

Testing & Emulation Solutions

# WiFi Access Point Roaming Test

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# **ROAMING PROCESS**



### Roam Initiation

- Measure RSSI, Packet Loss, Reties etc..
- Off Channel Scanning
- Create Neighbor AP lists
- Opportunistic Key Caching

#### Roam Decision

- Check if RSSI, Loss, Retry Thresholds are hit.
- Monitor AP assisted handoff commands.
- Look for loss of connectivity/service disruption of any kind

### Roam Execution

- Disconnect with old AP.
- Initiate 802.11 connection with new AP.
- 802.1x Authentication Handshakes
- Session Key generation.
- Routing traffic through new AP.

## **ROAMING TEST METHODS**



#### Walk Tests



#### <u>Pros</u>

- ✓ Highly realistic.
- Can test Interoperability with most popular stations.
- ✓ Can test all three steps of roaming (initiation, decision and execution)

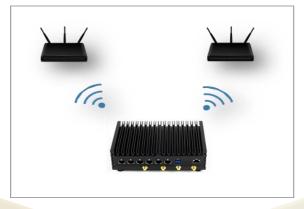
#### Cons

- ✓ Not Scalable
- ✓ Not Repeatable✓ Not Automatable
- Kot Automatable
  Extremely time consuming
- ✓ Extremely hard to debug issues

### Pros

- ✓ Reapable
- ✓ Automatable.
- Can test all three steps of roaming (initiation, decision and execution)
- **Cons**
- ✓ Not Scalable
- ✓ Expensive setup
- Not easy to measure roaming delays and debug issues.
- Not easy to isolate AP issues from station issues.

#### **Forced Roaming**



#### <u>Pros</u>

- Can scale to 1000s of roams for many hours and the only way to find
- issues related to scale. ✓ Can run tests very fast.
- ✓ Fully Automatable, Controllable and
- Repeatable ✓ Cost per roam the lowest

#### <u>Cons</u>

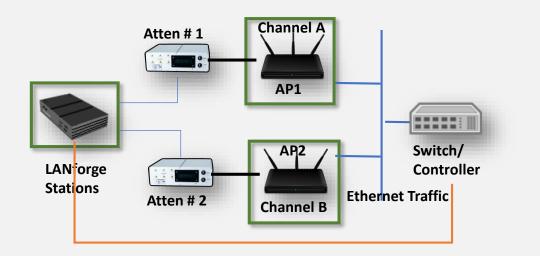
- ✓ Can only test Roam execution.
- ✓ Cannot test improvements in execution because of steps taking during roam initiation.
- ✓ Not very real-world

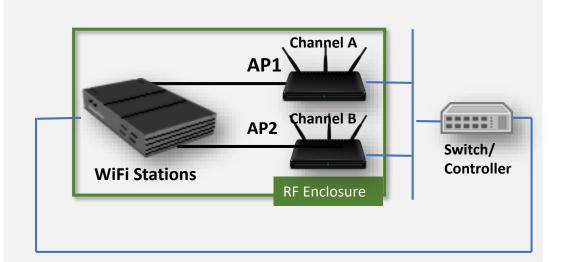
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**Using Attenuators** 







