



Product Advisory Alert

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WLAN 2300 Software Release v4.1 - Mandatory Upgrade

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision #	Summary of Changes
July 21, 2006	Original bulletin	This is the original publication

Introduction

Nortel* has discovered that WLAN 2300 systems operating in 802.11a mode with software release 4.0 may not comply with certain regulatory requirements.

All WLAN 2300 customers are required to upgrade from software release 4.0 to release 4.1 to ensure regulatory compliance.

This mandatory upgrade is required for all WLAN 2300 installations in all regions.

Description

802.11a operates in the 5150-5250 MHz, 5250-5350 MHz and 5470-5725 MHz frequency bands. The 5250-5350 MHz and 5470-5725 MHz bands share the frequency spectrum with military radar and satellite communications systems. These facilities have been identified as primary-use devices and can be adversely affected by interfering transmissions from a WLAN operating in close proximity. To address this problem, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has imposed regulations that require 802.11a systems to detect the presence of primary-use devices and respond by operating in a submissive fashion to minimize interference.

The WLAN 2300 employs 2 primary mechanisms to meet this requirement:

1. DFS - Dynamic Frequency Selection (DFS) – A method for detecting the presence of primary-use devices, selecting an appropriate alternative channel, and synchronizing the channel change with associated clients.
2. TPC – Transmission Power Control (TPC) – A method for automatically adjusting power levels to minimize interference with primary-use devices.

Nortel has discovered that under certain conditions, the WLAN 2300 system will not respond appropriately when in the presence of primary-use devices. This situation may result in non-compliance with international regulations when operating in 802.11a mode.

Solution

To ensure compliance with current Dynamic Frequency Selection (DFS) regulatory requirements, Nortel is requiring a mandatory software upgrade. All existing WLAN 2300 customers must upgrade to software release 4.1.11 or later.

Software release 4.0 will be manufacture discontinued (MD) on September 1, 2006 and subsequently transitioned to end-of-life (EOL) status on May 1, 2007.

Software release 4.0 will not be supported after April 30, 2007.

Software releases 4.0.xx will be removed from the Nortel Technical Support website on May 1, 2007.

Required Action

All WLAN 2300 customers must upgrade to software release 4.1.11 or later. Both the WLAN Management Software (WMS) and the WLAN Security Switch (WSS) software must be upgraded.

The WLAN 2300 v4.1 software upgrade is available at no cost to all customers, and can be downloaded from Nortel's Technical Support website at:

<http://www.nortel.com/support>.

For additional questions or inquiries regarding this mandatory software upgrade, contact Nortel at 1-800-4NORTEL, and use express routing code (ERC)1572.

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