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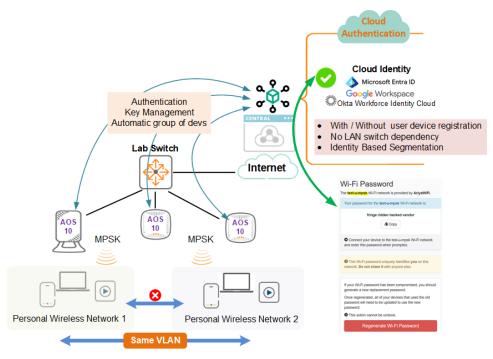
1.1 Revision History

DATE	VERSION	EDITOR	CHANGES
30 Dec 2024	0.1	Ariya Parsamanesh	Initial creation

2 Personal Wireless Network with Aruba Central Cloud Auth

Personal Wireless Networks (PWN) are groups of user-owned Wi-Fi devices that connect and operate together in a VLAN. It's essential to ensure that only devices within the designated group can interact in one another, along with an added ability for the device owners to permit Multicast DNS (mDNS) and Simple Service Discovery Protocol (SSDP) based services to be shared with their friends.

In this technote I'll be demonstrating PWN solution, using Multi Pre-Shared Key (MPSK) on AOS10 APs and CloudAuth to provide user role-based policies for segmentation using an identity store. There are two parts to this solution, one is the automating the operation workflow for user device registration and the second is the access policy part to provide segmentation.



PWN Benefits are

- Self-service portal makes it easy for users like students and faculty to onboard multiple personal devices
- You can use this solution with or without the identity stores
- It eliminates IT help desk tickets through a user-driven, SSID-based approach
- There is no dependency on LAN infrastructure

2.1 Things you need

We need the following.

- 2x APs (I am using AP-515 and AP-605H) running Aruba AOS10 10.7.x.x or later
- Aruba Central account and a few wireless clients

2.2 Assumptions

- Aruba AP is visible and online in Aruba Central and it has a valid subscription.
- Cloud Auth is configured with an identity store and connected.
- Deny Intra VLAN Traffic is not enabled as it is mutually exclusive with PWN

3 CloudAuth and Personal Wireless networks

PWN with Aruba Central is a solution that uses several features to provide the outcome and those features include

- MPSK with AOS10 APs
- Cloud Auth
- AirGroup
- User roles-based policies for North-south traffic
- VXLAN and Group Based Policy (GBP) for East-West Traffic

First you need to configure MPSK to be the authentication mode for a WLAN. Note that MPSK and MAC authentication are mutually exclusive and AOS 10.4 and above is needed to support the MPSK feature.

The unique PSKs are assigned based on two methods

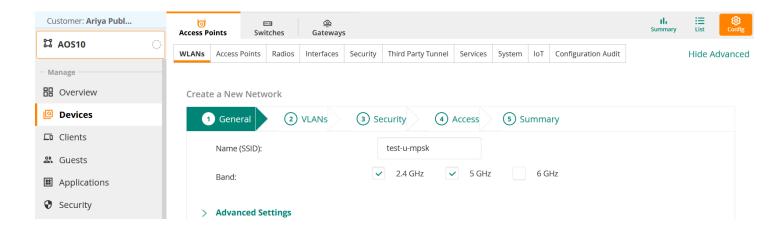
- Admin Managed MPSK This is also known as Named MPSK, in which PSKs are auto-generated when the
 administrator creates a named MPSK entry that can be shared with one or more users or use it to configure
 multiple devices without dependency on identity store. This is for the use cases where devices that may need to
 connect to MPSK network do not have any user identity associated
- 2. **User Managed MPSK** These PSKs are specific to the user in the identity store and are auto-generated when the user signs in to the MPSK portal with their credentials. Then the users can connect multiple devices with this MPSK. So, there is a dependency on identity store.

Note that an identity provider should be configured before using the user-managed MPSK. Only the admin-managed MPSK (named MPSK) will work without configuring the identity provider which we cover it in the last technote.

We'll be covering User Managed MPSK here.

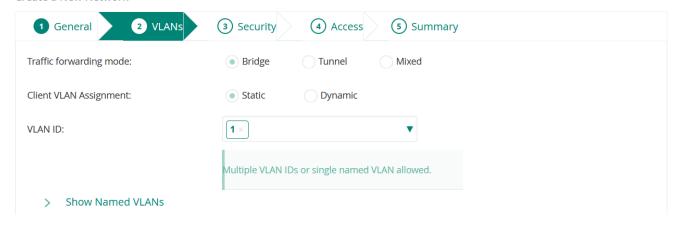
3.1 WLAN MPSK configuration

Here we'll configure "test-u-mpsk" WLAN that will be used for our demonstration.

