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1.1 Revision History

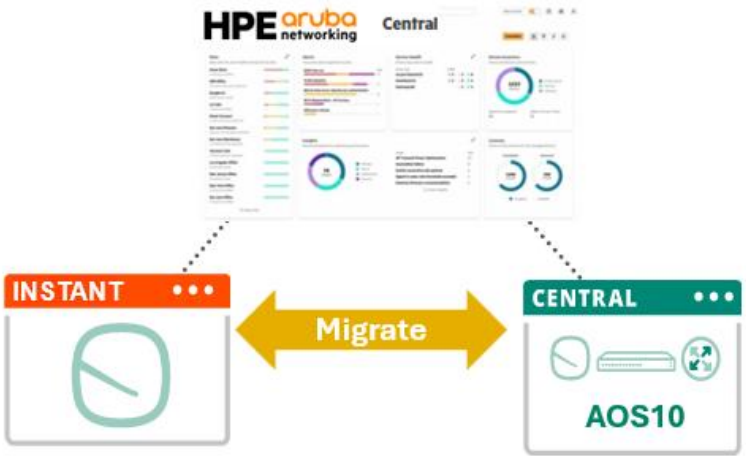
DATE	VERSION	EDITOR	CHANGES
26 Feb 2026	0.1	Ariya Parsamanesh	Initial creation

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.

