

IDC: WLAN Growth Slows Down

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According to IDC the global WLAN market shows an incremental growth decrease in Q4 2014, as the combined consumer and enterprise market segments show 7% Y-o-Y growth.



The consumer WLAN market is up by 6.5% Y-o-Y in Q4 2014, a "slight" increase over the 5.6% Y-o-Y growth of Q3 2014 as the transition from the older 802.11n standard to the faster 802.11ac drives shipments across all geographies. As a result global consumer 802.11ac WLAN revenues grow by 155.6% Y-o-Y, while shipments are up by 206.6%.

EMEA shows impressive 802.11ac shipment revenue growth of 479.2% Y-o-Y.

As for the enterprise segment the analyst says 802.11ac accounts for 30% of dependent access point shipments and 44% of dependent access point revenues-- a noticeably faster adoption rate than the 802.11a/b/g to 802.11n transition of several years ago. IDC attributes the changeover to a number of factors, including increasingly complete indoor and outdoor 802.11ac portfolios, competitive pricing relative to 802.11n access points, and the higher throughput of the standard.

"Where appropriate, enterprises worldwide are seeking to move mission-critical functions from the wired network to wireless," IDC says. "These organizations are migrating to 802.11ac in order to experience wire-like speeds that enable a more nimble, mobile enterprise. As the 802.11ac ecosystem grows even more robust, expect this to continue for the foreseeable future."

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