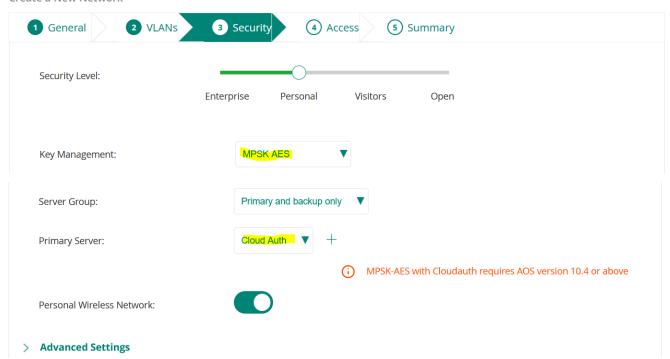


Here are the details of WLAN configuration.

Create a New Network

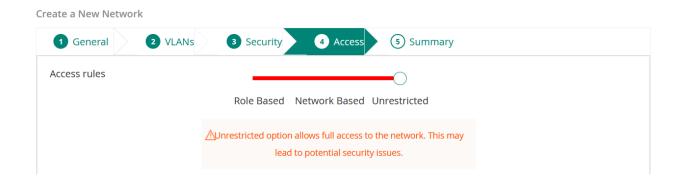


Create a New Network

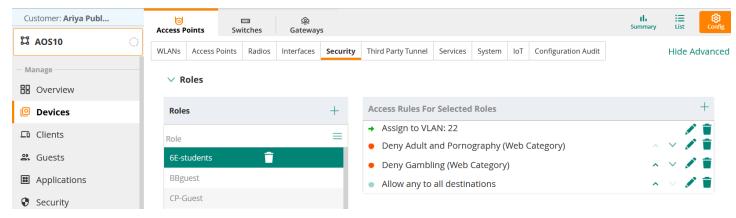


The important thing here is that we have selected MPSK AES and Personal Wireless Network (PWN). By selecting PWN Aruba Central's Cloud auth will auto generate a Personal Area Network id (PAN-id) for each user community and shares it with the APs. Then devices with the same PAN-id can communicate together while devices with different PAN-id cannot have any access to one another. This is how the micro segmentation is achieved.

Using PWN, user's devices can roam from one AP to another while maintaining access to their devices with no risk of access of their devices to other end users. This is done using a PAN ID that is embedded into network traffic and restricts traffic to flow only between devices that belong to the same user.

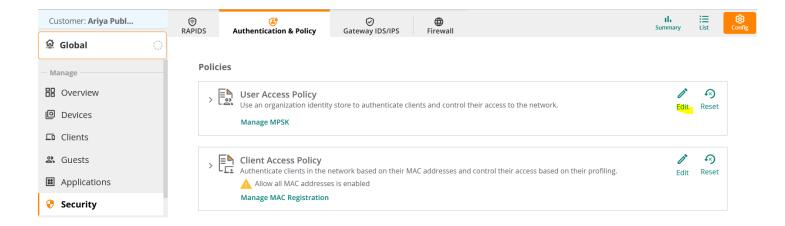


Next, we'll also configure a new user-role "6E-Student" that we'll be using for our PWN based MPSK wireless network.

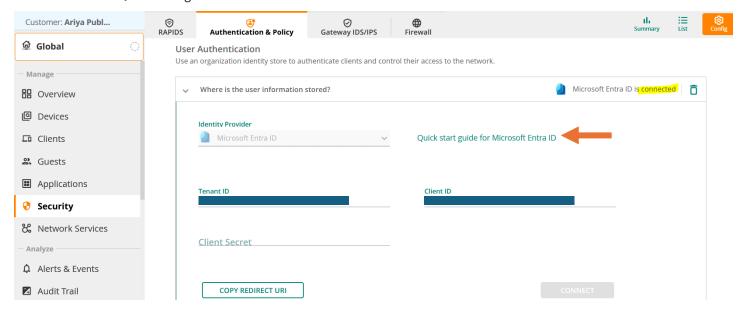


3.2 Configuring the Cloud Identity

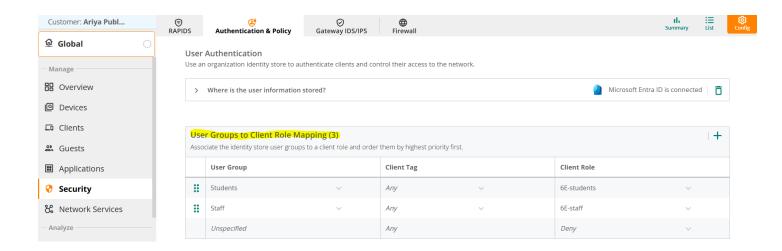
In this section we'll cover the basics of configuring a cloud identity so Aruba Central's CloudAuth can authenticate against.



