Configure Mesh on Catalyst 9800 Wireless LAN Controllers

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Introduction

This document describes a basic configuration example on how to join a mesh Access Point (AP) to the Catalyst 9800 Wireless LAN Controller (WLC)

Prerequisites

Requirements

Cisco recommends that you have knowledge of these topics:

- Catalyst Wireless 9800 configuration model
- Configuration of LAPs
- Control And Provision of Wireless Access Points (CAPWAP)
- Configuration of an external DHCP server
- Configuration of Cisco switches

Components Used

This example uses lightweight access point (1572AP and 1542) which can either be configured as a Root AP (RAP) or Mesh AP (MAP) to join to Catalyst 9800 WLC. Procedure is identical for 1542 or 1562 access points. The RAP is connected to the Catalyst 9800 WLC through a Cisco Catalyst switch.

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

- C9800-CL v16.12.1
- Cisco Layer 2 Switch
- Cisco Aironet 1572 Series Lightweight Outdoor Access Points for the Bridge section

• Cisco Aironet 1542 for the Flex+Bridge section

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.

Configure

Case study 1: Bridge Mode

Configurations

A mesh AP needs to be authenticated for it to join the 9800 controller. This case study considers that you join the AP in local mode first to the WLC and then convert it to Bridge (a.k.a) mesh mode.

To avoid assignment of AP join profiles, use this example but configure the default aaa authorization credential-download method so that any mesh AP is allowed to join the controller.

Step1: Configure RAP/MAP mac addresses under Device Authentication.

Go to Configuration > AAA > AAA Advanced > Device Authentication .



Add the Base Ethernet MAC Address of the mesh access points, add it without any special characters, without '.' or ':'

Important: As of 17.3.1 release, if any mac address delimiters like '.', ':' or '-' are added, the AP is not able to join. There are currently 2 enhancements opened for this: <u>Cisco bug ID CSCvv43870</u> and Cisco bug ID <u>CSCvr07920</u>. In the future, 9800 accepts all mac address formats.

Q. Search Menu Items		Configuration * > Security * >	AAA		
🔜 Dashboard		+ AAA Wizard			
Monitoring Monitoring	>	Servers / Groups AAA N	Aethod List AAA Advanced		
Configuration	->	Global Config	MAC Address Serial Number		
() Administration	>	RADIUS Fallback	+ Add Delete	Do Select File	1 Usered File
💥 Troubleshooting		Attribute List Name		Select CSV File	
			MAC Address	 Attribute List Name 	
		AP Policy	4 4 0 ► ► 10 • Items per page		
		Password Policy	Quick Setup: MAC Filtering	×	
24.07 2.07 10.02 2.27 2 산동, 양동, 양동, 양동, 양동, 양동, 양동, 양동, 양동, 양동, 양		r addining r ding	MAC Address*		
			Attribute List Name None	•	
			Cancel	Apply to Device	

Step 2: Configure the authentication and authorization method list.

Go to **Configuration > Security > AAA > AAA Method list > Authentication** and create the authentication method list and authorization method list.

Configuration * > See	urity* > AAA	
+ AAA Wizard		
Servers / Groups	AAA Method List AAA Advanced	
Authentication		
	+ Add × Delete	
Accounting	Quick Setup: AAA Authorization	×
	Method List Name* Mesh_Auth	z
	Type* Credential-c	ownload 🔻
	Group Type local	
	Authenticated	
	Available Server Groups	Assigned Server Groups
	radius >	
	tacacs+ <	
	ISE_grp_l2	
	Cancel	Apply to Device



Step 3: Configure the global mesh parameters.

Go to **Configuration> Mesh> Global** parameters. Initially, we can keep these values to default.

Monitoring	>	규	Layer2		Custom Application
	_		νι ανι		IOx
Configuration	>		VTP		mDNS
					Multicast
(O) Administration	>	ull®	Radio Configurations		NetFlow
			CleanAir		Python Sandbox
C Troubleshooting			High Throughput		QoS
			Media Parameters		RA Throttle Policy
			Network		Tags & Profiles
			Parameters	_	AP . loin
			RRM		Flex
			Routing Protocols		Policy
			OSPF		RF
			Static Routing		Tags
		\bigoplus	Security		WLANs
		Ý	AAA	Ð	Wireless
			ACL		Access Points
			Advanced EAP		Advanced
			PKI Management		Air Time Fairness
			Guest User		Fabric
			Local EAP		Media Stream
			Local Policy		Mesh

