

# Configure Access Point Authorization in a Unified Wireless Network

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## Introduction

This document describes how to configure WLC to authorize the Access Point (AP) based on the MAC address of the APs.

## Prerequisites

### Requirements

Cisco recommends that you have knowledge of these topics:

- Basic knowledge of how to configure a Cisco Identity Services Engine (ISE)
- Knowledge of the configuration of Cisco APs and Cisco WLCs
- Knowledge of Cisco Unified Wireless Security Solutions

### Components Used

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

- WLCs running AireOS 8.8.111.0 Software

- Wave1 APs: 1700/2700/3700 and 3500 (1600/2600/3600 are still supported but AireOS support ends on version 8.5.x)
- Wave2 APs: 1800/2800/3800/4800, 1540, and 1560
- ISE version 2.3.0.298

The information in this document was created from the devices in a specific lab environment. All of the devices used in this document started with a cleared (default) configuration. If your network is live, ensure that you understand the potential impact of any command.

## **Lightweight AP Authorization**

During the AP registration process, the APs and WLCs mutually authenticate with the use of X.509 certificates. The X.509 certificates are burned into protected flash on both the AP and WLC at the factory by Cisco.

On the AP, factory-installed certificates are called manufacturing-installed certificates (MIC). All Cisco APs manufactured after July 18, 2005, have MICs.

In addition to this mutual authentication that occurs during the registration process, the WLCs can also restrict the APs that register with them based on the MAC address of the AP.

The lack of a strong password with the use of the AP MAC address is not an issue because the controller uses MIC to authenticate the AP before authorizing the AP through the RADIUS server. The use of MIC provides strong authentication.

AP authorization can be performed in two ways:

- Using the Internal Authorization list on the WLC
- Using the MAC address database on an AAA server

The behaviors of the APs differ based on the certificate used:

- APs with SSCs—The WLC only uses the Internal Authorization list and does not forward a request to a RADIUS server for these APs
- APs with MICs—WLC can use either the Internal Authorization list configured on the WLC or use a RADIUS server to authorize the APs

This document discusses AP authorization with the use of both the Internal Authorization list and the AAA server.

## **Configure**

### **Configuration using the Internal Authorization List on the WLC**

On the WLC, use the AP authorization list to restrict APs based on their MAC address. The AP authorization list is available under **Security > AP Policies** in the WLC GUI.

This example shows how to add the AP with MAC address 4c:77:6d:9e:61:62.

1. From the WLC controller GUI, click Security > AP Policies and the AP Policies page appears.

2. Click the Add button on the right hand side of the screen.

The screenshot shows the Cisco WLC controller's AP Policies configuration page. The top navigation bar includes links for Save Configuration, Ping, Logout, Refresh, Home, MONITOR, WLANs, CONTROLLER, WIRELESS, SECURITY (which is selected), MANAGEMENT, COMMANDS, HELP, and FEEDBACK. On the left, a sidebar menu under the Security section lists AAA (General, RADIUS, TACACS+, Local EAP, Advanced EAP), MAC Filtering, Disabled Clients (User Login Policies, AP Policies, Password Policies), and Priority Order. The main content area is titled 'AP Policies' and contains sections for 'Policy Configuration' and 'AP Authorization List'. Under Policy Configuration, several checkboxes are listed: 'Accept Self Signed Certificate (SSC)' (unchecked), 'Accept Manufactured Installed Certificate (MIC)' (checked), 'Accept Local Significant Certificate (LSC)' (unchecked), 'Authorize MIC APs against auth-list or AAA' (checked), and 'Authorize LSC APs against auth-list' (unchecked). The 'AP Authorization List' section includes a search bar for MAC address and a table header for MAC address / Serial Number, Certificate Type, and SHA1 Key Hash. At the bottom right of the main content area, there are 'Apply' and 'Add' buttons, with the 'Add' button being highlighted by a red box.

3. Under Add AP to Authorization List, enter the AP MAC address (not the AP Radio mac address). Then, choose the certificate type and click Add.

In this example, an AP with a MIC certificate is added.