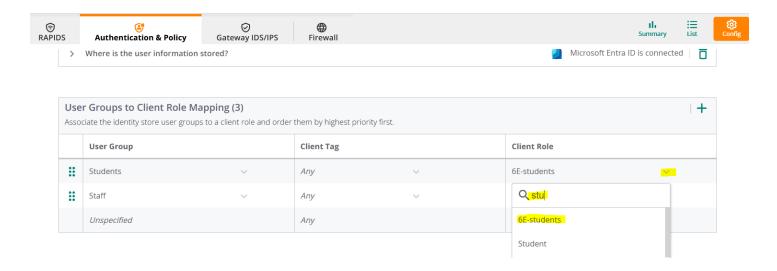
We are using Microsoft Entra ID and for it, you need 3x pieces of information that are shown below. For the details you can refer to the "Quick start guide for Microsoft Entra ID".



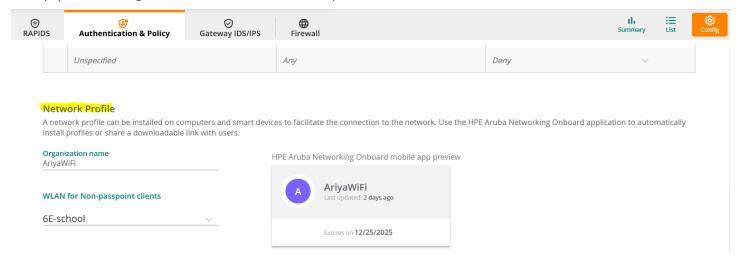
Once you have your Entra ID in "connected" state, you can start with some basic user group to client role mapping. As shown below I have 2x rules configured that maps the Entra ID group membership of the users to user roles.



Note that you need to configure your user roles before so you can select them from the drop-down menu.

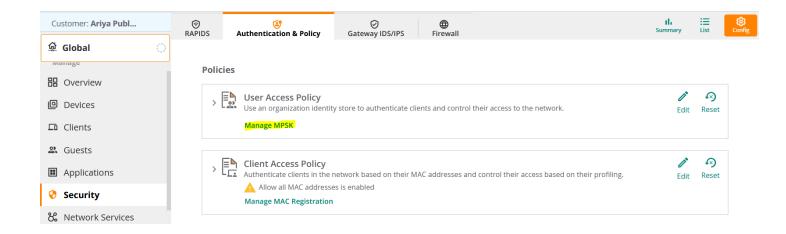


Finally, you can configure and customise the network profiles.

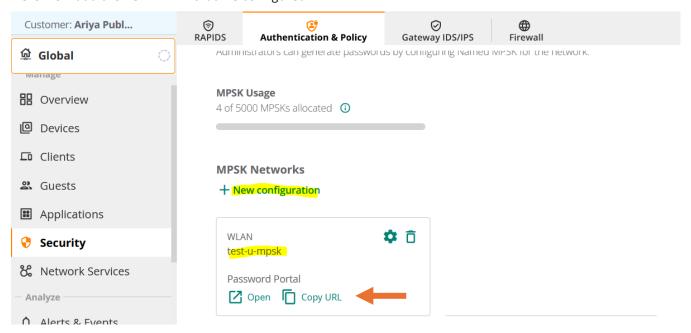


3.3 User Managed MPSK

In this section we'll configure MPSK management for students which are in the same user roles (6E-Student), that will create their own two device communities.



Here we'll add the new WLAN that we configured.