Step 4: Create a new Mesh Profile under **Configuration > Mesh > Profile > +Add**

Global Config Profiles				
+ Add				
Number of Profiles : 1				
Add Mesh Profile				×
General Advanced				
Name*	Mesh_Profile	Backhaul amsdu		
Description	Enter Description	Backhaul Client Access		
Range (Root AP to Mesh AP)	12000	Battery State for an AP	\checkmark	
Multicast Mode	In-Out 🔻	Full sector DFS status	\checkmark	
IDS (Rogue/Signature Detection)				
Convergence Method	Standard •			
Background Scanning				
Channel Change Notification				
LSC				
Cancel				Apply to Device

Click the created mesh profile to edit the General and Advanced settings for the mesh profile.

In the diagram as shown we need to map the authentication and authorization profile created before to Mesh profie

Configuration * > Wireless	* > Mesh					
Giobal Config Profiles	1					
	Add Mesh Profile					×
+ Add	General Advanced					
Number of Profiles : 1 Name	Security			5 GHz Band Backhaul		
default-mesh-profile	Method	EAP		Rate Types	auto	T
	Authentication Method	Mesh_Authentication +		2.4 GHz Band Backhaul		
	Authorization Method	Mesh_Authz v		Rate Types	auto	•
	Ethernet Bridging		1			
	VLAN Transparent					
	Ethernet Bridging					
	Bridge Group					
	Bridge Group Name	Enter Name				
	Strict Match					
	Cancel					Apply to Device

Step 5: Create a new AP join Profile. Go to **Configure > Tags and Profiles: AP Join.**



Configuration * > Tags & Profiles * > AP Join								
+ Add								
AP Jo	oin Profile Nar	me			~	Description		
defau	lt-ap-profile					default ap profile		
Add AP Join	Profile							×
General	Client	CAPWAP	AP	Management	Rogue AP	ICap		
Name*		Mesh_AP_Jo	in_Profile					
Description		Enter Descrip	tion]				
LED State								
LAG Mode								
NTP Server		0.0.0.0]				
Cancel							Apply to Devic	e

Apply the previously configured Mesh Profile and configure the AP EAP auth:

AP Join Profile Name			~	Description	
default-ap-profile				default ap profile	
ld AP Join Profile					
General Client C	APWAP	Management	Rogue AP	ІСар	
General Hyperlocation	on BLE Pao	cket Capture			
Power Over Ethernet			Client Statis	stics Reporting Interval	
Switch Flag			5 GHz (sec)	90	
Power Injector State			2.4 GHz (sec	90	
Power Injector Type	Unknown	•	Extended N	lodule	
Injector Switch MAC	00:00:00:00:0	0:00	Enable		
Code			Mesh		
AP EAP Auth Configuration	on		Profile Name	Mesh_Profile	•
EAP Type	EAP-FAST	•			Clear
AP Authorization Type	CAPWAP DTLS	5 •			
) Cancel					oply to Device

Step 6: Create a mesh location Tag as shown.

			Logical		AireOS Config Translator
🔜 Dashboard			Ethernet		Application Visibility
			Wireless		Cloud Services
Monitoring	>	Д,	Layer2		Custom Application
		000	\/I AN		IOx
Configuration	>				mDNS
			VIP		Multicast
(O) Administration	>	11 ©	Radio Configurations		NetFlow
			CleanAir		Python Sandbox
💥 Troubleshooting			High Throughput		QoS
			Media Parameters		RA Throttle Policy
			Network	<u>≕ R</u> R ==	Tags & Profiles
			Parameters		AP loin
			RRM		Fley
			Routing Protocols		Policy
			OSPF		RF
			Static Routing		Tags
		\bigoplus	Security		WLANs
			AAA	P	Wireless
			ACL		Access Points
			Advanced EAP		Advanced
			PKI Management		Air Time Fairness

Configure Click the Mesh location TAG created in Step 6 to configure it.

Got to Site tab and apply the previously configured Mesh AP join Profile to it:

C	Configuration • > Tags & P	rofiles > Tags	
	Policy Site RF	AP	
	+ Add X Delete		
	Add Site Tag		×
	Name*	Mesh_AP_tag	
	Description	Enter Description	
	AP Join Profile	Mesh_AP_Join_Profi	
	Control Plane Name	•	
	Enable Local Site		
	Cancel		Apply to Device

Step 7. Convert the AP to Bridge mode.

