

# OmniVista 3600 Air Manager 8.2.14.0



Server Sizing Guide

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This document provides general guidelines for selecting and configuring hardware. The first part of this chapter describes the appliances and testing environment to provide a reference for your network environment. The sections that follow list network conditions and OV3600 settings that might cause your server sizing needs to differ from the tested values, and how those settings might impact your choice of hardware.

The information presented in this Sizing Guide is a guidance, not a guarantee, of a level of performance on given hardware. If you have questions about how to provision OV3600 appropriately for your network, or if you intend to monitor more than 3,000 devices, contact [Technical Support](#).

## Tested Hardware Platforms

The information provided in this document is based on internal testing scenarios using the hardware platforms described in [Table 1](#), below.

These hardware platforms have been tested and verified in the Alcatel-Lucent test networking environment, which is described in detail in [Testing Environment Parameters](#).

**Table 1:** *Tested Hardware Platforms*

Category	Pro HPE DL360 Gen9	Pro HPE DL360 Gen10	Enterprise HPE DL360 Gen9	Central Ready HPE DL360 Gen10
Appliance Scalability				
Maximum Managed Devices	1500	1500	4,000	4,000
Appliance Specifications				
CPU	2.6 GHz Intel Xeon E5-2640v3	2.10 GHz Intel Xeon-S 4110	2.6 GHz Intel Xeon E5-2640v3	(Dual CPU) 2.0 GHz Intel Xeon Gold 6138
Memory	48 GB	48 GB	96GB	256 GB
Storage	6 300 GB 12G SAS 15K 2.5 in SC ENT HDD	6 300 GB SAS 15K SFF SC DS HDD	8 300 GB 12G SAS 15K 2.5 in SC ENT HDD	2 TB SSD HDD (4 TB in RAID 10)
Physical Cores	8	8	16	40
Passmark Score	14,057	19,892	19,892	25,774

Category	Pro HPE DL360 Gen9	Pro HPE DL360 Gen10	Enterprise HPE DL360 Gen9	Central Ready HPE DL360 Gen10
Recommended IOPS	2,132	2,842	2,842	69,000 (random read) 28,500 (random write)

## Testing Environment Parameters

The tested hardware platforms described in [Tested Hardware Platforms](#) support a network with the following Alcatel-Lucent test values. This testing information is included to give you a clear idea of the type of environment that is recommended for these hardware platforms, and to give you an opportunity to note how your own networking environment may differ from the Alcatel-Lucent testing environment, as any changes from these conditions can have a significant impact hardware performance and requirements. For more information on how these differences can impact your network, see [Conditions that Impact Hardware Sizing](#).

Aruba uses a PassMark (<http://www.cpubenchmark.net/>) score of OV3600 appliance CPUs to compare the relative processing power between servers. These scores provide for a close comparison, although the score for a CPU model can vary over time as more users contribute benchmark values for that CPU.

To calculate the IOPS delivered by the disk subsystem, Alcatel-Lucent uses the calculator at <https://ns1.omnitech.net/iops/>.

The following values for that calculator most closely approximate the disk workload characteristics of the OV3600:

- RAID Level: RAID 1 or 10
- Stripe size: 1024 KiB
- Number of drives: 8
- Reads %: 20%
- Read cache hit ratio: 95%
- Write cache hit ratio: 65%
- Average I/O size : 8 KiB

## Test Values

Scalability is tested based on the following test values. Deviations from these values can impact overall scalability of your OV3600 server.

