

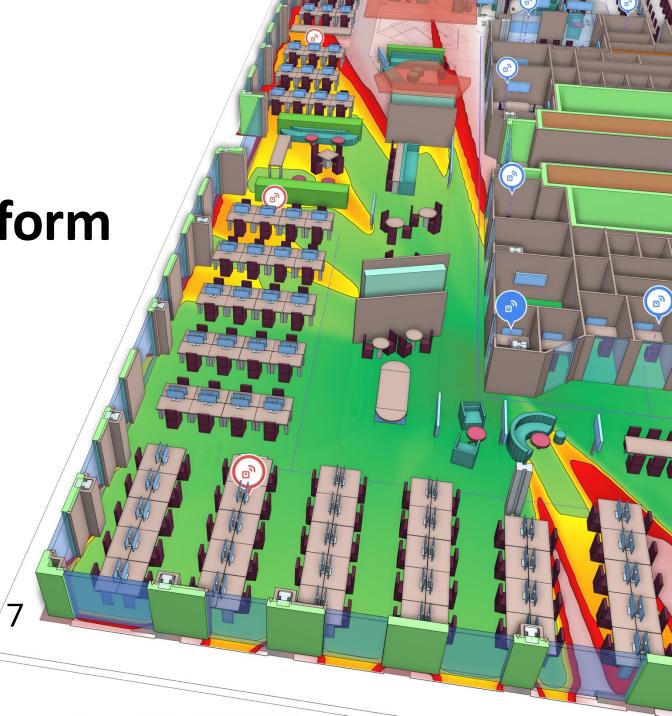
How (and why) to perform a Wi-Fi Site Survey



Jerry Olla, CWNE# 238 jerry@hamina.com



Andrew McHale, CWNE# 417 andrew@hamina.com

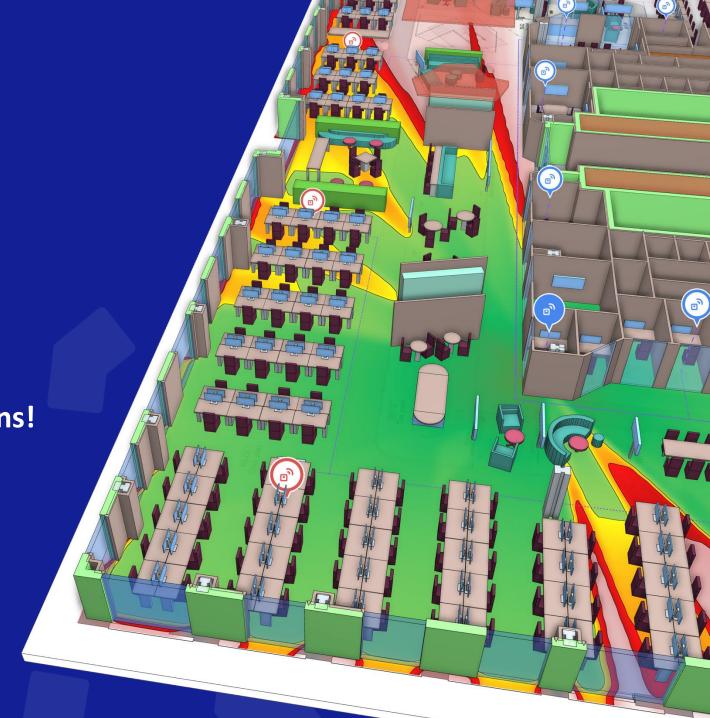




Types of Surveys

- Pre-Deployment Survey
- Post-Deployment Survey
- AP-on-a-Stick Survey (APoS)

Predictive Surveys Predictive Designs!



Pre-Deployment Survey

- Documents existing Wi-Fi coverage and environmental impacts on RF propagation.
- Uses **passive surveys** to map signal strength, noise, and interference (e.g., rogue APs)
- Optional **active surveys** to assess current network performance (throughput, latency).
- Informs **predictive design** in Hamina Network Planner for optimized AP placement.



Post-Deployment Survey

- Validates new Wi-Fi network against design specs (coverage, capacity, performance).
- Uses passive surveys for signal strength, SNR, and interference
- Optional active surveys to assess network performance (throughput, latency).
- Identifies issues like coverage gaps, rogue APs, or interference.
- Helps with optimizing network configuration (Tx power levels, channel configuration, ect..)



AP-on-a-Stick Survey (APoS)

- Tests proposed AP locations using temporary setups on a pole or tripod.
- Uses passive surveys to map signal strength
- Validates RF propagation in complex environments (e.g., warehouses, stadiums).
- Used pre-deployment or for post-deployment adjustments.



What to Survey: Passive vs Active Surveys

Passive Survey

- Listens to RF environment without connecting to APs.
- Measures signal strength, noise, SNR, interference, and channel utilization.
- Ideal for mapping coverage, detecting rogue APs.
- Used in pre- and post-deployment surveys to inform predictive design or validate networks.