**Note:** For APs with SSCs, choose ssc under Certificate Type.

This screenshot shows the same AP Policies configuration page as the previous one, but with a red box highlighting the 'Add AP to Authorization List' dialog box. This dialog box contains fields for 'MAC Address' (4c:77:6d:9e:61:62) and 'Certificate Type' (MIC), with an 'Add' button at the bottom. The rest of the page, including the Policy Configuration section and the AP Authorization List table, remains visible.

The AP is added to the AP authorization list and is listed under AP Authorization List.

4. Under Policy Configuration, check the box for Authorize MIC APs against auth-list or AAA.

When this parameter is selected, the WLC checks the local authorization list first. If the AP MAC is not present, it checks the RADIUS server.

The screenshot shows the Cisco Wireless Controller (WLC) interface under the 'Security' tab. In the left sidebar, 'AP Policies' is selected. On the right, under 'Policy Configuration', there is a section with several checkboxes. One specific checkbox, 'Authorize MIC APs against auth-list or AAA', is highlighted with a red box. At the top right of the page, there is an 'Apply' button which is also highlighted with a red box.

## Verify

In order to verify this configuration, connect the AP with MAC address **4c:77:6d:9e:61:62** to the network and monitor. Use the **debug capwap events/errors enable** and **debug aaa all enable** commands to perform this.

This output shows the debugs when the AP MAC address is not present in the AP authorization list:

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**Note:** Some of the lines in the output have been moved to the second line due to space constraints.

---

```
<#root>

(Cisco Controller) >debug capwap events enable
(Cisco Controller) >debug capwap errors enable
(Cisco Controller) >debug aaa all enable
```

```
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 10:15:25.592:
70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Join Request from 192.168.79.151:5256
```

```
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 10:15:25.592: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Unable to get Ap mode in Join request
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 10:15:25.592: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Allocate database entry for AP 192.168.79.151
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 10:15:25.592: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 AP Allocate request at index 277 (reserved)
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 24:7e:12:19:41:ef Deleting AP entry 192.168.79.151:5256 from te
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 AP group received default-group is found in a
```

```
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Dropping request or response packet to AP :192.168.1.115

*spamApTask4: Feb 27 10:15:25.593:
70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 In AAA state 'Idle' for AP 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0

*spamApTask4: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Join Request failed!

*spamApTask4: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 State machine handler: Failed to process msg

*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593:
Unable to find requested user entry for 4c776d9e6162

*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Normal Response code for AAA Authentication
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: ReProcessAuthentication previous proto 8, next proto 40000000
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: AuthenticationRequest: 0x7f01b4083638

*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: Callback.....0xd6cef02166
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: protocolType.....0x40000001
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: proxyState.....70:69:5A:51:4E:00
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: Packet contains 9 AVPs:
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: AVP[01] User-Name.....4c776d9e6162
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: AVP[02] Called-Station-Id.....70-69-5a-51-4e-00
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: AVP[03] Calling-Station-Id.....4c-77-6d-9e-00-00
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: AVP[04] Nas-Port.....0x00000001
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: AVP[05] Nas-Ip-Address.....0x0a304714
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: AVP[06] NAS-Identifier.....0x6e6f (286)
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: AVP[07] User-Password.....[...]
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: AVP[08] Service-Type.....0x0000000a
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: AVP[09] Message-Authenticator.....DATA (16 bytes)
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Error Response code for AAA Authentication
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Returning AAA Error 'No Server' (-7) for msg
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: AuthorizationResponse: 0x7f017adf5770

*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: RadiusIndexSet(0), Index(0)
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: resultCode.....-7
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: protocolUsed.....0xffffffff
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: proxyState.....70:69:5A:51:4E:00
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: Packet contains 0 AVPs:
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 10:15:25.593:
```

```

70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 User entry not found in the Local FileDB for the client.

*spamApTask0: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Join Version: = 134770432
*spamApTask0: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 00:00:00:00:00:00 apType = 54 apModel: AIR-AP4800-E-K
*spamApTask0: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 00:00:00:00:00:00 apType: 0x36 bundleApImageVer: 8.8.111.0
*spamApTask0: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 00:00:00:00:00:00 version:8 release:8 maint:111 build:0
*spamApTask0: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Join resp: CAPWAP Maximum Msg element len = 7
*spamApTask0: Feb 27 10:15:25.593:
70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Join Failure Response sent to 0.0.0.0:5256

*spamApTask0: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Radius Authentication failed. Closing dtls Control session
*spamApTask0: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Disconnecting DTLS Capwap-Ctrl session 0xd6fc0
*spamApTask0: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 CAPWAP State: Dtls tear down

*spamApTask0: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 acDtlsPlumbControlPlaneKeys: lrad:192.168.79.151:5256
*spamApTask0: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 DTLS keys for Control Plane deleted successfully

*spamApTask4: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 DTLS connection closed event receivedserver (192.168.79.151)
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Entry exists for AP (192.168.79.151/5256)
*spamApTask0: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 AP Delete request
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 10:15:25.593: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 AP Delete request
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 10:15:25.593:
70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Unable to find AP 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0

*spamApTask4: Feb 27 10:15:25.593:
70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 No AP entry exist in temporary database for 192.168.79.151:5256

