

# AnalyzeAir<sup>™</sup>

Wi-Fi Spectrum Analyzer 3.0

Users Manual

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#### **Software Notice**

The AnalyzeAir<sup>™</sup> Wi-Fi Spectrum Analyzer is powered in part by the Linux Operating System and other publicly available software. A machine-readable copy of the corresponding source code is available for the cost of distribution. Please contact the Fluke Networks Technical Assistance Center (1-800-283-5853) and visit the GNU web site (<u>http://www.gnu.org</u>) for more information.

# Table of Contents

# Title

# Page

Using This Manual Introduction Contents of the Shipping Container Cautions and Advisories System Requirements Using AnalyzeAir with Other Onboard PC Technologies Concurrent 802.11 (Wi-Fi) Protocol Support Contacting Fluke Networks	1 3 4 4 5 6 6 7
Overview	/
RF Visibility and Unlicensed Bands AnalyzeAir: Mitigation and Performance Enhancement	7 8
Ine AnalyzeAir Solution	9
Spectrum PC Card Sensors	9
AnalyzeAir Software	10
AnalyzeAir Online Help	11
AnalyzeAir Operating Scenarios	11
Firefiahting Mode	11
RF Expert	12
Site Survey / Network Install and Initial Configuration	13
Technical Concents	13
Duty Cyclo	1/
Duty Cycle	14
Device Classified (Nerrod), Constring and Undersified	14
Adia and Changed Later (Nameu), Generic, and Unclassified	10
	17
Devices Tab	17
Channel Summary Tab	18
Spectrum Plots and Charts	18
AnalyzeAir Setup	18
Installing and Setting Up AnalyzeAir	18
Spectrum PC Card Sensor Installation	19
Attaching an External Antenna	21
Attaching the Antenna	21
Removing an External Antenna	21
Using the Directional Antenna	23
Swapping or Removing the Spectrum PC Card Sensors	22
	25

Starting AnalyzeAir for the First Time	23
Repairing Your Installation	26
AnalyzeAir and Your PC	28
PC Resource Utilization	28
Spurious Signal Detection	28
Enabling Your PC's 802.11 Receive Operability (But Not Transmit)	28
Upgrading the AnalyzeAir Software	29
AnalyzeAir– An Overview	30
Status Bar	30
Active Device Tree	31
Console Tabs and Operational Features	31
Control Panol	27
Hiding / Displaying the Active Davides Tree and Control Panel	22
Class Button	22
	22
Auto Hide	33
Temporary Restore	34
Permanent Restore	34
Menu Options	35
File Menu	35
View Menu	35
Spectrum Menu	36
Tools Menu	37
Help Information	38
Recording and Playback	38
What If I'm Not Seeing Any Data?	40
Spectrum PC Card Sensor Not Properly Inserted	40
Faulty Configuration Settings	41
Erroneous Scale Settings	41
Wrong Antenna Settings	41
Miscellaneous Device Issues	41
Active Devices	42
Current Devices vs. Historical Devices	/2
Keening Your Eve on a Particular Device	12
Problem Indicators and Socurity Alorts	43
Problem multators and security Alerts	45
Security Alerte	45
Security Alerts	45
Alert icons	43
Exporting Data	44
working with Spectrum Tabs, Spectrum Plots, and Charts	45
Creating a Spectrum Plot or Chart	45
Multiple Plots	46
Measurement Interval	46
Pause and Resume Plots	46
Copying Plots and Charts	46
Cutting Plots and Charts	47
Pasting Plots and Charts from the Clipboard	47
Removing Plots and Charts	48
Moving Plots and Charts	48
Selecting Multiple Plots and Charts	49
Zooming In or Out	49
Zooming In or Out on a Single Plot or Chart	49
Zooming In or Out on Multiple Plots	50
Setting Plot and Chart Parameters	50
Saving and Restoring Spectrum View Lavouts	51
Deleting a Spectrum View	52
	52

Exporting Data	52
From a Single Plot or Chart	52
From Multiple Plots or Charts	53
Sample Export Data File	53
Spectrum Plots	53
Using Spectrum View Plots	53
Plot Content	54
Frequency-Based Plots	54
Time-Based Plot	54
Real Time FFT Plot	54
Power vs. Frequency	55
FFT Duty Cycle	56
Swept Spectrogram	56
Power vs. Time	56
Real Time FFT Plot Compared with the Power vs. Frequency Plot	56
Interpreting the Swept Spectrogram Plot	59
What If No Data Is Showing?	62
Spectrum Plot Controls	62
Frequency and Bandwidth to Monitor	62
Amplitude	63
Trace Settings	64
Markers	65
Channels	66
Other Plot Control Panel Settings	66
Spectrum Charts	71
Using Spectrum View Charts	71
Chart Content	71
Active Devices	71
Devices vs. Channel	71
Devices vs. Time	71
Channel Utilization	72
Channel Utilization vs. Time	72
Interference Power	73
Navigating to Other Views	74
Chart Controls	74
Channel or Band Selection for Channel-Based Charts	74
Selection Options for Time-Based Charts	75
Devices View	77
Working with Devices View	78
Adjusting the Column Display	78
Selecting the Display Type	79
Setting the Time Range	80
Sorting the Display	80
Keeping Your Eye on a Particular Device	80
Locating a Device	81
Obtaining Detailed Information on a Device	81
Miscellaneous Device Issues	81
Signal Bounce and Fading	81
Near/Far Effect	82
Device Detection Time	82
Channel Summary	83
Working with the Channel Summary	83
Sorting the Display	83
Channel Data	84
Miscellaneous Channel Summary Issues	84

802.11 Detection Sensitivity	84
802.11 Device Types	84
Problem Indicators	85
Device Finder	85
Overview	85
Working with Device Finder	86
Additional Device Finder Features	87
"Divide and Conquer" Search Strategy	89
Omni-directional Antenna	89
Directional Antenna	92
Detecting Narrowband Devices	94
Local Settings	95
Sensors and Antennas	96
Console Settings	97
Channel Settings	98
Monitored Bands	99
Automatically Monitor Bands for Current Channel Plan Settings	100
Bands to Monitor	101
Alert Settings	101
Active Devices Tab	102
Spectrum Tab	102
Channel Summary Tab	103
Modifying Default Settings	104
Capture Current Display	104
Tips on Image Capture	105
Tips on Image File Naming	105
AnalyzeAir and Your Network Operations	105
Site Survey	106
The Physical Movement of the PC	106
AnalyzeAir Survey Data	107
Additional Notes on Site Survey and the Spectrum Plots	108
Conducting the Site Survey	109
Drawing Conclusions	111
Antenna Options	111
Network Layout	111
Placing the First AP	112
Placing the Second AP	113
Placing Successive APs	114
After-Deployment Site Survey	114
Long-Term Trend Analysis	115
Irend Analysis Procedure	115
Type of Data to Record	115
Routine Network Monitoring and Troubleshooting	117
Koutine Monitoring	11/
IVIONITORING POINTS and IVIONITORING KOTATION	118
KF and Device Monitoring	120
ITOUDIESNOOLING	120
Propiem Resolution	121

# List of Tables

# Table

# Title

# Page

Generic Signals Recognized by AnalyzeAir	15
Operational Features of AnalyzeAir	31
Differences between the Real Time FFT Plot and Power vs. Frequency Plot	57
Sample Time Rotation Schedule	118
Glossary of Terms	123
	Generic Signals Recognized by AnalyzeAir Operational Features of AnalyzeAir Differences between the Real Time FFT Plot and Power vs. Frequency Plot Sample Time Rotation Schedule Glossary of Terms

# AnalyzeAir<sup>™</sup> Wi-Fi Spectrum Analyzer

# **Using This Manual**

This manual documents the applications and operations of the AnalyzeAir<sup>™</sup> Wi-Fi Spectrum Analyzer, Version 3.0. This manual also describes how to operate AnalyzeAir in order to configure operations. Finally, the manual describes the comprehensive RF data displayed by AnalyzeAir.

This manual, along with the *Quick Start Guide*, provides all of the necessary information for network engineers to install the AnalyzeAir Wi-Fi Spectrum Analyzer, including information on how to install the AnalyzeAir Spectrum PC Card on the OptiView Series II Integrated Network Analyzer and on your notebook PC.

While many detailed operating instructions are found in this manual, additional instruction is available from the AnalyzeAir Online Help system.

# Conventions Used in This Manual

• Terminology

The AnalyzeAir Wi-Fi Spectrum Analyzer software runs on both a PC and an OptiView Series II Integrated Network Analyzer. For simplicity, this manual uses the term "PC" to refer to both a PC and the OptiView Series II Integrated Network Analyzer.

Text

This manual uses following text conventions:

o Screen Text

Any text which is displayed as part of an AnalyzeAir display screen including menu options, check boxes, and column headings—is presented in boldface type. For example:

### **Device Finder** option **Channel** list box

Keyboard Keys

Keyboard keys are shown in boldface type within angle brackets, as in: **<Shift> <Ctrl>.** 

o Menu Selections

A directional arrow is used to indicate successive levels of menu options. For example, to select the **Device Finder** option from the **View** menu, the following convention is used:

# Select View → Device Finder

Note that we simply indicate the option to be selected, not the method used. You can use the mouse to click on **View**, and then click on **Device Finder** or you can type **<Alt+V>**, **<F>**.

Note

This manual assumes that you are familiar with standard MS Windows conventions.

Screen Buttons

On-screen buttons are shown in boldface type and enclosed in square brackets, for example: [Add] [Cancel] [OK]

# Introduction

AnalyzeAir<sup>™</sup> Wi-Fi Spectrum Analyzer (hereafter referred to as AnalyzeAir) monitors the RF spectrum used by a variety of wireless network and communications technologies. AnalyzeAir consists of hardware-based Spectrum Sensors and a GUI-based application. Together, these provide complete visibility of the RF environment in which wireless network technologies operate.

Other monitoring technologies typically focus on protocol-oriented network data, which only provides a picture of RF devices that are part of the network (or, in some cases, rogue devices which are attempting to penetrate network security or jam the network). AnalyzeAir, however, is designed to monitor and report on the underlying physical-layer RF activity, which is shared by numerous devices that do not share the network protocols. (See "Performance" on page 7 for a brief list of interfering devices.)

AnalyzeAir can identify nearly all sources of RF activity in the unlicensed bands that wireless networks share with other devices (such as cordless phone and headsets, Bluetooth devices, and microwave ovens). Based on this data, network engineers can take proactive steps to increase network performance and security in the face of interferers, network congestion, and security attacks.

AnalyzeAir is intended to be installed on an OptiView Series II Integrated Network Analyzer or on a laptop computer. The product employs a single Spectrum PC Card Sensor which is easily installed on an OptiView Series II or in the computer. This portable version is designed for localized, flexible support of network deployment, monitoring, and troubleshooting.

AnalyzeAir monitors the 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands used by 802.11 networks in the Americas, Australia, the Asia/Pacific region, Japan, and Europe. A detailed, default channelization scheme is provided for each supported band. In addition, you can define your own channelization scheme. Channelization is discussed further under "Local Settings" on page 95.

# **Contents of the Shipping Container**

The following items are shipped with your AnalyzeAir Wi-Fi Spectrum Analyzer:

- One Spectrum PC Card Sensor
- One AnalyzeAir software CD containing the AnalyzeAir application and this AnalyzeAir Wi-Fi Spectrum Analyzer Users Manual
- One 2.4 to 2.5 GHz and 4.9 to 5.9 GHz directional antenna and one 2.4 to 2.5, 4.9 to 5.875 GHz omni-directional antenna
- One mounting base for the directional and omni-directional antenna
- Quick-Start Guide

# ▲ Caution

The external antenna attachment is a potentially sensitive component, which is easily damaged. In particular, care must be taken when *removing* (disconnecting) the external antenna.

# **Cautions and Advisories**

AnalyzeAir is designed as a safe, reliable, user-friendly tool for advanced spectrum monitoring. There are, however, a handful of actions which can inadvertently cause difficulties with using the AnalyzeAir technology. There are also environmental factors, beyond your control, which can cause unexpected behaviors. We call your attention to them here so you can be aware of these issues. Read the appropriate sections of this *User's Manual* in advance to make the most effective (and trouble-free) use of the technology.

- Installing on a PC Be sure to install the AnalyzeAir software on your PC before inserting the Spectrum PC Card Sensor into your PC's PCMCIA slot. See "AnalyzeAir Setup" on page 18 for more information.
- Disconnecting the External Antenna from the Spectrum PC Card Sensor – You can achieve increased reception sensitivity for RF signals by attaching an external antenna to the Sensor. However, the connector on the Sensor is relatively fragile. Therefore, care must be taken when disconnecting the antenna, in order to avoid physical damage both to the Sensor and the antenna. See "Removing an External Antenna" on page 21.

 Using 802.11 Broadcast Technology with AnalyzeAir – AnalyzeAir is designed specifically to monitor the RF spectrum in the bands used by 802.11 technology, which is the broadcast technology used for wireless computer networks. The technology will not function correctly if the PC which hosts AnalyzeAir—that is, the PC where you have installed AnalyzeAir, and inserted the Spectrum PC Card Sensor—is also broadcasting its own signals in the Wi-Fi bands.