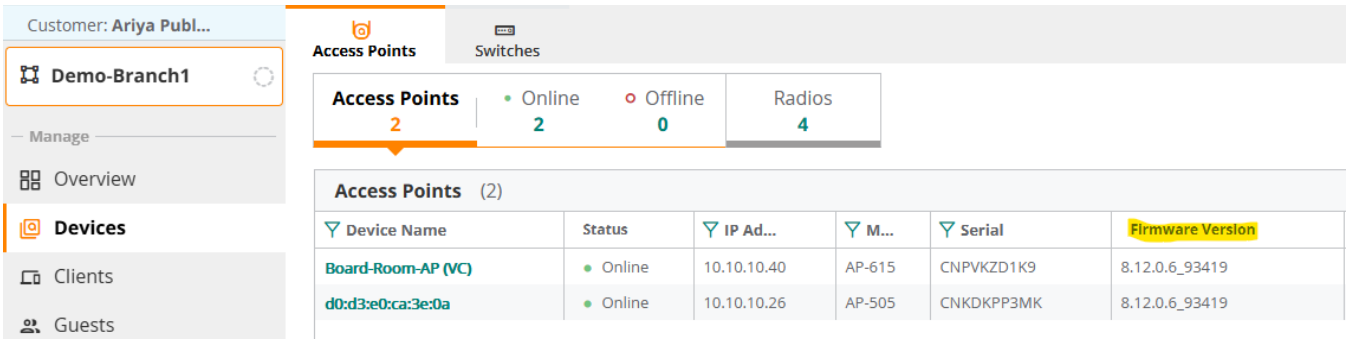
2.2 Things you need

- 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

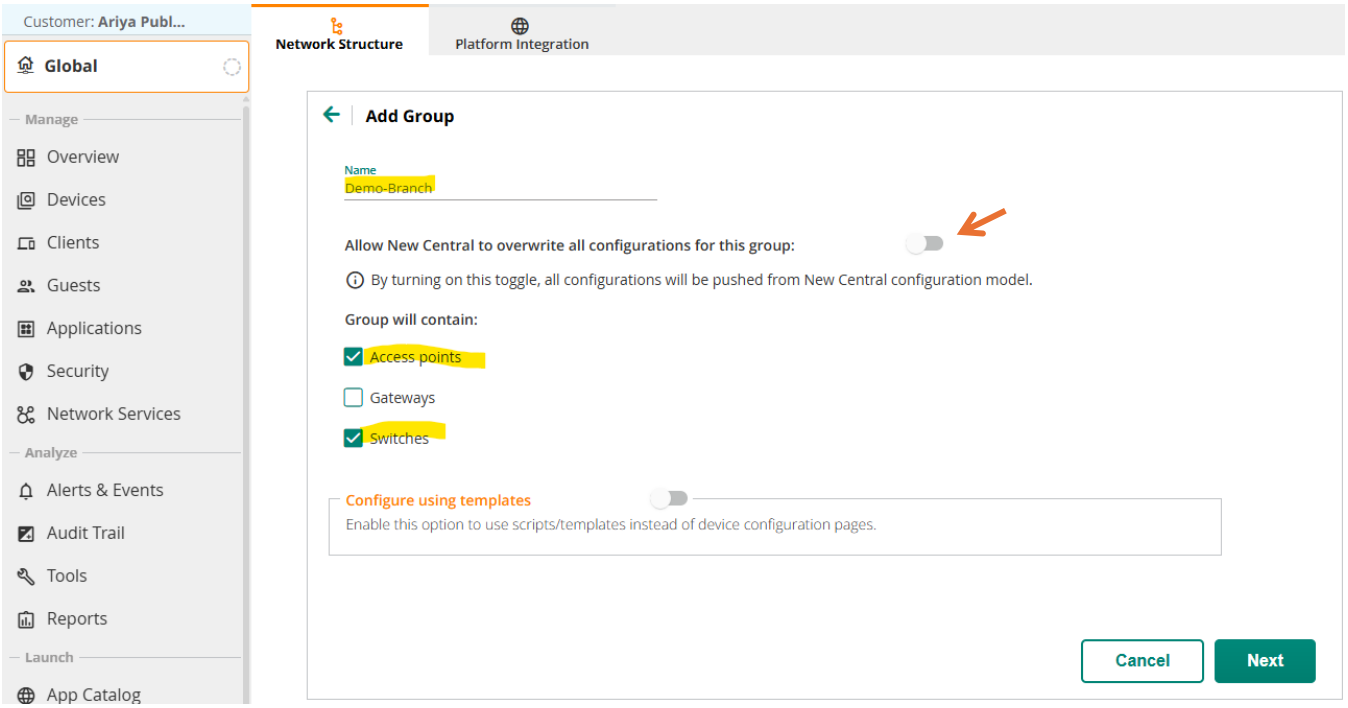
3 The Upgrade Steps

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.

