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1.1 Revision History

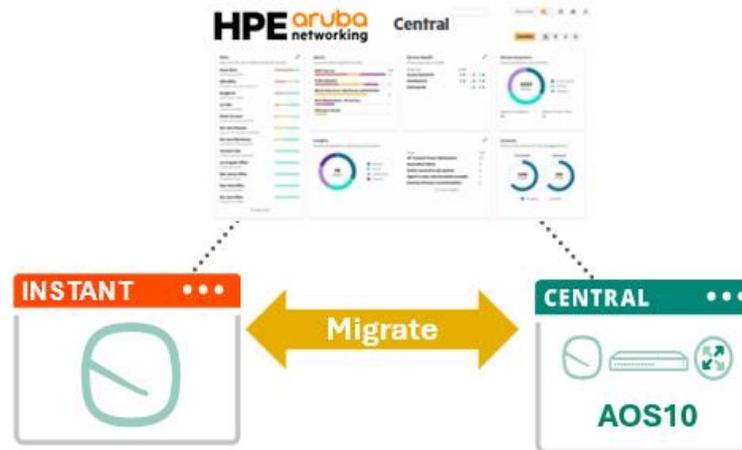
DATE	VERSION	EDITOR	CHANGES
26 Feb 2026	0.1	Ariya Parsamanesh	Initial creation

2 Migrating from Aruba Instant to AOS 10

HPE Aruba Networking AOS 10 is a cloud-native, AI-powered operating system that unifies campus, branch, and remote networking under a single Aruba Central management platform. Its key advantages include improved scalability, enhanced security with AI-driven optimization, and simplified, centralised management.

This short technote introduces the migration process for Instant AP cluster to AOS10 architecture for the Instant APs (IAP) that are already being managed by Aruba Central.

Note that here, I'll cover the basic configuration checklist for AOS10 in Classic Central as its configuration is so close to what you are used to with Instant APs. However in the next technote we cover the upgrade of existing IAPs to AOS10 group that is configurable in New Central.



2.1 Advantages of AOS10

AOS10 supports much larger roaming domains, expanding from the typical 128-AP IAP limit to 500+ APs. It allows for consolidation of multi-floor or multi-building IAP clusters into a unified, easier-to-manage structure.

It offers granular, role-based, and identity-based policy enforcement. It supports Microbranch APs, allowing for unified policies, security, and SD-WAN capabilities on a single AP for remote locations.

Another interesting feature is that it enhances uptime by enabling seamless, hitless upgrades that reduce or eliminate the need for maintenance windows, a feature previously reserved for controller-based systems.

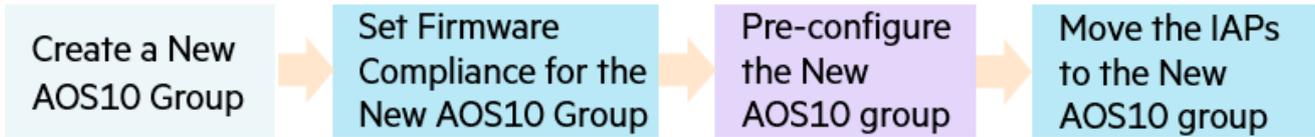
It also provides much better radio resource managed by using AirMatch. AirMatch is an AI-powered, centralised RF management service that automatically optimises channel selection, transmit power (EIRP), and bandwidth (20/40/80 MHz) across all Access Points. It provides predictive maintenance by analysing historical RF data to optimise the environment for the next day.

2.2 Things you need

- Instant APs running firmware version (I am using 8.12.x)
- Check the supported AP models for AOS10 [here](#)
- An Instant Cluster that is already managed by Aruba Central.
- Valid HPE Aruba Central account and subscriptions

3 The Upgrade Steps

It should be noted that this will not migrate the Instant AP cluster configuration to AOS10 but it will only upgrade it. One needs to configure it again in the New AOS10 group. The configuration in Classic Central is very similar to Instant AP configuration but with minor differences.



Here we have already have 2x IAPs in a group in Aruba Central running 8.12.x firmware version.