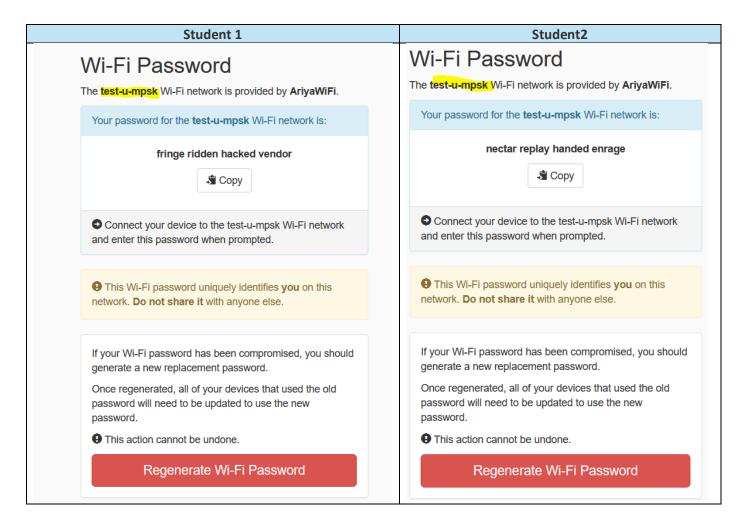


Now you can "copy URL" from above and send it to the user to manage their own MPSKs.

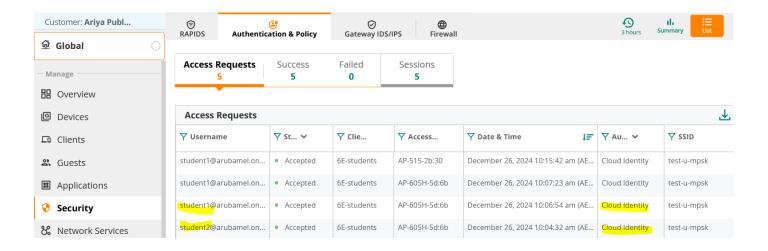
When you or the user open the Password Portal, they will get authenticated and since Entra ID enforces 2FA, they must go through that as well.



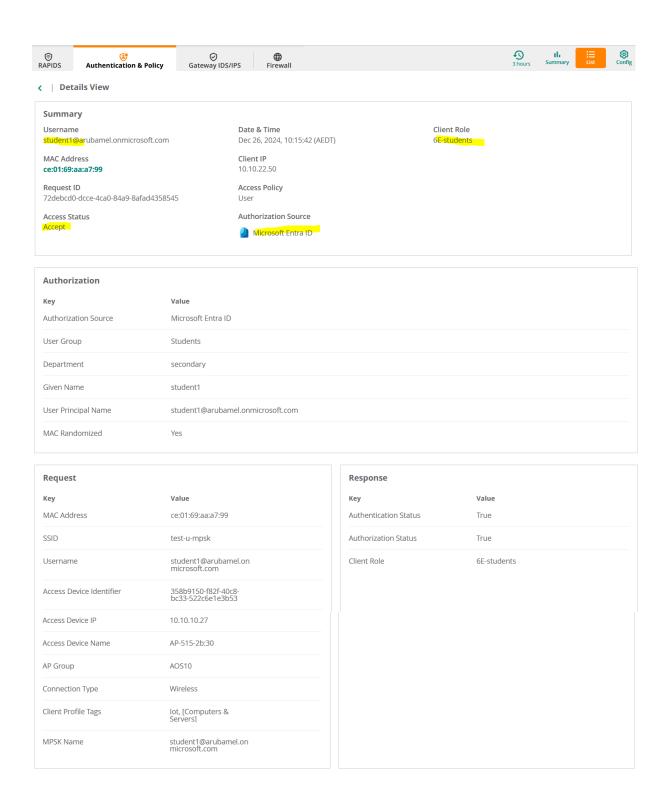
And once the students are authenticated each of them will see their own portal with different auto generated PSKs as shown below. They also can generate their own PSKs.



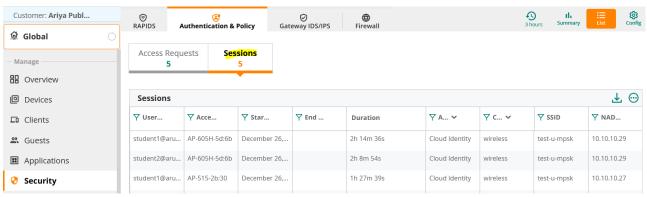
The next part of the workflow is for the student1 and student2 to copy their respective passwords and use it on their device to connect to test-u-mpsk WLAN.



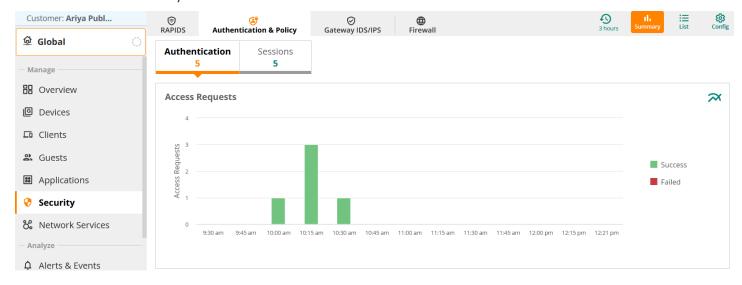
We'll check the first entry for student1, just to show the various fields that are available in authentication and authorisation.