**Table 2:** *Wireless Scalability Test Values*

Category	
AP Interface polling period	10
Device-to-device link period	5
CDP neighbor data polling	30
Ratio of switches or routers to access points	25%

Category	
Read ARP polling (hours)	4
Read CDP table for device discovery polling (hours)	4
Read bridge forwarding table polling (hours)	4
Interface Up/Down polling period	10
Ratio of APs to controllers	128:1
Ratio of clients to APs	5:1
Ratio of switches/ or routers to access points	25%
Average port density of switches or routers	36
Read ARP polling period (hours)	8
Read CDP table for device discovery polling period (hours)	8
Read bridge forwarding table polling period (hours)	8
Interface polling period (minutes)	20

**Table 3: VisualRF Scalability Test Values**

Category	
Average floor plan size (feet)	62,500
Number of access points per floor plan	20
Number of access points per floor plan	20
Number of clients per floor plan	100
Number of attenuation grid cells per floor plan	2,500
Number Rogue devices per floor plan	20
OV3600 Synchronization timer (minutes)	15
Rogue location timer (minutes)	30
Location calculation timer (min/max/number of samples)	90/360/3

## Conditions that Impact Hardware Sizing

Accurate hardware sizing is almost as much of an art as it is a science, as it requires you to balance the needs of your users and the demands of your existing network infrastructure using a very complex set of interdependent variables. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to hardware sizing that can accurately predict the needs of any individual network.

However, as part of a best practice methodology for hardware sizing, Alcatel-Lucent suggests network administrators review the following list of network requirements and variables, all of which that have a significant impact on the load on OV3600, and are all factors to consider when determining hardware requirements.

- **Client Mobility:** How often are your clients roaming? This is largely a function of your environment, but more frequent client roaming increases the OV3600 workload. For example, a typical corporate office has relatively low client mobility, as most people stay at their desks for extended periods of time. In contrast, at a university, thousands of students change classrooms on the hour, producing a flood of association change data for OV3600 to process. Airports have yet another type of client mobility pattern, with many new, highly mobile clients. These client mobility factors impact the disk write demands and the storage requirements of the OV3600 server.
- **Number Clients Per AP:** The number of clients served by OV3600 has a direct and significant impact on hardware sizing requirement. As a guideline, consider that the Alcatel-Lucent testing environment assumes a client-to-AP ratio of 5:1. If the test networking environment was altered to support twice the clients, the server size would need to double as well.
- **Ratio of New Clients:** OV3600 requires more processing resources to identify new clients than existing clients. If your OV3600 server manages APs in public places like airports or retail spaces, your network will likely have a higher ratio of new clients than the testing environment, will need a server with increased processing power.
- **Wired Switch Percentage:** Switches demand more processing resources from OV3600. The 4,000 device rating for the AW-HW630-ENT appliance assumes a distribution of 20% switches and 80% APs. If your network has a higher percentage of switches, consider a server with increased CPU processing power.
- **Trap Rate:** Traps consume processing resources, and trap rates are associated with client mobility. The AW-HW630-ENT appliance was tested against a continuous rate of 100 traps/second. If your environment will trigger more traps than the test environment, consider a hardware server with a greater CPU and IOPS capacity.
- **AMON:** AMON allows OV3600 to collect enhanced data from Alcatel-Lucent devices on certain firmware versions. An OV3600 server collecting data using AMON requires more CPU and memory resources than an OV3600 server using SNMP, especially if OV3600 is collecting Traffic Analysis and Unified Communication and Collaboration (UCC) data. Traffic Analysis can produce a lot of data and increase the OV3600's storage requirements, but an upper bound can be configured to mitigate that problem.
- **SNMP Poll Periods:** The AW-HW630-ENT appliance is certified with default polling periods (i.e., 10 minutes for interface polling, 5 minutes for up/down polling). More aggressive or frequent OV3600 polling needs a server with increased CPU and IOPS capacity to handle the increased workload.
- **RAPIDS.** The Rogue AP Intrusion Detection System (RAPIDS) is another feature that can have a major impact the OV3600 server size. Identifying and processing rogue APs consumes CPU and disk resources on the OV3600. If the OV3600 manages an AP that detects many APs in other networks (for example, if your AP is in an open plaza or an atrium in a shopping mall) then that AP will likely identify a large amount of rogue APs, requiring increased server capacity.
- **VisualRF.** The numbers of floor plans and campuses managed and monitored by OV3600 directly impacts the amount of memory used by the VisualRF feature. The OV3600 server may need more memory resources to manage a complex network using VisualRF.
- **Data Retention Periods.** Long retention periods increase the bulk of data the OV3600 has to manage. If your network requires longer data retention periods than the default retention settings, consider a server with a larger disk capacity than the tested devices.
- **Reports.** The type, frequency and scope of reports can have an large impact on the OV3600. The OV3600 RAID controllers are configured for write-back, so they behave like an solid-state drive for writes. Reads, on