This means, in practice, that your AnalyzeAir PC cannot itself be part of a Wi-Fi network – that is, it cannot be connected to a Wi-Fi AP or Ad Hoc network, while you are running AnalyzeAir. There are also limitations on using certain other network monitoring technologies on the same PC which hosts AnalyzeAir. (Note that if the Spectrum PC Card Sensor is installed, but you are not actually running AnalyzeAir, it is okay to allow the PC to participate in a network.)

See "Using AnalyzeAir with Other Onboard PC Technologies" on page 6 for more information.

 If You Are Not Seeing Any Data or Not Seeing Expected Data – Certain peculiarities of the RF behavior can sometimes result in AnalyzeAir not showing any data, or not showing expected data (such as not displaying any device information for a device which you know is out there). Failure to see data can also result from AnalyzeAir hardware not being installed correctly. These issues—and ways to work around them—are explained under "What If I'm Not Seeing Any Data?" on page 40.

# System Requirements

The following are the hardware requirements for installing and running AnalyzeAir:

- OptiView Series II Integrated Network Analyzer OR
- Notebook computer with Pentium series processor running at 1 GHz or faster
- Windows 2000 SP4 or Windows XP SP1 or SP2 operating system
- 512 MB RAM
- 30 MB of available hard disk space
- Display resolution of 800 x 600 or higher (1024 x 768 recommended)
- Available Cardbus slot
- 802.11 capability (recommended)
- CD or DVD drive

# Using AnalyzeAir with Other Onboard PC Technologies

#### Note

If your computer has an 802.11 card, built-in capability for 802.11, or other RF transmission technology, make sure that it is not transmitting when you use AnalyzeAir. The 802.11 capability should be enabled (in order to detect Wi-Fi devices), but should not be actively transmitting to, or connected with, an AP or Ad Hoc network. See "AnalyzeAir and Your PC" on page 28 for more information.

# Concurrent 802.11 (Wi-Fi) Protocol Support

The AnalyzeAir application detects if Wi-Fi support is present in the PC, either on the system board or as a Wi-Fi WLAN networking card. If so, and if you are using AnalyzeAir, the software will provide basic support for the 802.11 protocol monitoring in the **Devices View**.

# **Contacting Fluke Networks**



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Australia: 61 (2) 8850-3333 or 61(3) 9329 0244 Beijing: 86 (10) 6512-3435 Brazil: 11 3044 1277 Canada: 1-800-363-5853 Europe: +44-(0) 1923 281 300 Hong Kong: 852 2721-3228 Japan: 03-3434-0510 Korea: 82 2 539-6311 Singapore: 65 6799-5566 Taiwan: (886) 2-227-83199 USA: 1-800-283-5853 Anywhere in the world: +1-425-446-4519 Visit our website for a complete list of phone numbers.

# **Overview**

This section provides an overview of AnalyzeAir.

Note

A more detailed discussion of how to put AnalyzeAir to work for various applications—for network site survey, network planning, daily monitoring, and network troubleshooting—may be found under "AnalyzeAir and Your Network Operations", on page 105.

AnalyzeAir addresses several current shortcomings in radio frequency (RF) network technology. These shortcomings exist in numerous RF domains, such as the WLAN technology used by 802.11 computer networks. These shortcomings fall into several inter-related categories.

# RF Visibility and Unlicensed Bands

Currently, RF network system administrators lack sufficient awareness of the RF environment in which their APs and stations (for WLANS) operate. These "awareness" issues arise from the fact that many RF network technologies operate in unlicensed bands. This means that multiple technologies—technologies which are not meant to interoperate, and which represent completely different aspects of the RF infrastructure—compete for use of the same bandwidth.

# Discovery

Current network technologies, such as those used to monitor 802.11 WLANS, are only aware of other network elements. They have no way to discover other nearby sources (competing technologies) emitting radio frequency signals in the unlicensed bands.

# Performance

WLANs operate in the unregulated 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands, and so they are subject to interference from other devices operating in this same frequency spectrum: microwave ovens, cordless phones and cordless headsets, wireless surveillance cameras, garage door openers, Bluetooth technology, and other devices. There can also be co-channel interference due to neighboring WLANs. These competing devices can degrade 802.11 network performance, resulting in unacceptably slow data rates and excess packet retransmissions.

# Troubleshooting

Current WLAN technologies are aware of network devices so they can determine if there is excess load on the network from network stations. However, current technologies cannot see the whole RF spectrum in the unlicensed band; therefore, they cannot identify sources of RF activity which can cause dropped network connections and other problems.

### Summary

Current 802.11 (Wi-Fi) technologies only offer protocol-level awareness. They do not offer physical layer (RF) awareness. Lacking full RF spectrum awareness, existing WLANs cannot apply appropriate, adaptive responses to improve performance in the face of interferers and competing networks.

# AnalyzeAir: Mitigation and Performance Enhancement

Fluke Networks' AnalyzeAir includes sophisticated technology to detect and classify sources of RF activity. Using this data, network engineers can take a variety of actions to enhance Wi-Fi WLAN performance and reliability.

# Clean Channels

If a certain part of the frequency spectrum is in constant use by other devices, the network engineer can program the network to not transmit over those channels. Conversely, by deliberately searching for "clean" channels, the network devices can be set to broadcast over those channels.

# Identifying, Locating, and Removing Interferers

AnalyzeAir can identify the types of devices which are introducing RF interference. An interferer is any non-network RF device which broadcasts in the same frequency bands as network devices, and which can cause disruption to your network. For example, in the 802.11 domain, typical interferers include microwave ovens, cordless headphones and headsets, 802.11 FH devices, and Bluetooth devices. The network engineer is alerted to the presence of these devices, and can take steps to address the problem (including relocating or shutting off such devices).

With AnalyzeAir, the network engineer can not only identify interferers, but can also use **Device Finder** mode, which makes the AnalyzeAir-enabled computer into a lightweight homing device to track down the precise location of the signal source. (See "Device Finder" on page 85.)

#### **Device Specific Solutions**

By knowing the ID of specific interfering devices, custom solutions can also be tailored to specific technologies, and even specific brands of specific technologies.

# The AnalyzeAir Solution

AnalyzeAir is a combined hardware and software technology. AnalyzeAir makes the 802.11 WLAN "spectrum savvy", ensuring greatly increased reliability and performance. AnalyzeAir, the focus of this document, consists of two primary components:

- **Spectrum PC Card Sensor** Fluke Networks' Spectrum PC Card Sensors provide the hardware foundations for AnalyzeAir. Each Sensor incorporates a powerful spectrum-analyzer-on-a-chip, providing full visibility for the RF spectrum in the unlicensed bands where Wi-Fi WLANs operate.
- AnalyzeAir Software The software analyzes data from the Spectrum PC Card and provides a GUI-based view of network and RF activity.

With AnalyzeAir, the Spectrum PC Card Sensor and software are integrated into one convenient platform. In the figure below, a engineer uses **Device Finder** mode to observe how the signal strength from an interferer varies as he moves about the enterprise. This makes it possible to quickly pinpoint the location of the interfering device.



AnalyzeAir in Action

# Spectrum PC Card Sensors

As a first step in the spectrum analysis process, the ambient RF environment must be scanned and analyzed to determine the sources of RF activity in the neighborhood of the network, especially causes of interference or other problems.

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Spectrum PC Card Sensor

# AnalyzeAir Software

The AnalyzeAir software runs under Windows XP SP1 and SP2 and Windows 2000 SP4.

AnalyzeAir provides the interface—the GUI—which connects the network engineer with the resources available from the Spectrum PC Card Sensor:

• **Spectrum Views** – Provides plots and charts that offer a direct view into the RF spectrum, including measurements of RF power and network device activity.

The plots are especially useful to trained RF engineers while the charts are informative for the expert RF engineer, and the generalist network engineer, alike. See "Spectrum Plots" on page 53 and "Spectrum Charts" on page 71.



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#### AnalyzeAir Spectrum Views

- Active Devices Displays all currently active Devices in the network neighborhood, including both network devices and interferers. See "Active Devices" on page 42.
- Devices Provides detailed information on both current and historical device activity.
- **Channel Summary** Provides a statistical overview of RF activity (such as power levels and number of interferers present) on a per-channel basis. This view gives you an instant picture of which channels are subject to excess interference, and which channels have the best potential for trouble-free network activity. See "Channel Summary" on page 83".
- **Device Finder** In **Device Finder** mode, AnalyzeAir is a convenient, userfriendly RF "sniffer", optimized for displaying RF power data in a way that quickly enables the network engineer to track down interfering devices. See "Device Finder" on page 85.
- Tools Supports configuration of AnalyzeAir. See "Local Settings" on page 95.

# AnalyzeAir Online Help

Detailed reference information is found in the AnalyzeAir Online Help system, which can be accessed by pressing <F1> or selecting Help  $\rightarrow$  Help Topics.

# AnalyzeAir Operating Scenarios

AnalyzeAir can be used in several different ways, as described here in summary form.

Note

Detailed instructions on putting AnalyzeAir to use for real-world applications are presented under "AnalyzeAir and Your Network Operations" on page 105.

# Firefighting Mode

Critical Tasks:

- Identify problems in the RF environment
- Diagnose the problem as quickly as possible
- Resolve the problem

Centerpiece Applications:

- Spectrum Charts
- Devices View
- Device Finder
- Channel Summary

Typically, the IT Administrator will have AnalyzeAir up and running, with the **Channel Summary** or one or more **Spectrum Plots** and **Spectrum Charts** in view. **Spectrum Charts**, in particular, are an important resource for detecting problems that may stress the network.

- The **Devices Vs. Channel** chart can indicate when one or more channels are becoming overloaded with devices.
- The **Duty Cycle Vs. Channel** chart can indicate when one or more channels have an overall excess of RF activity, which may be due either to device overload, or interferers, or both.

After a problem occurs, the Administrator goes into action to determine the cause of the problem. Through a combination of the **Devices View**, **Channel Summary**, and the **Device Finder**, administrators can pinpoint and isolate the source of the problem. If the solution is not obvious (for example, remove an interfering device), they can turn to an RF expert to help him arrive at a solution. (An RF expert can take further advantage of the more detailed information in the **Spectrum Plots**.) The key point is that administrators need to be notified before the problem has progressed too far so that they can take proactive measures. This eliminates frustrated calls from management.

For example, in the **Channel Summary** administrators may notice two interfering devices causing interference on channel 6. They may further observe a heavy Duty Cycle on channel 6, as seen on the **Duty Cycle Vs. Channel** plot. They can then use the **Device Finder** to locate the interfering devices, and then shut them off, relocate them, or shield them.

# RF Expert

RF experts are individuals with an advanced knowledge of radio frequency technology, and its associated physics and electronics. They are conversant with the use of spectrum analyzers, as well as the inner workings of wireless network systems. Such individuals are most likely to be at work at installations where the wireless system is considered mission critical.

The RF Expert uses AnalyzeAir as a 24 hour-per-day, 7-day-per-week spectrum analysis tool.

Critical Tasks:

- Investigate reported spectrum events at the raw RF level.
- Review raw RF data for cases that are unclassified by AnalyzeAir
- Confirm that recommended solutions have alleviated the problem

# Centerpiece Application: Spectrum Plots

RF Experts primarily use the detailed plotting capabilities of **Spectrum Plots**. When they are called in on a problem, they use the **Spectrum Plots** to confirm and/or supplement the intelligence capabilities built into AnalyzeAir. For example, if AnalyzeAir reports that a video interference signal is occurring, the RF expert may wish to view the **Power Vs. Frequency** and **Real Time FFT** plots to confirm that it is not some other type of device. In addition, there will always be cases where AnalyzeAir does not recognize the type of interference at work. In that case, the human intelligence of the RF expert helps fill in the missing gaps.

AnalyzeAir can also be used to confirm when a problem has been fixed by corrective action. When a fix has been attempted, the IT department can't afford to wait until the next day to see that no problems re-surface. The RF expert can use AnalyzeAir functions to perform before-and-after comparisons that confirm that a fix (for example, shielding was placed around an interference device) has indeed fixed the problem. These comparisons are enabled by the record/playback capabilities. (See Recording and Playback" on page 38.)

# Site Survey / Network Install and Initial Configuration

AnalyzeAir is an invaluable tool for supporting pre-installation of Wi-Fi site surveys and for doing an initial installation and configuration of a WLAN system.

Critical Tasks:

- Set channel usage for Wi-Fi APs
- Deploy Wi-Fi APs for effective coverage
- Pre-emptive interference mitigation

Centerpiece Applications:

- Spectrum Plots and Charts
- Device Finder
- Channel Summary
- Devices View

AnalyzeAir can be used prior to deployment of a Wi-Fi WLAN network, to obtain information which is essential for planning optimum deployment.

- **Band and Channel Allocations**: AnalyzeAir can determine which bands and/or channels have the most RF activity. Wi-Fi APs can then be programmed to use other channels, resulting in higher speed transmissions, and reduced packet retransmissions.
- **Pre-emptive Interference Mitigation**: Any interferers which are discovered to be contributing significant RF activity can be moved, deactivated, or shielded, before putting the WLAN system into operation.
- **AP Placement**: As a lightweight, mobile RF probe, AnalyzeAir can determine which general areas have the highest level of RF activity— as determined by the **Devices View**, the **Device Finder**, and the **Spectrum Plots and Charts**—and therefore require the most APs for adequate network coverage.