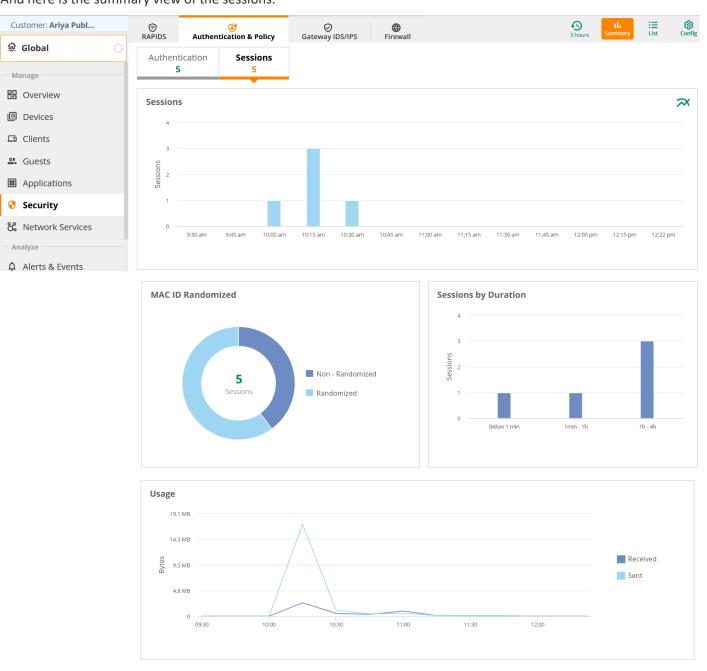
CloudAuth also provides session details of client devices that are connected to the APs managed by HPE Aruba Networking Central.



You can select the summary view.

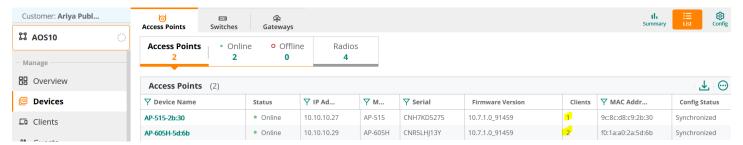


And here is the summary view of the sessions.

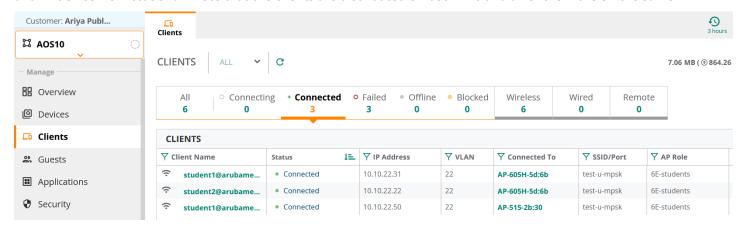


4 PWN Testing

We have connected two APs in the AOS10 group that are configured with "test-u-mpsk" WLAN.



We also have 3x connected clients that are connected to "test-u-mpsk" WLAN. There are 2x devices are from student1 and 1x device from student2. Note that the clients are distributed on both APs and all of them are on the same VLAN.



Here is the CLI view of the AP-605H.

```
AP-605H-5d:6b# sh clients
Client List
                                   IP Address
                                                MAC Address
Name
Access Point
               Channel
                       Type Role
                                          IPv6 Address Signal (dB) Speed (Mbps)
student2@arubamel.onmicrosoft.com 10.10.22.22 30:07:4d:4a:e5:66
                                                                  Android test-u-mpsk
                            6E-students --
                                                                     780 (good)
AP-605H-5d:6b 100E AC
                                                         54 (good)
                                                                  Apple
student1@arubamel.onmicrosoft.com 10.10.22.31
                                                2c:1f:23:d0:2f:48
                                                                            test-u-mpsk
AP-605H-5d:6b 100+
                       AN
                              6E-students --
                                                         51 (good)
                                                                    150 (good)
Number of Clients
Info timestamp
                    :2398
AP-605H-5d:6b#
```

You can get the PAN-id from these two commands.

```
AP-605H-5d:6b# sh ap association

The phy column shows client's operational capabilities for current association

Flags: H: Hotspot(802.1lu) client, K: 802.1lK client, M: Mu beam formee, R: 802.1lR client, W: WMM client, w: 802.1lw client, V: 802.1lv BSS trans capable, P: Punctured preamble, U: HE UL Mu-mimo, O: OWE client, S: SAE client, E: Enterprise client, m: Agile Multiband client, C: Cellular Data Capable - network available, c: Cellular Data Capable - network unavailable, T: Individual TWT client, t: Broadcast TWT client

PHY Details: HT : High throughput; 20: 20MHz; 40: 40MHz; t: turbo-rates (256-QAM)
```

Here you'll see the mpskcache that Aruba Central sent to the APs.