Configuration - > Wireless - > Access Points	Edit AP				
	General Interfaces	High Availability Inventory	Mesh Advanced	Support Bundle	
Vumber of AP(s): 1	General		Version		
AP Name v AP v Admin v IP AP Name v Model Slots v Status Address	AP Name*	AP2C33-110E-6B66 default location	Primary Software Version Predownloaded Status	17.3.0.17 N/A	
AP2C33-110E-6B66 AIR- AP1562E- 2 O 109.129.49.9 E-K9	Base Radio MAC	7070.8bb4.9200	Predownloaded Version	N/A	
I → 10 v items per page	Ethernet MAC	2c33.110e.6b66	Next Retry Time	N/A	
	Admin Status		Boot Version	1.1.2.4	
> 5 GHz Radios	AP Mode	Bridge 👻	IOS Version	17.3.0.17	
> 2.4 GHz Radios	Operation Status	Sensor	Mini IOS Version	0.0.0.0	
	Fabric Status	Sniffer	IP Config		
Dual-Band Radios	LED State	Bridge Clear	CAPWAP Preferred Mode IPv4		

via CLI you can this commad on the AP :

capwap ap mode bridge

The AP reboots and join back as Bridge mode.

Step 8. You can now define the role of the AP : either root AP or mesh AP.

The root AP is the one with a wired connection to the WLC while the mesh AP joins the WLC via its radio which tries to connect to a root AP.

A mesh AP can join the WLC via its wired interface once it has failed to find a root AP via its radio, for provision purposes.

Do no forget to specify the trunk native vlan in the AP settings in case it is different from the default VLAN 1

Configuration • > Wireless • > Access Points	Edit AP					×
All Access Points	General Interfaces	High Availability	r Inventory	Ethernet Port	Advanced	Support Bundle
AP Name v Model Slots v Status Address	Block Child Daisy Chaining			Ethernet B enabled to co	ridging on the asso onfigure this sectio	ociated Mesh Profile should be
AP1562E- 2	Daisy Chaining strict- RAP Preferred Parent MAC	0000.0000		Port Mode		0 v normal v
 5 GHz Radios 2.4 GHz Radios 	VLAN Trunking Native	Mesh Root Mesh	•			
 Dual-Band Radios Country 	Remove PSK Backhaul	۳ ۱				
> LSC Provision	Backhaul Radio Type Backhaul Slot ID Rate Types	5ghz 1 auto	• • •			
	Cancel					Update & Apply to Device

Verify

```
aaa new-model
aaa local authentication default authorization default
1
!
aaa authentication dot1x default local
aaa authentication dot1x Mesh_Authentication local
aaa authorization network default local
aaa authorization credential-download default local
aaa authorization credential-download Mesh_Authz local
username 111122223333 mac
wireless profile mesh Mesh_Profile
method authentication Mesh_Authentication
method authorization Mesh_Authz
wireless profile mesh default-mesh-profile
description "default mesh profile"
wireless tag site Mesh_AP_Tag
 ap-profile Mesh_AP_Join_Profile
ap profile Mesh_AP_Join_Profile
hyperlocation ble-beacon 0
hyperlocation ble-beacon 1
hyperlocation ble-beacon 2
 hyperlocation ble-beacon 3
 hyperlocation ble-beacon 4
mesh-profile Mesh_Profile
```

Troubleshoot

In **Troubleshoot** > **Radioactive Trace** web UI page, Click **add** and enter the AP mac address.

Q Search Menu Items	Troubleshooting - > Radioactive Trace
📰 Dashboard	Conditional Debug Global State: Stopped
Monitoring	Add Schelete Start Stop
Configuration	MAC/IP Address Trace file
	Image: Height of the second
X Troubleshooting	
	Add MAC/IP Address *
	MAC/IP Address*
	Cancel

Click Start and wait for the AP to try to join the controller again.

Once done, click Generate and chose a time period to collect the logs (last 10 or 30 minutes for example).

Click on the Trace file name to download it from your browser.