# **Technical Concepts**

AnalyzeAir is designed to make the RF spectrum accessible even to nonexperts—people who are not RF engineers or physicists—by performing a tremendous amount of high-level analysis on behalf of the user. For example, AnalyzeAir can classify interfering devices, sparing the user the necessity interpreting a spectrum graph to determine which kinds of interfering devices are present.

At the same time, AnalyzeAir does make a wealth of technical information available to the user, and some familiarity with RF concepts is helpful. Neither this guide nor the online Help system attempts to present a detailed discussion of radio frequency theory, but a few concepts are worth some brief clarification.

# Duty Cycle

Among the various measures of RF power, AnalyzeAir includes the ability to measure and report on the RF duty cycle. Duty cycle is a general term which relates to how much RF energy is present in the spectrum, as measured not by raw RF power (that is, not in watts or dBm); but rather in terms which indicate how much RF power is present in some operational or functional sense. The goal is to have a measure of RF power which suggests how much impact the RF power will have on network performance. AnalyzeAir uses two different measures of duty cycle:

- The percentage of the time that the RF signal is 20 dB above the noise floor.
- The percentage of the time a transmission from a known device is present in the channel or band.

Throughout this manual we indicate which measure of RF power is used by various AnalyzeAir Console display modes. The Online Help also has a topic (**Duty Cycle**, in the **Background Information** folder) which compares the usage of duty cycle in various contexts in the AnalyzeAir application.

# Device Classifiers

You, as the user, make the vital distinction between network devices and interferers. In addition, AnalyzeAir supports this distinction, in terms of how data is structured and classified on the AnalyzeAir display. However, the underlying technology used to detect and classify both network devices and interferers is the same. Fluke Networks has developed advanced classifier algorithms, which run on the processor on your laptop PC. These classifier algorithms use the spectrum data from the Spectrum PC Card Sensor to categorize devices which are part of your network, or which can interfere with your network.

# Wi-Fi Classifiers

The classifiers supported in AnalyzeAir are as follows:

- Wi-Fi APs
- Wi-Fi Ad Hocs
- A wide variety of Bluetooth devices
- A wide variety of cordless phones
  - o Cordless Phone, 2.4/5.8 GHz, DECT1
  - o Cordless Phone, 2.4/5.8 GHz, DECT2
  - o Cordless Phone, 5.8 GHz, DECT3
  - o Cordless Phone, 2.4 GHz, TDD/Fixed Channel variant 1
- Microwave Ovens
- Generic TDD
- Continuous transmitters (e.g., FM phones, NTSC, etc.)
- RF Jamming devices
- 802.11FH devices

# Generic Device Classifiers

AnalyzeAir supports the ability to classify "generic" devices. Generic devices cannot be linked to a specific device type, manufacturer or transmission protocol. They are identified by their physical layer transmission characteristics. An example of such a device is a cordless phone that uses an unrecognized transmission protocol to exchange data with its base station (i.e., a phone that doesn't use Bluetooth, 802.11FH, TDD or DECT).

The following list of generic signals recognized by AnalyzeAir is subject to revision without notice:

Pulse Type	Analog or Digital	Modulation Type	Output Parameters
Continuous	Digital	FSK	RMS power, bandwidth, coarse and fine CF <sup>1</sup>
Continuous	Digital	OFDM	RMS power, bandwidth
Continuous	Analog	FM	RMS power, bandwidth, coarse and fine CF
Continuous	Analog	CW	RMS power, coarse and fine CF
Burst	Digital	FSK	RMS power, bandwidth, symbol rate, coarse and fine CF, burst period
Burst	Digital	OFDM	RMS power, bandwidth, burst duration

Table 1. Generic Signals Recognized by AnalyzeAir

<sup>1</sup>CF = center frequency, PAP = peak-to-average power

In the **Active Devices** list, these devices are identified by means of a hierarchical listing which will indicate the pulse type, modulation type, and possibly the frequency. For example:

```
Generic Devices [5]
Burst, Fixed Frequency [3]
Channel Group @ 2431.3 MHz [2]
Device 1 (FSK)
Device 2 (FSK)
Channel Group @ 2434.3 MHz [1]
Device 1 (FSK)
Continuous [2]
Device 4 (CW) @ 2430.1 MHz
Device 7 (FSK) @ 2440.1 MHz
```

The bracketed numbers indicate the number of devices.

A similar naming scheme is used in the **Devices View**.

# Interferers: Classified (Named), Generic, and Unclassified

AnalyzeAir classifies many different interferers – that is, devices which are not network devices, but which produce RF power in frequency bands that affect your network. For purposes of AnalyzeAir operations, there are three broad categories of interfering devices.

# Classified Named Interferers

For many interfering devices, AnalyzeAir can detect and classify the type of device, in some cases to the extent that it can name the specific model of device in question. So, for example, AnalyzeAir will not only identify an interferer as being a Bluetooth device, it will also indicate a brand name and model. However, for our purposes, a "named" device is one for which AnalyzeAir can indicate the category of operation (Bluetooth, microwave oven, cordless phone, etc.).

# **Classified Generic Interferers**

These are devices for which AnalyzeAir has a great deal of technical information about the signal from the device, such that the general nature of the RF emitter can be identified. However, the AnalyzeAir system does not present a name (such as **DECT2**, or **Bluetooth**) and AnalyzeAir does not present a list of devices (product names) that can be in this category.

For the generic devices, AnalyzeAir provides the kind of signal details indicated in Table 1. In fact, what AnalyzeAir essentially provides are detailed parameters about the RF signal from the device, rather than about the device per se.

**Example**: In the case of "Continuous Transmitter FSK", "Continuous" means the device transmits continually rather than in bursts and "FSK" refers to the signal modulation. ("FSK" stands for Frequency Shift Keying.) Specific devices, such as DECT2 devices, are also "continuous FSK" transmitters, but if AnalyzeAir does not identify the interferer as, say, DECT2, it's because other expected transmission properties of DECT2 devices were not detected. Hence, AnalyzeAir only provides the broader, generic classification based on the type of signal.

# **Unclassified Interferers**

An "unclassified interferer" is literally one that AnalyzeAir does not classify. That means it is not identified, as a device per se, anywhere on the screen (such as in the **Devices View** or the **Active Devices** list). It also means the device is not included in counts of devices. On the **Channel Summary** display, the **Total Channel Utilization** field does not include measurements of unclassified interferers. However, AnalyzeAir still does see RF energy from unclassified interferers.

# Notes

The **Total Channel Utilization** on the **Channel Summary** display is an estimate of the percentage of the time that a transmission is present in the channel or band. To be included in this estimate, the transmission must be associated with a known, identified device. Therefore, transmissions from unclassified interferers are automatically excluded. In addition, it is possible that there may be some transmissions from generic interferers that AnalyzeAir cannot actually identify as belonging to those devices. Those transmissions are also not included in the **Total Channel Utilization**.

The plots and charts which show RF power (Real Time FFT, Power vs. Frequency, and the Swept Spectrogram) or duty cycle (FFT Duty Cycle, Duty Cycle vs. Channel, Duty Cycle vs. Time, and Swept Spectrogram) do show all RF power / duty cycle detected by the Spectrum PC Card Sensor, regardless of the source. So, power / duty cycle from unclassified interferers are also included.

Naturally, Fluke Networks tries to minimize the number of interferers that AnalyzeAir cannot classify at all.

# Adjacent Channel Interference

Adjacent channel interference (ACI) shows the amount of interference an AP signal generates in the adjacent channels. Each Wi-Fi AP has a channel of operation. Additionally, each device can potentially affect other devices within the adjacent channels. For example, an AP whose channel of operation is 5 may cause interference in channels 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8. This based on the fact that channels overlap and, in some cases, the bandwidth of a channel is wider than the spacing between channels. This information is displayed in various places in the AnalyzeAir Console.

# Devices Tab

For Wi-Fi devices (AP or Ad Hoc), the ACI data is displayed in the **Channels Affected** column on the **Devices** tab. A range of up to three adjacent channels (to the right and left of the channel of operation) is shown. For example, an AP whose channel of operation is 4 shows a range of 1-7 in the **Channels Affected** column.

# Channel Summary Tab

The ACI information displays in the **Wi-Fi ACI Max Power** (dBm) and **Wi-Fi ACI** columns on the **Channel Summary** tab. For example, in the case of an AP whose channel of operation is 4, channels 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 may show this AP as an ACI.

# Spectrum Plots and Charts

- **Devices vs. Channel** chart an ACI category displays any APs counted in their adjacent channels as ACI.
- Devices vs. Time chart an ACI category displays any APs counted in their adjacent channels as ACI. When an entire band is selected, the AP is counted only in the AP category.
- Interference Power chart an ACI category displays any APs counted in their adjacent channels as ACI.
- Active Devices chart an ACI category displays any APs counted in their adjacent channels as ACI. When an entire band is selected, the AP is counted only in the AP category.

# AnalyzeAir Setup

# Notes

When installing software on an OptiView Series II Integrated Network Analyzer, attach an external USB CD drive to the OptiView Series II. If you do not have an external CD drive, refer to the OptiView Series II Integrated Network Analyzer online Help for information on installing software from another PC.

Be sure to install the AnalyzeAir software before installing the Spectrum PC Card Sensor into your computer. If you have installed the Spectrum PC Card Sensor first, see "Repairing Your Installation" on page 26.

# Installing and Setting Up AnalyzeAir

To install and set up AnalyzeAir, do the following:

1. Insert the installation CD into your CD-ROM drive.

A Product Install Web page automatically opens in your Web browser. If it does not, open the **setup.htm** file on the CD.

#### 2. Select Install AnalyzeAir.

You may see a series of security warning screens. These warnings do not indicate any breach of security on your PC.

3. On the Welcome screen, click [Next].

You will see a standard software license agreement.

- 4. Review the agreement, and if you concur, select "I accept the terms of the license agreement." Then click **[Next]**.
- 5. Enter your User Name and Organization Name.

6. Select one of the radio buttons to indicate whether you want AnalyzeAir to be available to all users of the system or only to the user running the installation program. Then, click **[Next]**.

The next screen shows the default installation directory.

- 7. To choose a different location, select [Change...], and use the dialog box to indicate a different folder. When you are satisfied with the installation location, click [Next].
- 8. On the Ready To Install The Program dialog box, click [Install].

InstallShield starts to install the AnalyzeAir software.

An indicator bar is displayed to update you on the progress of the installation.

9. On the **InstallShield Wizard Completed** dialog box, you can select the **Register Product** check box. A Web page where you can register your AnalyzeAir software is automatically displayed.

Note

Fluke Networks can only provide product support if you register your software.

10. Click [Finish] to complete the installation.

# Spectrum PC Card Sensor Installation

Note

Install the AnalyzeAir software before installing the Spectrum PC Card Sensor into your computer.

To install the Spectrum PC Card Sensor:

1. Insert the AnalyzeAir Spectrum PC Card Sensor into an open PCMCIA slot on your computer.

The pins should go in first, and the LEDs on the card should be face up.

2. Press the card gently but firmly into place.

You may see a screen which asks if you want **Windows Update** to create a device driver.



3. Of the three available options, select [No, Not At This Time].

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Windows XP presents a dialog box indicating that new hardware has been found.

4. Normally, leave the default option (Install the software automatically) selected, and then click [Next].



eib20s.tif

Windows XP presents another dialog box, indicating that driver installation is in progress.

A final dialog box is displayed when installation is complete.

- 5. You may select the **Registration** check box to bring up an online registration page after installation is complete.
- 6. Click [Finish].

# Attaching an External Antenna

# Note

Try to minimize the number of times the external antenna is connected and disconnected. Repeating these actions over 500 times may degrade the connector's performance.

The Spectrum PC Card Sensor has an internal antenna; however, you can obtain improved detection sensitivity by using an external antenna. You can use the omni-directional antenna or the directional antenna.

# ▲ Caution

Care must be taken when removing (disconnecting) the external antenna. See "Removing an External Antenna" on page 21 for information.

Attaching the Antenna

# ▲ Caution

When using AnalyzeAir on the OptiView Series II, be careful when you close the bail after you attach the antenna to avoid damaging the antenna.

To attach the antenna:

- 1. Mount the Velcro strip to the back of the PC. (The strip has adhesive backing.)
- 2. Attach the plastic holder to the Velcro strip.
- 3. Slide the antenna's support staff into the slot on the holder.

A cable extends from the bottom of the antenna support staff. The end of the cable has a plug.

4. Install the antenna plug into the external jack on the Spectrum PC Card Sensor.

# Removing an External Antenna

# ▲ Caution

Care must be taken when removing (disconnecting) the external antenna. If the plug is not removed carefully, you can permanently damage the MMCX antenna jack on the Sensor and the Sensor itself.

The connector for the antenna is relatively fragile and requires careful handling to avoid damage.

