



## PRODUCT TEST DRIVE

### OVERVIEW

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This document is an operational review using the Fluke Networks AirCheck WiFi Tester.

The Technology Firm used this tool in the field for 2 weeks and will share its opinions regarding strengths and areas of improvement.

The following colors and icons will be used:

😊 Positive

😞 Negative

😊 Neither positive or negative

The Technology Firm was not commissioned or requested by Fluke Networks to review this product.

### CONCLUSION

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The profile issue stated before could be rectified via software upgrades, so it's not a show stopper, just more of an annoyance.

Despite the shortcomings, we would still strongly recommend this tool as a tactical support tool since the pros easily outweigh the cons.

## SPECIFICS

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### TASK:

Ability to discover regular and a hidden SSID

- Netgear AP with no modification was discovered 5 times
- Netgear AP with hidden configuration was discovered 5 times
- Timing was via a stopwatch after the Fluke clear button was pressed
- Regular SSID results (in seconds); 4,4,3,4,4
- Hidden SSID results (in seconds); 3,4,3,4,3

Conclusion

- ☺ Response time was very fast with no issues
  - ☺ Correct channel characteristics were reported
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### TASK:

Ability to rediscover an AP reconfigured from a regular and a hidden SSID

- Netgear AP was discovered 5 times
- Timing was via a stopwatch after the Fluke clear button was pressed
- Results (in seconds); 18, 16, 17, 16, 18

Conclusion

- ☺ The majority of the time was taken by the AP reconfiguring and resetting
  - ☺ Proper Channel characteristics were reported
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### TASK:

Ability to discover an AP with various Channel Widths

- Ubiquity Nanostation 2.4 Ghz AP was configured with 5, 10, 20 and 40 Mhz Channel Widths
- Timing was via a stopwatch after the Fluke clear button was pressed
- Results; 40 Mhz Discovered, 20 Mhz Discovered, 10 Mhz NOT Discovered, 5 Mhz NOT Discovered

Conclusion

- ☺ 40 and 20 Mhz Channel widths were quickly discovered but not 5 and 10 Mhz Channel widths
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TASK:

Ability to discover a WiFi Client

- Laptop with Intel 5100 AGN card was physically enabled when the scanner reached channel 1
- Timing was via a stopwatch after the Fluke clear button was pressed
- Results (in seconds); 16, 18, 17, 19

Conclusion

- ☹ Suspect the majority of the delay was due to the tester simply walking through the various available channels.
- ☹ We did notice that the '*Client probes on*' information was either not populated (we waited for over 1 minute), or did not have all the SSID's that was configured within the client. It took over 30 minutes to gather all the SSID's being probed from our test laptop. I would have to capture the probe packets to determine if the SSIDS were sent earlier than that.

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TASK:

Ability to connect/diagnose an open AP

- AP is a NETGEAR RANGEMax WNDR3300

Conclusion

- ☺ When a AP is connected to, Aircheck will automatically ping the DHCP and DNS server.
- ☺ The Start Test feature provides packet loss statistics
- ☺ I noticed the Aircheck has a Ping signature of "Hello, my name is Inigo Montoya."

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TASK:

Ability to connect/diagnose an SECURED AP

- AP is a NETGEAR RANGEMax WNDR3300 secured via WEP, WPA and WPA2

Conclusion

- ☹ This is the biggest area of improvement for Fluke. YOU CAN NOT connect to a secured AP unless you install the Service Manager software, create a profile with your security credentials, connect the tester to your pc via USB and transfer this profile to your Tester.

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TASK:

Physically locate an AP

- AP is a NETGEAR RANGEMax WNDR3300

Conclusion

- ☺ The display was easy to read – even outside - and the AP was found within 5 minutes when the signal was in range.
  - ☹ Flagging an AP doesn't seem to do anything. For example, it doesn't seem that you can log, report, group or alert on unauthorized AP's.
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TASK:

Monitor a Channel for Usage

- AP is a NETGEAR RANGEMax WNDR3300

Conclusion

- ☺ The chart was easy to read and came up quickly.
  - ☹ Could not figure out a way to save this information for a report.
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Comment:

Screen Capture software

- No way to capture a screen like a Nettool.

Conclusion

- ☹ The inability to capture the screen information for documentation, training and reporting is a fairly major issue.
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TASK:

Review AirCheck Service Manager Summary and Detail Report

- Reports can be exported as a PDF or Excel format

Conclusion

- ☹ Many of the Aircheck AP testing is not captured in the reports
  - ☹ A report listing which clients are associated to which Access Points would be great
  - ☹ No filtering or specific SSID reporting is available
  - ☹ Why no Word format when exporting
  - ☹ No IP information available
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TASK:

Observe Battery/Power requirements

- 10 minute Auto Shut off was disabled in the Manage Power settings
- Manual claims a 5.5 hour run time

Conclusion

- ☺ The unit operated for over 4 hours without losing power
  - ☹ Wish you could recharge the batteries when the tester is USB connected.
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TASK:

General comments about feel, weight and usability

- How did the tool feel bringing it around for calls, etc..

Conclusion

- ☺ The unit wasn't too big or small to take around.
  - ☺ The rubberized sides makes gripping it easy.
  - ☹ Wish you could recharge the batteries when the tester is USB connected.
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