

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

WPA/WPA2 Extended EAP

1. *What's being announced? Why is this important?* The Wi-Fi Alliance is expanding its WPA- and WPA2-Enterprise certification program to include 4 additional widely-deployed EAP types, and new supplicants and servers. Wi-Fi Protected Access™ means secure, standards-based, interoperable networking.
2. *Why did you introduce this support?* The Extended EAP program for WPA- and WPA2-Enterprise is a response to the current authentication landscape and offers IT managers greater interoperability and more vendor choice.
3. *What are the new EAP types? What are the current EAP types supported?* There are now 5 EAP-types supported, including:
 - EAP-TLS (previously tested)
 - EAP-TTLS/MSCHAPv2
 - PEAPv0/EAP-MSCHAPv2
 - PEAPv1/EAP-GTC
 - EAP-SIM
4. *Why did you choose these EAP-types?* These are among the non-proprietary EAP-types commonly used by multiple vendors.
5. *How do I know if a product has been certified for these EAP types?* Upon successful test completion, a product is granted a certificate which can be viewed on the WFA website, and is typically found in the shipping documentation of the product. IT managers should specify Wi-Fi Certified equipment and request the certificate in the RFP.
6. *Will you offer other EAP types in the future?* Yes, it's likely that other EAP types will be added as the security landscape for Wi-Fi evolves.
7. *What is EAP?* Extensible Authentication Protocol, an authentication mechanism used to validate the identity of network devices
8. *Is certification for these new EAP types mandatory? Why/Why not?* This program will be optional for a short 2-3 month period and then made mandatory to allow member companies to manage their product development most efficiently. WPA saw a 5 month optional period; WPA2 has had a longer optional period, since WPA remains a strong security solution.
9. *Why not call this offering WPA3?* WPA and WPA2 represented significant advancements in Wi-Fi security. We want to save the WPA3 name for the next big advance in security (whatever is beyond 802.11i).

10. *What devices will undergo WPA/WPA2 certification with the new EAP-types?* Certification is offered for hardware products, client devices and access points.
11. *When will the certification labs begin testing for these new EAP types?* Certification is expected to begin in mid-April.
12. *When will products certified for these new EAP types be available?* That is up to individual member companies, but you can expect to see certified products in the WFA database on the website shortly after certification begins. Because member companies are closely involved in the program development it is typical to see products certified in a very short period of time.
13. *How long does the certification process take?* It varies based on the number of certification types requested, but testing times range from 1-3 days.
14. *How many currently certified products will this impact? How many new products will this impact?* Member companies may choose to certify previously certified products, however it is reasonable to expect new products to undergo certification at rates similar to WPA/WPA2 certification rates. Nearly 800 products in total have been WPA/WPA2 certified.
15. *Does this program have any implication for SOHO/home users?* These certifications affect enterprise-class products working within managed networks.
16. *Why does the WFA put so much emphasis on security solutions?* Security is one of the most important concerns of IT managers of managed networks. In a recent study, security and standards-compliance were cited as the top two factors in product selection for enterprise networks, with 35% of IT managers citing security as their top concern (WFA Enterprise Study 2004). The Wi-Fi Alliance has long taken a leadership role with regard to interoperable, standards-based security.

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