Never disconnect the antenna by pulling on the antenna lead (the wire connecting the antenna to the Spectrum PC Card). Doing so can cause damage to the cable, connector, and the card.

# ▲ Caution

Failure of the user to follow the instructions can cause the antenna or Spectrum PC Card to become inoperable, and failure to properly disconnect the antenna may lead to voiding the warranty. Essentially, when you remove the external antenna, make sure you pull the plug straight out of the jack.

Note

You may find it easier to detach the antenna if you first remove the Spectrum PC Card Sensor from the slot. This way, you can hold the Spectrum PC Card in one hand, while grasping the antenna jack in the other. See "Swapping or Removing the Spectrum PC Card Sensors" on page 23.

1. Grasp the plug—the part at the end of the antenna wire—at the end of the antenna lead where it is mated to the Sensor card.

The best method is to pinch the connector with the thumb and forefinger, and with the nails or the tips of the fingers, under the shoulders of the connector.

2. Pull the connector firmly and perpendicular to the edge of the card.

You need to carefully get a grasp on the plug—we recommend you actually use your fingernails, sliding them so as to create a gap between the plug and the jack—and gently but firmly pull the plug in a direction that is directly at right angles to the Spectrum PC Card. (And perpendicular to the PC, if the Spectrum PC Card is still inserted in the PC.) To the extent possible, you should be gripping the plug with equal, balanced pressure from opposing sides, using two or three fingers.

What you do not want to do is to apply any pressure to the left or right, or up or down. We recommend you avoid a twisting motion as well.



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Attaching the External Antenna

# Using the Directional Antenna

The purpose of the directional antenna is to focus RF detection activity in a given direction. This can be useful with all AnalyzeAir features, but is especially useful with the **Device Finder** (see "Device Finder" on page 85). The following diagram illustrates the directional sensitivity of the directional antenna.





# Swapping or Removing the Spectrum PC Card Sensors

Normally, you would not want to remove the Spectrum PC Card while the AnalyzeAir application is running.

# Starting AnalyzeAir for the First Time

After the AnalyzeAir software and the Spectrum PC Card Sensor are installed, you can begin to use AnalyzeAir to identify sources of interference in the neighborhood of your WLAN.

Note

Your computer should have an active 802.11 card or built-in 802.11 capability in order for AnalyzeAir to detect Wi-Fi devices. However, make sure the 802.11 hardware is not associated with an AP or Ad Hoc network when you use AnalyzeAir. See "AnalyzeAir and Your PC" on page 28 for more information.

# To start AnalyzeAir:

- 1. From the Start menu, select All Programs → Fluke Networks → AnalyzeAir → AnalyzeAir Wi-Fi Spectrum Analyzer.
- 2. Depending on your Windows XP security settings, you may see a Windows Security Alert. If you do, make sure that you select the **Unblock** option.

### Notes

This warning does not represent a threat to or breach of your PC's security.

Any firewalls, spyware guards, or other malware programs must be set to allow AnalyzeAir to communicate via TCP/IP and over TCP/IP Sockets. The program communicates with the CardBus card via a TCP/IP socket, and any program that is set to block this communication will lead to improper operation of the program.

3. After the AnalyzeAir splash screen is displayed, choose the Sensor to use. Select Internal Spectrum PC Card Antenna or External Spectrum PC Card Antenna.

# Note

As noted on the dialog box, some Sensors automatically use the external antenna, if one is connected, and so override any contrary setting here.

- 4. You can also select **Open Spectrum Capture File** to playback an AnalyzeAir Spectrum Capture (**.CCF**) file. Click the **[Browse]** button to locate the Spectrum Capture file of interest.
- 5. If you plan to use these settings in the future, check the Automatically start sensor connection with these settings when software is launched box.
- 6. Click **[OK]**.

#### Notes

When you start AnalyzeAir, you may see a dialog box indicating that there is no 802.11 capability in your PC. The program will work, but will not detect 802.11 devices. See "Enabling Your PC's 802.11 Receive Operability (But Not Transmit)" on page 28 for more information.

Depending on the country in which you are located, you may need to change the **Local Settings** before you can make effective use of AnalyzeAir. In particular, you may need to select **Bands and Channels to Monitor**.

- 7. Select Tools → Settings....
- 8. Select the Channel Settings or Monitored Bands button.

Note For instructions on using the Settings dialog, see "Local Settings" on page 95.



erb02s.tif

From this point on, you can use all the features of AnalyzeAir. You may want to read "AnalyzeAir– An Overview" on page 30, which provides an overview of AnalyzeAir and its features.

# **Repairing Your Installation**

If you installed the AnalyzeAir Spectrum PC Card before installing the AnalyzeAir application, the Spectrum PC Card may not be detected correctly by AnalyzeAir.

If this happens, a message such as the following is displayed:



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To remedy this situation:

- 1. Exit AnalyzeAir.
- 2. Remove the Spectrum PC Card. Then, reinsert the card into the PCMCIA slot.

The Spectrum PC Card will be detected.

3. When prompted to connect to Windows Update to search for software, select **No, not this time**. Then, click **[Next]**.

Found New Hardware Wizard	
Welcon Hardwa Vindows Read our p Can Windo softwar? ● Yes, ● No. r Click Next	ne to the Found New are Wizard ill search for current and updated software by our computer, on the hardware installation CD, or on is Update Web site (with your permission). is used to be a set of the search for this time only now and every time I connect a device not this time
	Kext> Cancel

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4. Select Install the software automatically. Then, click [Next].

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The wizard begins installing the software.

5. After installation is completed, the following screen is displayed:

Found New Hardware Wizard		
	Completing the Found New Hardware Wizard The wizard has finished installing the software for:	
	AnalyzeAir Spectrum PC Card	
	< Back Finish Cancel	

eib21s.tif

6. Click [Finish] to close.

You can now start AnalyzeAir.

# AnalyzeAir and Your PC

There are several important issues you need to be aware of, in terms of how your PC interacts with AnalyzeAir. These are discussed in this section.

# PC Resource Utilization

In general, AnalyzeAir is a resource-intensive application, using a relatively large amount of CPU cycles. In particular, when you are using the **Power vs. Time** spectrum plot, or the **Device Finder**, you can expect that any other applications running on the PC will run slowly.

# Spurious Signal Detection

Every laptop computer emits RF signals which can be detected by AnalyzeAir. While we have implemented various algorithms to avoid classifying these as interferers, the signals will sometimes be classified as continuous interferers and they will always be visible in all the spectrum plots. This issue is more prevalent when using the Spectrum PC Card Sensor's internal antenna.

# Enabling Your PC's 802.11 Receive Operability (But Not Transmit)

Your PC should have an 802.11 network card or built-in 802.11 capability, and this hardware should be actively receiving RF signals. (Without this capability, AnalyzeAir cannot report on the presence of Wi-Fi devices.) If the PC lacks built-in 802.11 capability, you can install an 802.11 card in a second PCMCIA slot or use a dongle Wi-Fi card.

AnalyzeAir will *not* operate properly if the 802.11 card is transmitting at the same time that AnalyzeAir is making measurements. This means, in practice, that your 802.11 card must be disabled with respect to transmitting while AnalyzeAir is in use. At the very minimum, it should not be associated with an AP or Ad Hoc network.

However, it is desirable for your 802.11 card to be receiving data while AnalyzeAir is in operation at the same time. So the 802.11 technology should be enabled for receiving data. This allows you to use software which is designed for protocol-oriented monitoring of the 802.11 environment at the same time that you use AnalyzeAir to observe the RF spectrum. It also enables AnalyzeAir to provide enhanced spectrum monitoring with some limited protocol-related data.
Because the software associated with your 802.11 card can vary depending on the particular hardware in use, we can't provide step-by-step instructions. In general, however, you need to make sure of the following:

- Your PC/802.11 hardware is enabled.
- Your PC/802.11 hardware is not associated with an AP.
- Your PC/802.11 hardware is not associated with an Ad Hoc network.

You can generally check your network associations—and change them, if necessary—using the **Network Connections** settings on the Windows **Control Panel** (select **Start**  $\rightarrow$  **Settings**  $\rightarrow$  **Control Panel**  $\rightarrow$  **Network Settings**).

If your on-board 802.11 technology is enabled, but is not associated with an AP or Ad Hoc network, it may occasionally still transmit some RF power. This is not ideal, but is still much better than if it is broadcasting nonstop because it is associated with an AP.

In some cases, your 802.11 hardware may specifically include software tools that enable you to set the 802.11 device for Rx mode only, with no Tx. See your 802.11 hardware documentation for more information.

## Upgrading the AnalyzeAir Software

From time-to-time, Fluke Networks may release updates to your AnalyzeAir software. You can install the latest version directly over the currently installed version without having to uninstall first. Simply follow the directions under "Installing and Setting Up AnalyzeAir " on page 18.

Note, however, that since you may not be installing from a CD, you will need to run **Setup.exe** from wherever you downloaded the installation program on your hard drive.

# AnalyzeAir– An Overview

Note

If your computer has an 802.11 card or built-in 802.11 capability, make sure it is not transmitting when you are using AnalyzeAir. See "Enabling Your PC's 802.11 Receive Operability (But Not Transmit) on page 28.



AnalyzeAir

The basic features of AnalyzeAir are described in the following sections.

## Status Bar

AnalyzeAir has a **Status Bar** at bottom, which you can toggle on and off by using **View**  $\rightarrow$  **Status Bar**.

The **Status Bar** displays information about the Spectrum PC Card Sensor in use, such as its IP address. The **Status Bar** also indicates if you are in Live mode, Playback mode, or Recording mode. (See "Recording and Playback" on page 38 for more information.)

## Active Device Tree

The **Active Devices Tree** shows all APs, Ad Hoc networks, and interferer devices currently detected by AnalyzeAir. The tree is normally on display on the left side of the AnalyzeAir display, but can be toggled on and off by selecting **View**  $\rightarrow$  **Device Tree**. See "Active Devices" on page 42.

## **Console Tabs and Operational Features**

AnalyzeAir has five primary operational features, four of which involve mainly the display of data. The fifth, the **Device Finder**, is an active operational mode which enables you to quickly "hunt down" interfering devices.

These five modes of operation are accessed by selecting any of the five tabs running across the top of the AnalyzeAir display: **Spectrum**, **Spectrum** (2), **Devices**, **Channel Summary**, and **Device Finder**. The following table shows the relationship between the tabs and their operational capabilities.

Display Tab	Reference	Comments
Spectrum Spectrum(2)	Working with Spectrum Tabs, Spectrum Plots, and Charts – Page 45 Spectrum Plots – Page 53 Spectrum Charts – Page 71	Each Spectrum tab can display a mixture of Spectrum Plots and Charts. AnalyzeAir provides two Spectrum tabs, allowing for two different, user- configurable, default configurations of Plots and Charts.
Devices	Devices View – Page 77	Detailed information on detected devices. Unlike the <b>Active Devices</b> list, this will also show historical devices (that is, devices that are no longer active).
Channel Summary	Channel Summary – Page 83	Summary of RF activity on all channels.
Device Finder	Device Finder – Page 85	Fluke Networks' "sniffer" for locating unwanted RF devices.

#### Table 2. Operational Features of AnalyzeAir

## Control Panel

Several of the viewing modes have specific controls that enable you to fine-tune the features of the display. For example, one of the **Spectrum Control Panel** is shown here:

	Control Panel 9 ×						
Ξ	Frequency	Center Freq/Span 💌					
	Band	2.4 - 2.5 GHz Band					
	Center	2.450 GHz					
	Span	100.00 MHz					
Ξ	Amplitude	Auto Scale					
	Reference L	-20 dBm					
	Vertical Scak	10 dB /					
Ξ	Trace 1	⊙On ◯Off Clear					
	Туре	Max					
Ξ	Trace 2	Oon ⊙Off Clear					
	Туре	Average					
Ξ	Trace 3	◯On ⓒOff Clear					
	Туре	Max Hold					
Ξ	Marker 1	On ⊙Off					
	Туре	Single					
	Trace	Trace 1					
	Value	2.450 GHz					
Ξ	Channels	⊙On Off					
	Channels	1, 6, 11					

eib11s.bmp

**Control Panel** 

Usually, the **Control Panel** automatically comes into view when you select an appropriate mode, such as **Spectrum** mode (see "Spectrum Plots" on page 53), **Devices** mode (see "View" on page 77), or **Device Finder** (see "Device Finder" on page 85).

If the **Control Panel** is not displayed, select **View**  $\rightarrow$  **Control Panel**. Select the same menu option to toggle the **Control Panel** off.

In the **Spectrum** view, each plot and chart has its own unique controls. If the **Control Panel** is displayed, but the controls for the plot/chart of interest are not shown, click the plot or chart of interest. The appropriate controls will then be shown on the **Control Panel**.

You can adjust the relative size of the **Control Panel** and the **Active Devices** view by placing the cursor over the line that divides them. Then, click and hold the mouse and drag up or down.