```

This output show the debugs when the LAP MAC address is added to the AP authorization list:

 **Note:** Some of the lines in the output have been moved to the second line due to space constraints.

```

<#root>

(Cisco Controller) >debug capwap events enable
(Cisco Controller) >debug capwap errors enable
(Cisco Controller) >debug aaa all enable

*spamApTask4: Feb 27 09:50:25.393:
70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Join Request from 192.168.79.151:5256

*spamApTask4: Feb 27 09:50:25.393: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 using already allocoed index 274
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 09:50:25.393: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Unable to get Ap mode in Join request

*spamApTask4: Feb 27 09:50:25.393: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Allocate database entry for AP 192.168.79.151:5256

```

```

*spamApTask4: Feb 27 09:50:25.393: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 AP Allocate request at index 274 (reserved)
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 09:50:25.393: 24:7e:12:19:41:ef Deleting AP entry 192.168.79.151:5256 from temporary list
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 09:50:25.393: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 AP group received default-group is found in ap group
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 09:50:25.393: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Dropping request or response packet to AP :192.168.79.151:5256
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Message type Capwap_wtp_event_response is not allowed
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 In AAA state 'Idle' for AP 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Join Request failed!

*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 09:50:25.394:
User 4c776d9e6162 authenticated

*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Normal Response code for AAA Authentication : 0
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 09:50:25.394:
70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Returning AAA Success for mobile 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0

*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: AuthorizationResponse: 0x7f0288a66408

*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: structureSize.....194
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: resultCode.....0
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: proxyState.....70:69:5A:51:4E:C0-00
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: Packet contains 2 AVPs:
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: AVP[01] Service-Type.....0x00000065 (101)
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: AVP[02] Airespace / WLAN-Identifier.....0x00000000 (0) (0)
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 User authentication Success with File DB on WLAN
*spamApTask0: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Join Version: = 134770432
*spamApTask0: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: 00:00:00:00:00:00 apType = 54 apModel: AIR-AP4800-E-K
*spamApTask0: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: 00:00:00:00:00:00 apType: 0x36 bundleApImageVer: 8.8.111.0
*spamApTask0: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: 00:00:00:00:00:00 version:8 release:8 maint:111 build:0
*spamApTask0: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Join resp: CAPWAP Maximum Msg element len = 79
*spamApTask0: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Join Response sent to 0.0.0.0:5256
*spamApTask0: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 CAPWAP State: Join
*spamApTask0: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 capwap_ac_platform.c:2095 - Operation State 0 ===>
*spamApTask0: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Capwap State Change Event (Reg) from capwap_ac_platform.c:2095
*apfReceiveTask: Feb 27 09:50:25.394: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Register LWAPP event for AP 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 s