Device Name	Status	IP Ad...	M...	Serial	Firmware Version
Board-Room-AP (VC)	Online	10.10.10.40	AP-615	CNPVKZD1K9	8.12.0.6_93419
d0:d3:e0:ca:3e:0a	Online	10.10.10.26	AP-505	CNKDKPP3MK	8.12.0.6_93419

The first thing we need to do is to create a new group and enable it for AOS10

Add Group

Name: Demo-Branch1

Allow New Central to overwrite all configurations for this group: (indicated by an orange arrow)

By turning on this toggle, all configurations will be pushed from New Central configuration model.

Group will contain:

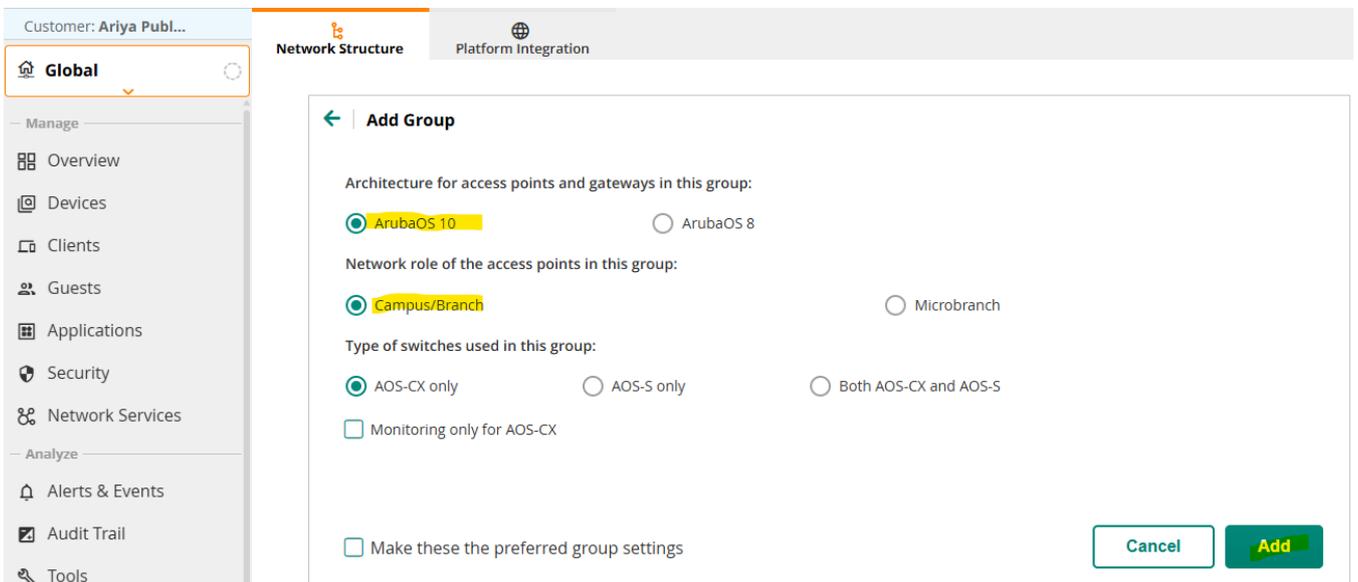
- Access points
- Gateways
- Switches

Configure using templates: Enable this option to use scripts/templates instead of device configuration pages.