This is the mpskcasche for student1's device

```
AP-605H-5d:6b# sh ap mpskcache 2c:1f:23:d0:2f:48
Station MAC address
                           :2c:1f:23:d0:2f:48
                           :1182
Seq no
                           :(6): 4d 4f da df 8f cf
Key
ESSID
                           :test-u-mpsk
Name
                           :student1@arubamel.onmicrosoft.com
Role
                           :6E-students
Server
                           :Not set
VLAN
                           :22
To Del
                           :No
Expire
                           : -
                           :254
Vlanhow
Rolehow
                           : 0
ACL Rule Index
                           :RADIUS-7ffe
                          :15986759
User panid
                           :28800
Session timeout
AP-605H-5d:6b#
```

And this is for student2's device.

```
AP-605H-5d:6b# sh ap mpskcache 30:07:4d:4a:e5:66

Station MAC address :30:07:4d:4a:e5:66
Seq no :1186
```

:(6): 5b 77 be 16 fe 7b Key ESSID :test-u-mpsk :student2@arubamel.onmicrosoft.com Name Role :6E-students Server :Not set VLAN :22 To Del :No Expire Vlanhow :254 Rolehow :RADIUS-7ffe :11080503 :0 ACL Rule Index User panid Session timeout :28800 ---: AP-605H-5d:6b#

Now I'll check the other AP (AP-515), and we see that the PAN id is the same since they are the devices of the same user studnet1.

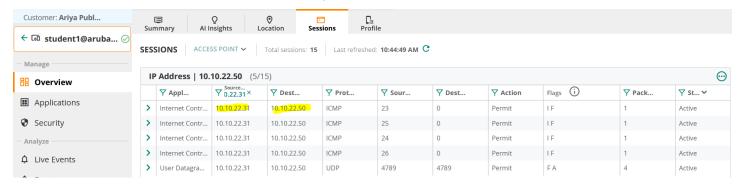
AP-515-2b:30# sh clients Client List IP Address MAC Address OS ESSID Name Access Point Channel Type Role IPv6 Address Signal(dB) Speed (Mbps) ----- ---- ---student1@arubamel.onmicrosoft.com 10.10.22.50 ce:01:69:aa:a7:99 Win 10 test-u-mpsk AP-515-2b:30 36E AC 6E-students -- 45(good) 585(good) Number of Clients :1 :1664 Info timestamp AP-515-2b:30# sh ap mpskcache ce:01:69:aa:a7:99 :ce:01:69:aa:a7:99 Station MAC address :1067 Seq no :(6): 4d 4f da df 8f cf Key ESSID :test-u-mpsk Name :student1@arubamel.onmicrosoft.com Role :6E-students Server :Not set VLAN :22 To Del :No Expire Vlanhow :254 Rolehow :0 ACL Rule Index :RADIUS-7ffe :<mark>15986759</mark> User panid :28800 Session timeout ---: AP-515-2b:30#

The breakdown of the clients are as follows and all are on the same VLAN/IP subnet.

Username	Clients	MAC address	IP address	User Pan id	AP-name
student-1	iPod	2c:1f:23:d0:2f:48	10.10.22.31	15986759	AP-605H-5d:6b
	Win10	5c:51:4f:e6:a9:83	10.10.22.50	15986759	AP-515-2b:30
student-2	Android	30:07:4d:4a:e5:66	10.10.22.22	11080503	AP-605H-5d:6b

4.1 Microsegmentation Testing

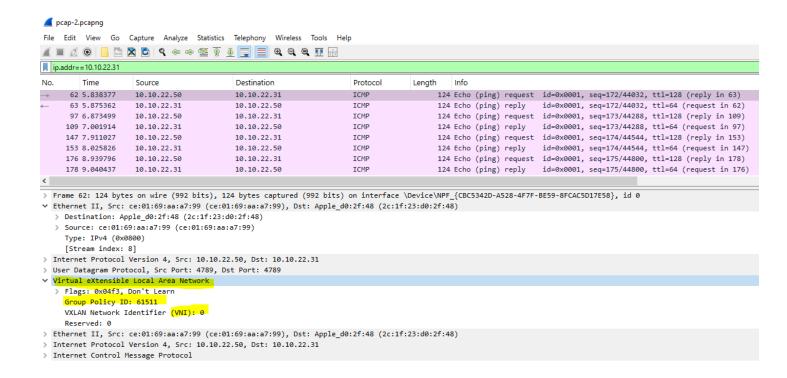
Now we'll ping between the student-1's devices, note that they are associated to different APs. The ping test is successful. You can see here that the ICMP traffic is permitted.



