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r/HomeNetworking • 7 mo. ago
laurie1372

TP-Link Omada or Ubiquiti Unifi?

Update: what I think I'm going with... anything I should add or swap out?

Tl;dr: which would you choose, and why?

I'm looking to up my home networking game. For years I've rocked just a cable modem and wi-fi router. I recently bought my first NAS to set up Jellyfin, and fell down the homelab rabbit hole :-)

I have 300Mb/s cable internet, and discovered it's actully delivering ~370Mb/s. Unfortunately my wi-fi performance was degraded to only ~40Mb/s in the office (via AP1 -> AP2 -> base wi-fi router). Restarting the mesh wi-fi router / APs got that up to 90Mb/s in the office, and ~145Mb/s on my phone near the router (so no hops through the APs).

The NAS has 10GbE as well as Thunderbolt 4 (good for up to 40Gb I believe). The only place I can plug it into my network is in the living room, where the wi-fi router lives (as that's where the cable comes in). That means I can't

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🔘 **crazifyngers** • 7mo ago

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to build a separate firmware and have to test it. They told me an RMA was not possible without a software issue. And not getting updates didn't count.

Well it turns out they advertise quite a few features for the v1 that are still not possible. Band steering, protected management frames, and bandwidth limits. Funny thing. Wpa3 requires protected frames to be available to be able to say the it has wpa3. Since June 2021. The v1 didn't even go through fcc approvelal until December 2021. I had to argue quite a bit do a lot of digging And prove the features weren't available. If I didn't have the knowledge to argue my points they would have denied me. In the end I received 2 v3 versions under RMA. I will remove all of them as soon as I have money to.

Omada does not support their products for long and blatantly lie about features and even specifications that their equipment have.

I'm not a huge fan of unifi either. Their firmware is pretty buggy. But omada is garbage. And I wanted omada to be good.

⊖   ⌃ 9 ⌄   •••

laurie1372 OP • 7mo ago

Good to know the product support isn't there for Omada. That's too bad :-(

⌃ 4 ⌄   •••

devilbunny • 7mo ago

UBNT is fine; I've only used their older products, YMMV.

I have (and still use) an ER-Lite. It shifts data fine, but the storage died (known problem, they had an internal USB port with some low-quality flash drives to store the system software), and the solution only came when I hooked up to the console port and read the errors as they came out. A problem that bricks the device and can only be fixed by someone who knows to how use a professional method (I'm not a pro, but I know enough to use some of their tools badly) to figure it out? Not good. It was never marketed to consumers, to be fair, but that should have generated a recall. However, it was cheap, so...

My current WiFi is Omada. The controller software isn't quite as straightforward as UBNT (tried their stuff, but it had terrible signal through my walls - don't know whose problem that was, but I would be ten feet away from an AP and have no signal if a wall was in the way, while my Omada devices don't have that problem but were also much more recent designs when installed). However, once it's set up, it's very easy.

So: *I* use mostly Omada (and I have a router to replace my ancient ER-L, but need a wife-free, no-work weekend to make sure it's up to snuff before I can replace a fully functional device for one that is better but might not work right away), but I don't think there's a huge reason to choose one over the other.

⌃ 3 ⌄   •••

clrudolphi • 7mo ago

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(–) ⬆ 3 ⬇ ...

KingNothing • 2mo ago

The US is considering banning TP-Link from the country

https://www.wsj.com/politics/national-security/us-ban-china-router-tp-link-systems-7d7507e6?st=SEX5iL&reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink

⬆ 2 ⬇   ...

discojohnson • 7mo ago

This is almost a religious debate at this point. I played with both, stayed with Omada. Run a 10gig router and infrastructure with multiple APs.

⬆ 2 ⬇   ...

**laurie1372** **OP** • 7mo ago

Looks like I'm going with Ubiquiti :-) Anything I should add? I'm not including a UPS / backup power solution, as I have an existing UPS the rack can plug into. I'm also not including provision for a 10GbE downlink to the LR; I'll spend the extra $65 if a 1GbE link proves insufficient.

⬆ 3 ⬇   ...

flash0222 • 7mo ago

I had ubiquiti gear and pulled it all and replaced it with tp- link last year. Lower prices, virtually same software, easy to get hardware were my reasons. It all started when my usg died after several years, and there was no supply of new ones.

⬆ 4 ⬇   ...

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Ubiquiti was cleaner on the controller compared to TP-Link Omada

In the case of Omada, there was a bigger learning curve to it, as there are fewer resources available for it.

If you understand network fundamentals, both will perform similarly once you understand the controller.

My main issue was that Ubiquiti cost notably more for the same solution. (In my case 1 PoE managed switch and a couple of APs, my router is an OPNSense firewall I built)

⌃ 1 ⌄   ...

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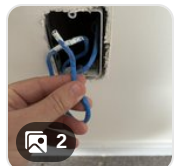8 comments

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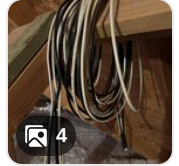**Tp-Link Omada vs EnGenius for Home Lab/Home Use?**

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