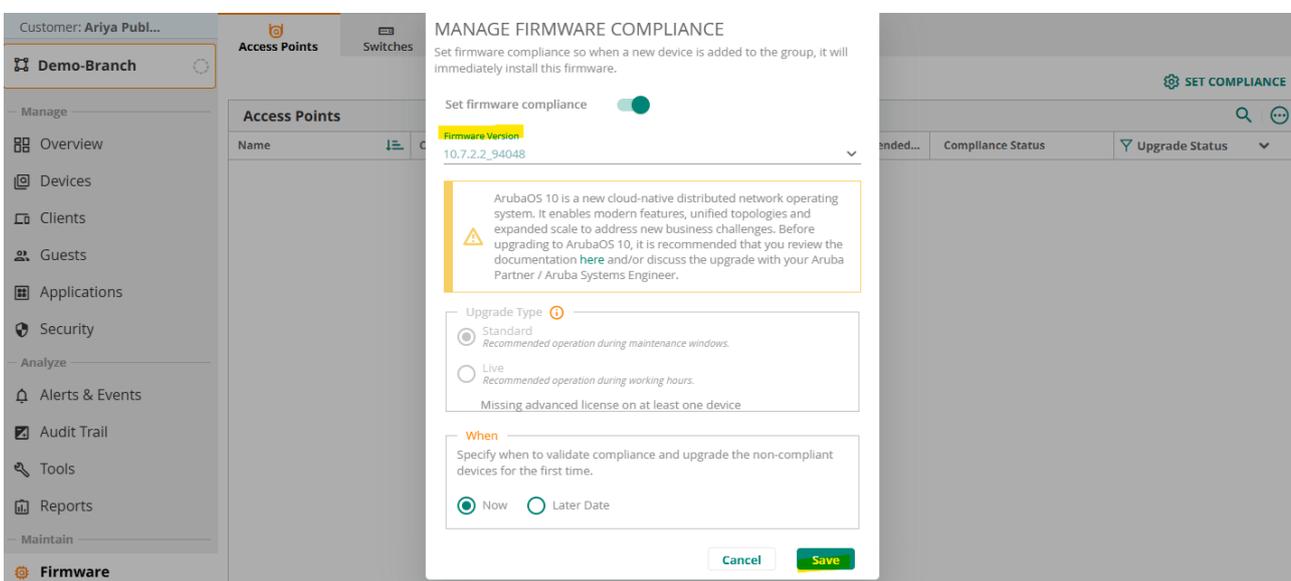
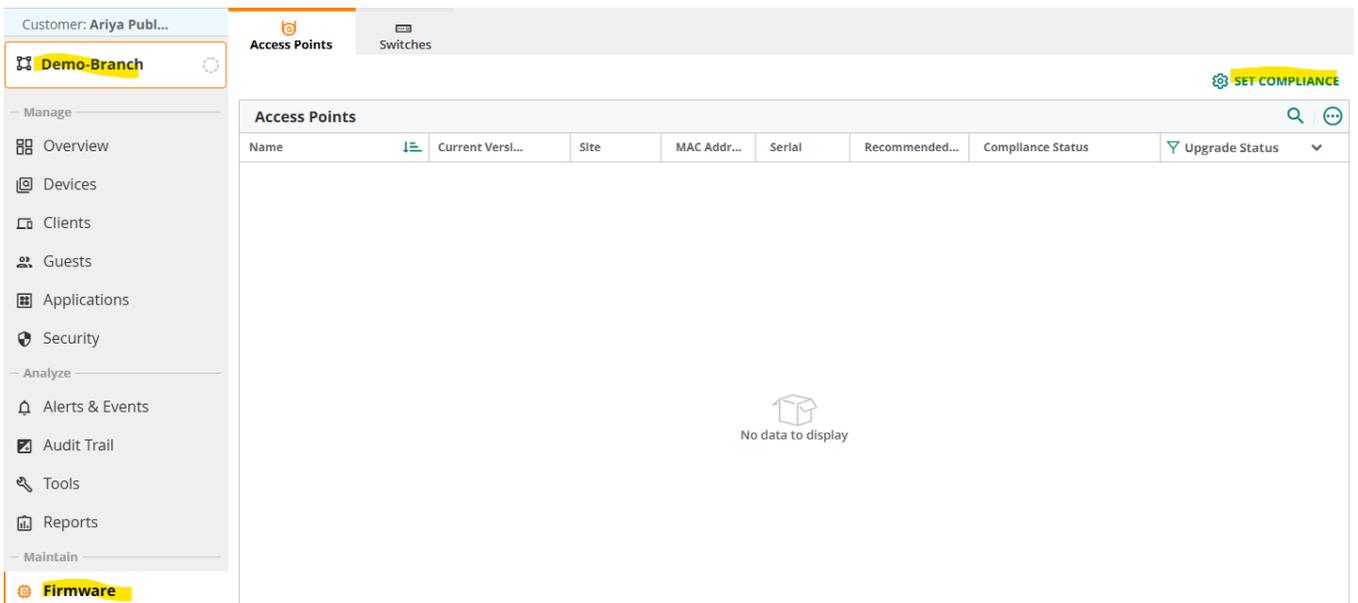
Buttons: Cancel, Next

Note that here, we'll cover the configuration of AOS10 in Classic Central as its configuration is almost identical to Instant AP configuration. But as indicated we could have easily used slider button (indicated by the arrow) to do the configuration in New Central which will be covered in the upcoming technotes.