RKO_WRT54G (Ch 1) suzy (Ch 11) WLAB_350_PRE_IOS (Ch 1)						
1	Control Pan	el	ņ	x		
Ξ	Frequency	Center Freq/Span		~		
	Band	5.15 - 5.35 GHz Band				
	Center	5.250 GHz				
	Span 200.00 MHz					
			_			

erb24s.tif

## Hiding / Displaying the Active Devices Tree and Control Panel

You can use options on the **View** menu to hide or display the **Active Devices Tree** and/or the **Control Panel**. However, you can also use mouse techniques to control the display of the **Active Devices Tree** and/or the **Control Panel**, as illustrated here. (We illustrate with the **Control Panel**, but the techniques apply to the **Active Devices Tree** as well.)

#### Close Button

You can always close the **Control Panel** or **Active Devices** tree by clicking the **Close** button.

#### Auto Hide

You can hide the **Control Panel** or **Active Devices** list by clicking the **Auto-Hide** button, which has a small push-pin symbol on it, as shown in the following:

	Control Pan	el 🖳 🗸
•	Metric	45
	Interval	4 hours
	Channel	Ch 11 (2462 MHz)
•	Trace 1	⊙On ○Off
	Category	WI-FI APs
	Aggregation	Average

erb26s.tif

After you do this, the **Control Panel** or **Active Devices** list is now hidden, allowing more room for other display features (such as a larger view of the **Spectrum** tab shown at right). However, a small vertical **Control Panel** or **Active Devices** tab is still shown on the left, as shown in this figure:



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## Temporary Restore

If you position the mouse pointer over the vertical tab for **Control Panel**, the **Control Panel** is temporarily restored to view. It remains visible only as long as the mouse is somewhere over the tab or over the **Control Panel** itself. This lets you make changes in the **Control Panel** or make selections on the **Active Devices** tree.

14	Control Panel						
Con	Metric						
trol P	Interval	4 hours					
and	Channel	Ch 11 (2462 MHz)					
	Trace 1	⊙On ○Off					
	Category	WI-FI APs					
	Aggregation	Average					
		0. 0					

erb28s.tif

If the mouse is no longer positioned somewhere over the **Control Panel** or **Active Devices** tree, the panel or tree disappears; only the vertical tab on the far left remains on display

## Permanent Restore

To restore the **Control Panel / Active Devices** tree to permanent status on the display, click the **Auto-Hide** (push-pin) button:

74	Control Panel					
Cont	Metric					
brol P		Interval	4 hours			
anel	Channel Ch 11 (2462 MHz)					

erb29s.tif

The panel or tree now remains on display, and the small vertical tab on the side is no longer shown.

# **Menu Options**

AnalyzeAir has the following menu options:

- File
- View
- Spectrum
- Tools
- Help

## File Menu

The File menu offers the following options:

- Open Capture File Use this operation to play back a previously recorded Spectrum Capture file. See "Recording and Playback" on page 38 or more information.
- Record Capture File This operation captures spectrum data to a Spectrum Capture file for later playback. See "Recording and Playback" on page 38 or more information.
- **Stop Capture File** This operation stops the recording of a capture and stops the playback of the Spectrum Capture file.
- **Connect To Sensor** Opens a dialog box, similar to the one seen when first logging in to the application, which enables you to select a different Sensor, or to open a Spectrum Capture file.

Click the **[Browse]** button to locate the Spectrum Capture file of interest.

## Note

As noted on the dialog box, some Sensors automatically use the external antenna, if one is connected, and so override any contrary setting here. If you expect to use these settings in the future, check the **Automatically Use These Settings Next Time** box.

• Exit – Closes AnalyzeAir.

## View Menu

The View menu provides access to most of the main AnalyzeAir features:

- **Spectrum** Enables you to create a variety of plots and charts which provide real-time views of RF activity. You can save your configuration of plots and charts. See "Spectrum Plots" on page 53.
- **Spectrum(2)** The same as with **Spectrum**; you can create a variety of plots and charts, and save your configuration.
- **Devices** Shows all RF devices detected by AnalyzeAir. See "Active Devices" on page 42.

- **Channel Summary** This view shows RF activity—such as power levels, and the presence of 802.11 and interferer devices—on a channel-by-channel basis. See "Channel Summary" on page 83.
- **Device Finder** The **Device Finder** enables you to track down the location of interfering devices. See "Device Finder" on page 85.
- Active Devices Tree As already described, the Active Devices Tree shows all APs, Ad Hoc networks, and interferer devices currently detected by AnalyzeAir. See "Active Devices" on page 42.
- Control Panel This toggles the Control Panel on and off. The Control Panel sets the details of your view in several different modes: Spectrum View, Devices View, and Device Finder. (See "Control Panel" on page 32. See also "Spectrum Plot Controls" on page 62; "Chart Controls" on page 74; "Working with Devices View" on page 78; and "Device Finder" on page 85.)
- Status Bar The console Status Bar provides information about the status of the system. Use this menu option to toggle the Status Bar display on or off.

## Spectrum Menu

The **Spectrum** menu is only visible when the **Spectrum View** is active and in the foreground (that is, when you are viewing plots and/or charts).

- Add Plot Adds one of the available plot types.
- Add Chart Adds one of the available chart type.
- **Remove Selected Items**... Removes the currently selected plot or chart from the display. (You must first select a spectrum plot or chart for this menu option to be active.)
- **Pause Selected Items** Freezes the display of data on the currently selected plot or chart.
- **Resume Selected Items** Only shown if you first select a plot or chart which was previously paused. Resumes the real-time update of data for that plot or chart.
- **Zoom In/Out** Maximizes or minimizes the size of a selected plot or chart.
- **Export Selected Items Data**... Captures and exports data from a specified plot or chart and saves it to a file.
- **Cut** Deletes the currently selected plot from the display and copies it to the clipboard.

- **Copy** Captures the currently selected plot or chart and copies it to the current Spectrum view.
- **Paste** Retrieves a plot or chart from the clipboard and copies it to the current Spectrum view.
- Select All Items Selects all plots and charts displayed on the AnalyzeAir console.
- **Open Spectrum View Configuration** Once you have configured plots and charts on one of the two **Spectrum** tabs, you can save the plot/chart configuration. This enables you to easily restore the same configuration at a later time. See "Saving and Restoring Spectrum View Layouts" on page 51 for more information.
- Save Spectrum View Configuration See Saving and Restoring Spectrum View Layouts" on page 51 for more information.
- New Spectrum View Configuration See Saving and Restoring Spectrum View Layouts" on page 51 for more information.

See "Spectrum Plots" on page 53 for information on all other spectrum operations.

## Tools Menu

The **Tools** menu provides access to the **Settings** dialog. The **Settings** dialog, in turn, has four panels:

- Sensors and Antennas Selects which Spectrum Sensor (and, in some cases, which antenna) AnalyzeAir uses for spectrum data acquisition.
- **Console Settings** Modifies the date and time presentation on AnalyzeAir.
- **Channel Settings** Determines which channels are monitored for RF activity. You can select channels based on regulatory domains (USA, Japan, etc.) or you can custom select specific channels to monitor.
- Monitored Bands This panel determines which RF bands are monitored and reported on by AnalyzeAir. The default setting is to monitor the channels indicated on the 802.11 Channel Settings panel. However, there are also options for other pre-defined bands and two user-defined bands as well.
- Alert Settings Used to enable or disable security and performance alerts for an interferer type or category.

See "Local Settings" on page 95 for more information.

The **Tools** menu also includes the **Capture Current Display** command which creates a snapshot image of the information reported within the main window of AnalyzeAir. See "Capture Current Display" on page 104".

## Help Information

The Help menu lists the following options:

- Help Topics Provides access to the AnalyzeAir Help system.
- **About AnalyzeAir Wi-Fi Spectrum Analyzer...** Provides copyright and version information for the AnalyzeAir software.
- About Spectrum PC Card Sensor... Provides technical data for the sensor currently in use.
- **Capture File Properties**... Displays information (for example, time zone, file size, and monitored bands) about the file that is being played back.

## **Recording and Playback**

AnalyzeAir enables you to record spectrum data in Spectrum Capture (.CCF) files. You can then play these files back at a later time. Each Spectrum Capture file stores the following information to disk:

- Active Devices A list of active devices vs. time, plus all information needed to reproduce the **Devices View** and any of its subviews and columns for all monitored bands during playback. (During playback you will be able to change columns and see meaningful information that changes with time, just as with live mode.)
- Plot Data All information needed to reproduce any of the Spectrum Plots (except Power vs. Time and Power vs. Frequency these plots will not be available during playback). You can adjust the settings for the other plots and charts during playback.
- **Chart Data** All information needed to reproduce any of the spectrum charts during playback.
- **Reference Information** This includes the date and time of capture, the Windows user/login name, and the Spectrum PC Card Sensor revision and serial number.

The following diagram shows the controls used for spectrum recording and playback.

cancelerb04s.tif

Record Ina	ctive State
↑ Open Capture File	
Go Live Play ↓ ↓	CCF file opened for playback, but not currently playing.
	Tue, Jul 4 2006 10:24:09 AM 1.0 MB
Play Capture File Once or Repeat	CCF File Size
Stop Record/Playback	During Playback / Record (Pause, Slider, and Go Live not used during Record.
	Tue, Jul 4 2006 10:26:59 AM   1.0 MB
Pause Jump to Previous/Next Device Classification Eve	Slider Control Current Time or Playback Time

erb80s.tif

Spectrum Recording and Playback Controls

The controls are described here briefly. You can obtain detailed instructions on recording and playback in the Online Help.

- Open Opens a previously captured .CCF file for playback. You can also select File → Open Capture File. Use the Open Capture File dialog box to select the recording of interest
- Record Opens a dialog box where you can define the name and file location of a .CCF file. Upon closing the dialog box, recording begins automatically. You can also initiate this operation by selecting File → Record Capture File.
- **Play** Starts file playback after you open or pause a .CCF file.
- Play Capture File Once or Repeat After you open a .CCF file, select this to start playback with one of the following options: play to the end of the recording and stop or play to the end and restart the playback.
- Stop Record/Playback Stops the recording process. Also stops the inprogress playback of .CCF file.
- **Go Live** Returns you to live mode. Any playback or recording that was in progress is halted.
- **Pause Playback** Freezes the playout.
- Jump to Previous Device Classification Event Takes you back to the previous event occurrence. For example, an old device went down or a new device came up.

- Jump to Next Classification Event Skips ahead to the next event occurrence. For example, an old device went down or a new device came up.
- **Slider Control** You can use this control to move to any particular time during the playback interval.

You can select any combination of plots or charts during playback.

Just as in a live spectrum session, you can right-click within the display area to get pop-up menus that are used to navigate to specific information. Additionally, you can use all other plot icons and features, such as adding, moving, zooming, and removing a plot or chart during playback.

#### Note

The **Power Vs. Time** and **Power Vs. Frequency** plots are not supported during playback.

A sample spectrum capture file, called **SAMPLE SPECTRUM CAPTURE.CCF**, is included with product installation. This file is located in the directory **SpectrumCaptures**, which is located in the AnalyzeAir main directory. The sample spectrum capture file includes a number of common interfering devices, such as a DECT-like cordless phone, a Bluetooth device, an Analog Video Camera, a microwave, and a wireless access point.

#### What If I'm Not Seeing Any Data?

It may happen that you are viewing one of the AnalyzeAir displays, such as a spectrum plot, but you are not seeing any data or data is missing for part of a plot. (For example, some of the channels on the plot have spectrum data, and others do not.) Or, you may know perfectly well that some kind of interfering device is present in the environment, but the **Devices List** and/or **Device Finder** are not detecting it. This section describes possible causes of this problem.

#### Spectrum PC Card Sensor Not Properly Inserted

There may be a complete lack of communication between the Spectrum PC Card Sensor and the AnalyzeAir software. Typically, if communication is lost with the Sensor, AnalyzeAir displays a warning message, and then shuts down.

To resolve such problems, make sure that the Spectrum PC Card Sensor remains properly seated in the slot.

## Faulty Configuration Settings

You may have set your spectrum plots to display certain channels or bands, but your configuration settings for AnalyzeAir do not include those channels/bands.

To determine if this is the problem—and to rectify if—you need to check your **Channel Settings** and **Monitored Bands** under the AnalyzeAir **Settings** panel. See "Channel Settings" on page 98" and "Monitored Bands" on page 99.

## Erroneous Scale Settings

With the spectrum plots (see "Spectrum Plots" on page 53), it is possible that you may fail to see any data if you have an amplitude setting that is inappropriate for the actual data being monitored. For example, suppose you are monitoring the RF duty cycle and have the amplitude of the vertical axis set to range from 0% to 100% (the default setting). If in fact the actual duty cycle values are very low (say, ranging from 0% to 1% or 2%), you may not see any data.

This can be a particular problem with the **Swept Spectrogram** plot, where RF power values and duty cycle values are mapped to colors. If all the measured data falls in a very narrow range compared with the **Color Scale**, you may see nothing but a solid block of a single color – in fact, you are seeing the correct data, but it seems as if you are seeing no data at all.

Selecting the [Auto Scale] option on these plots should correct this problem, but sometimes it helps to manually alter the measurement scale.

## Wrong Antenna Settings

You may have a Spectrum PC Card Sensor with an external antenna, but you are using the Sensor's internal antenna. (This might account, for instance, for why you might fail to see some interfering devices that you expect to see.) You need to check your **Sensors and Antennas** settings. (See "Sensors and Antennas" on page 96.)