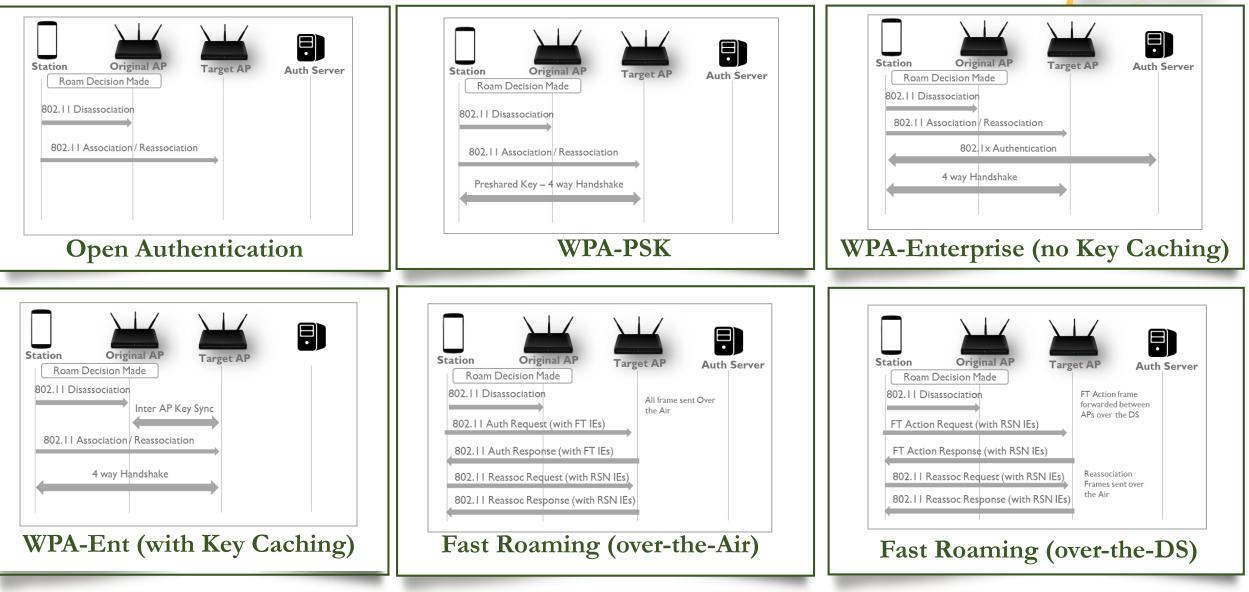


# ROAM USING ATTENUATION

# FORCED ROAM METHOD

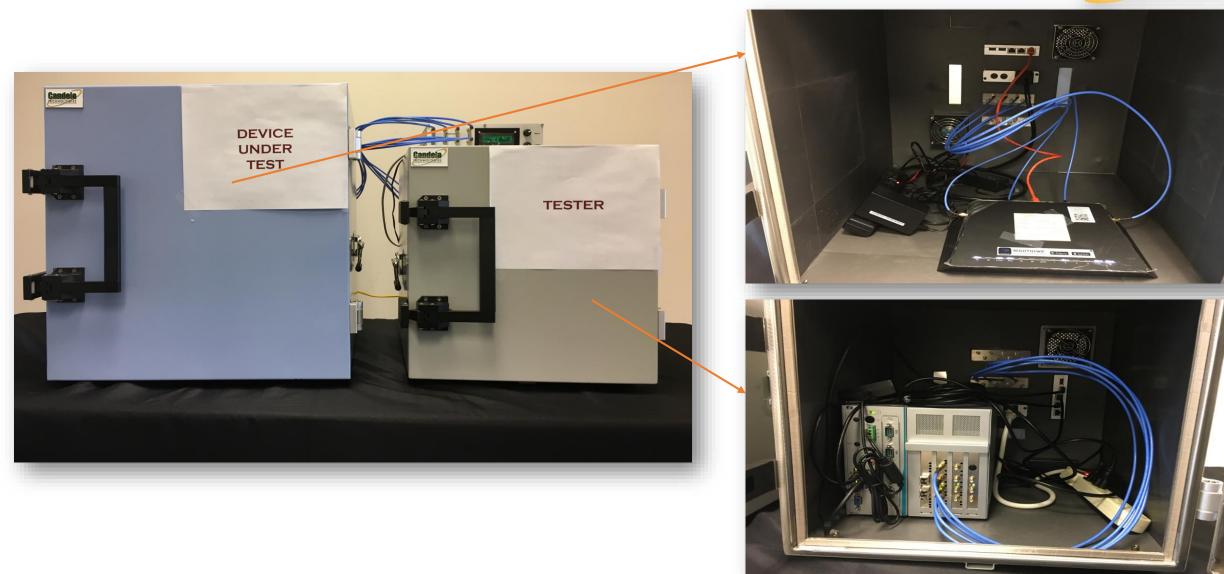
