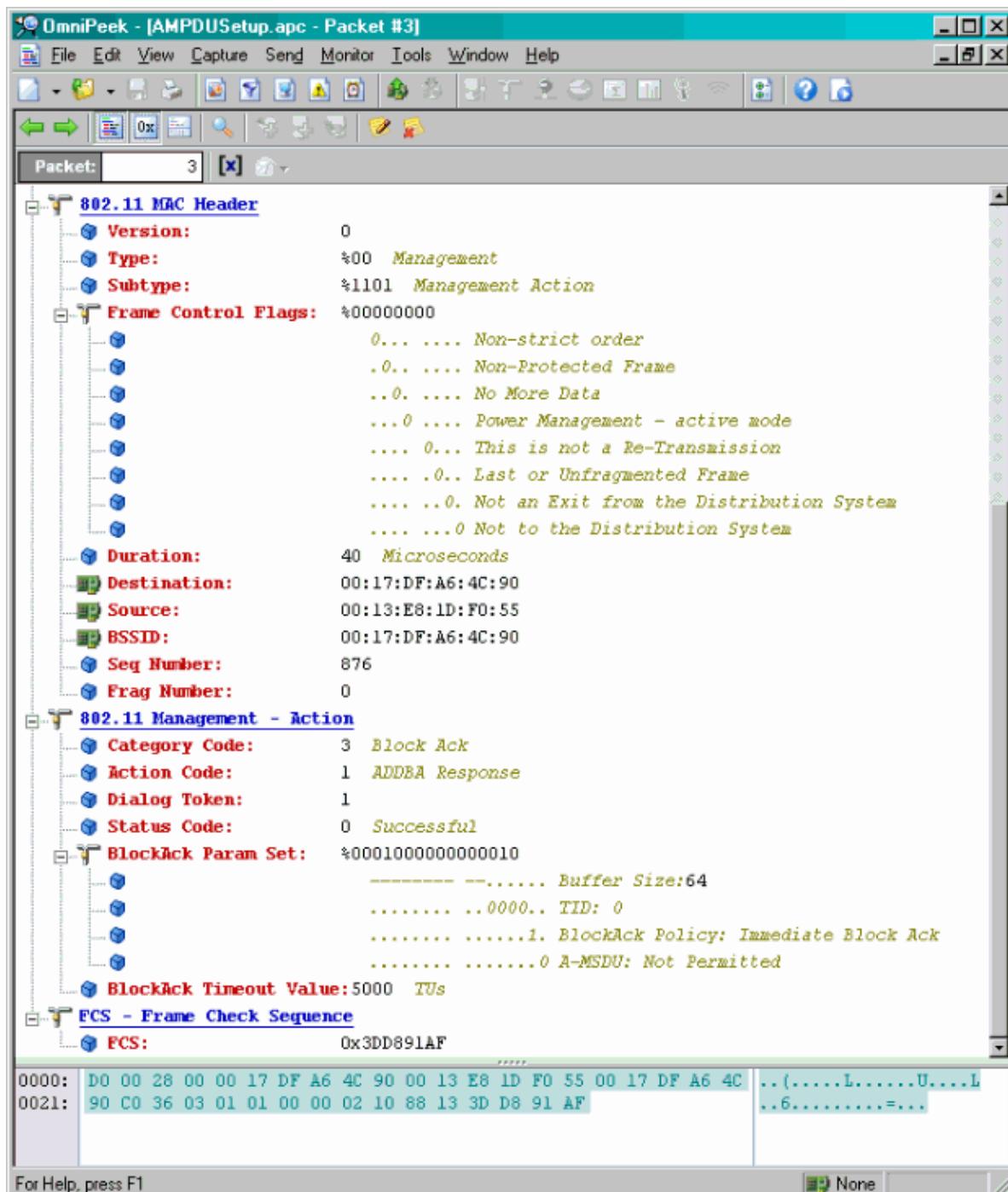
A-MPDU Setup

- ADDBA Request
- AP1250 uses a timeout of zero to indicate no timeout.



A-MPDU Setup

- ADDBA Response
- Receiver needs to indicate Block Ack Agreement was successfully established.