Here is an example of AP not joined because of the wrong aaa authorization method name was defined :

```
019/11/28 13:08:38.269 {wncd_x_R0-0}{1}: [capwapac-smgr-srvr] [23388]: (info): Session-IP: 192.168.88.4
2019/11/28 13:08:38.288 {wncd_x_R0-0}{1}: [ewlc-infra-evq] [23388]: (info): DTLS record type: 23, appli
2019/11/28 13:08:38.288 {wncd_x_R0-0}{1}: [capwapac-smgr-sess] [23388]: (info): Session-IP: 192.168.88.
2019/11/28 13:08:38.288 {wncd_x_R0-0}{1}: [capwapac-smgr-sess] [23388]: (info): Session-IP: 192.168.88.
2019/11/28 13:08:38.288 {wncd_x_R0-0}{1}: [mesh-config] [23388]: (ERR): Failed to get ap PMK cache rec
2019/11/28 13:08:38.288 {wncd_x_R0-0}{1}: [mesh-config] [23388]: (ERR): Failed to get ap PMK cache rec
2019/11/28 13:08:38.288 {wncd_x_R0-0}{1}: [mesh-config] [23388]: (ERR): Failed to get ap PMK cache rec
2019/11/28 13:08:38.288 {wncd_x_R0-0}{1}: [apmgr-capwap-join] [23388]: (info): 00a3.8e95.6c40 Ap auth p
2019/11/28 13:08:38.288 {wncd_x_R0-0}{1}: [apmgr-capwap-join] [23388]: (ERR): Failed to initialize auth
2019/11/28 13:08:38.288 {wncd_x_R0-0}{1}: [apmgr-capwap-join] [23388]: (ERR): 00a3.8e95.6c40 Auth reque
2019/11/28 13:08:38.288 {wncd_x_R0-0}{1}: [apmgr-db] [23388]: (ERR): 00a3.8e95.6c40 Failed to get wtp r
2019/11/28 13:08:38.288 {wncd_x_R0-0}{1}: [apmgr-db] [23388]: (ERR): 00a3.8e95.6c40 Failed to get ap ta
2019/11/28 13:08:38.288 {wncd_x_R0-0}{1}: [capwapac-smgr-sess-fsm] [23388]: (ERR): Session-IP: 192.168.
2019/11/28 13:08:38.288 {wncd_x_R0-0}{1}: [capwapac-smgr-sess-fsm] [23388]: (info): Session-IP: 192.168
2019/11/28 13:08:38.288 {wncd_x_R0-0}{1}: [capwapac-smgr-sess-fsm] [23388]: (note): Session-IP: 192.168
2019/11/28 13:08:38.288 {wncd_x_R0-0}{1}: [capwapac-smgr-sess-fsm] [23388]: (note): Session-IP: 192.168
2019/11/28 13:08:38.288 {wncd_x_R0-0}{1}: [ewlc-dtls-sessmgr] [23388]: (info): Remote Host: 192.168.88.
2019/11/28 13:08:38.288 {wncd_x_R0-0}{1}: [ewlc-dtls-sessmgr] [23388]: (info): Remote Host: 192.168.88.
2019/11/28 13:08:38.289 {wncmgrd_R0-0}{1}: [ewlc-infra-evq] [23038]: (debug): instance :0 port:38932MAC
```

The same can be seen more easily in the web UI dashboard when click on APs not joined. "Ap auth pending" is the hint which points towards the authentication of the AP itself:

Monitoring	Join Statistics			×
General Ion Statistics	General Statistics			
	DTLS Session request received	1	Configuration requests received	0
Clear ClearAll	Established DTLS session	1	Successful configuration responses sent	0
Number of AP(s): 2	Unsuccessful DTLS session	0	Unsuccessful configuration	0
Status "Is equal to" NOT JOINED ×	Reason for last unsuccessful DTLS session	DTLS Handshake Success	request processing	
AP Name v AP Mod	Time at last successful DTI S session	Mon 17 Feb 2020	Reason for last unsuccessful configuration attempt	NA
AP2CF8-9B5F-7D70 C9120A		09:15:41 GMT	Time at last successful	NA
NA	Time at last unsuccessful DTLS session	NA	Time at last use use see of d	NA
	Join phase statistics		configuration attempt	
	Join requests received	1	Data DTLS Statistics	
	Successful ioin responses sent	0	DTLS Session request received	0
	Unsuccessful join request processing	0	Established DTLS session	0
	Peacon for last unsuccessful join	An auth conding	Unsuccessful DTLS session	0
	attempt	Ap dati perding	Reason for last unsuccessful	DTLS Handshake
	Time at last successful join attempt	NA	DTLS session	Success
	Time at last unsuccessful join attempt	NA	Time at last successful DTLS session	NA
			Time at last unsuccessful DTLS session	NA
				🗸 ОК

Case study 2 : Flex + Bridge

This section highlights the join process of a 1542 AP in Flex+bridge mode with EAP authentication done locally on the WLC.

