



from PIV/IT Global

WHITE PAPER:

Wireless Surveys

On-Site Data Collection & Analysis

Passive Survey

Details:

A passive survey is used to collect WiFi data, creating heat-maps that show signal strength levels (RSSI), co-channel interference, signal-to-noise ratio, etc...

*Does not require connection to WLAN

Use Case:

Passive surveys are used in virtually all survey engagements to gain a base level understanding of WiFi activity and performance.

Active Survey

Details:

An active survey is used to collect real time performance statistics from a wireless network. It includes statistics for data throughput, round trip time (RTT), packet loss and access point roaming.

*Requires connection to WLAN

Use Case:

Active surveys are generally used after a new wireless implementation has been completed and real-time performance statistics must be verified.

Spectrum Analysis

Details:

A spectrum analysis collects all radio frequency activity, allowing visibility into potential sources of interference unrelated to WiFi traffic (microwave ovens, weather radar, industrial machinery, etc...)

*Does not require connection to WLAN

Use Case:

A spectrum analysis would be used when WiFi coverage seems to be adequate but performance and connectivity issues are still present. Outside sources of interference must be investigated.