A-MPDU Data Transfer

- Block Ack contains compressed bitmap to indicate MPDUs received.
- Refer to the IEEE 802.11n section 9.10.7 HT-immediate Block Ack extensions for information on sending the Block Ack.


```

Rx Bitmask b64-b76: 4000000000000000
Reserved: 4000
Highest Supported Rate: 0 Mbps
Reserved: 4000000
Tx Supported MCS Set: 40 Not Defined
Tx and Rx MCS Set: 40 Equal
Tx Maximum Number Spatial Streams Supported: 100 1 Spatial Stream
Tx Unequal Modulation: 40 Not Supported
Reserved: 40000000000000000000000000000000 b101-b127

HT Extended Capabilities Info: 40000000000000000000000000000000
    .... XXXX ..... Reserved
    .... 0. .... Reverse Direction Responder: Supported
    .... 0. .... +HTC Support: Supported
    .... 00 .... MCS Feedback: STA Does Not Provide MCS Feedback
    .... XXXX x... Reserved
    .... ...0. Transition Time: No Transition
    .... ...0 Transmitter Supports PCO: Supported

Tx Beam Forming Capability (TxBF): 40000000000000000000000000000000
    .... XXX ..... Reserved
    .... 0 0. .... Channel Estimation Capability: 1 Space Time Stream
    .... .00. .... CSI Max Number of Rows: 1 Row of CSI
    .... 0 0. .... Compressed BF Feedback Matrix: 1 TX Antenna Sounding
    .... .00. .... Uncompressed BF Feedback Matrix: 1 TX Antenna Sounding
    .... ...0 0.... CSI Number of BF Antennas: 1 TX Antenna Sounding
    .... ...00. .... Minimal Grouping: STA Supports Groups of 1 (No Grouping)
    .... ...0 0.... Compressed BF Feedback Matrix: Not Supported
    .... ...00. .... Uncompressed BF Feedback Matrix: Not Supported
    .... ...0 0.... TxBF CSI Feedback: Not Supported
    .... ...0. .... Compressed BF Feedback Matrix Capable: Not Supported
    .... ...0. .... Uncompressed BF Feedback Matrix: Not Supported
    .... ...0 .... Explicit CSI TxBF Capable: Not Supported
    .... ...00. .... Calibration: Not Supported
    .... ...0. .... Implicit TxBF Capable: Not Supported
    .... ...0 .... Tx NDP Capable: Not Supported
    .... ...0. .... Rx NDP Capable: Not Supported
    .... ...0. .... Tx Staggered Sounding Capable: Not Supported
    .... ...0. .... Rx Staggered Sounding Capable: Not Supported
    .... ...0 Implicit TxBF Receiving Capable: Not Supported

Antenna Selection Capability (ASEL): 400000000
    .... X.... Reserved
    .... 0. .... Tx Sounding PPNUs Capable: Not Supported
    .... 0. .... Rx ASEL Capable: Not Supported
    .... 0. .... Antenna Indices Feedback Capable: Not Supported
    .... 0. .... Explicit CSI Feedback: Tx AS Capable: Not Supported
    .... 0. .... Antenna Indices Feedback Based Tx ASEL Capable: Not Supported
    .... 0. .... Re-Explicit CSI Feedback Tx ASEL Capable: Not Supported

```

Capabilities advertised in Beacons:

