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This story appeared on Network World at
<http://www.networkworld.com/news/2005/101805-enterasys.html>

Enterasys floats wireless LAN gear

By [Phil Hochmuth](#), *NetworkWorld.com*, 10/18/05

[Enterasys](#) this week announced wireless LAN access points and a wireless switch for controlling and securing Wi-Fi network access in an enterprise.

The LAN/WLAN vendor introduced the RoamAbout AP4102 Unified Access Point, a device that can act as either a thin or stand-alone access point. Also announced was the RoamAbout AP1002, a dual-radio 802.11a and 802.11b/g thin access point. To control these devices, Enterasys also introduced the 8400 Wireless Switch. The gear is targeted at large enterprises looking to secure their current wireless LAN infrastructures or build one from scratch.

The 8400 Wireless Switch is designed to sit in a data center and control up to 120 thin access points across a LAN, directly connected to the switch or not. The box includes four Gigabit Ethernet ports and provides services such as fast handoffs of traffic from roaming clients among APs, automatic RF radio adjustments, as well as rogue AP detection and physical location pinpointing. The device supports five times as many thin APs as the previously announced 8100 Wireless Switch, introduced in May.

When attached to a 8400 Wireless Switch — or Enterasys' previously announced 8100 device — the new AP1002 provides simpler management and security control than a stand-alone access point, Enterasys says, since all configuration, intelligence and processing is done on the switch.

For smaller deployments, or if more intelligence is required on the access point, users can deploy the AP4102 Unified Access Point, which can run either as a thin AP, connected to a Wireless Switch, or as a standalone device, which sits on the network with its own IP address. The box can also act in "LAN-LAN" mode, or as a wireless bridge between two wired networks, such as a link between two adjacent buildings with no connecting copper or fiber.

The RoamAbout 8400 wireless LAN is available now and starts at \$12,000. The AP4102 will be available in November for \$700 and the AP1002 will be available in December for \$450.

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