

Cisco Compatible Extensions Program for Wi-Fi Tags

Overview

Q. What is the Cisco® Compatible Extensions program for Wi-Fi tags?

A. The Cisco Compatible Extensions program allows customers with a Cisco Unified Wireless Network and a Cisco Location solution to benefit from the latest innovations offered by our technology partners. This program improves consistency and interoperability among the Cisco Compatible Extensions tag vendors by ensuring that Wi-Fi tags from different technology partners will be compatible with the Cisco Unified Wireless Network. Vendors undergo extensive testing to verify interoperability between the tag and the Cisco Wireless Location Appliance. Cisco does not charge a partner to license the Cisco Compatible Extensions specification for implementation in a vendor's tag, device, or adapter.

Q. What is a Cisco Compatible Extensions tag?

A. A Cisco Compatible Extensions tag is a Wi-Fi tag from an approved technology partner that is compatible with the Cisco Unified Wireless Network. Cisco Compatible Extensions tags can be attached to mobile and static devices that are not wireless and need to be located. In addition to tracking ID information, tags can also send telemetry information such as temperature, pressure, and humidity. Please refer to the Telemetry section for details.

Q. Why do I need Cisco Compatible Extensions tags?

A. The Cisco Compatible Extensions program for Wi-Fi tags allows customers to customize their location solution. Customers can choose Cisco Compatible Extensions tags from any of Cisco's approved technology partners and increase the return on investment for their wireless network. Cisco is the first to offer a Wi-Fi infrastructure that supports multiple Cisco Compatible Extensions tags.

Q. What is the difference between a Cisco Compatible Extensions tag and a location solution?

A. Cisco Compatible Extensions tags are part of the Cisco Location Solution. A complete location solution is comprised of applications, middleware, network connectivity, and a Wi-Fi system that includes the Wi-Fi tag and reader. In the Cisco solution, all of these components are fully integrated.

Q. What are the future plans for Cisco Compatible Extensions tags?

A. As the worldwide WLAN technology leader and innovator, Cisco offers the industry's most comprehensive product line for enterprise WLANs. By certifying and testing additional partners as the market dictates, Cisco will continue to lead the acceleration and evolution of the location technology. Cisco Compatible Extensions tags are a crucial part of this evolving market. The Cisco Compatible Extensions program will continue to add valuable features in future versions of the tag specification

Benefits

Q. How does a Cisco Compatible Extensions tag address the challenges that customers face regarding location technology?

A. Customers will be able to choose the right location technology for each of their business processes and know that it will work effectively with their Cisco WLAN solution. This may require having several different tags, some with telemetry capabilities, some with emergency buttons, and some for chokepoint systems.

Q. What business benefits are associated with Cisco Compatible Extensions tags?

A. Cisco Compatible Extensions tags deliver a number of tangible benefits to companies of all sizes. Some of the reasons why customers should buy Cisco Compatible Extensions tags versus non-Cisco Compatible Extensions tags include:

- Investment protection and innovation: By using multiple tags from different vendors over the same multipurpose network, customers can preserve their investment and benefit from the latest innovations. For example, it is possible to deploy a tag with telemetry that measures the temperature now and then decide to deploy a new tag that measures humidity or pressure in the future.
- Full integration: Cisco Compatible Extensions tags are fully integrated with multiple applications from multiple technology partners. Instead of having to deploy the standard or default application, customers can choose from a variety of location or vertical applications that fit their specific needs.
- Flexibility: Customers can customize their location solution by choosing the most appropriate Cisco Compatible Extensions tag to meet their specific requirements. They can purchase new Cisco Compatible Extensions tags or use existing tags in their network.

Telemetry

Q. How is telemetry used in the Industry today?

A. Telemetry data is useful when monitoring mobile or static devices that are easily affected by environmental conditions—for example, patient rooms or storage areas. For example, a tag can have a built-in motion sensor that records the movement of the tag while it is static or in motion. A temperature sensor manages assets that are affected by the climate and can create an alert when a temperature goes above or below a certain threshold. Table 1 lists examples of how different telemetry tags are used.

Q. What other types of information can be transmitted from Wi-Fi tags?

A. In addition to location data, some Cisco Compatible Extensions tags can also transmit telemetry, emergency and battery information.

Cisco Compatible Extensions Technology Partners

Q. Which technology partners are currently compatible with Cisco's WLAN solution?

A. Visit this [site](#) for a list of all of the technology partners that have been certified.

Q. How do I become a Cisco Technology Partner for Cisco Compatible Extensions Wi-Fi tags?

A. If you are interested in joining the Cisco Compatible Extensions program for Wi-Fi tags, please contact the Cisco Compatible Extensions Program Manager at Cisco_compatible_wireless-programmgr@cisco.com to begin the certification process.

Sales Support

Q. How can I check if a tag is certified as Cisco Compatible?

A. Cisco lists approved Cisco Compatible Extensions tags on the [Cisco Compatible Extensions Website](#). Cisco will continue to update this Website as new tags become certified.

Q. How do I purchase a Cisco Compatible Extensions tag?

A. To purchase Cisco Compatible Extensions tags, work directly with one of our technology partners.

Q. Where can I go to learn more about Cisco's Location solution and the Cisco Unified Wireless Network?

A. For more information, please contact your local account representative or visit one of the following Websites:

- For more information about the Cisco Location Solution, visit: <http://www.cisco.com/go/location>
- For more information about the Cisco Unified Wireless Network, visit: <http://www.cisco.com/go/unifiedwireless>



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