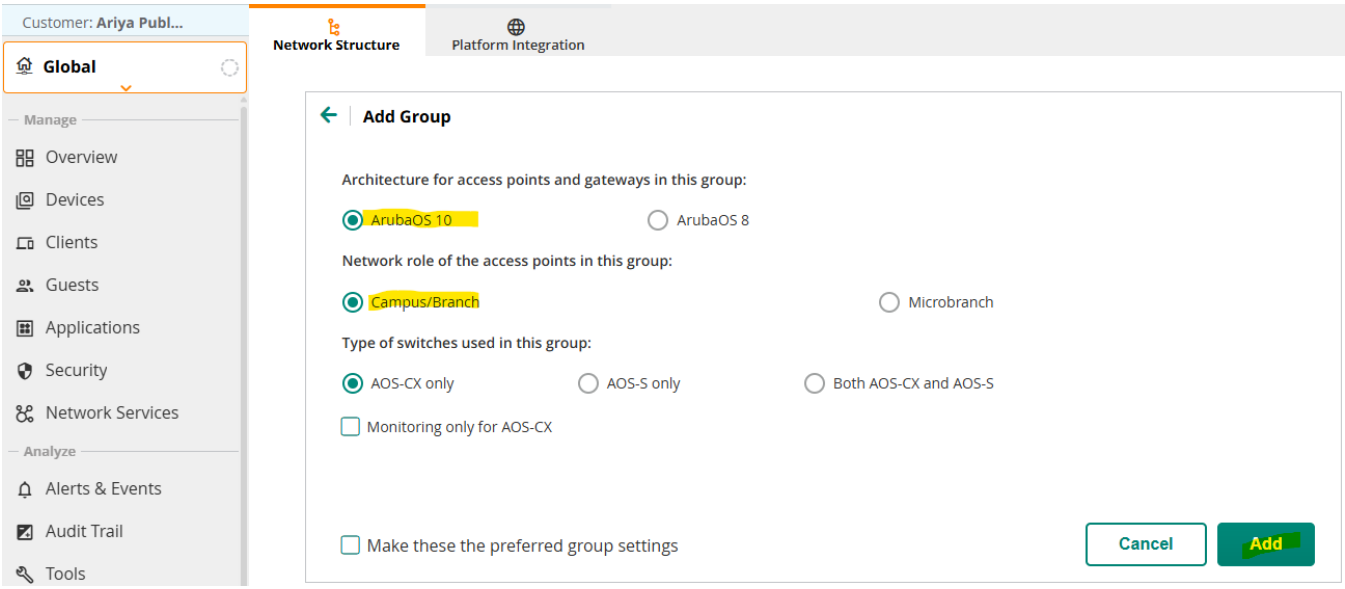


The first thing we need to do is to create a new group and enable it for AOS10

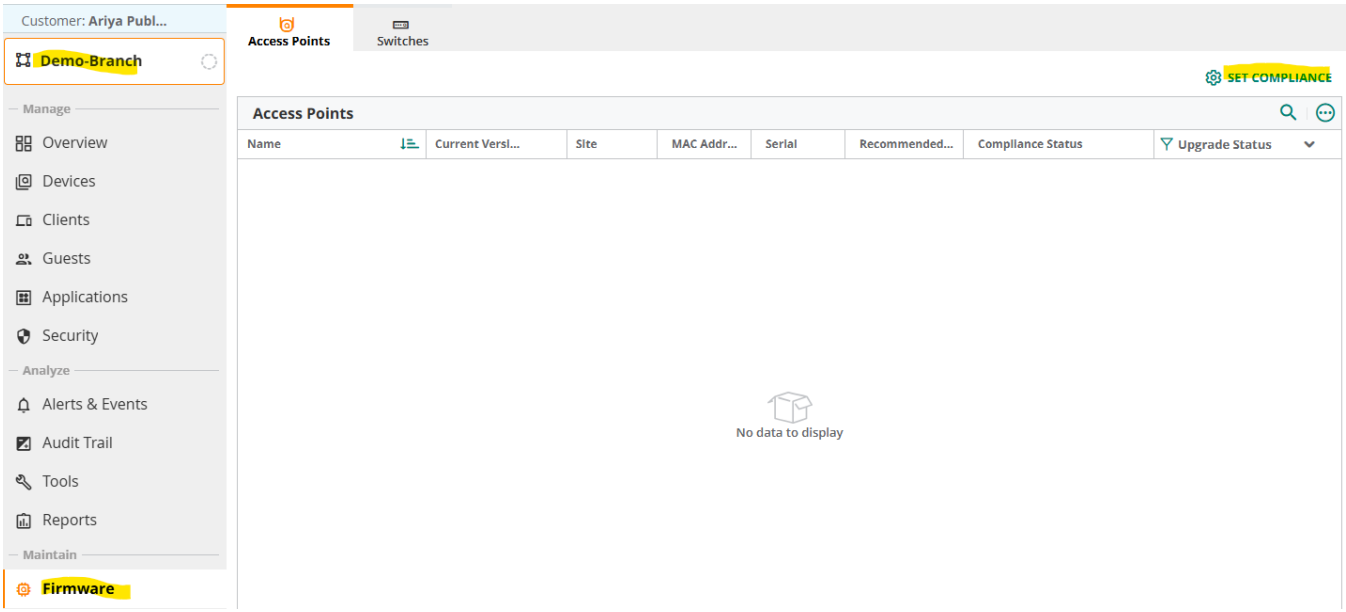


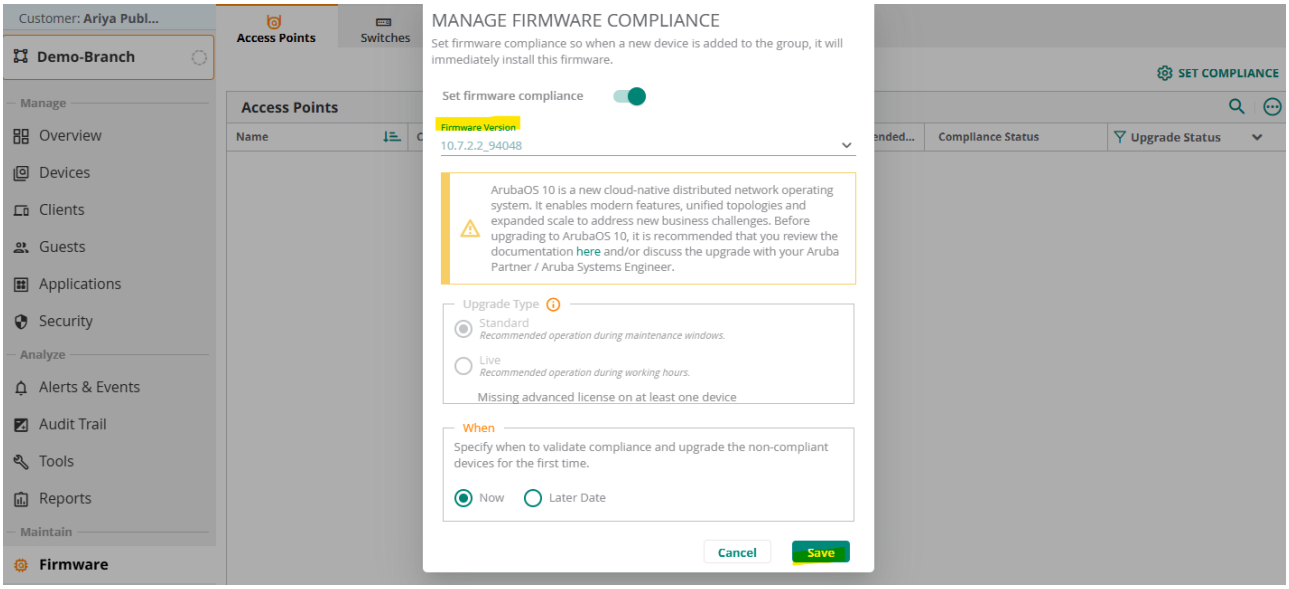
Note that here, we'll cover the configuration of AOS10 in Classic Central as its configuration is almost identical to Instant AP configuration. But as indicated we could have easily used slider button (indicated by the arrow) to do the configuration in New Central which will be covered in the upcoming 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	• Set Country code for group • Timezone • NTP • URL Visibility • IPM • Mesh • Time Based Services • Proxy
Services	• AppRF all • Application Monitoring
Radio	• Radio Profile • External Antennas • Advance radio settings
Security	• Auth server and redirect captive portals profiles • External captive portal profile • Roles and Aliases • Firewall setting • Certificate usage
Interfaces	• Wired port profiles mainly for APs with multiple Ethernet ports that were used and/or for wireless mesh bridging • Uplink profile
WLAN	• As required