Next, ensure you have selected ArubaOS 10 radio button as shown below.



After creating the new AOS10 group named “Demo-Branch,” it is essential to configure firmware compliance for this group. The primary purpose of firmware compliance in Aruba Central is to ensure that all devices within the group (APs in our case) operate on the designated firmware version. If any AP is running a firmware version different from the compliance version, Aruba Central will automatically upgrade it to the specified version.



Now we are set, all is left is to move the IAPs to the new AOS10 group.

3.1 Checklist for Configuring the AOS10 Group

I will not be covering the full configuration of bridge mode deployment for AOS10 APs but here is the main check list for a typical IAP deployment and where to find the settings.

For other setting please refer to HPE Aruba Central online documentation.

Tabs	Setting
System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set Country code for group • Timezone • NTP • URL Visibility • IPM • Mesh • Time Based Services • Proxy
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AppRF all • Application Monitoring
Radio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio Profile • External Antennas • Advance radio settings
Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auth server and redirect captive portals profiles • External captive portal profile • Roles and Aliases • Firewall setting • Certificate usage
Interfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wired port profiles mainly for APs with multiple Ethernet ports that were used and/or for wireless mesh bridging • Uplink profile
WLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As required

Things to be aware of

- **Authentication requests** in AOS10 bridge mode WLANs is that authentication requests are always sourced from the AP to which the client is associating. AOS10 does not have the concept of Dynamic RADIUS Proxy as it was a configuration knob in Instant APs.
The implication of this is that the RADIUS server(s) must be updated to receive authentication requests from all of them. If you are using Aruba ClearPass, these could be entered as an IP range.
- **AP names** will be preserved but in case they are lost you can use "[Central Automation Studio](#)" that is a frontend to the Aruba Central APIs. Using this tool you can then bulk upload the AP names for your APs.
- Perhaps you also want to ensure your **Transmit rates for your WLANs** are set correctly as well. For that reason you can set it to the following which is a good starting point for medium density deployment.

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Access Points Switches

WLANs Access Points Radios Interfaces Security Third Party Tunnel Services System IoT Configuration Audit

Networks > Configuration - corp

General VLANs Security Access Summary

ESSID: corp

Band: 2.4 GHz 5 GHz 6 GHz

Advanced Settings

Broadcast/Multicast

Transmit Rates (Legacy Only)

2.4 GHz: Min: 12 Max: 54

5 GHz: Min: 12 Max: 54

If you want to check the **AirMatch** and how the channels are assigned to the APs, then you can check it from here. You can change the context to be "Global" and get the similar view.

Customer: [REDACTED]

Access Points

Access Points Radios 2.4 GHz 5 GHz 6 GHz

26 9 9 8

RADIOS | CHANNEL DISTRIBUTION

6 GHz

160 MHz

80 MHz

40 MHz

20 MHz

Channel 1 9 17 25 33 41 49 57 65 73 81 89 97 105 113 121 129 137 145 153 161 169 177 185 193 201 209 217 225

5 GHz

160 MHz

80 MHz

40 MHz

20 MHz

Channel 36 40 44 48 52 56 60 64 100 104 108 112 116 120 124 128 132 136 140 144 149 153 157 161 165 169

2.4 GHz

40 MHz

20 MHz

Channel 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Number of radios: Low High

And finally for **Airgroup configuration**, you can find it under "Applications" as shown below.