# **ROAM EXECUTION METHODS**





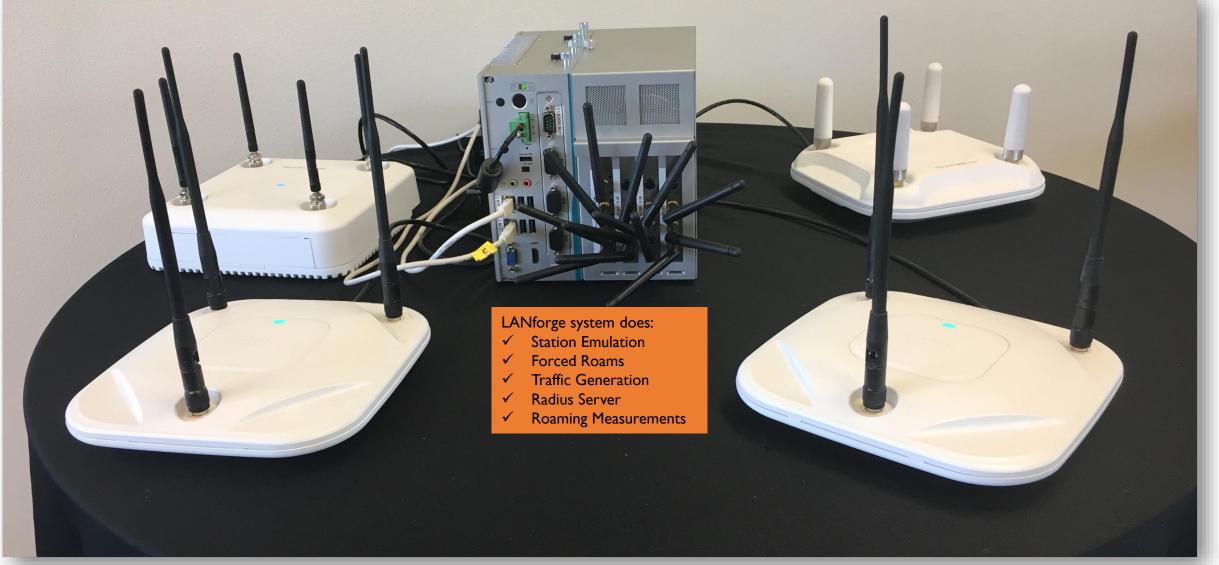
# **Testbed Setup**





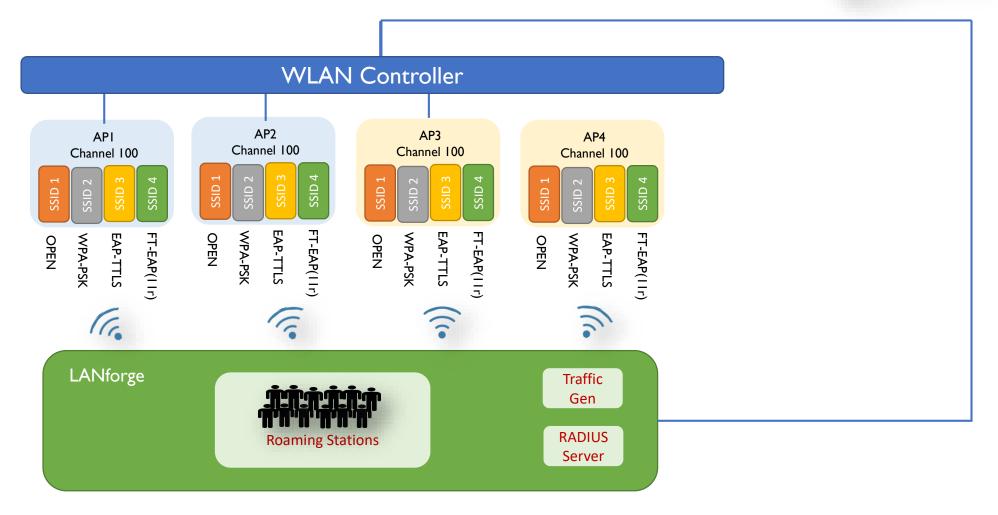
### FORCED ROAM TEST SETUP PICTURE