Configure

• Step 1. Navigate to Configuration > Security > AAA > AAA Advanced > Device Authentication



- Step 2. Select Device Authentication and select Add
- Step 3. Type in the Base Ethernet MAC address of the AP to join to the WLC, leave the Attribute List Name blank, and select Apply to Device

Quick Setup: MAC Filtering		×
MAC Address* Attribute List Name	1 fffffffff 2 None	2
Cancel		3

- Step 4. Navigate to Configuration > Security > AAA > AAA Method List > Authentication
- Step 5. Select Add, the AAA Authentication pop-up appears



• Step 6. Type in a name in the **Method List Name**, select **802.1x** from the **Type*** drop-down and **local** for the **Group Type**, finally select **Apply to Device**

uick Setup: AAA Authenti	cation 1	×
Method List Name*	mesh-ap 2	
Туре*	dot1x 🗸 3	
Group Type	local 🔻 4	
Available Server Groups	Assigned Server Groups	
radius Idap tacacs+ imarquez-Radius-grp	> <	
D Cancel		5

- Step 6b. In case your APs join directly as Bridge mode and were not assigned a site and policy tag before, repeat step 6 but for the default method.
- Configure a dot1x aaa authetnication method which points to local (CLI aaa authentication dot1x default local)
- Step 7. Navigate to Configuration > Security > AAA > AAA Method List > Authorization
- Step 8. Select Add, the AAA Authorization pop-up appears



• Step 9. Type in a name in the **Method List Name**, select **credeential download** from the **Type*** drop-down and **local** for the **Group Type**, finally select **Apply to Device**

Quick Setup: AAA Authoriza	ation	×
Method List Name*	mesh-ap 1	
Туре*	credential-download 🗸	
Group Type	local 🗸 3	
Authenticated		
Available Server Groups	Assigned Server Groups	
radius // Idap tacacs+ imarquez-Radius-grp // V	> <	4
Cancel		Apply to Device

- Step 9b. In case your AP join directly in Bridge mode (that is, it does not join in local mode first), repeat step 9 for the default credential-download method (CLI aaa authorization credential-download default local)
- Step 10. Navigate to Configuration > Wireless > Mesh > Profiles
- Step 11. Select Add, the Add Mesh Profile pop-up appears



General	Advanced	
Name*		mesh-profile
Description		mesh-profile

- Step 13. Under the Advanced tab select EAP for the Method field
- Step 14. Select he Authorization and Authentication profile defined in steps 6 and 9, and select Apply to Device

Add Mesh Profile					×
General Advanced					
Security	,		5 GHz Band Backha	ul	
Method	EAP	2	Rate Types	auto	•
Authentication Method	mesh-ap 🔻	3	2.4 GHz Band Back	haul	
Authorization Method	mesh-apl v	4	Rate Types	auto	•
Ethernet Bridging					
VLAN Transparent					
Ethernet Bridging			2		
Bridge Group					
Bridge Group Name	Enter Name				
Strict Match					•
Cancel					5

- Step 15. Navigate to Configuration > Tag & Profiles > AP Join > Profile
 Step 16. Select Add, the AP Join Profile pop-up appears, set a name and description for the AP Join profile

Configuration	AP Join
	U
+ Add × Delete	
AP Join Profile Name	

Add AP Join Profile Rogue AP Client CAPWAP AP Management **ICap** General Name* mes-ap-join Description mesh-ap-join LED State \checkmark LAG Mode 0.0.0.0 NTP Server

- Step 17. Navigate to the **AP** tab and select the **Mesh Profile** created in step 12 from the **Mesh Profile Name** dropdown
- Step 18. Ensure **EAP-FAST** and **CAPWAP DTLS** are set for the **EAP Type** and **AP Authorization Type** fields respectively
- Steo 19. Select Apply to Device

eneral Client	CAPWAP AP Manage	ement Rogue AP ICa	ар
General Hyper	location BLE Packet Captu	ure	
ower Over Etherne	t	Client Statistics	Reporting Interval
Switch Flag		5 GHz (sec)	90
Power Injector State		2.4 GHz (sec)	90
Power Injector Type	Unknown	Extended Modu	le
njector Switch MAC	00:00:00:00:00:00	Enable	
Code		Mesh	0
AP EAP Auth Config	uration	3 Profile Name	mesh-profile v
ЕАР Туре	EAP-FAST 🔻		Clear
AP Authorization Type	CAPWAP DTLS 🔻	4	