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Visibility IoT Operations **AirGroup**

Summary List Config

Services

ENABLE AIRGROUP SERVICE

Services (7)

Name	Description	Status	Category	Client roles	VLANs
dial	Streaming services to launch apps	Enabled	Predefined		
amazon_tv	Amazon TV streaming service	Enabled	Predefined		
airprint	Printing service for Apple devices	Enabled	Predefined		
googlecast	Streaming service from Google	Enabled	Predefined		
dlnaprint	DLNA print service	Enabled	Predefined		
airplay	Streaming services for apple devices	Enabled	Predefined		
dlnamedia	DLNA media service	Enabled	Predefined		

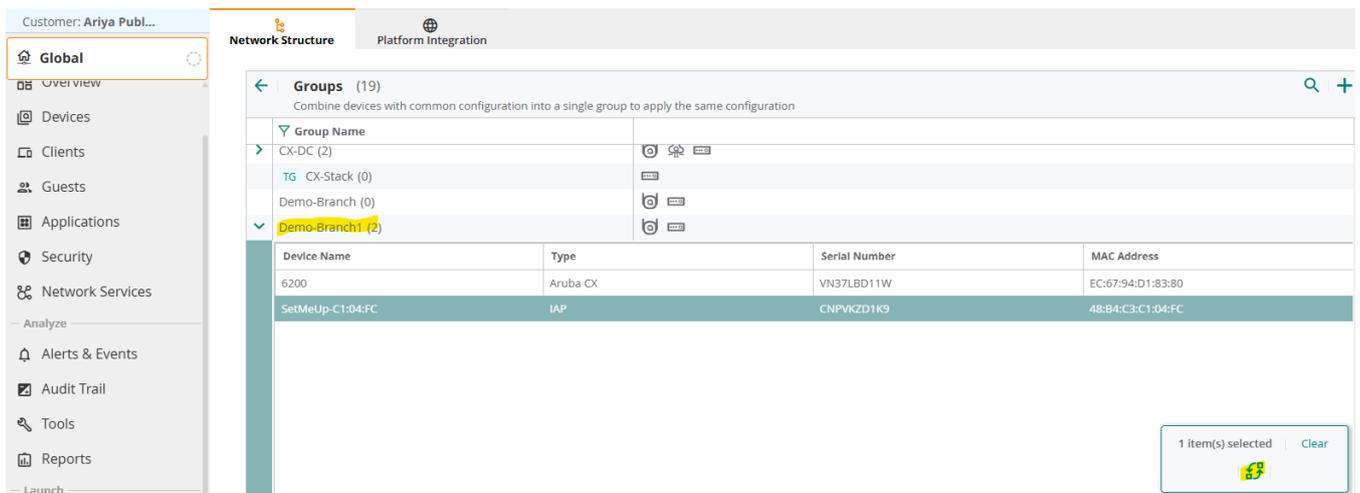
3.2 Move APs to the New AOS10 Group

The actual upgrade process happens when IAPs are moved to the new group in which they will automatically get upgraded to the firmware version you selected in firmware compliance.

After this action, the following AP boot process starts:

- Aruba Central upgrades APs to AOS 10.
- APs boot up in AOS 10 mode and reconnect with Aruba Central using AOS 10 firmware.
- Aruba Central performs a configuration audit and pushes the AOS 10 config from the destination group.
- Aruba Central cleans up the old instant AP configuration
- Aruba Central then applies the configurations of the new AOS10 group to the APs.

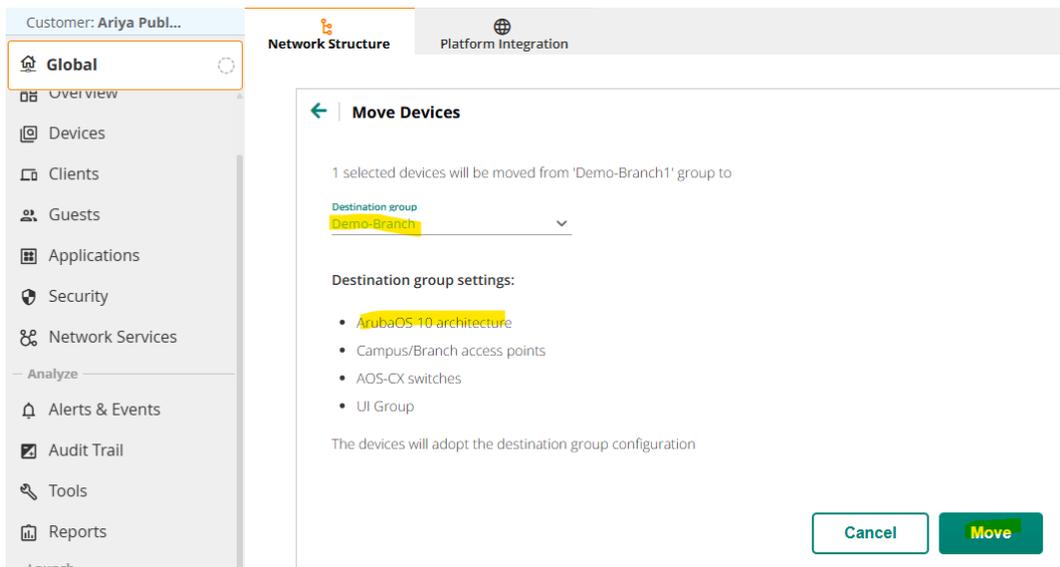
Note that we already have 2x IAPs in Demo-Branch1 but when you want to move them only the VC will be shown.