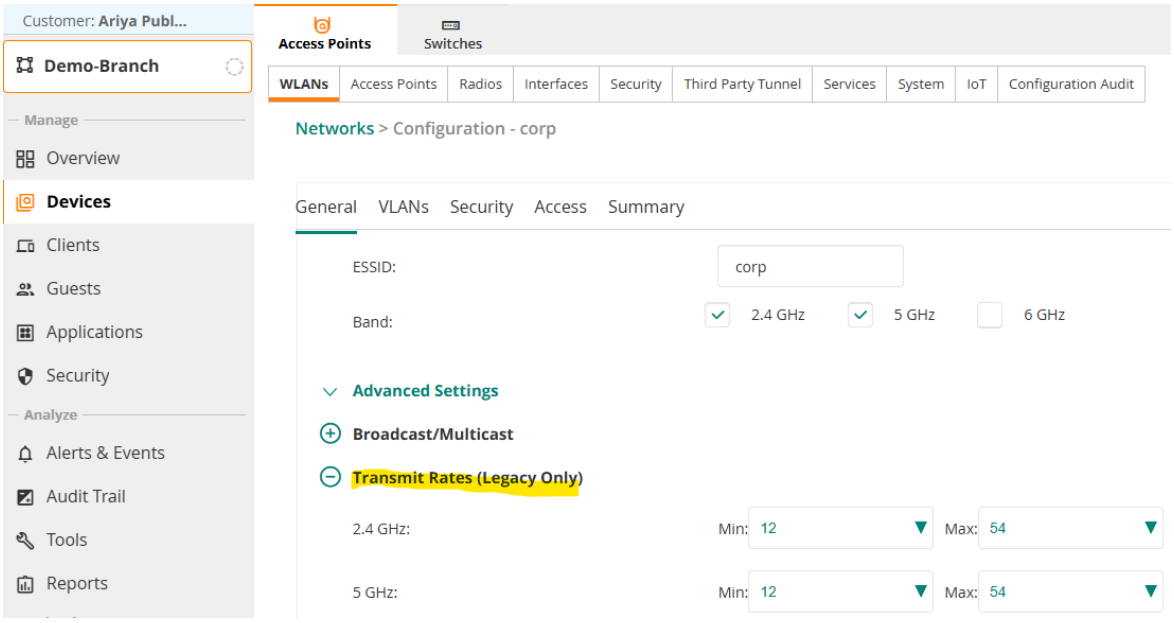
Things to be aware of

- **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.

