Enterprise Communications News

IS YOUR WIRELESS LAN READY FOR IPHONE 6 AND WI-FI CALLING?

Online orders for iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus topped four million in the first 24 hours of sales, **according to the New York Times. Those numbers should give business owners pause. Whether** or not your organization has officially sanctioned a bring-your-own-device (BYOD) policy, iPhone 6 and the supersize iPhone 6 Plus are coming to your company's network.

The iPhone 6 supports up to 3x faster Wi-Fi using the 802.11ac standard, according to Apple. In addition, iPhone has built-in Wi-Fi calling, so that it can hand off calls from Wi-Fi to the cellular network and back while the call is active. Add in mobile unified communications apps on iPhone, other smartphones and tablets, and it's easier than ever for people to stay in touch anywhere, anytime. Now consider that the typical worker has three mobile devices—smartphone, tablet, and laptop—and students may have five or more Wi-Fi devices. Is your Wi-Fi network up to the task of supporting your users' expectations for using their mobile devices?

Ready for the New Wi-Fi? As mobile devices have become essential productivity and learning tools, andas apps like voice and videoconferencing become more commonplace, many organizations are migrating to the new Wi-Fi standard. Gigabit Wi-Fi, or 802.11ac, promises to help organizations meet today's mobile demands.

802.11ac is:

- **Three times faster than 802.11n**. Each radio in an 802.11ac access point can deliver up to 1.3Gbps, which is near-wired speed and three times faster than 802.11n, which is commonly deployed now. The additional capacity is needed to support Wi-Fi calling, videoconferencing, and the growing number of enterprise mobile applications.

- **Better suited for dense mobile environments.** 802.11ac supports simultaneous transmissions using a technology called MIMO, or Multiple-Input and Multiple-Output. Up to four Wi-Fi clients can receive data at the same time from a single access point at full speed, and this capability is key to supporting the many mobile devices in an office or school today.

- **More reliable.** 802.11ac operates at 5 GHz, which is less crowded than the 2.4 GHz band that is used by the older 802.11b/g/n access points—and isn't subject to interference from cordless phones, microwave ovens, and other RF devices. In addition, it also uses a technology called

beamforming to make the connection between the mobile device and the AP more reliable. Less RF interference and more reliable links means fewer dropped calls for voice or video.

- **Increasingly affordable.** Many wireless LAN vendors are offering attractive discounts and trade-in offers to entice organizations to migrate to the newer, faster technology sooner rather than later. And with the coming onslaught of iPhone and other 802.11ac devices, migrating to 802.11ac should be on your IT project shortlist.

Go Mobile with Ease

Add ShoreTel Mobility to your workers' favorite mobile devices, either iPhone or Android, and they have everything they need to work seamlessly wherever they are. Your mobile workers can access the UC features and capabilities they expect to have when using a desk phone, such as extension dialing, transfer, conferencing, and presence. They can make and receive business VoIP calls from either their corporate and personal phone numbers while the best network is automatically selected. Calls are seamlessly handed off across networks, and moved to Wi-Fi whenever available, which slashes mobile costs and delivers both savings and convenience.