The screenshot shows the Aruba Central interface with the 'Network Structure' tab active. The 'Groups' page is displayed, showing a list of groups. The 'Demo-Branch1' group is selected, and a table below shows the details of the selected device.

Device Name	Type	Serial Number	MAC Address
6200	Aruba CX	VN37LBD11W	EC:67:94:D1:83:80
SetMeUp-C1:04:FC	IAP	CNPVKZD1K9	48:B4:C3:C1:04:FC

Clicking on the move icon will bring up the following page.



The screenshot shows the Aruba Central interface with the 'Network Structure' tab active. The 'Move Devices' dialog is displayed, showing the destination group as 'Demo-Branch1' and the destination group settings.

1 selected devices will be moved from 'Demo-Branch1' group to

Destination group: Demo-Branch1

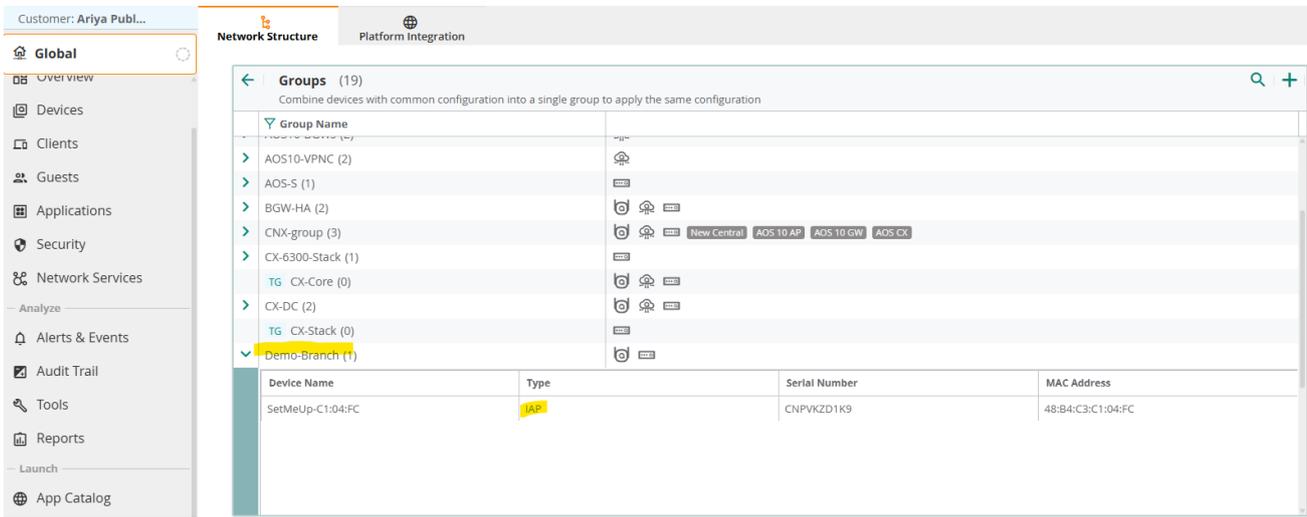
Destination group settings:

- ArubaOS 10 architecture
- Campus/Branch access points
- AOS-CX switches
- UI Group