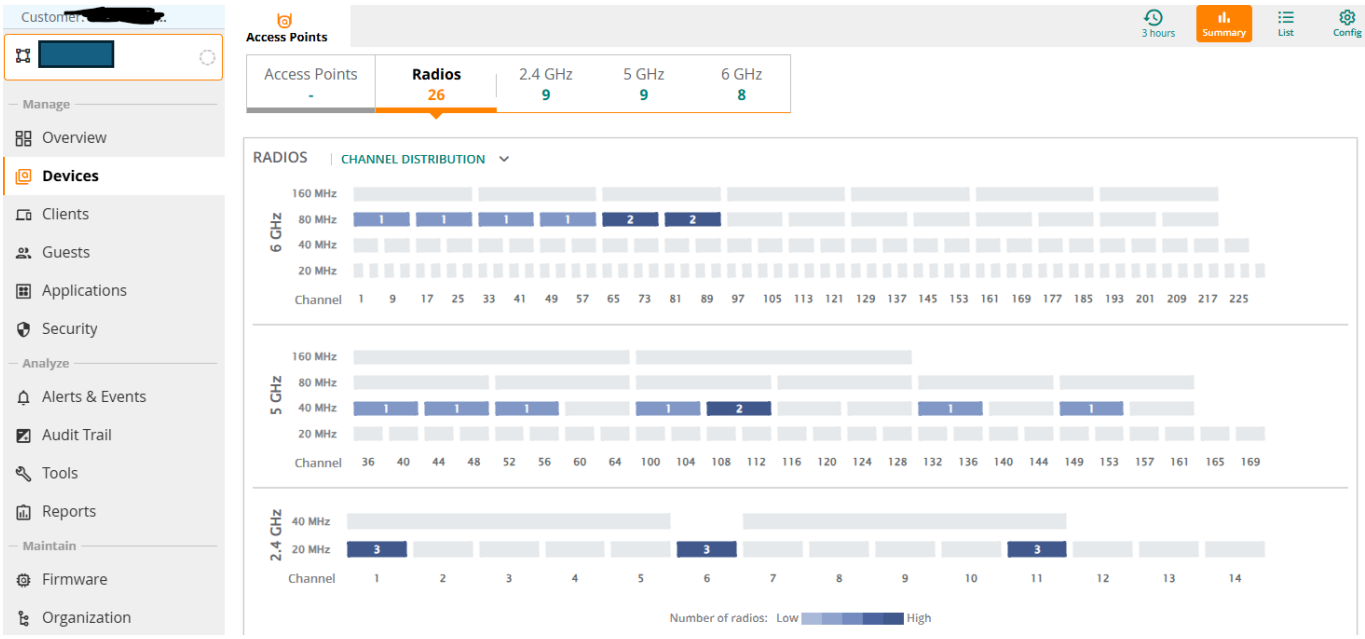
  The implication of this is that the RADIUS server(s) must be updated to receive authentication requests from all of them. If you are using Aruba ClearPass, these could be entered as an IP range.

- **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.

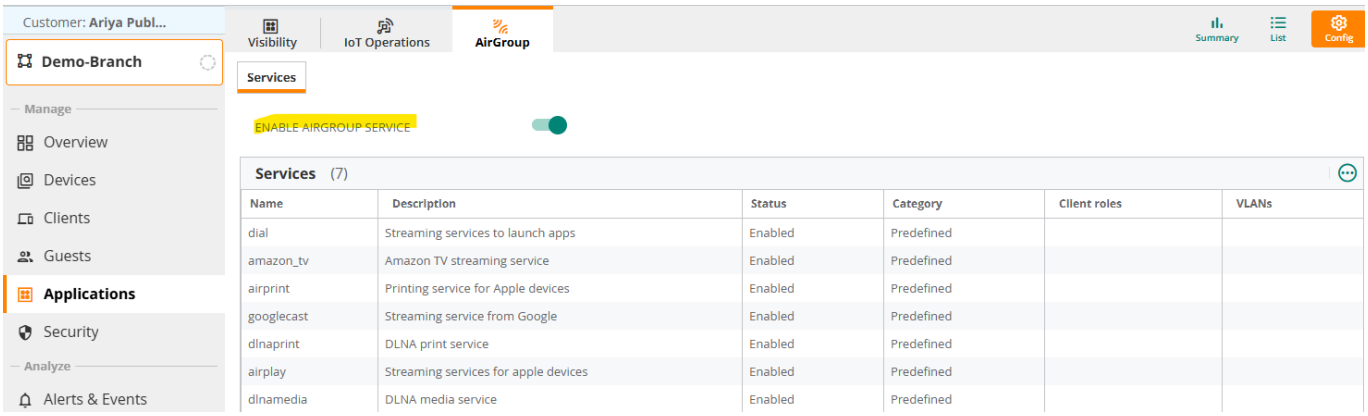
- Perhaps you also want to ensure your **Transmit rates for your WLANs** are set correctly as well. For that reason you can set it to the following which is a good starting point for medium density deployment.



If you want to check the **AirMatch** and how is 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.