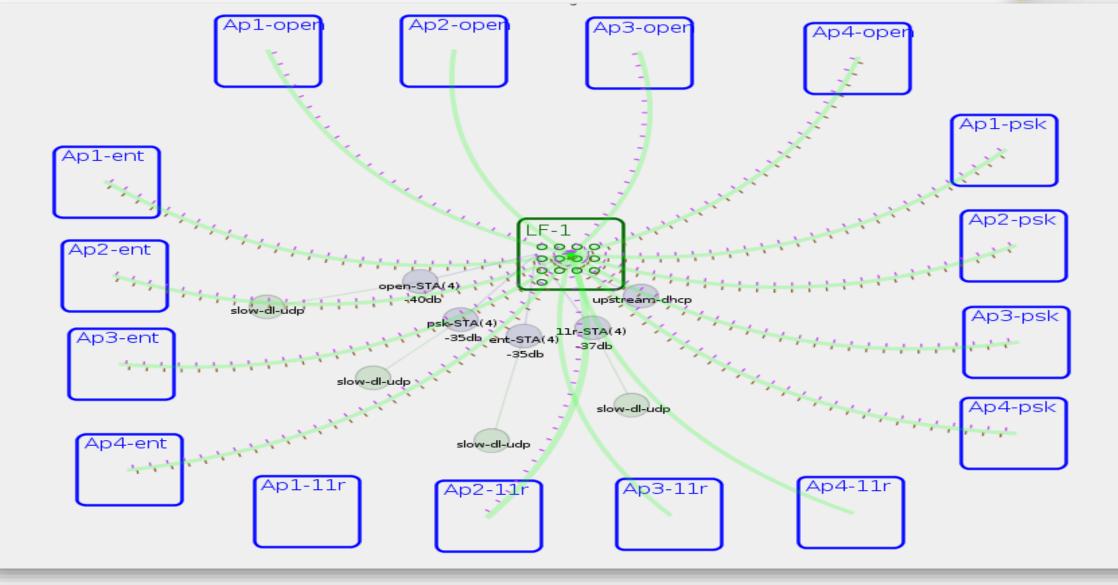
# FORCED ROAM TEST SETUP





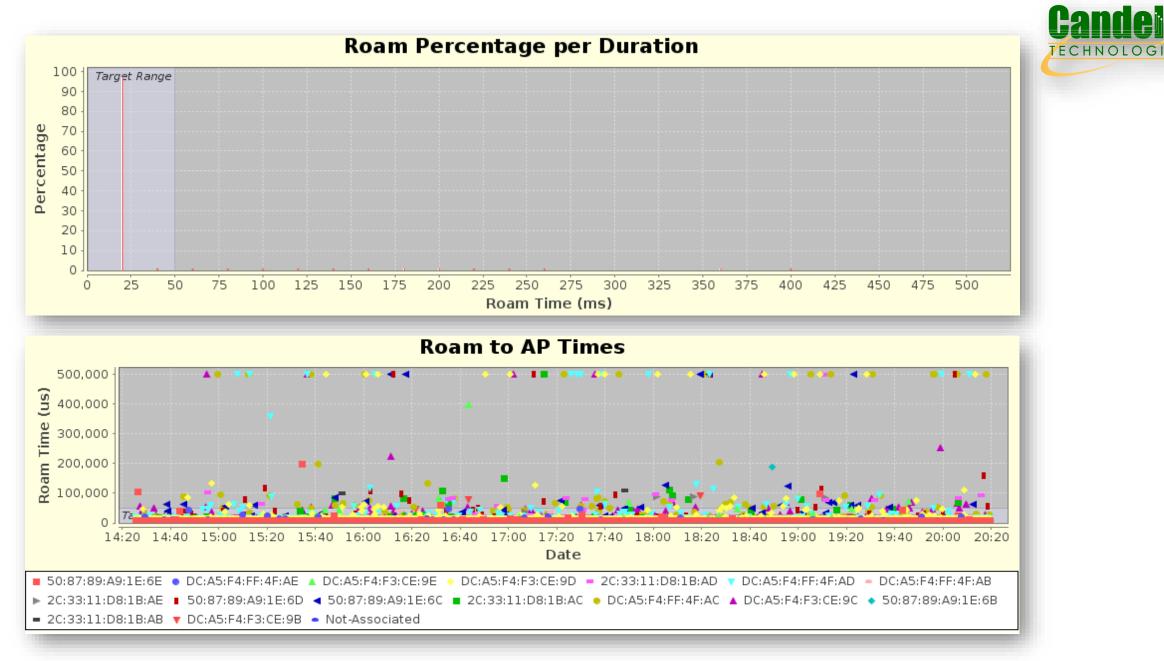
## LANforge GUI View