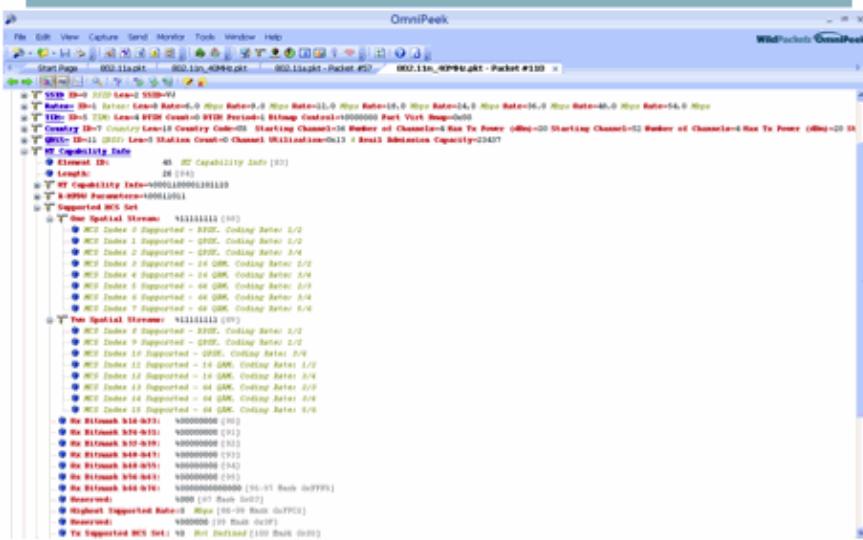
```

- ① Element ID:          61 Additional HT Information
- ② Length:              22
- ③ Primary Channel:    6
- ④ Srvc Int Granularity: 4000 6ms
- ⑤ PSMP STAs Only:     40 Association Requests are Accepted Regardless of PSMP Capability
- ⑥ RIFS Mode:           41 Use of RIFS Permitted
- ⑦ STA Channel Width:  41 Use Any Channel Width Enabled Under Supported Channel Width Set
- ⑧ 2nd Channel Offset: 601 Above the Primary Channel
- ⑨ HT Info Element 2:   400000000000000100
  - ⑩ .....xxxxxx xxx..... Reserved
  - ⑪ .....0.... OBSS Non-HT STAs: Use of Protection for Non-HT STAs Not Needed
  - ⑫ .....0... Transmit Burst Limit: No Limit
  - ⑬ .....1.. Non-Greenfield STAs: One or more HT STAs are Not Greenfield Capable
  - ⑭ .....00 Operating Mode: Pure HT (No Protection) - All STAs in the BSS are 20/40 MHz HT
- ⑮ HT Info Element 3:   4000000000000000
  - ⑯ .....xxxx.... Reserved
  - ⑰ .....0... PCO Phase: Switch To/Continue Use 20MHz Phase
  - ⑱ .....0... PCO Active: Not Active in the BSS
  - ⑲ .....0. .... L-SIG TXOP Protection: Not Full Support
  - ⑳ .....0 ..... Secondary Beacon: Primary Beacon
  - ㉑ .....0..... Dual CTS Protection: Not Required
  - ㉒ .....0..... Dual Beacon: No Secondary Beacon Transmitted
  - ㉓ .....xxxxxx Reserved
- ㉔ Basic MCS Set
  - ㉕ One Spatial Stream: 400000000
    - ㉖ ① MCS Index 0 Not Supported - BPSK. Coding Rate: 1/2
    - ㉖ ② MCS Index 1 Not Supported - QPSK. Coding Rate: 1/2
    - ㉖ ③ MCS Index 2 Not Supported - QPSK. Coding Rate: 3/4
    - ㉖ ④ MCS Index 3 Not Supported - 16 QAM. Coding Rate: 1/2
    - ㉖ ⑤ MCS Index 4 Not Supported - 16 QAM. Coding Rate: 3/4
    - ㉖ ⑥ MCS Index 5 Not Supported - 64 QAM. Coding Rate: 2/3
    - ㉖ ⑦ MCS Index 6 Not Supported - 64 QAM. Coding Rate: 3/4
    - ㉖ ⑧ MCS Index 7 Not Supported - 64 QAM. Coding Rate: 5/6
  - ㉕ Two Spatial Streams: 400000000
    - ㉖ ① MCS Index 8 Not Supported - BPSK. Coding Rate: 1/2
    - ㉖ ② MCS Index 9 Not Supported - QPSK. Coding Rate: 1/2
    - ㉖ ③ MCS Index 10 Not Supported - QPSK. Coding Rate: 3/4
    - ㉖ ④ MCS Index 11 Not Supported - 16 QAM. Coding Rate: 1/2
    - ㉖ ⑤ MCS Index 12 Not Supported - 16 QAM. Coding Rate: 3/4
    - ㉖ ⑥ MCS Index 13 Not Supported - 64 QAM. Coding Rate: 2/3
    - ㉖ ⑦ MCS Index 14 Not Supported - 64 QAM. Coding Rate: 3/4
    - ㉖ ⑧ MCS Index 15 Not Supported - 64 QAM. Coding Rate: 5/6
  - ㉖ Rx Bitmask b16-b23: 400000000
  - ㉖ Rx Bitmask b24-b31: 400000000
  - ㉖ Rx Bitmask b32-b39: 400000000
  - ㉖ Rx Bitmask b40-b47: 400000000

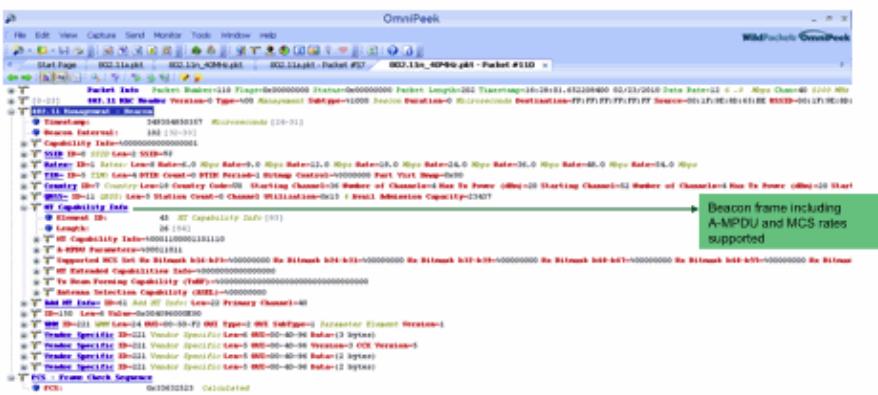
```

Association similar with addition of Block Ack setup for A-MPDU:

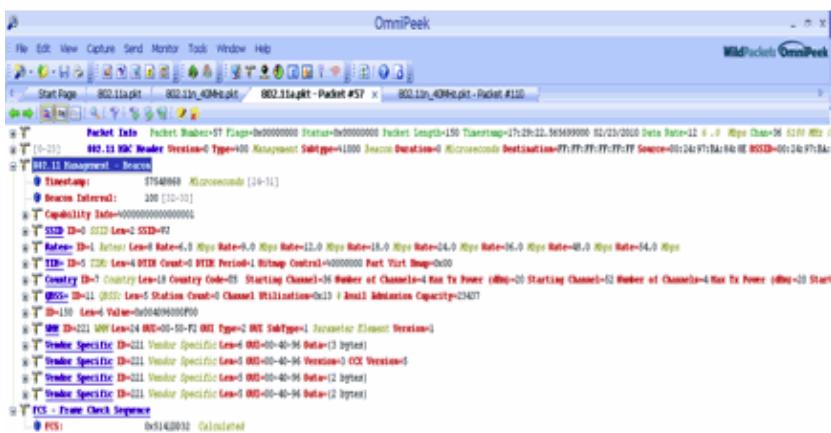
Supported MCS rates



802.11a with N rates Enabled



802.11A Beacon frame



Related Information

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