the other hand, take much more processing resources. Report generation require that a lot of data is read from the disk, which slows the disk subsystem. Internal testing is focused on the steady-state of the OV3600, and does not explicitly factor in report generation and processes like nightly maintenance. Internal testing ensures the steady-state never uses 100% of the server's resources so there is extra processing available when needed. If you will be generating reports frequently, consider a server with a greater IOPS and disk capacity.

- **Instant APs.** The **Supported Devices** values in [Table 1](#) do not apply to Instant APs unless the following criteria are met.

- **Device counts are adjusted for virtual controllers**

An Instant AP acting as a virtual controller is managed as two devices; one virtual controller, and one AP. (This is in contrast to Instant APs associated to the Instant virtual controller and standard APs, which are counted as a single device). If your network includes a large number of standalone Instant APs acting as virtual controllers, be aware that this may impact the device count. The **Supported Devices** values in [Table 1](#) assume that these devices are standard APs. If your network includes many Instant virtual controllers, your hardware requirements must take into consideration increased device count.

- **WAN Link is High Quality**

The quality of the WAN link has a large impact on Instant networks. Poor WAN link quality increases the amount of time it takes for an Instant AP to download new firmware, causing downloads to take longer. This increases HTTP socket utilization, reducing the ability of other Instant APs to initiate their firmware downloads. Configuration updates are pushed from OV3600 to Instant APs one device at a time, so if an Instant AP on poor quality WAN link is slow to update, that AP acts as a bottleneck, slowing down the configuration push to other devices.

- **Rogue Polling and VisualRF are disabled**

A single Instant AP cannot accurately detect rogue APs or determine VisualRF location information, as these features typically require triangulation between three or more APs to accurately detect the locations of other devices on the networks. Best practices are to disable rogue polling and VisualRF in networks with just a single Instant AP per location, to reserve memory and CPU utilization resources for other processes.

## Choosing Your RAID Controller

RAID 10 is the supported RAID configuration for OV3600 and is recommended for any server that has more than 2 disks.



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Software RAID and SATA drives are NOT SUPPORTED for any configuration of OV3600.

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## RAID Configuration Information

For RAID 10:

- Use a dedicated Hardware RAID controller with caching and battery backup or a non volatile (NV) cache.
- Configure the RAID controller for Write-Back caching with battery backup (unless NVcache is selected, in which case Force Write-Back without Battery backup is recommended).
- Enable individual drive caching.
- Ensure that all disks are assigned and configured to a single volume.



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Improper RAID configuration can result in drastically reduced server performance. If you have any questions regarding hardware compatibility or selection, contact [Technical Support](#).

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# Choosing Your Hard Drives



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To ensure hardware capability, purchase server hardware that is certified to be compatible with Red Hat Enterprise Linux 7 or later.

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## SSDs vs 15K SAS

Solid State Drives are becoming more affordable and are being offered as a high performance drive option by many vendors. SSDs offer performance that far outstrips 15K SAS.

OV3600 supports deployment on SSD based storage arrays and can take advantage of the high speed disk access and stellar random write performance. Enterprise grade or high-end consumer grade SSDs are suitable, but avoid low-end consumer grade drives with older controllers. Confirm with your vendor prior to purchasing SSDs that their offerings are appropriate for a 24/7 sustained high random write database server.

In general, RAID 10 is still recommended for SSD deployments to allow for the best overall redundancy and performance. Any parity based RAID (5/6/etc) is not recommended. For additional information, please contact Alcatel-Lucent support.

The sections that follow explain sizing information for CPUs, disk partitions, and file systems.

### CPU Configuration

Ensure that Power Management is configured for **Maximum Performance**. By default, most vendors configure BIOS to an eco-friendly setting. Ensure that Memory Operating Mode is configured to **Optimizer Mode**, if available.