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



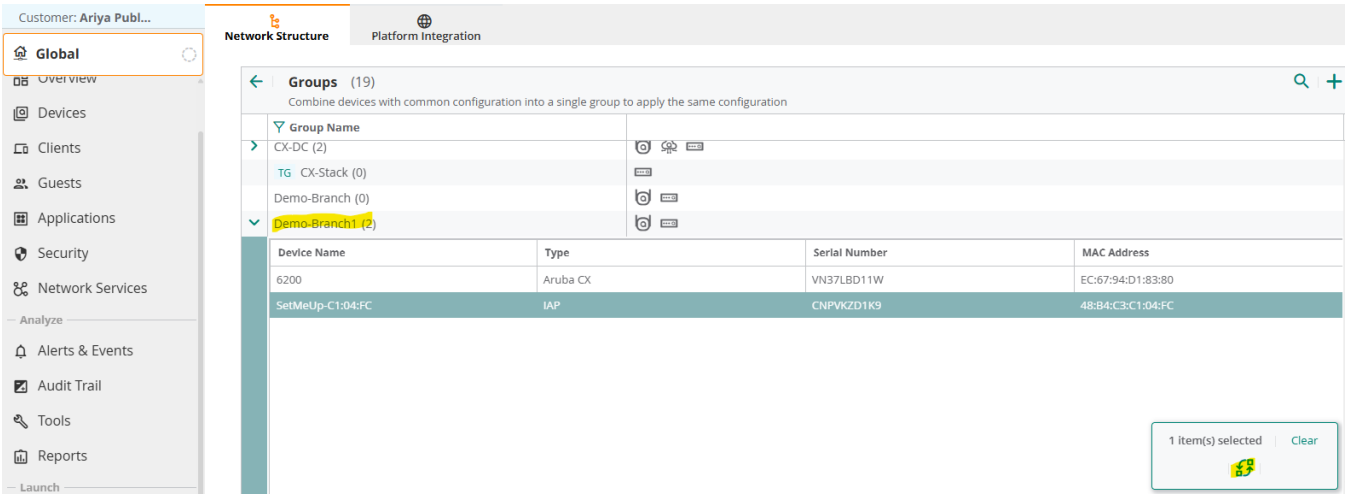
3.2 Move APs to the New AOS10 Group

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.

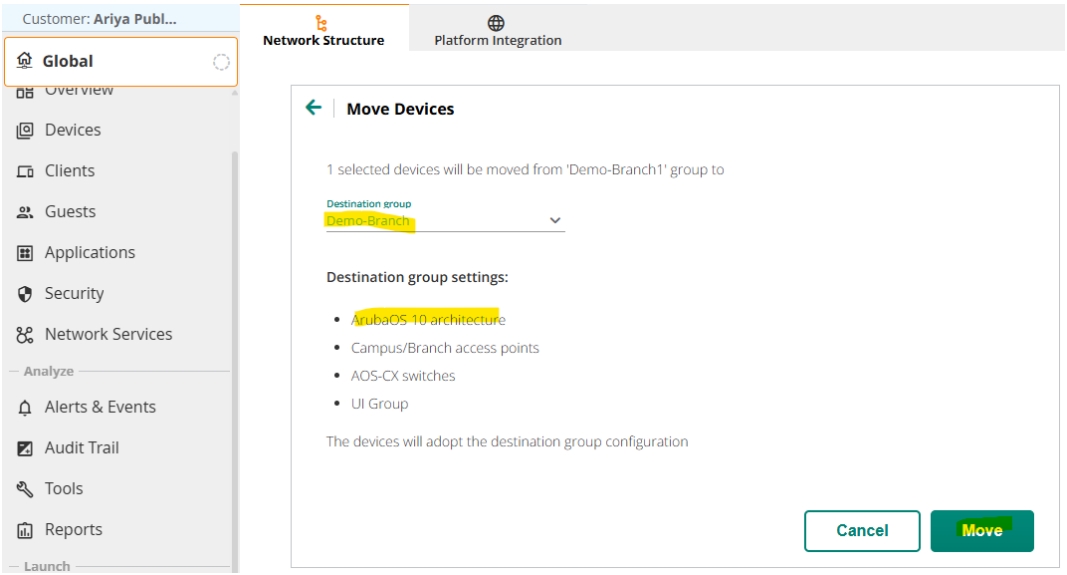
After this action, the following AP boot process starts:

- 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.