- Step 20. Navigate to Configuration > Tag & Profiles > Tags > Site
- Step 21. Select Add, the Site Tag pop up appears



Add Site Tag	
Name*	mesh-ap-site
Description	mesh-ap-site
AP Join Profile	mesh-ap-join-profile 🗸

- Step 23. Select the AP Join Profile created in step 16 from the AP Join Profile dropdown
- Step 24. At the bottom of the Site Tag popup uncheck the **Enable Local Site** checkbox to enable the **Flex Profile** dropdown.
- Step 35. From the Flex Profile dropdown select the Flex Profile you want to use for the AP

Add Site Tag		
Name*	mesh-ap-site	
Description	mesh-ap-site	
AP Join Profile	mesh-ap-join-profile 🔻	
Flex Profile	imarquez-FlexLocal 🔻	
Control Plane Name	· · ·	
Enable Local Site		
Cancel		Apply to Device

- Step 36. Connect the AP to the network and ensure the AP is in local mode.
- Step 37. To ensure the AP is in local mode issue the command capwap ap mode local.

The AP must have a way to find the controller, either L2 broadcast, DHCP Option 43, DNS resolution or manual setup.

 Step 38. The AP joins the WLC, ensure it is listed under the AP list, navigate to Configuration > Wireless > Access Points > All Access Points



- Step 39. Select the AP, the **AP** popup appears.
- Step 40. Select the **Site Tag** created in Step 22 under **General** > **Tags** > **Site** tab within the AP popup, select **Update and Apply to Device**

Edit AP							×
General 1 Interfaces	High Availability	Inventory	Mesh	Advance	ed		^
General		Ver	sion				
AP Name*	47085-098-078	Prim	ary Software	Version	1	6.12.1.139	
Location*	default location	Prec	Jownloaded S	tatus	N	I/A	
Base Radio MAC	1000-008-2540	Prec	lownloaded V	ersion	N	I/A	
Ethernet MAC	1074-008-018	Nex	t Retry Time		N	I/A	
Admin Status		Boo	t Version		1	.1.2.4	
AP Mode	The Disks	IOS	Version		1	6.12.1.139	
Operation Status	Registered	Mini	IOS Version		0	.0.0.0	
Fabric Status	Disabled	IP C	Config				
LED State		CAP	WAP Preferre	d Mode	IPv4		
LED Brightness Level	8 🗸	DHC	P IPv4 Addre	SS	10.000	4.10	
CleanAir <u>NSI Key</u>		Stat	ic IP (IPv4/IPv	6)			
Tags		Tim	e Statistics				
Policy	imarquez-FlexLocal 🔻	Up 1	lime			4 days 3 hrs 2 mins 6 secs	
Site	Mesh-AP-Tag 🔹	2 Con	troller Associa	ation Latenc	су	20 secs	
RF	default-rf-tag v						3 ~
Cancel		20				Update & Appl	y to Device

• Step 41. The AP reboots and must join back the WLC in Flex + Bridge mode

Notice that this method joins the AP first in local mode (where it does not do dot1x authentication) to apply the site tag with the mesh profile and then switch the AP to bridge mode.

To join an AP that is stuck in Bridge (or Flex+Bridge) mode, configure default methods (**aaa authentication dot1x default local** and **aaa authorization cred default local**).

The AP is then able to authenticate and you can assign the tags afterwards.

Verify

Ensure the AP mode is shown as Flex + Bridge as shown in this image.