## Miscellaneous Device Issues

There are various RF effects that can prevent or partly hinder device detection. These are discussed in detail under "Miscellaneous Device Issues" on page 81.

# **Active Devices**

The **Active Devices Tree** is usually displayed on the left side of the AnalyzeAir screen. It shows APs, Ad Hocs, and interfering devices provided that these devices (APs and interferers) are currently live (transmitting). It uses a tree structure to organize APs, Ad Hocs, and different types of interfering devices together.

If the **Device Tree** is not showing, you can toggle it into view by selecting **View**  $\rightarrow$  **Device Tree**.

If you double-click on a device, a dialog box appears providing more detail on the device. (You can also right-click on the device and select **What Is This Device?**).



erb05s.tif

#### **Active Devices**

Right-click on any interferer device and select **Find This Device** to activate the **Device Finder**. See "Device Finder" on page 85 for more information.

Note

The **Device Finder** does not find Ad Hoc and 802.11 FH devices, only interferers. If you right-click on one of these devices, you will not be able to select **Find This Device**.

The **Export Data** feature allows you to export all data in the **Active Devices** tree. See "Exporting Data" on page 44 for details.

## **Current Devices vs. Historical Devices**

The **Active Devices Tree** only shows devices which are currently active; that is, devices that were detected as transmitting during the last measurement interval.

For an historical list of detected devices—which includes currently active devices, but also devices which are no longer detected—use the **Devices View**. See "Devices View", on page 77.

## Keeping Your Eye on a Particular Device

If there is a particular device that is of interest to you, you can keep an eye on the device simply by clicking on it. Your selected row will be highlighted.

As new devices are detected (or disappear from view), the **Active Devices** tree will auto-scroll and auto-sort. However, AnalyzeAir will make sure that your highlighted row always remains in view; in other words, auto-scrolling and auto-sorting will be adjusted so that your highlighted row always remains visible on the **Devices** tab.

## Problem Indicators and Security Alerts

AnalyzeAir allows users to configure performance and security alert settings. These settings can are configured in the **Settings – Alert** window from the **Tools** menu. You can assign two severity thresholds: critical and warning.

## Performance Alerts

Performance alerts are triggered based on the Interference Duty Cycle (%) metric and can be identified by the color in which the device displays in the **Active Devices** pane. For a critical alert, the interferer is highlighted in red in the **Active Device** pane. For a warning alert, the interferer is highlighted in yellow.

## Security Alerts

Security alerts are triggered when a device appears that has been selected as a security concern from the **Category** listing.

## Alert Icons

Alert icons display in the **Active Devices** pane when the device triggers a performance alert, a security alert, or both.

This security alert icon appears beside a device when this device category has been selected on the Settings – Alerts window.

A This performance alert icon appears next to an interfering device when the Interference Duty Cycle meets or exceeds the threshold set in the **Settings – Alerts** window.

<sup>1</sup> This double icon is displayed next to a device in the **Active Devices** pane if the device triggers both a security alert and a performance alert.

By default, security alerts are set (checked) for jammers and Wi-Fi Ad Hoc devices. These interferers can potentially overload the network, making it unavailable.

To find out what condition is causing the alert, move the mouse over the icon.

# **Exporting Data**

The **Export Data** feature provides additional functionality to the list of active devices in the **Active Devices** tree. The **Export Data** feature allows you to export device information to a file for future analysis.

From the **Active Devices** tree or the **Devices** tab, you can export data for a single device or you can export the entire list of devices.

To export data for a single device:

- 1. Double-click or right-click on a device on the **Devices Tab** or in the **Active Device** tree to display a pop-up menu.
- 2. Select What Is This Device?
- 3. Right-click in the **Device Parameters** field. Then, select **Export Data** to export data for the device.

To export the entire list of devices:

- 1. Right-click anywhere in the **Active Devices** pane or on the **Devices** tab.
- 2. Select Export Data from the pop-up menu.

Note

The exported data from the Devices tab varies depending on which columns are enabled and whether you are in Tree View or List view.

Following are sample export data files for **Devices View** and for the **Active Device** pane.

#### Sample Export Data File: Devices View

Devices: Currently Active, All Channels

```
Device,Signal Strength (dBm),Duty Cycle (%),Discovery Time,On
Time,Channels Affected,Network ID,Device ID
+ Cordless Phones [1]
DECT-Like Base Station 1,-57.0,1,Tue May 16
15:07:45,00:15:00,"1..6;11..14",63:00:78:9D:00,
+ Wi-Fi Ad Hocs [1]
Sherraton Meetings (Ch 11),-79.0,,Tue May 16
15:15:40,00:07:00,"8..13",3A:5A:07:1C:03:07,3A:5A:07:1C:03:07
+ Wi-Fi APs [1]
Orinoco Upper UNII (Ch 9),-66.0,,Tue May 16
15:07:18,00:15:30,"6..12",00:20:A6:5B:5F:7E,00:20:A6:5B:5F:7E
```

Sample Export Data File: Active Devices Pane

Active Devices

```
+ Wi-Fi Ad Hocs [3]
hpsetup (Ch 10)
Sherraton Meetings (Ch 1)
Sherraton Meetings (Ch 11)
+ Wi-Fi APs [6]
05Z405765564 (Ch 6)
Crusader4wfg88 (Ch 6)
Germantown Wireless (Ch 3)
NETGEAR_11g (Ch 6)
Orinoco Upper UNII (Ch 9)
Planet_B (Ch 1)
```

# Working with Spectrum Tabs, Spectrum Plots, and Charts

As indicated earlier, AnalyzeAir provides two spectrum tabs, **Spectrum** and **Spectrum (2)**. Each tab operates identically. AnalyzeAir has two tabs so that you can create, name, and save distinct configurations of plots and charts. You can have two of them as defaults that automatically appear on these tabs.

Descriptions of the specific charts and plots—including the parameters for fine-tuning the plot/chart content—can be found in the Online Help and under ""Spectrum Plots" on page 53 and "Spectrum Charts" on page 71 of this manual. Here we provide an overview of how to use the **Spectrum** and **Spectrum(2)** tabs to create your custom plot/chart views.

## Creating a Spectrum Plot or Chart

To create a spectrum plot or chart:

1. Right-click in the workspace for the spectrum plots and select Add Plot → <Plot Type> or Add Chart → <Chart Type>.

You can also use the menu **Spectrum**  $\rightarrow$  **Add Plot**  $\rightarrow$  **<Plot Type>** or **Spectrum**  $\rightarrow$  **Add Chart**  $\rightarrow$  **<Chart Type>**.

- 2. Use the **Control** panel at the left of the display to set the parameters for the plot or chart. The particular parameters vary depending on the type of plot. An overview of the **Plot Control** panel is presented under "Plot Content" on page 54. Detailed descriptions of chart parameters are also contained in the AnalyzeAir Online Help system.
  - If you are on a Spectrum tab and the Controls are not visible, select View → Control Panel.
  - To access the Control Panel for a particular plot or chart, use the mouse to click on that plot. (If you have more than one plot in view, then as you click on different plots, the Control Panel will display the configuration options for the currently selected plot.)

## **Multiple Plots**

You can repeat the previous instructions to place more than one plot on display. You can configure any combination of up to nine plots and charts per **Spectrum** tab.

## Measurement Interval

Unless you have paused a plot (see next section), AnalyzeAir updates each plot or chart once per measurement interval, which is typically once every second.

- Plots update once per second.
- Charts update once every 20 seconds.

## Pause and Resume Plots

At times an event may occur in your network, such that you want to immediately capture the RF environment at that moment for sustained study and review. You can pause and resume plots and charts by right-clicking in the workspace and selecting the appropriate menu options, or by selecting these options from the **Spectrum** menu.

- **Pause Selected Items** Freezes the data displayed on the currently selected plots or charts.
- **Resume Selected Items** Resumes the display of data (in real time) for the currently selected plots or charts.

You can also pause a plot by left-clicking on the  $\mathbf{II}$  icon, which is located in the upper right corner of the plot. Likewise, clicking the  $\blacktriangleright$  icon on a paused plot resumes the display of the data.

## **Copying Plots and Charts**

All plots and charts displayed in Spectrum View can be copied and pasted within the pane area of the window. You can use any of the following methods to copy and paste a plot or chart:

- Method 1
  - 1. Click on the top of the plot frame.
  - 2. Press and hold the **<Ctrl>** key.

The cursor changes to indicate copy mode.

- 3. Move the mouse to the desired location.
- 4. Release the mouse button to paste a copy of the plot or chart.

The copied plot or chart is subject to total count checking and PvT/PvF trace limit checking.

- Method 2
  - 1. Select a plot.
  - 2. Press **<Ctrl + C >**.

The selected plot is copied to the clipboard.

- Method 3
  - 1. Left-click or right-click on a plot or chart.
  - 2. Select **Copy** from the **Spectrum** menu.

The selected plot is copied to the clipboard.

# **Cutting Plots and Charts**

Use any of the following three methods to cut a plot or chart:

- Method 1
  - 1. Select a plot or chart.
  - 2. Press <Ctrl + X>.

The plot or chart is removed and copied to the clipboard.

- Method 2
  - 1. Right-click on a plot or chart.
  - 2. Select **Cut** from the pop-up menu.

The plot or chart is removed and copied to the clipboard.

- Method 3
  - 1. Left-click on a plot or chart.
  - 2. Select **Cut** from the **Spectrum** menu.

The plot or chart is removed from the display and copied to the clipboard

# Pasting Plots and Charts from the Clipboard

Spectrum View plots and charts can be retrieved from the clipboard and pasted into your current Spectrum View session or into an additional Spectrum View session running on your machine. The paste feature is subject to total plot/chart count checking and PvT/PvF trace limit checking.

Use either of the following methods to paste a plot from the clipboard. Be sure to cut or copy the plot or chart first (see previous instructions).

- Method 1
  - 1. Right-click within the **Spectrum View** pane to display the pop-up menu.
  - 2. Select Paste or press <Ctrl + V>.

The plot or chart is pasted to the end of the view.

- Method 2
  - 1. Select one of the Spectrum views.
  - 2. Select Paste from the Spectrum menu.

The plot or chart is pasted to the end of the view.

# **Removing Plots and Charts**

Use the following methods to remove a plot or chart.

- Method 1
  - 1. Right-click on the plot or chart.
  - 2. From the pop-up menu, select Remove Selected Item....
  - 3. On the confirmation dialog box, select [Yes].

The plot or chart is removed.

- Method 2
  - 1. Left-click on the plot or chart.
  - 2. Select Spectrum → Remove Selected Item...

The plot or chart is removed

• Method 3

Right-click on the  ${\bf X}$  icon located in the upper right-hand corner of the plot.

The plot or chart is removed

## **Moving Plots and Charts**

All plots and charts displayed in Spectrum View can be moved within the pane area of the window.

- Method 1
  - 1. Left-click on the top banner of the plot frame.
  - 2. Drag the plot to the desired location. A blinking vertical line indicates the new location.
  - 3. Release the mouse button.

The plot or chart is moved to the new location.

- Method 2
  - 1. Right-click on the top banner of the plot frame.
  - 2. Drag the plot to the desired location.

A blinking vertical line indicates the new location.

3. Release the mouse button to drop the plot in the new location.

A pop-up menu displays.

- 4. Select one of the following options:
  - **Copy** pastes a duplicate of the original plot in this location.
  - Move Here relocates the original plot to this location.
  - **Cancel** terminates the operation.

## Selecting Multiple Plots and Charts

In cases where you need to perform the same operation on more than one plot or chart, multiple plots and charts can be selected. For example, you may want to remove, pause, or resume more than one plot at the same time.

Note

When multiple plots and charts are selected, the control panel displays a message indicating that no control are available for configuring plots and charts.

Multiple plots and charts can be selected as follows:

- 1. Hold down the **<Ctrl>** key.
- 2. Left-click each plot to select it.

## Zooming In or Out

For optimal viewing, a plot or chart can be maximized (zoom in) and minimized (zoom out) to its original size. A plot or chart in **Zoom In** mode is indicated by an orange background. Additionally, you can zoom in/out on up to four plots or charts at the same time.

## Zooming In or Out on a Single Plot or Chart

Use one of the following methods to zoom in or out on a single plot or chart:

- Method 1
  - 1. Click the Zoom In <sup>(a)</sup> icon located in the upper right corner of the plot to maximize the plot or chart.
  - 2. Click the Zoom Out Q icon to minimize it.
- Method 2
  - 1. Double-click the frame of the plot or chart to maximize it.
  - 2. Double-click the frame of the plot or chart to minimize it.

- Method 3
  - 1. Select a plot or chart.
  - 2. Do one of the following:
    - Select **Zoom In** or **Zoom Out** from the **Spectrum** menu.

OR

• Right-click on the plot or chart to display the pop-up menu. Then, select **Zoom In** or **Zoom Out**.