### Disk Partitioning

OV3600 automatically partitions the disk subsystem upon installation. You can override these values. [Table 4](#) lists the default disk partitions and provides guidance for more advanced scenarios.

**Table 4:** *Default Partitions*

Default Partitions	Size
/boot	512 MB
/swap	4 GB
/home	5 GB
/var/log/audit	5 GB
/var/log	20 GB
/tmp	10 GB
/	10 GB
/var	Remainder of disk space

### Filesystem Configuration

For OV3600, the Noop File I/O scheduler provides the best random write performance. If you are running OV3600 7.2 or later, OV3600 should automatically manage this setting for you.

To check the currently assigned scheduler (if sda is not your device name, please replace with the correct device name):

```
# cat /sys/block/sda/queue/scheduler  
noop anticipatory deadline [cfq] (Sample Output)
```

To configure Noop as your preferred scheduler:

```
# echo noop > /sys/block/sda/queue/scheduler
```

And confirm that your change has been applied:

```
# cat /sys/block/sda/queue/scheduler  
[noop] anticipatory deadline cfq (Expected Output)
```

## Virtualization

OV3600 can run in a virtualized environment running VMware ESX(i) 6.5 and later. To ensure scalability, use a dedicated processor and memory. You must also ensure that the disk subsystem can maintain the I/O operations per second (IOPS) throughput described in [Tested Hardware Platforms](#).

Most virtual environments use a shared disk subsystem assuming that each application will have bursts of I/O without a sustained high I/O throughput. OV3600 requires a continuous sustained high data I/O rate. If you don't have the recommended IOPS listed in [Table 5](#), you might see performance issues.




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Alcatel-Lucent recommends using RAID 10 in the underlying virtual machine infrastructure.

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**Table 5:** *VMware Minimum Requirements*

Managed Devices	CPU	Cores	Memory	Storage	Passmark Score	Recommended IOPS
750	Dual Intel Xeon-S 4110 @ 2.10 GHz or higher	8	48 GB	500 GB	9,942	2,132
1,500	Dual Intel Xeon-S 4110 @ 2.10 GHz or higher	8	96 GB	800 GB SSD	14,057	2,558
2,500	Dual Intel Xeon-S 4110 @ 2.10 GHz or higher	10	128 GB	1 TB SSD	19,892	2,842
4,000	Dual Intel Xeon-S 4110 @ 2.10 GHz or higher	20	256 GB	2 TB SSD	25,116	3,410

# Sizing a Conductor Console and Failover Server

## Conductor Console

Refer [Table 6](#) for Conductor Console server requirements.

**Table 6:** *Conductor Console Specifications*

Environment Size	CPU Class	Clock Speed (GHz)	CPUs	Total Cores	Memory	Disk Subsystem
Small (2-3 servers)	Intel Xeon-S 4110	2.6	1	16	96 GB	6 300 GB SAS 15K SC DS HDD
Large (More than 3 servers)	Dual Intel Xeon-S 4110 @ 210 GHz or higher	3.6	2	40	256 GB	2 TB SSD HDD (4 TB in RAID 10)

## Failover Server

The Failover server should be at least as powerful as the most powerful OV3600 server that it monitors to ensure smooth operation in a failover situation.

Please contact your customer service representative or Alcatel-Lucent support if you have questions regarding hardware compatibility or selection.

**Table 7:** *Contact Information*

Contact Center Online	
Main Site	<a href="http://www.alcatel-lucent.com/enterprise">http://www.alcatel-lucent.com/enterprise</a>
Support Site	<a href="https://service.esd.alcatel-lucent.com">https://service.esd.alcatel-lucent.com</a>
Email	<a href="mailto:esd.support@alcatel-lucent.com">esd.support@alcatel-lucent.com</a>
Service & Support Contact Center Telephone	
North America	1-800-995-2696
Latin America	1-877-919-9526
Europe	+800 00200100 (Toll Free) or 1-650-385-2193
Asia Pacific	+65 6240 8484
Worldwide	1-818-878-4507