Configuration											
	All Access Points										
Nu	imber of AP(s): 2										
							~3				
	AP Name 🗸	Total Slots	×	Admin v Status	2	AP Model 🗸	Base Radio MAC	~	AP ~ Mode	Operation Status	~
	MILLION OF THE	2		0		AIR-AP1542I-A-K9	000-00-040		Flex+Bridge	Registered	

Run these commands from WLC 9800 CLI and look for the **AP Mode** attribute. It must be listed as **Flex+Bridge**

```
aaa authorization credential-download mesh-ap local
aaa authentication dot1x mesh-ap local
wireless profile mesh default-mesh-profile
description "default mesh profile"
wireless tag site meshsite
ap-profile meshapjoin
no local-site
ap profile meshapjoin
hyperlocation ble-beacon 0
hyperlocation ble-beacon 1
hyperlocation ble-beacon 2
hyperlocation ble-beacon 3
hyperlocation ble-beacon 4
mesh-profile mesh-profile
```

Troubleshoot

Make sure th ecommands **aaa authentication dot1x default local** and **aaa authorization cred default local** are present. They are needed if your AP was not pre-joined in Local mode.

The main 9800 dashboard has a widget which displays APs not able to join. Click it to get a list of APs that fail to join :

Monitorir	ig∗> Wir	eless - > AP Statistics							
Gener	al Join	Statistics							
Ø Clé	ar 🧷 O	learAll							x
Number Status	of AP(s): 2	NOT JOINED × Y							
	Status 🗸	Base Radio MAC	×	Ethernet MAC	\sim	AP Name	v,	IP Address	~
	0	10b3.c622.5d80	Ж	2cf8.9b21.18b0	Ж	AP2CF8.9B21.18B0		87.66.46.211	
	0	7070.8bb4.9200	Ж	2c33.110e.6b66	ж	AP2C33.110E.6866		87.66.46.211	
н	(1 →	10 v items per page							1 - 2 of 2 Join Statistics

Click on the specific AP to see the reason why it is not joined. In this case, we see an authentication issue (AP auth pending) because the site tag was not assigned to the AP.

Therefore the 9800 did not pick the named authentication/authorization method to authenticate the AP :

	2-11	137	La La
 - 1	F - 11	N 11	100

General Statistics			
Control DTLS Statistics		Configuration phase statistics	
DTLS Session request received	179	Configuration requests received	173
Established DTLS session	179	Successful configuration responses sent	4
Unsuccessful DTLS session Reason for last unsuccessful DTLS session	0 DTLS Handshake Success	Unsuccessful configuration request processing	0
Time at last successful DTLS session	Thu, 19 Dec 2019 13:03:19 GMT	Reason for last unsuccessful configuration attempt Time at last successful	Regulatory domain check failed Thu, 19 Dec 2019
Time at last unsuccessful DTLS session	NA	configuration attempt Time at last unsuccessful configuration attempt	12:36:10 GMT NA
Join phase statistics		Data DTI C Chatiatian	
Join requests received	179	Data DTL5 Statistics	
Successful join responses sent	173	DTLS Session request received	0
Unsuccessful join request processing	0	Established DTLS session	0
Reason for last unsuccessful join attempt	Ap auth pending	Unsuccessful DTLS session	0
Time at last successful join attempt	Thu, 19 Dec 2019 12:36:10 GMT	Reason for last unsuccessful DTLS session	DTLS Handshake Success
Time at last unsuccessful join attempt	NA	Time at last successful DTLS session	NA
		Time at last unsuccessful DTLS session	NA

For more advanced troubleshooting, go to the **Troubleshooting** > **Radioactive Trace** page on web UI.

If you enter the AP mac address, you can immediately generate a file to get the always-on logs (at notice level) of the AP that tries to join.

Click **Start** to enable advanced debugging for that mac address. The next time that the logs are generated, generate the logs, debug-level logs for the AP joinare shown.

Configuration Mac/IP Address Trace file 2x33.110e.6b66	Cisco Catalyst 9800-CL Wireless Controller											
 □ Dashboard ○ Monitoring > Configuration > Administration 	Q Search Menu Items	Troubleshooting - > Radioactive	e Trace									
	📰 Dashboard	← Back to TroubleShooting Men	u e: Stopped									
Configuration MAC/IP Address Trace file 2c33.110e.6b66 debugTrace_2c33.110e.6b66.bxt ▲ Generate	Monitoring >	→ Add × Delete ✓ Start Stop										
Administration > 2c33.110e.6b66 debugTrace_2c33.110e.6b66.txt 🚣	Configuration	MAC/IP Address	Trace file									
	(⊙) Administration →	2c33.110e.6b66	debugTrace_2c33.110e.6b66.txt 🛓	► Generate								
Troubleshooting	X Troubleshooting		items per page	1 - 1 of 1 items								

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