## Zooming In or Out on Multiple Plots

Use one of the following methods to zoom in/out on multiple (up to four) plots or charts:

- Method 1
  - 1. Hold down the **<Ctrl>** key.
  - 2. Select the desired plots or charts.
  - 3. While holding the **<Ctrl>** key, do the following:
    - Double-click one of the plot or chart frames to zoom in.
    - Double-click one of the zoomed-in plot or chart frames to minimize them all.
- Method 2
  - 1. Hold down the **<Ctrl>** key.
  - 2. Select the desired plots or charts.
  - 3. From the **Spectrum** menu, select **Zoom In** to maximize or **Zoom Out** to minimize the plots or charts.

## Setting Plot and Chart Parameters

To set plot or chart parameters once the plot/chart is created, simply click on the plot or chart. The **Plot Controls** panel appears on the left side of the screen. Refer to "Control Panel" on page 32 for additional information on using the **Plot Controls** panel.

# Saving and Restoring Spectrum View Layouts

Other operations are available for working with plots and charts. The following operations can all be selected from the **Spectrum** menu: **Open Spectrum View Configuration..., New Spectrum View Configuration..., New Spectrum View Configuration..., and Remove Selected Items**.

Note

All these operations can also be selected by right-clicking on a plot or chart and selecting from the context menu that appears.

- Save Spectrum View Configuration Enables you to save the current configuration of open plots and charts, including their specific display parameters. The current data, however, is not saved.
  - 1. In the **Save Spectrum View Configuration** dialog, type in the **Name** for your configuration or select the name of a previously defined configuration.

Note

The name you type also appears on the **Spectrum** and **Spectrum(2)** tabs, so we suggest that you use something short but descriptive, for example, "Plots Only", "Charts Only", "Duty Cycle Charts and Plot", or "Devices and RF Power".

2. To make the current configuration the default configuration, be sure to first select the **Set As Startup Default For This View** check box. If you select this, the current configuration appears every time you start AnalyzeAir and select the current tab.

Note

You can save a separate default view for each **Spectrum** tab.

- 3. Click [OK].
- **Open Spectrum View Configuration...** The dialog box for this operation will list all of your currently saved spectrum views. Select one view and then click **[OK]**.
- New Spectrum View Configuration This operation clears all currently displayed plots.
- **Remove Selected Items** This operation will close only the currently selected plots or charts.

## **Deleting a Spectrum View**

To delete a saved spectrum view:

- 1. Do one of the following:
  - Right-click on a plot title and select Save Spectrum View Configuration...

OR

- Select Spectrum → Save Spectrum View Configuration.
- 2. In the **Save Spectrum View Configuration** dialog, select an existing view.
- 3. Select Remove saved configuration....
- 4. Click **[OK]** in the confirmation dialog box.

## **Exporting Data**

In a Spectrum view, the **Export Data** feature allows you to export plot or chart information to a file for future analysis. You can export data from a single plot or chart or from multiple plots or charts.

## From a Single Plot or Chart

Use one of the following methods to export data from a single plot or chart:

- Method 1
  - 1. Select the plot or chart.
  - 2. From the **Spectrum** menu, select **Export Selected Items Data...** to export data from the plot or chart to a user-specified file.
- Method 2
  - 1. Select the plot or chart.
  - 2. Right-click on its title to display a pop-up menu.
  - 3. Select **Export Selected Items Data...** to export data for your selections to a user-specified file.
- Method 3
  - 1. Right-click inside a plot or chart area to display a pop-up menu.
  - 2. Select **Export Selected Items Data...** to export data for your selections to a user-specified file.

# From Multiple Plots or Charts

To export data from multiple (up to nine) plots or charts:

- 1. Press and hold the **Ctrl** key while selecting the desired plots or charts.
- 2. Do one of the following:
  - From the Spectrum menu, select Export Selected Items Data... to export data from your selections to a user-specified file.
     OR
  - Right-click on the title of one of the selected plots or charts and then selct **Export Selected Items Data...** from the pop-up menu to export data from your selections to a user-specified file.

## Sample Export Data File

A sample exported data file for an Interference Power chart is as follows:

Interference Power
Vertical Scale:,10 dBm /
Channel,Wi-Fi AP,Total,Bluetooth Devices,Cordless
Phones,Continuous,Thermal Noise
Wi-Fi Ch. 1,,-60.2,,-60.3,-80.4,-93.0
Wi-Fi Ch. 5,,-58.7,-63.9,-60.4,-75.1,-93.0

# **Spectrum Plots**

The **Spectrum Plots** use graphical displays to provide detailed, low-level views of the RF spectrum. The plots are based on data from the Spectrum PC Card Sensor. In this section, we explain the information displayed in each plot.

Note

**Spectrum Charts** are discussed under "Spectrum Charts" on page 71.

## Using Spectrum View Plots

For a discussion of creating spectrum plots, pausing and resuming the display, and saving plot configurations, see "Working with Spectrum Tabs, Spectrum Plots, and Charts" on page 45. For a discussion of how to fine-tune the display of data for each plot, see "Spectrum Plot Controls" on page 62.

## Plot Content

Spectrum View offers five different types of plots. We list all five plots here, and provide more detailed discussion in the following pages. Further information is available in the Online Help.

## Frequency-Based Plots

There are four plots which offer different views of RF power as a function of frequency. For these plots, the entire plot is updated once per measurement interval (approximately once per second):

- Real Time FFT
- Power vs. Frequency
- FFT Duty Cycle
- Swept Spectrogram Combines a time- and frequency-based view of the RF spectrum.

## Time-Based Plot

This plot shows the variation of an RF metric over time.

**Power vs. Time** – Plots data based on short time intervals (milliseconds). Mainly used for pulse detection.

## Real Time FFT Plot

A **Real Time FFT** plot displays RF power as a function of frequency, or in technical terms, a Fourier transform of the RF spectrum. The plot can provide three different views: the average power (**Avg**) read during the most recent measurement interval; the maximum power (**Max**); or the maximum power detected at any time since the plot began running (**Max Hold**, meaning the plot holds onto the maximum power up to now).

See "Real Time FFT Plot Compared with the Power vs. Frequency Plot" on page 56 for more information.

## Power vs. Frequency

The **Power vs. Frequency** plot is also a Fourier transform of the RF spectrum, showing the amount of RF power detected at various frequencies. The difference between this plot and the **Real Time FFT** plot is that the **Power vs. Frequency** plot is generated based on an analysis of Sensor data. This means that data can be aggregated and combined in various ways that are not possible with direct Sensor data, the basis for the **Real Time FFT** plot.

The information under "Real Time FFT Plot Compared with the Power vs. Frequency Plot" on page 56 compares the **Real Time FFT** plot with the **Power vs. Frequency** plot.

Four of the five spectrum plots are shown in the following figure. The highlighted plot (**Swept Spectrogram**, which has a pale orange background color, rather than pale blue), is the currently selected plot. (You select a plot by clicking on it.)

So, for example, if you select **Spectrum**  $\rightarrow$  **Pause Selected Items**, it is the **Swept Spectrogram** plot which is paused.



erb25s.tif

Power vs. Frequency, FFT, FFT Duty Cycle, and Swept Spectrogram

## FFT Duty Cycle

The **FFT Duty Cycle** plot displays the percentage of the time that the ambient RF signal is 20 dB above the noise floor. (This is represented on a perfrequency bin basis.) The **Duty Cycle** for the **FFT Duty Cycle** plot includes all RF energy, both from 802.11 devices and interferers.

## Swept Spectrogram

The **Swept Spectrogram** is a different presentation of the data shown in the **Real Time FFT** and **FFT Duty Cycle** plots. Each colored horizontal line in the **Swept Spectrogram** plot displays the RF power or duty cycle as a function of frequency, as measured over the time period of one sweep in time (typically one second). The power or duty cycle values in each sweep are mapped to a range of colors, and displayed in a scrolling or "waterfall" display. This allows you to observe the FFT signals over historical time, and easily see signals with shifting frequencies and various durations. (You select between the power or duty cycle metrics using the **Control Panel**.) See "Interpreting the Swept Spectrogram Plot" on page 59 for more information.

Note

The color legend for the **Swept Spectrogram** is only displayed if there is enough room on screen. Depending on your display resolution, and on how many plots you have open at once, you may need to close some other plots in order to see the mapping of colors to power levels.

## Power vs. Time

The **Power vs. Time** plot displays RF power as a function of time. The time scales involved are very brief—microseconds or milliseconds—so the plot is mainly used to observe RF pulse activity.

## Real Time FFT Plot Compared with the Power vs. Frequency Plot

Both the **Real Time FFT** plot and the **Power vs. Frequency** plot show RF power as a function of frequency at a given moment in time.



erb74s.tif



However, the two plots differ in important respects, as described in the following table.

Property	Real Time FFT Plot	Power vs. Frequency Plot			
Data Source	Spectrum PC Card Sensor Hardware: Raw spectrum data is collected inside the Sensor, and statistical analysis is also performed directly by the Sensor's onboard hardware. This enables very fast analysis of large quantities of spectrum data, but with the limitation that the parameters of the analysis are hard-coded into the design of the Sensor.	Spectrum PC Card Sensor plus Microprocessor Software: Raw spectrum data is provided by the Sensor and is then analyzed by software running on the CPU inside the laptop PC. This software analysis of the spectrum data provides greater flexibility in the analysis, but with the trade-off that less data can be analyzed in a given time frame.			
Dwells	For both the <b>Real Time FFT</b> and the <b>Power vs. Frequency</b> plots, the FFT analysis is performed on only 20 MHz of the band at one time. Each 20 MHz span is referred to as a "dwell." By measuring several successive, adjacent dwells, it is possible to construct a plot which is essentially similar to a Fourier transform of the entire band (2.4 GHz, 5 GHz, etc.).				
Bins and Bin Sizes	Each 20 MHz dwell is divided into 128 bins, where each bin is 156 KHz wide. A power measurement is provided for each bin. The number of bins, and the bandwidth of each bin, is fixed.	With advanced software analysis, the number of bins and the bandwidth of each bin are user-defined, so you can achieve much finer granularity in your power measurements. For example, a single bin can be as narrow as about 9.7 KHz. To get the number of bins (data points on the plot), divide the span being measured by the RBW. For example, a 20 MHz span, with an RBW of about 20 KHz, will have about 1000 points (bins) on the plot.			

Table 3.	Differences	between the	e Real Tin	ne FFT Plot	and Power vs	s. Frequency	Plot

Property	Real Time FFT Plot	Power vs. Frequency Plot
Number of FFTs Per Plot	The <b>Real Time FFT</b> Plot is updated once per second. Each plot is actually an average over the 5000 FFTs performed by the Sensor during each dwell.	The software-based <b>Power vs.</b> <b>Frequency</b> calculations generate only one FFT per second. That one FFT is shown in the <b>Power vs. Frequency</b> plot (which is updated once per second, to reflect the new FFT).
		If you have set the plot to show an <b>Average</b> over all FFTs, the calculation is based on an average of several preceding FFTs that were plotted; however, each successive second in real time only contributes one new FFT to that average. <sup>2</sup>
Max Mode	One of the plotting options is to display the maximum RF power seen during the measurement interval. This is possible because the maximum power can be selected from among the 5000 FFTs.	A maximum power plot cannot be created because actual data is available for only one FFT per second (rather than having data for 5000 FFTs, as with the real- time plot).
Advantage of Using This Plot	Because the plot shows an average of all 5000 FFT measurements made by the Sensor in a second, you are more likely to see spectrum results from devices that are frequency hoppers, or bursty transmitters.	You can achieve much finer control over the granularity of the spectra that you see.
Disadvantage of Using This Plot	You cannot control the granularity of the spectrum.	Since you only see one FFT for the entire one-second measurement interval, you are less likely to see either frequency hoppers or bursty devices.

Table 2	Difforoncoc	botwoon the	Dool 7	Timo EET	Diat and I	Dowor ve	Eroquon	ov Diot	(continued)
i able 3.	Differences	Delween lie	near		FIUL AITU I		Frequeir		(Continueu)

Property	Real Time FFT Plot	Power vs. Frequency Plot
Playback Mode	This plot can be played back historically, as well as viewed in real time.	This plot can only be viewed in real time, not historically.
Primary Application	The primary use of this plot is for looking at broad RF spectrum activity, covering an entire band. This is useful for tasks like site surveys and initial network deployment.	The primary use of this plot is for troubleshooting, particularly for identifying and analyzing the spectrum behavior of an unknown interferer. It is often most effective when looking at less than a full band.

Table 3	Differences	hetween t	he Real	Time FF	T Plot and	Power ve	Frequenc		(continued	h
i able 3.	Differences	Dermeenr	ne neai	типе гг	T FIUL and	FOWER VS.	riequenc	y FIUL	Continueu	J

<sup>2</sup> This applies to **Power vs. Frequency** plots only and not to the **Real Time FFTs**. When you create the **Power vs. Frequency** plot, the very first plot shows a single FFT. And—again, assuming the plot is set to be in "Averaging" mode—the second plot adds one new FFT, and averages that with the FFT from the first plot. Each second, one more FFT is added to the average. However – the average is not performed over all preceding FFTs, but only for a more limited number, those included in a process known as "video averaging."

## Interpreting the Swept Spectrogram Plot

This section provides an illustrated discussion of interpreting the visual display in the **Swept Spectrogram** plot. Color coding is used to indicate intensity of either RF power or RF duty cycle (depending on which you choose to plot, using the **Spectrum Control Panel**).