```

## AP Authorization Against an AAA Server

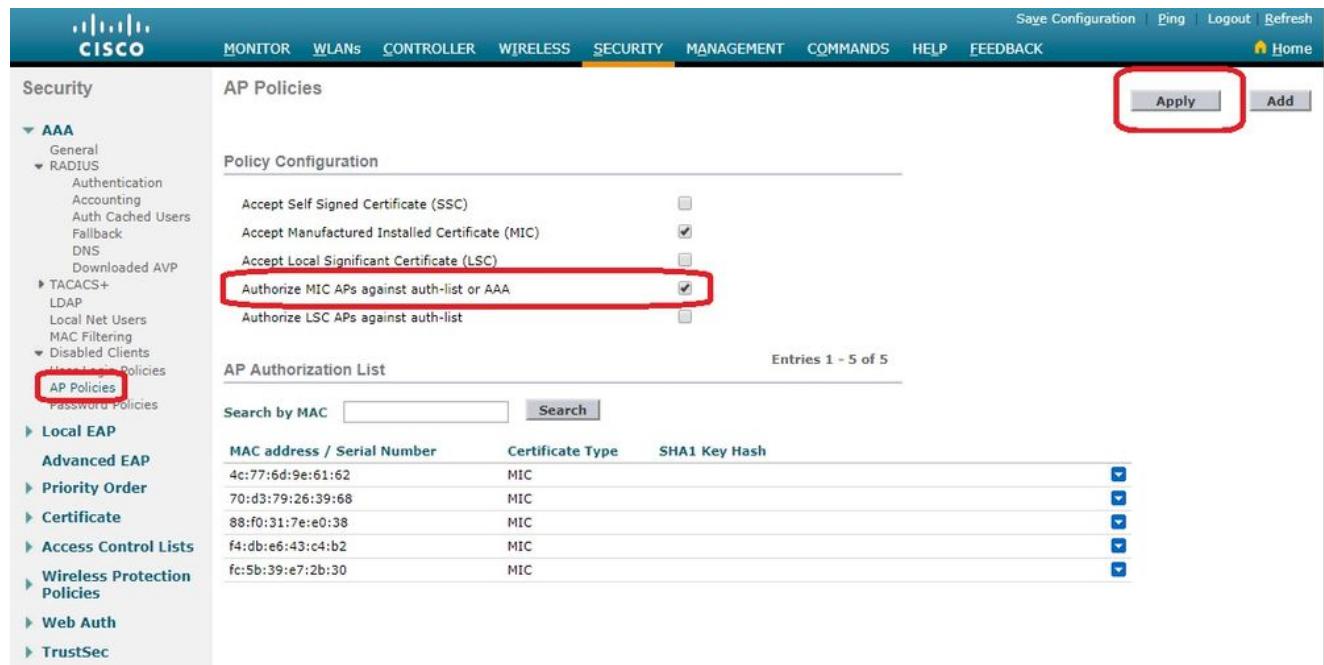
You can also configure WLCs to use RADIUS servers to authorize APs using MICs. The WLC uses a AP MAC address as both the username and password when sending the information to a RADIUS server.

For example, if the MAC address of the AP is **4c:77:6d:9e:61:62**, both the username and password used by the controller to authorize the AP are that mac address using the defined delimiter.

This example shows how to configure the WLCs to authorize APs using the Cisco ISE.

1. From the WLC controller GUI, click **Security > AP Policies**. The AP Policies page appears.
2. Under Policy Configuration, check the box for **Authorize MIC APs against auth-list or AAA**.

When you choose this parameter, the WLC checks the local authorization list first. If the AP MAC is not present, it checks the RADIUS server.



The screenshot shows the Cisco WLC Controller GUI with the following details:

- Navigation:** Security > AP Policies
- Policy Configuration:** The "Authorize MIC APs against auth-list or AAA" checkbox is checked and highlighted with a red box.
- AP Authorization List:** A table showing five entries. The columns are: MAC address / Serial Number, Certificate Type, and SHA1 Key Hash. The MAC addresses listed are: 4c:77:6d:9e:61:62, 70:d3:79:26:39:68, 88:f0:31:7e:e0:38, f4:db:e6:43:c4:b2, and fc:5b:39:e7:2b:30. All entries have "MIC" in the Certificate Type column and checkboxes in the SHA1 Key Hash column, which are also highlighted with a red box.

3. Navigate to **Security > RADIUS Authentication** from the controller GUI to display the **RADIUS Authentication Servers** page. In this page you can define the **MAC Delimiter**. The WLC gets the AP Mac address and sends it to the Radius Server using the delimiter defined here. It is important that the username matches what is configured in the Radius server. In this example the **No Delimiter** is used so that the username is **4c776d9e6162**.