Active Survey

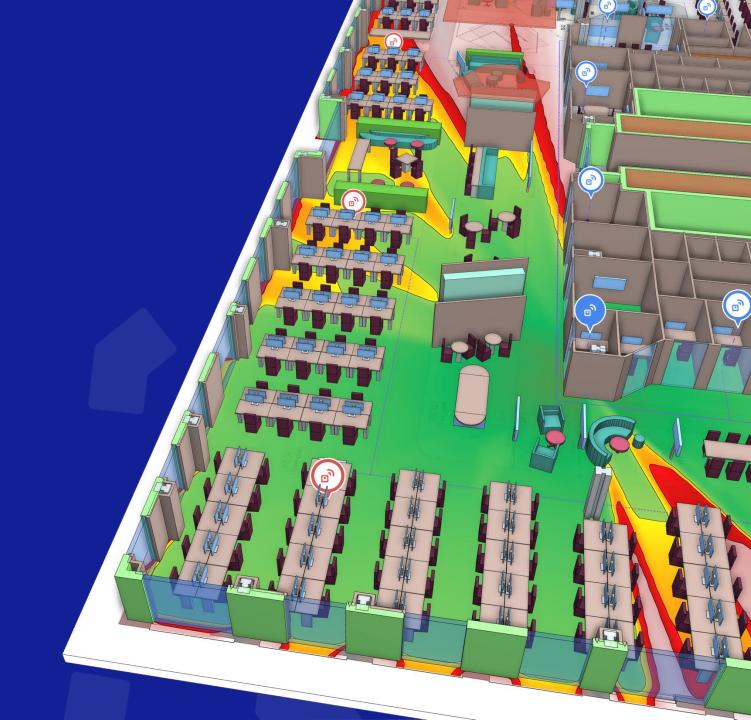
- Connects to APs to measure real-world client performance.
- Measures throughput, latency, packet loss, and roaming behavior.
- Ideal for testing application performance (e.g., VoIP requiring -67 dBm, 25 dB SNR).
- Used primarily in post-deployment surveys to verify user experience.



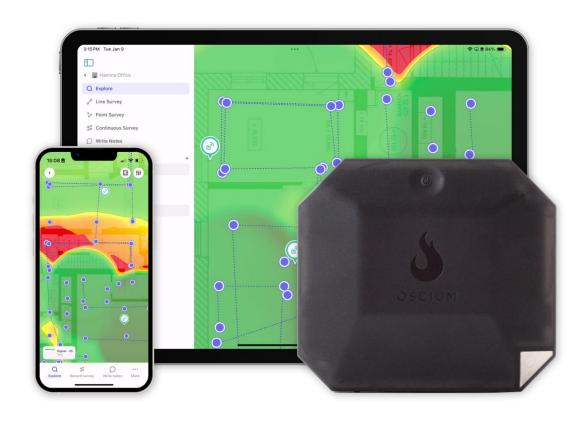


Hamina's Survey Solution

Hamina Onsite + Oscium Nomad



Hamina Onsite + Nomad

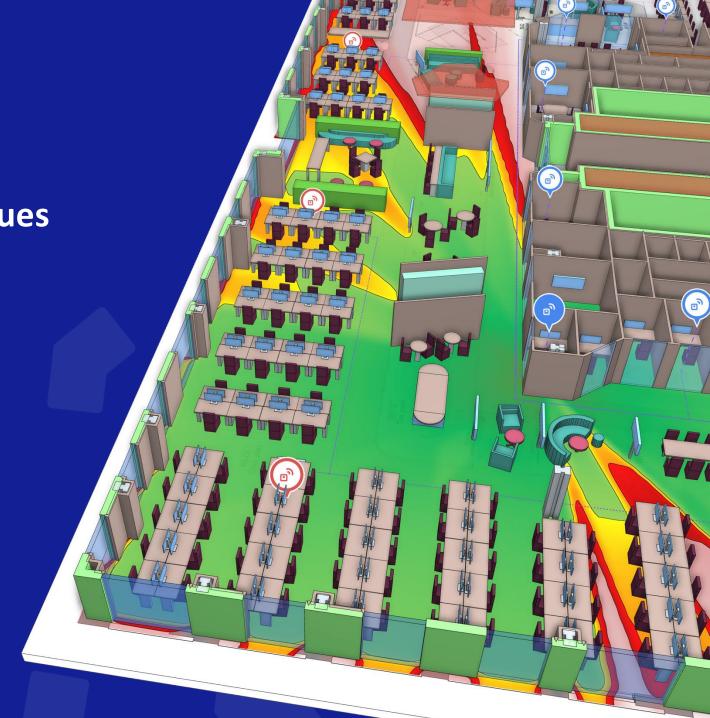


- Validate new networks, troubleshooting existing ones, and perform real-time analysis of Wi-Fi networks
- Heatmaps update live while you survey, so you can troubleshoot instantly.
- From design to deployment, deployment to validation, all in one project.



Identifying Post-Deployment Issues

Coverage Gaps, Interference, Performance Issues, Rogue APs



Common Post-Deployment Issues

- Coverage Gaps: Areas with low or no signal.
- Interference: Co-channel/adjacent-channel interference.
- Performance Issues: Low throughput, high latency, or packet loss.
- Rogue APs: Unauthorized devices detected via passive surveys.





Conducting Surveys

Continuous, Line, and Point Modes



Survey Tips

Survey Modes: Continuous, Line, and Point

Best Practices:

- Survey during typical usage hours for realistic data.
- Use consistent pace
- Tap when you start, stop, or turn
- Wear Oscium Nomad at position for device you want to validate for. (e.g., Chest height for mobile phone)





Analyzing and Optimizing Results



Analyzing and Optimizing Results

- Heatmap Analysis: Review coverage, SNR, secondary/tertiary coverage, and interference in Hamina Onsite.
- **Optimization**: Use survey results to "calibrate" Hamina Network Planner to simulate adjusting AP placement, channel plans, or power settings.
- **Reporting**: Create remediation plan using interactive 3D heatmaps and custom markdown reports.
- Integration: Live View with cloud management platforms for real-time heatmaps of environment to validate changes and identify new issues.





Questions?

jerry@hamina.com