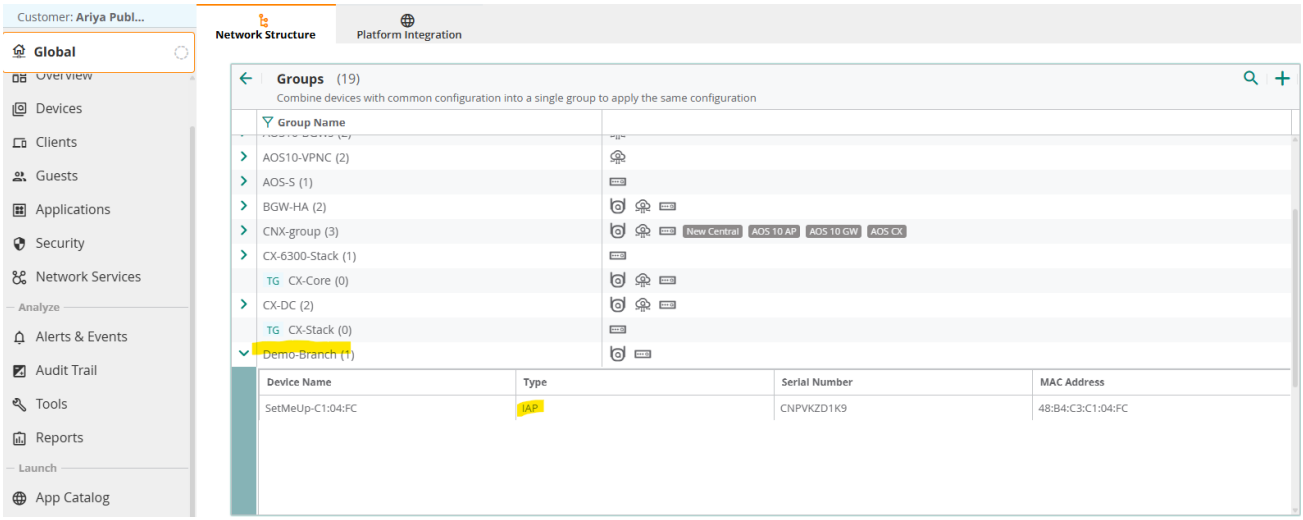
Note that we already have 2x IAPs in Demo-Branch1 but when you want to move them only the VC will be shown.



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

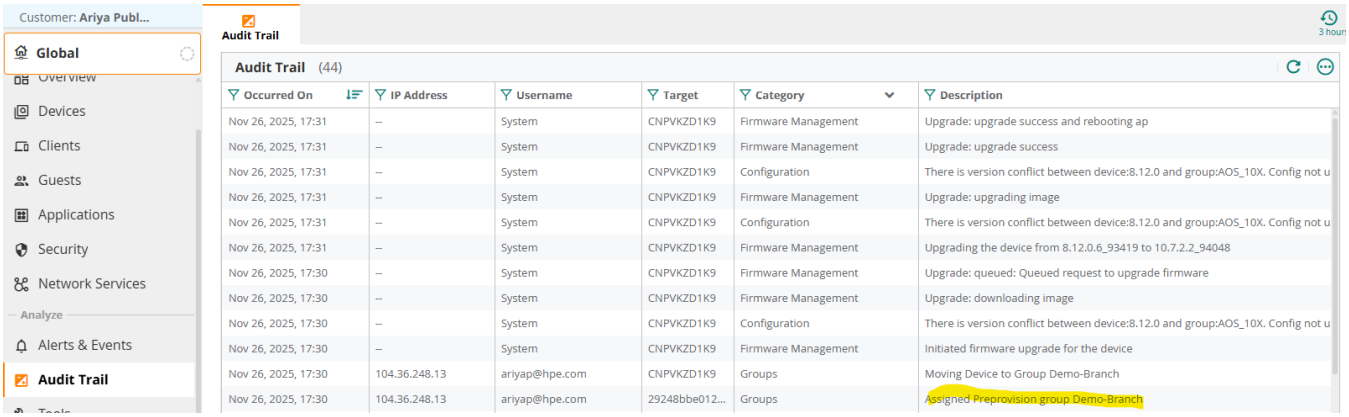


After clicking on the “Move” button, the move process is initiated and we are taken back to the previous page.