The screenshot shows the Cisco WLC web interface under the 'SECURITY' tab. On the left, the navigation menu includes 'AAA' (with 'RADIUS' selected), 'Local EAP', and 'Local Policies'. The main panel displays 'RADIUS Authentication Servers' with a table of two entries. The first entry has 'No Delimiter' selected in the 'MAC Delimiter' dropdown. A red box highlights the 'New...' button at the top right.

4. Then, click New in order to define a RADIUS server.

The screenshot shows the 'RADIUS Authentication Servers > New' configuration page. It includes fields for 'Server Index (Priority)', 'Server IP Address(Ipv4/Ipv6)', 'Shared Secret Format', 'Shared Secret', 'Confirm Shared Secret', 'Port Number', 'Server Status', and various timeout and enable settings. A red box highlights the 'Apply' button at the top right.

5. Define the RADIUS server parameters on the RADIUS Authentication Servers > New page. These parameters include the RADIUS Server IP Address, Shared Secret, Port Number, and Server Status. When done, click Apply. This example uses the Cisco ISE as the RADIUS server with IP address 10.48.39.128.

## Configure the Cisco ISE to Authorize APs

In order to enable the Cisco ISE to authorize APs, you need to complete these steps:

1. Configure the WLC as an AAA Client on the Cisco ISE.
2. Add the AP MAC Addresses to the Database on the Cisco ISE.

However, you could be adding the AP MAC address as endpoints (the best way) or as users (whose

passwords are the MAC address as well) but this requires you to lower the password security policies requirements.

Due to the WLC not sending the NAS-Port-Type attribute which is a requirement on ISE to match the Mac address authentication (MAB) workflow, you must adjust this.

## Configure a New Device Profile Where MAB does not Require NAS-Port-Type Attribute

Navigate to **Administration > Network device profile** and create a new device profile. Enable RADIUS and set the Wired MAB flow to require service-type=Call-check as illustrated in the image.

You can copy other settings from the classic Cisco profile but the idea is to not require 'Nas-port-type' attribute for a Wired MAB workflow.

The screenshot shows the Cisco ISE Network Device Profiles configuration page. A new device profile named "Ciscotemp" is being created. The "Network Device Profiles" tab is selected. Under "Supported Protocols", "RADIUS" is checked. In the "Templates" section, "Authentication/Authorization" is expanded, showing a condition: "Wired MAB detected if the following condition(s) are met : Radius:Service-Type = Call Check".

Administration • Network Resources

Network Devices Network Device Groups Network Device Profiles External RADIUS Servers

\* Name Ciscotemp

Description

Icon Change icon... Set To Default ⓘ

Vendor Cisco

Supported Protocols

RADIUS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
TACACS+	<input type="checkbox"/>
TrustSec	<input type="checkbox"/>

RADIUS Dictionaries

Templates

Expand All / Collapse All

Authentication/Authorization

Flow Type Conditions

Wired MAB detected if the following condition(s) are met :

Radius:Service-Type = Call Check

## Configure the WLC as an AAA Client on the Cisco ISE

1. Go to **Administration > Network Resources > Network Devices > Add**. The New Network Device page appears.

2. On this page, define the WLC Name, Management

Interface IP Address and Radius Authentications Settings like Shared Secret. If you plan to enter the AP MAC addresses as endpoints, verify that you use the custom device profile configured earlier rather than the default Cisco profile.

The screenshot shows the 'Network Devices' configuration page in the Cisco ISE web interface. The 'Name' field is set to 'WLC5520'. The 'IP Address' field contains '10.48.71.20'. Under 'Device Profile', 'Cisco' is selected. In the 'Network Device Group' section, 'LAB' is chosen for Location, 'No' for IPSEC, and 'WLC-lab' for Device Type. The 'RADIUS Authentication Settings' section is expanded, showing 'Protocol' as 'RADIUS', 'Shared Secret' as '\*\*\*\*\*', and 'CoA Port' as '1700'. A note at the top left of this section states: 'IPv6 is supported only for TACACS. At least one IPv4 must be defined when RADIUS is selected'.

3. Click Submit.

### Add the AP MAC Address to the Endpoint Database on the Cisco ISE

Navigate to Administration > Identity Management > Identities and add the MAC addresses to the endpoint database.