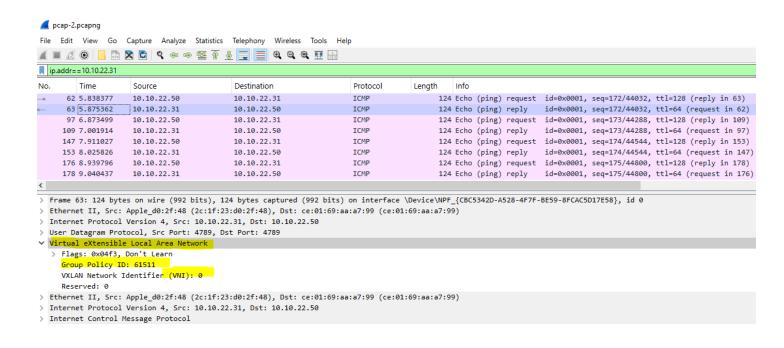
Because the student-1's devices are on different APs, under the hood, the APs will make a tunnel encapsulation for this traffic. Here is the datapath session table when we were pinging between 10.10.22.50 and .31

```
AP-605H-5d:6b# sh datapath session | incl 10.10.22.31
Datapath Session Table Entries
Flags: A - Application Firewall Inspect
       C - client, D - deny, E - Media Deep Inspect
       F - fast age, G - media signal, H - high prio
       I - Deep inspect, L - ALG session, M - mirror, N - dest NAT
       O - Session is programmed through SDN/Openflow controller
       P - set prio, R - redirect, S - src NAT, T - set ToS, U - Locally destined, V - VOIP
       X - Http/https redirect for dpi denied session
       Y - no syn
       a - rtp analysis, h - Https redirect error page
        i - in offload flow, m - media mon
        p - Session is marked as permanent
       s - media signal
       d - DPI cache hit
       f - FIB init pending in session
       c - MSCS or SCS session
RAP Flags: 0 - Q0, 1 - Q1, 2 - Q2, r - redirect to conductor
            t - time based, i - in flow, l - local redirect
Flow Offload Denylist Flags: O - Openflow, E - Default, U - User os unknown, T - Tunnel
                                R - L3 route
10.10.22.50
                   10.10.22.31
                                                 2048
                                                       0
                                                                           tunnel 1
                                                                                                  3с
                                                                                        1a
                                          29
                                                            0
                                                                  0
                                                                      0
10.10.22.50
                   10.10.22.31
                                                 2048
                                                       0
                                                                           tunnel
                                                                                                  Зс
                                                                                                        FCI
10.10.22.50
                   10.10.22.31
                                                 2048
                                                                           tunnel
17.57.145.37
                   10.10.22.31
                                                 51980
                                     6
                                          443
                                                                           dev32
                                                                                        7138
10.10.22.31
                   10.10.22.50
                                          29
                                                 0
                                                                                                  3с
                                                                                                        FRI
                                                                           tunnel 1
10.10.22.31
                   10.10.22.50
                                          28
                                                 0
                                                       0
                                                            0
                                                                  0
                                                                      0
                                                                           tunnel
                                                                                        f
                                                                                                  3с
                                                                                                        FRI
10.10.22.31
                    10.10.22.50
                                                 Λ
                                                             Λ
                                                                  0
                                                                           tunnel
                                                                                                  3с
                                                                                                        FRI
10.10.22.31
                   10.10.22.50
                                     17
                                          4789
                                                4789
                                                            0
                                                                  0
                                                                      0
                                                                                             3
                                                       0
                                                                                                  14a
                                                                           dev6
                                                                                        1a
                                                                                                        FA
10.10.22.50
                   10.10.22.31
                                     17
                                          4789
                                                4789
                                                       0
                                                                           dev6
                                                                                        1a
                                                                                                  14a
                                                                                                        FCA
10.10.22.31
                   17.57.145.37
                                          51980 443
                                                                           dev32
                                                                                        7138 1a
                                                                                                 10b6
                                                                                                        Ci
AP-605H-5d:6b#
```

I did a packet capture on the switch to see the ICMP ping traffic between the two devices for student-1 that are on different APs. You'll see that there is, indeed an UDP encapsulation between the two APs the port that is used is VXLAN, it also carries the VNI=0 and group Policy ID that is automatically generated and assigned.