The devices will adopt the destination group configuration

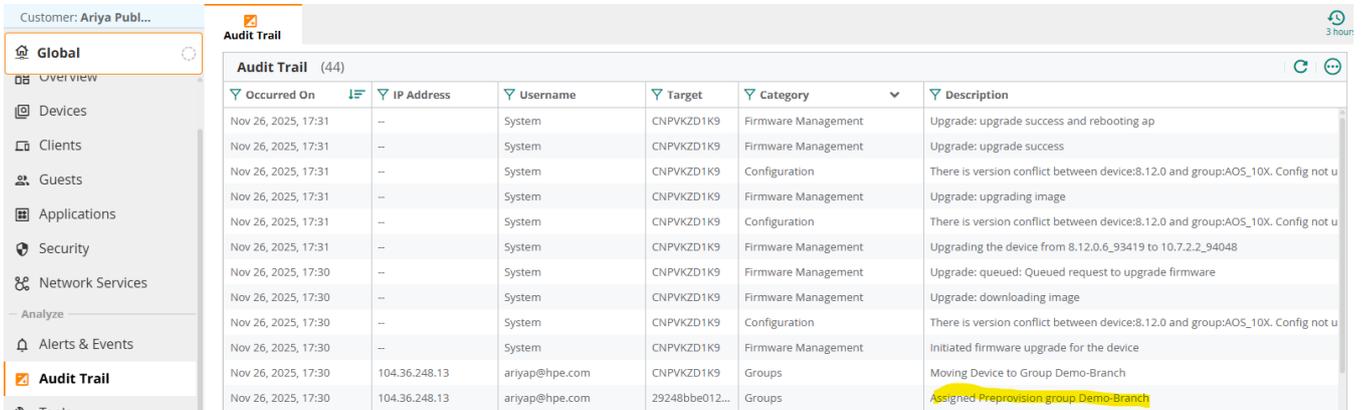
Buttons: Cancel, Move

After clicking on the "Move" button, the move process is initiated and we are taken back to the previous page.

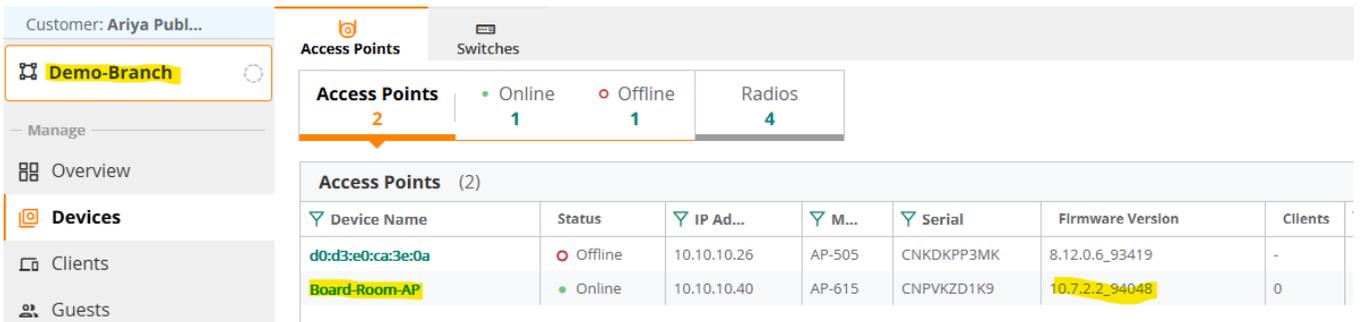


3.3 Audit Trail

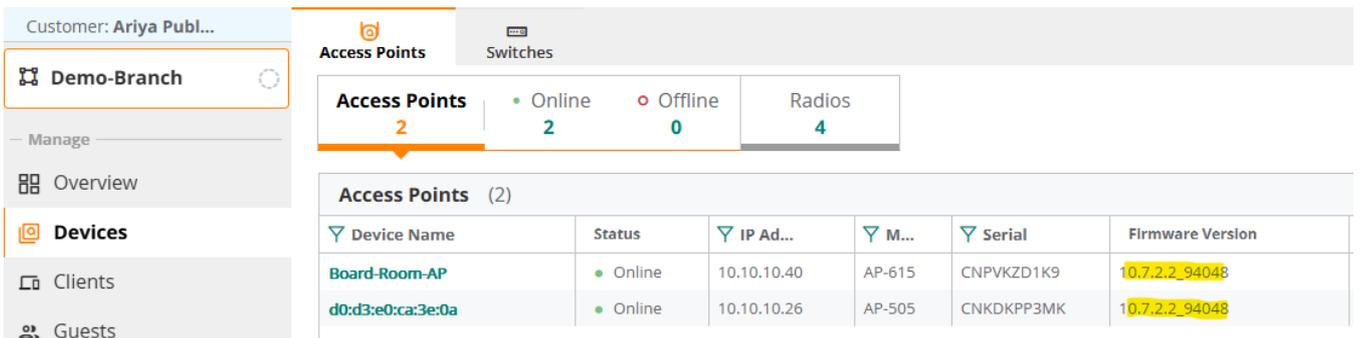
Now checking the audit trail.