### Add the AP MAC Address to the User Database on the Cisco ISE (Optional)

If you do not want to modify the wired MAB profile and chose to put the AP MAC address as a user, lower the password policy requirements.

1. Navigate to Administration > Identity Management. Verify the password policy allows the usage of the username as password and the policy allows the usage of the mac address characters without the need for different types of characters. Navigate to Settings > User Authentication Settings > Password Policy:

The screenshot shows the Cisco Identity Services Engine (ISE) web interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Context Visibility, Operations, Policy, Administration, Work Centers, and various system status indicators like License Warning and search functions. Below the navigation, a secondary menu bar shows System, Identity Management, Network Resources, Device Portal Management, pxGrid Services, Feed Service, and Threat Centric NAC. The main content area is titled "Identity Source Sequences" and has a "Settings" tab selected. A red box highlights the "User Authentication Settings" link in the left sidebar. Another red box highlights the "Password Policy" tab in the main content area. The "Password Policy" section contains fields for Minimum Length (set to 4), a list of prohibited patterns (e.g., User name or its characters in reverse order, "cisco" or its characters in reverse order, This word or its characters in reverse order, Repeated characters four or more times consecutively, Dictionary words, their characters in reverse order or their letters replaced with other characters), and options for Default Dictionary (selected) and Custom Dictionary (with a "Choose File" button). A note states: "The newly added custom dictionary file will replace the existing custom dictionary file." A third red box highlights the requirement "Password must contain at least one character of each of the selected types:" followed by a list of character types: Lowercase alphabetic characters (unchecked), Uppercase alphabetic characters (unchecked), Numeric characters (checked), and Non-alphanumeric characters (unchecked).

2. Navigate to **Identities > Users** and click **Add**. When the User Setup page appears, define the username and password for this AP as shown.

---

 **Tip:** Use the **Description** field to enter the password to later be easy to know what was defined as password.

---

The password must also be the AP MAC address. In this example, it is **4c776d9e6162**.

The screenshot shows the 'Network Access Users List > New Network Access User' page. The 'Name' field contains '4c776d9e6162'. The 'Status' is set to 'Enabled'. In the 'Passwords' section, the 'Login Password' and 'Re-Enter Password' fields are both filled with '\*\*\*\*\*' and highlighted with red boxes. Below that, 'Enable Password' fields are shown. The 'User Information' section has empty 'First Name' and 'Last Name' fields. The 'Account Options' section includes a 'Description' field with 'pass=4c776d9e6162' and a 'Change password on next login' checkbox. The 'Account Disable Policy' section has a checkbox for 'Disable account if date exceeds' set to '2019-04-28'. The 'User Groups' section shows 'APs' selected. At the bottom, there are 'Submit' and 'Cancel' buttons, with 'Submit' highlighted with a red box.

3. Click Submit.

## Define a Policy Set

1. Define a Policy Set to match the authentication request coming from the WLC. First, build a Condition by navigating to Policy > Policy Elements > Conditions, and create a new condition to match the WLC location, in this example, 'LAB\_WLC' and Radius:Service-Type Equals Call Check which is used for Mac authentication. Here the condition is named 'AP\_Auth'.

The screenshot shows the 'Policy Elements' > 'Conditions' page. The 'AP\_Auth' condition is selected in the 'Library Conditions' list and highlighted with a red box. In the 'Editor' pane, a condition is being built: 'Radius-Service-Type Equals Call Check' AND 'LAB\_WLC'. There are 'New', 'AND', and 'OR' buttons at the bottom. The 'Save' button is highlighted with a red box.

2. Click Save.

3. Then create a new Allowed Protocols Service for the AP authentication. Make sure you choose only Allow PAP/ASCII:

The screenshot shows the ISE web interface under the 'Policy Elements' tab. On the left, a sidebar lists 'Authentication', 'Authorization', 'Profiling', 'Posture', and 'Client Provisioning'. The main panel shows the 'Allowed Protocols' configuration for a service named 'AP\_authentication'. Under 'Authentication Protocols', the 'Allow PAP/ASCII' checkbox is checked and highlighted with a red box.