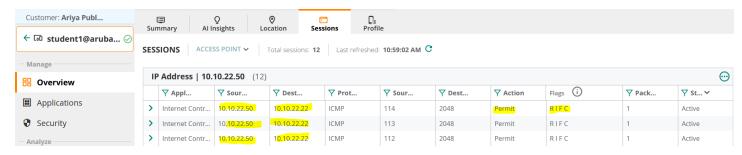


And this is the return traffic and note that the group policy Id are the same and hence the traffic is allowed.

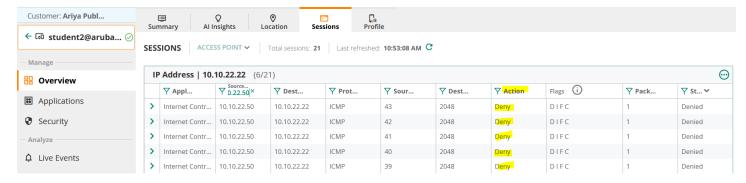


Next test is to ping from student-1's win10 device to student-2's devices that are on different APs. The ping is unsuccessful, and it gets denied on the destination AP since the PAN-ids don't match.

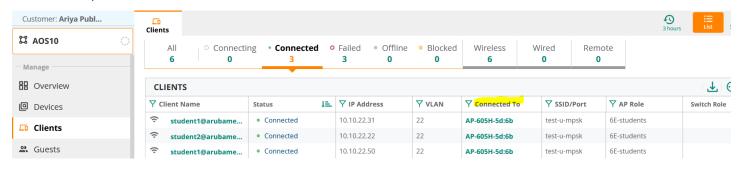
Below is the screenshot for studnet1's win10 device.

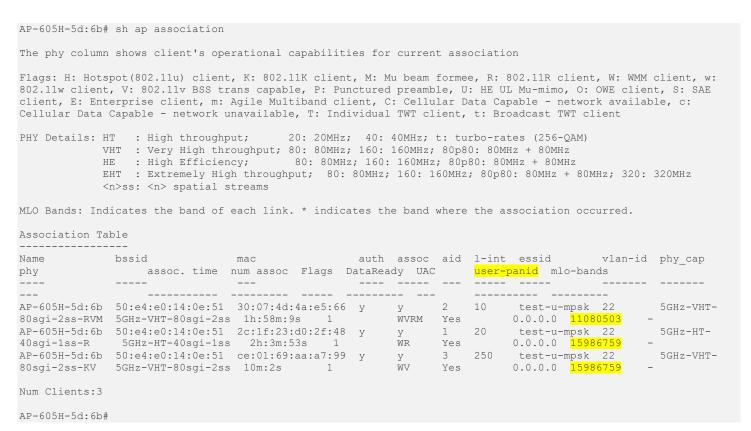


Note that the below screenshot is from the destination client (Student2) which is on a different AP.

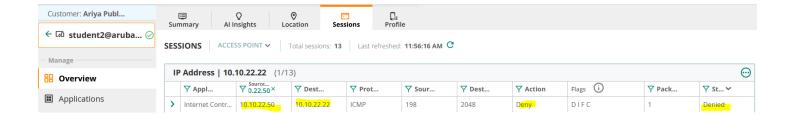


Our final test is to ping between student-1 and student-2's devices that are on the same AP. Here AP-515 is disconnected, and we see here tat all the clients are on the same AP.

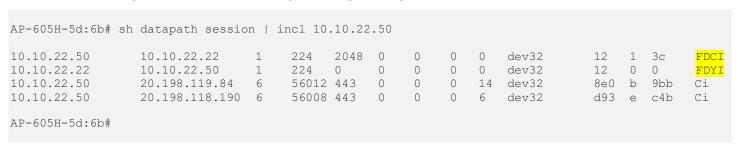




And as expected the ping test fails as the devices have different PAN-id and drop is shown on the destination client.



When using the CLI, we should be looking for D flag (indicating drops) between 10.10.22.22 and 10.10.22.50. Note that PAN-id will not change for the users even though one might change the MPSK.



This is simple yet powerful way to enforce Microsegmentation for this specific use case.