Both the APs should be upgraded to 10.7.2.2 and then get the configuration from Demo-Branch group which is for AOS10. So far we can see one of them already upgraded.



And after few minutes we get the other AP as well.



Next, we'll check the full audit trail for more details.

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Global

Manage

- Overview
- Devices
- Clients
- Guests
- Applications
- Security
- Network Services

Analyze

- Alerts & Events
- Audit Trail**
- Tools

Audit Trail (46)

Occurred On	IP Address	Username	Target	Category	Description
Nov 26, 2025, 17:39	--	System	CNKDKPP3MK	Configuration	Access point configuration sync successful
Nov 26, 2025, 17:34	--	System	CNPVKZD1K9	Configuration	Access point configuration sync successful
Nov 26, 2025, 17:31	--	System	CNPVKZD1K9	Firmware Management	Upgrade: upgrade success and rebooting ap
Nov 26, 2025, 17:31	--	System	CNPVKZD1K9	Firmware Management	Upgrade: upgrade success
Nov 26, 2025, 17:31	--	System	CNPVKZD1K9	Configuration	There is version conflict between device:8.12.0 and group:AOS_10X. Config not u
Nov 26, 2025, 17:31	--	System	CNPVKZD1K9	Firmware Management	Upgrade: upgrading image
Nov 26, 2025, 17:31	--	System	CNPVKZD1K9	Configuration	There is version conflict between device:8.12.0 and group:AOS_10X. Config not u
Nov 26, 2025, 17:31	--	System	CNPVKZD1K9	Firmware Management	Upgrading the device from 8.12.0.6_93419 to 10.7.2.2_94048
Nov 26, 2025, 17:30	--	System	CNPVKZD1K9	Firmware Management	Upgrade: queued: Queued request to upgrade firmware
Nov 26, 2025, 17:30	--	System	CNPVKZD1K9	Firmware Management	Upgrade: downloading image
Nov 26, 2025, 17:30	--	System	CNPVKZD1K9	Configuration	There is version conflict between device:8.12.0 and group:AOS_10X. Config not u
Nov 26, 2025, 17:30	--	System	CNPVKZD1K9	Firmware Management	Initiated firmware upgrade for the device
Nov 26, 2025, 17:30	104.36.248.13	ariyap@hpe.com	CNPVKZD1K9	Groups	Moving Device to Group Demo-Branch
Nov 26, 2025, 17:30	104.36.248.13	ariyap@hpe.com	29248bbe012...	Groups	Assigned Preprovision group Demo-Branch

Here is the enlarged version of it.

Description

Access point configuration sync successful
Access point configuration sync successful
Upgrade: upgrade success and rebooting ap
Upgrade: upgrade success
There is version conflict between device:8.12.0 and group:AOS_10X. Config not u
Upgrade: upgrading image
There is version conflict between device:8.12.0 and group:AOS_10X. Config not u
Upgrading the device from 8.12.0.6_93419 to 10.7.2.2_94048
Upgrade: queued: Queued request to upgrade firmware
Upgrade: downloading image
There is version conflict between device:8.12.0 and group:AOS_10X. Config not u
Initiated firmware upgrade for the device
Moving Device to Group Demo-Branch
Assigned Preprovision group Demo-Branch

Note that it took 9-10 min for the move, upgrade and applying the new configuration to the APs.

3.4 References

For comprehensive details regarding migration and AOS10 configuration across all supported operational modes, including tunnel and mixed modes, please consult the [Validated Solution Guide Campus Migrate](#).