4. Choose the previously created Service in the Allowed Protocols/Server Sequence. Expand the View and under Authentication Policy > Use > Internal Users so that ISE searches the internal DB for the username/password of the AP.

The screenshot shows the 'Policy Sets' page in the ISE web interface. It lists two policy sets: 'Policy4APsAuth' and 'Default'. The 'Allowed Protocols / Server Sequence' column contains two entries: 'AP\_Auth' and 'AP\_authentication'. The 'AP\_authentication' entry is highlighted with a red box, indicating it is selected for modification. The 'Save' button is visible at the top right.

5. Click Save.

## Verify

In order to verify this configuration, connect the AP with MAC address 4c:77:6d:9e:61:62 to the network and monitor. Use the `debug capwap events/errors enable` and `debug aaa all enable` commands in order to perform this.

As seen from the debugs, the WLC passed on the AP MAC address to the RADIUS server 10.48.39.128, and the server has successfully authenticated the AP. The AP then registers with the controller.

---

 **Note:** Some of the lines in the output have been moved to the second line due to space constraints.

```
<#root>
```

```
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 14:58:07.566:
```

```
70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Join Request from 192.168.79.151:5248
```

```
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 using already allocoed index 437
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Unable to get Ap mode in Join request

*spamApTask4: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Allocate database entry for AP 192.168.79.151:5248

*spamApTask4: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 AP Allocate request at index 437 (reserved)
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 24:7e:12:19:41:ef Deleting AP entry 192.168.79.151:5248 from temporary
*spamApTask4: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 AP group received default-group is found in ap group

*spamApTask4: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Dropping request or response packet to AP :192.168.79.151:5248

*spamApTask4: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Message type Capwap_wtp_event_response is not allowed

*spamApTask4: Feb 27 14:58:07.566:
70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 In AAA state 'Idle' for AP 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0

*spamApTask4: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Join Request failed!

*spamApTask4: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 State machine handler: Failed to process msg type 8

*spamApTask4: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 24:7e:12:19:41:ef Failed to parse CAPWAP packet from 192.168.79.151:5248

*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566:
70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Normal Response code for AAA Authentication : -9

*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: ReProcessAuthentication previous proto 8, next proto 40000001
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: AuthenticationRequest: 0x7f01b404f0f8

*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: Callback.....0xd6cef02166
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: protocolType.....0x40000001
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: proxyState.....70:69:5A:51:4E:C0-00
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: Packet contains 9 AVPs:
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: AVP[02] Called-Station-Id.....70:69:5a:51:4e:c0
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: AVP[03] Calling-Station-Id.....4c:77:6d:9e:61:60
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: AVP[04] Nas-Port.....0x00000001 (1) (1)
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: AVP[05] Nas-Ip-Address.....0x0a304714 (1709)
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: AVP[06] NAS-Identifier.....0x6e6f (28271) (1)
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: AVP[08] Service-Type.....0x0000000a (10)
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: AVP[09] Message-Authenticator.....DATA (16 bytes)
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 radiusServerFallbackPassiveStateUpdate:
RADIUS server is ready 10.48.39.128 port 1812

index 1 active 1
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 NAI-Realm not enabled on Wlan, radius servers will be used
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Found the radius server : 10.48.39.128 from the configuration
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Send Radius Auth Request with pktId:185 into queue
*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Sending the packet to v4 host 10.48.39.128:1812
```

\*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0  
Successful transmission of Authentication Packet (pktId 185) to 10.48.39.128:1812  
from server queue 0, proxy state 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0-00:00  
\*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 00000000: 01 b9 00 82 d9 c2 ef 27 f1 bb e4 9f a8 88 5a 6d .....  
\*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 00000010: 4b 38 1a a6 01 0e 34 63 37 37 36 64 39 65 36 31 K8....4  
\*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 00000020: 36 32 1e 13 37 30 3a 36 39 3a 35 61 3a 35 31 3a 62..70:  
\*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 00000030: 34 65 3a 63 30 1f 13 34 63 3a 37 37 3a 36 64 3a 4e:c0..  
\*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 00000040: 39 65 3a 36 31 3a 36 32 05 06 00 00 00 01 04 06 9e:61:6  
\*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 00000050: 0a 30 47 14 20 04 6e 6f 02 12 54 46 96 61 2a 38 .0G...n  
\*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 00000060: 5a 57 22 5b 41 c8 13 61 97 6c 06 06 00 00 00 0a ZW"[A...  
\*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566: 00000080: 15 f9 ..  
\*aaaQueueReader: Feb 27 14:58:07.566:  
  
70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 User entry not found in the Local FileDB for the client.  
  