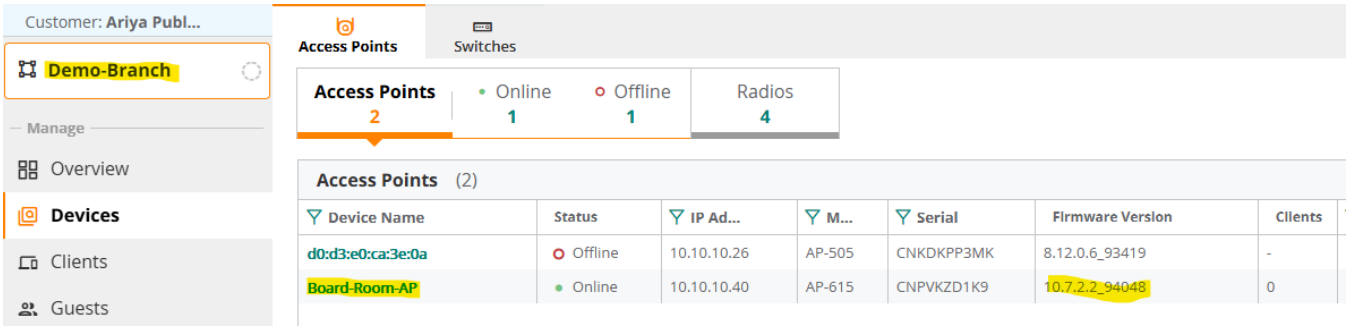


3.3 Audit Trail

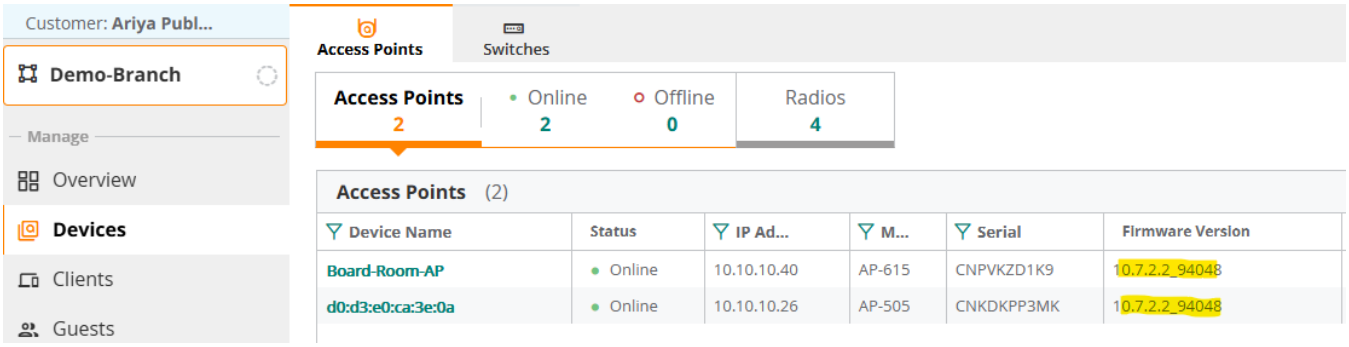
Now checking the audit trail.



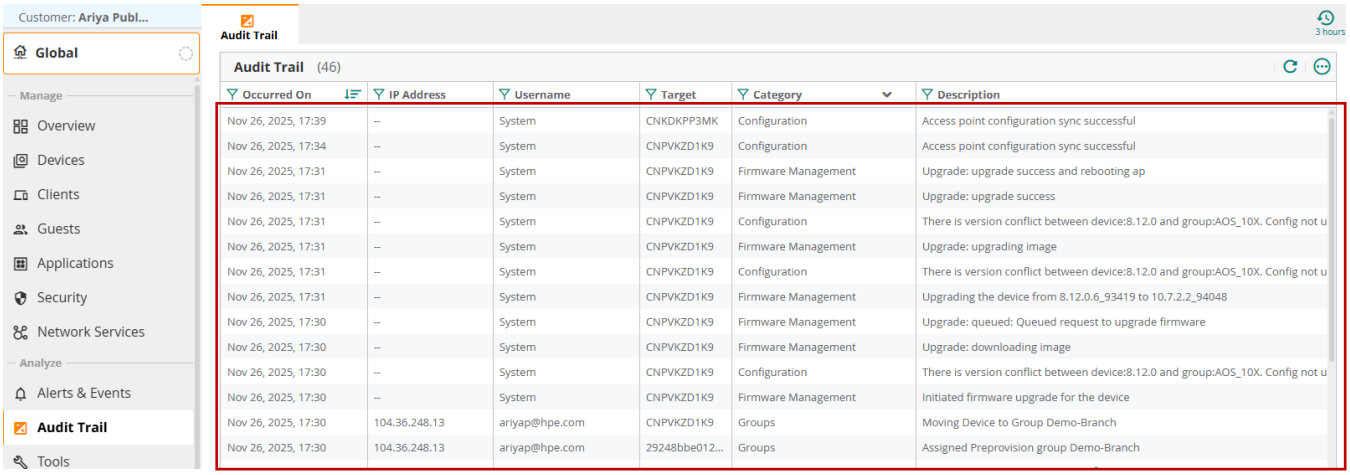
Both the APs should be upgraded to 10.7.2.2 and then get the configuration from Demo-Branch group which is for AOS10. So far we can see one of them already upgraded.



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



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



Here is the enlarged version of it.

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.