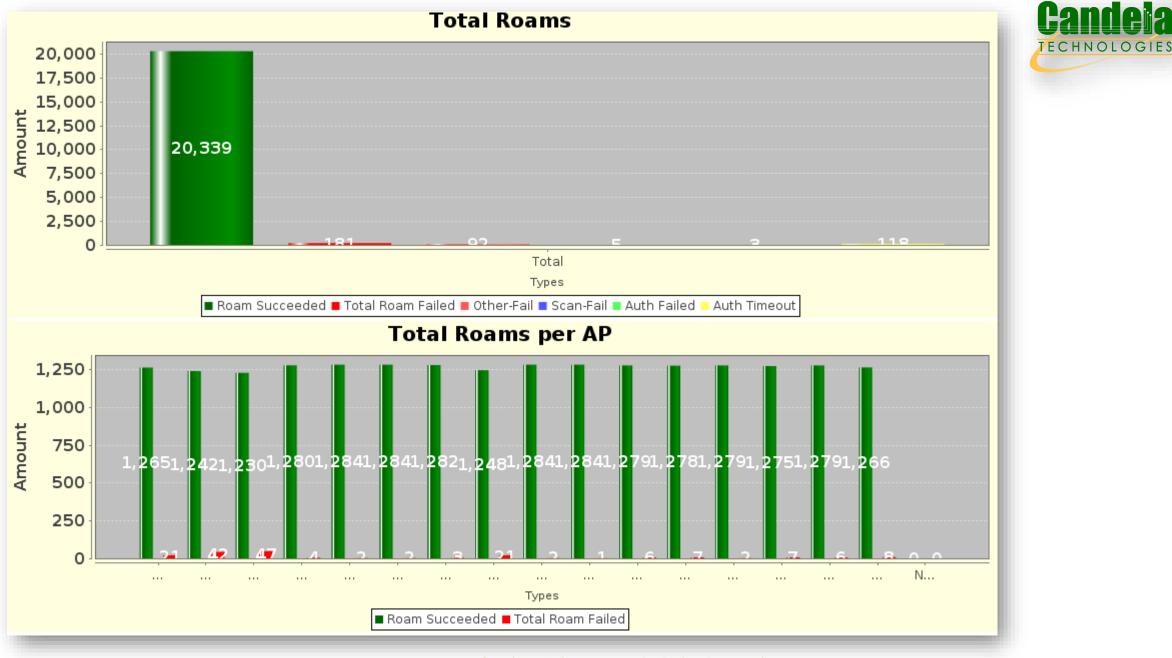






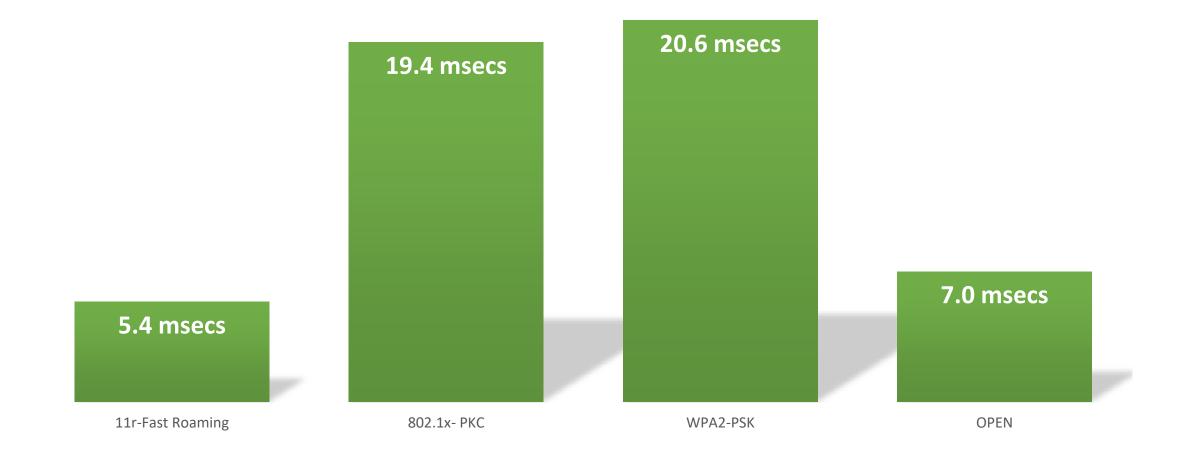
# **GOOD** Performance



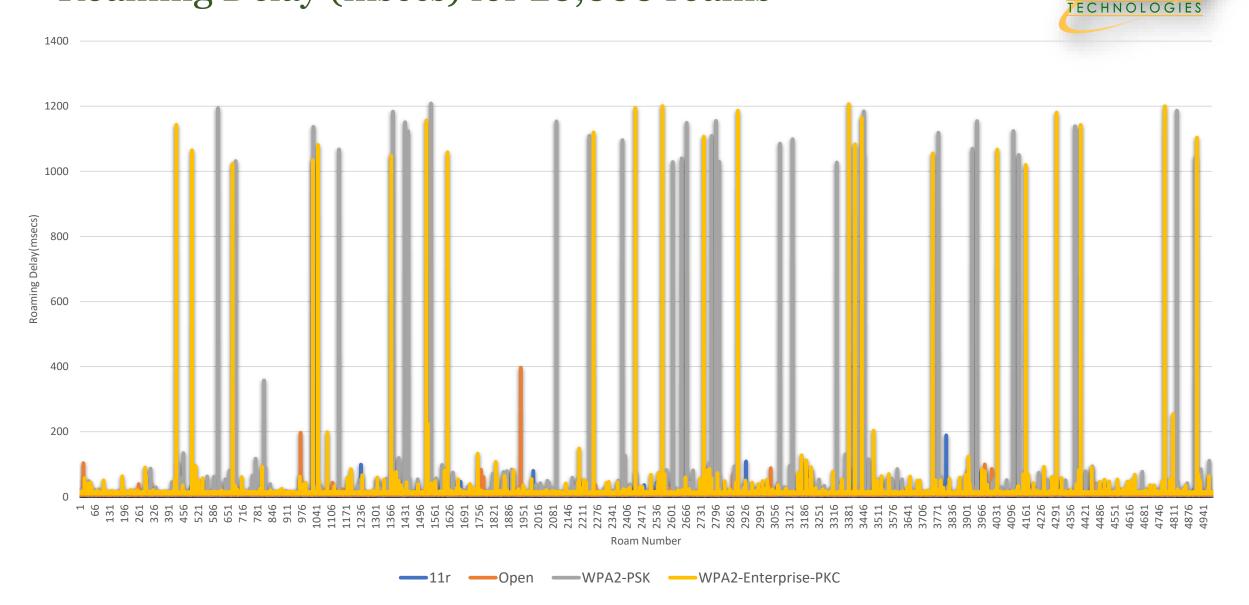


# Average Roaming Delay (msecs) – 20,000 Roams





# Roaming Delay (msecs) for 20,000 roams



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**BAD** Performance