\*radiusTransportThread: Feb 27 14:58:07.587: Vendor Specif Radius Attribute(code=26, avp\_len=28, vId=9)  
\*radiusTransportThread: Feb 27 14:58:07.588: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 \*\*\* Counted VSA 150994944 AVP of length ..  
\*radiusTransportThread: Feb 27 14:58:07.588: Vendor Specif Radius Attribute(code=26, avp\_len=28, vId=9)  
\*radiusTransportThread: Feb 27 14:58:07.588: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 AVP: VendorId: 9, vendorType: 1, vendorL  
  
\*radiusTransportThread: Feb 27 14:58:07.588: 00000000: 70 72 6f 66 69 6c 65 2d 6e 61 6d 65 3d 55 6e 6b ..  
\*radiusTransportThread: Feb 27 14:58:07.588: 00000010: 6e 6f 77 6e nown  
\*radiusTransportThread: Feb 27 14:58:07.588: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Processed VSA 9, type 1, raw bytes 22, co  
\*radiusTransportThread: Feb 27 14:58:07.588:  
  
70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Access-Accept received from RADIUS server 10.48.39.128  
  
(qid:0) with port:1812, pktId:185  
\*radiusTransportThread: Feb 27 14:58:07.588: RadiusIndexSet(1), Index(1)  
\*radiusTransportThread: Feb 27 14:58:07.588: structureSize.....432  
  
\*radiusTransportThread: Feb 27 14:58:07.588: protocolUsed.....0x00000001  
  
\*radiusTransportThread: Feb 27 14:58:07.588: proxyState.....70:69:5A:51:4  
  
\*radiusTransportThread: Feb 27 14:58:07.588: Packet contains 4 AVPs:  
  
\*radiusTransportThread: Feb 27 14:58:07.588:  
  
AVP[01] User-Name.....4c776d9e6162  
  
(12 bytes)  
  
\*radiusTransportThread: Feb 27 14:58:07.588: AVP[02] State.....ReauthSes  
  
\*radiusTransportThread: Feb 27 14:58:07.588: AVP[03] Class.....DATA (83 )  
  
\*radiusTransportThread: Feb 27 14:58:07.588: AVP[04] Message-Authenticator.....DATA (16 )  
  
\*spamApTask0: Feb 27 14:58:07.588: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Join Version: = 134770432  
  
\*spamApTask0: Feb 27 14:58:07.588: 00:00:00:00:00:00 apType = 54 apModel: AIR-AP4800-E-K  
  
\*spamApTask0: Feb 27 14:58:07.588: 00:00:00:00:00:00 apType: 0x36 bundleApImageVer: 8.8.111.0  
\*spamApTask0: Feb 27 14:58:07.588: 00:00:00:00:00:00 version:8 release:8 maint:111 build:0  
\*spamApTask0: Feb 27 14:58:07.588: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Join resp: CAPWAP Maximum Msg element len = 79  
  
\*spamApTask0: Feb 27 14:58:07.588: 70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 Join Response sent to 0.0.0.0:5248  
  
\*spamApTask0: Feb 27 14:58:07.588:  
  
70:69:5a:51:4e:c0 CAPWAP State: Join

# Troubleshoot

Use these commands to troubleshoot your configuration:

- `debug capwap events enable`—Configures debug of LWAPP events
- `debug capwap packet enable`—Configures debug of LWAPP Packet trace
- `debug capwap errors enable`—Configures debug of LWAPP Packet errors
- `debug aaa all enable`—Configures debug of all AAA messages

If ISE reports in the RADIUS live logs the username 'INVALID' when APs being authorized against ISE, it means that authentication is being verified against the endpoint database and you have not modified the wired MAB profile as explained in this document.

ISE considers a MAC address authentication invalid if it does not match the Wired/Wireless MAB profile, which by default require the NAS-port-type attribute which is not sent by the WLC.