<ul> <li>√-113 dBm</li> </ul>		-42 dBm▶
		eib16s.bmp
	Swept Spectrogram Color Mappings: RF Power	

Swept Spectrogram Color Mappings: Duty Cycle

Shown below is a comparison of how the same RF power measurements might look if plotted using a standard line graph—with the height of the graph indicating RF power—compared to using colors on a straight line as a means to indicate power levels. Here, blue indicates less power, yellow indicates more power, and red indicates the most power.



erb30s.tif

## **Time T = 1**:



erb31s.tif

This is the very first sweep you would see upon starting the plot. It represents the RF power (average power, or maximum power, or duty cycle power, per your selection) as a function of frequency — and at the present moment.

The amount of power at each frequency is represented through the color coding scheme.

**Time T = 2**:



erb32s.tif

In the next measurement interval (typically one second later), the previous measurement "slides up" one level, becoming **Sweep –1**. A new sweep, representing "now", replaces it at the bottom, becoming the new **Sweep 0**.

## Time T = n:



erb33s.tif

We continue, measurement interval after measurement interval, with older measurements of RF power sliding up, and the latest "now" appearing at the bottom. By mentally visualizing a vertical "slice" of the graph, you can see how the power levels have changed at a selected frequency going back in time. (The Up arrow points from the present to the past.)

## What If No Data Is Showing?

#### Note

Under "What If I'm Not Seeing Any Data? on page 40, we discuss several potential reasons why you may see no data or appear to see no data in AnalyzeAir. We repeat here, in summary form, one particular issue which is unique to the spectrum plots: incorrect amplitude settings.

With spectrum plots, you may fail to see any data if the range of the amplitude setting (the lowest and highest power values shown on the plot) is inappropriate for the actual data being monitored. This can be a problem with any of the plots, but particularly with the **Swept Spectrogram**, where RF power values and duty cycle values are mapped to colors.

If all the measured data falls in a very narrow range compared with the **Color Scale**, you may see nothing but a solid block of a single color – in fact, you are seeing the correct data, but it seems as if you are seeing no data at all. Selecting the **[Auto Scale]** option on these plots should correct this problem, but sometimes it helps to manually adjust the measurement scale. See "Amplitude" on page 63.

#### Spectrum Plot Controls

The plot **Control Panel** lets you fine-tune the data presented by the plots. Each plot has its own plot-appropriate controls. However, many of these controls are common to more than one plot. We discuss the typical controls here. The Online Help fills in additional plot-specific details.

#### Frequency and Bandwidth to Monitor

Several plots provide measurements of RF power (average power, maximum power, etc.) as a function of frequency. The RF frequencies are presented as a range across the horizontal axis. **Frequency** settings enable you to establish the range of the X-axis. Even for the time-based plots, however, you can still set the band and/or channel that AnalyzeAir will monitor.

Control Pane	2	ųΧ	Control Pan	el	ųΧ	E	Frequency	Start/Stop Freq 🗸	-	Control Pan	el	ņ
Frequency	Center Freq/Span	× ^	E Frequency	Center Freq/Span	× ^		Band	2.4 - 2.5 GHz Band	E	Frequency	By Channel	•
Band	Center Freq/Span Start/Stop Freq	-V	Band	2.4 - 2.5 GHz Band			Start	2.400 GHz		Channel	WiFi Ch. 9	
Center	By Channel		Center	2.450 GHz			Stop	2.500 GHz		Center	2.452 GHz	
Span	100.00 MHz		Span	100.00 MHz				erb72s.bmp		Span	22.03 MHz	
	e	rb70s.tif		e	rb71s.t	if			_		e	erb7

You can select the frequency to be monitored based on a **Center Frequency** and **Span**, a **Start/Stop** frequency, or specific **Channels**. After you make a selection, AnalyzeAir automatically fills in default values for the **Center** frequency and **Span**, or the **Start** and **Stop** frequency. However, you can edit these default values.

- If you change the default **Center** frequency and frequency **Span**, or the **Start** and **Stop** frequencies, you may no longer be plotting entirely "in channel" or "in band." However, AnalyzeAir will *not* permit you to set frequencies that are outside the hardware capabilities of the sensor technology. In this sense, the technology is "error proof".
- You can change the bands available here—that is, the bands shown on the Frequency menus—by changing the Monitored Bands settings (Tools → Settings → Monitored Bands). See "Monitored Bands" on page 99 for more information.
- You can change the channels available here by changing your Channel Settings (Tools → Settings → Channel Settings). See "Channel Settings" on page 98.

Note

AnalyzeAir will only make available for selection those channels that you have selected under **Channel Settings** provided that those channels also fall within the bands you have selected under **Monitored Bands**.

The **Power vs. Frequency** plot also has a **Bandwidth** setting, which determines the size of each bin for RF power measurements. See "Power vs. Frequency Plot" on page 68.



erb34s.tif

## Amplitude

**Amplitude** settings enable you to set the scale for the vertical axis. The exact measurements will depend on the type of measurement being made. For example, RF power measurements are in dBm, while duty cycle measurements are in percentages (since the duty cycle is typically defined as the percentage of time an RF signal is above some threshold value; or the percentage of time an RF signal is detected from a network device or interferer).

Ξ	Amplitude	Auto Scale
	Reference L	-20 dBm
	Vertical Scak	10 dB /

erb35s.tif

**Reference Level** refers to the value at the top of the vertical axis.

**Vertical Scale** refers to the change in value represented by each tic-mark on the vertical axis.

In general, the bottom of the scale is **Reference Level** – (10 \* Vertical Scale).

**Example**: If the **Reference Level** is -25 dBm, and the **Vertical Scale** is set to 8 dBm, then the top of the scale is -25 dBm, while the bottom of the scale is - 25 dBm – (10 \* 8 dBm) = -105 dBm.

If you click **[AutoScale]**, AnalyzeAir automatically selects the optimum calibration for the vertical scale, based on recent power measurements.



erb36s.tif

## Trace Settings

A trace is the line that actually plots the RF data of interest.

You must select the **On** radio button for at least one **Trace**, in order to see any data at all.

Ξ	Trace 1	⊙On ○Off Clear
	Туре	Max
Ξ	Trace 2	⊙On ○Off Clear
	Туре	Max Hold
Ξ	Trace 3	⊙On ○Off Clear
	Туре	Average 📃

erb37s.bmp

For some plots, you can have more than one **Trace**, and you can select the type of data each trace displays (such as **Average** RF power, **Max**imum RF power, **Max Hold** RF power, **Max – 5 Sweeps**, etc.). The Online Help describes these options in detail.

**Max Hold** maintains a display of the highest RF power measured since you began the current session. The **[Clear]** button deletes the **Max Hold Trace** and starts a new maximum power trace, starting from the moment when **[Clear]** is selected.
# Markers

A marker is a small icon on the plot which "rides" the graph at a particular point along the X-axis, in other words, at a particular frequency. The marker moves up and down according to the movement of the graph at that fixed point. The marker is the small red box riding the bottom trace in the plot shown here:



erb38s.tif

• **On / Off** – Indicates whether the marker is on or off; that is, in use at all.

Ξ	Marker 1	⊙ On ◯ Off
	Туре	Single
	Trace	Trace 1
	Value	2.450 GHz

erb39s.bmp

- **Type** A single marker is a marker that "rides" the trace. If you select **Delta**, you will initially still see a single marker on the plot. However, you can grab the marker with your mouse pointer (click and hold on the marker), and slide the marker to a second location on the plot. You now have two markers riding the trace, so that you can see the difference in behavior between two different frequencies.
- **Trace** For plots that allow more than one trace, use the drop-down list box to select which of the traces the marker will ride.
- **Value** Indicates where along the X-axis (the frequency or time axis) the marker should ride the plot.
- You can indicate the frequency value using the **Value** text box. However, once the marker is visible on screen, you can grab the marker (click and hold the left mouse button), and drag the marker to a new location (a new frequency or time).

## Setting the X-Axis Position of Delta Markers

For more extensive instructions on setting the X-axis position of dual markers, see the AnalyzeAir Online Help, in particular the topic "Setting Delta Marker Positions".

## Channels

Some of the spectrum plots use frequency values on the horizontal axis. On these plots you have, as an option, the ability to superimpose bracketed indicators of channels, as illustrated here.

You can turn the display **On** or **Off** using the **Channels** radio buttons.



erb11s.tif

The channels shown will be the ones appropriate for the band you are currently monitoring, taking into account any regulatory domains you have selected under **Channel Settings**.

Note

Even if you turn **Channels** to **On**, they are not shown if the span of the plot is 20 MHz or less.



erb38s.tif

# Other Plot Control Panel Settings

This section describes other Plot Control Panel settings.

## Power vs. Time

The **Power Vs. Time** plot is used to display short burst of RF activity, known as "pulses".

• Sweep Time – This sets the time scale over which pulse activity is measured. Specifically, it sets the range of the X-axis, which will run from a low value of –SweepTime up to the present. You can use the spin control to change the setting, or type in a value directly. Type "ms" for milliseconds and "us" for microseconds. For example: **150** us.

The plot also has a specialized **Bandwidth** setting:

- **RBW** Determines the span of the spectrum monitored for power. This works in conjunction with the **Center Frequency** setting for the same plot. The low end of the monitored band is **Center Frequency** – **RBW/2**, and the high end is **Center Frequency** + **RBW/2**.
- **Autoselect** Select this check box to have AnalyzeAir automatically determine the optimum bandwidth to monitor.

## Note

This is not the same definition for **RBW** that applies for the **Power vs. Frequency** plot (discussed later), where **RBW** sets the bin size for the X-axis.

The **Power vs. Time** plot also has a series of **Trigger** settings. **Trigger** criteria determine both what kinds of RF pulses are displayed, and when the display is updated.

- **Trigger Type** This determines when the plot is updated.
  - Free Run RF energy (in your selected bandwidth) is sampled on a continuous basis, and data is "dumped" to the screen as it is available. This means the display is updated on a nearly constant basis, and data is shown whether or not any RF pulses are detected.
  - Single This catches a single pulse only. The display is only updated when an RF pulse is detected which matches your Trigger Threshold criteria (discussed later). If you select Single, you must then click [Arm] (discussed later).

Once such a pulse event is detected, it is displayed on the plot, and the plot is then frozen – no further activity is displayed. To catch any further pulses, you click again on **[Arm]**.

- Continuous The plot is only updated when AnalyzeAir detects RF pulses which match your Trigger Threshold criteria. However, after detecting a pulse, the plot automatically "rearms" itself, meaning every time a new pulse comes along, the plot is updated with new data. (Once again, the pulses are only shown if they also fall within the bandwidth you have indicated, using the options described earlier.)
- [Arm] If you have selected a Trigger Type of Single, click [Arm] to tell AnalyzeAir to be on the lookout for the next pulse that comes along.

• **Trigger Threshold** – This indicates the minimum power that an RF pulse must attain in order to register as a pulse, for purposes of this plot. That is, in order to be counted as a pulse at all, for purposes of this plot, an RF pulse must exceed the amount of power you indicate here. Units are in dBm, where 0 dBm is equivalent to 1 milliwatt.

For example, if you indicate -10 dBm, then a pulse which reaches -5 dBm will be displayed, while a pulse whose maximum power is only -12 dBm will not be displayed.

#### Note

After the trigger line is shown on screen (as a white horizontal line), you can also change the setting by clicking and holding the line with the mouse and then dragging it up or down. The current **Threshold** is displayed on the plot just above the line.

 Trigger Delay – This adjusts the centering of a pulse on your display. The default value is 0. With this setting, the beginning of an RF pulse is always centered on the midline of the time axis. If you set this to a positive value, the beginning of the RF pulse is offset to the left. If you set this to a negative value, the beginning of the pulse is offset to the right.

#### Power vs. Frequency Plot

- Bandwidth The Power vs. Frequency plot has a Bandwidth setting, which determines the size of each bin for RF power measurements. A "bin" is the smallest span of spectrum for which power measurements are displayed.
  - Autoselect If you select this check box, AnalyzeAir automatically picks the optimum bin size. The value selected by AnalyzeAir will vary depending on the total bandwidth you choose to measure (using the Frequency settings).
  - **RBW RBW** stands for "resolution bandwidth". Effectively, the bin sizes for RF power measurements will be just slightly larger than the value that you enter here. (So, for example, if you enter 60 kHz, your bins will be roughly 70 to 90 kHz wide.) You can only enter a value here if you first de-select the **Autoselect** check box.

# Note

This is not the same definition for **RBW** that applies for the **Power vs. Time** plot (discussed earlier), where **RBW** sets the size of the total bandwidth being monitored. When you enter a value for **RBW** for the **Power vs. Frequency** plot, AnalyzeAir may "auto-adjust" your entry to the nearest valid value. The formal definition of **RBW** is the 3 dB bandwidth of the detection filter. The **RBW** determines the minimum frequency spacing that is allowed between two pure frequencies, in order for the frequencies to actually be distinguished as separate signals.

**Example**: If **RBW** is set to 70 kHz, then two signals which are separated by only 60 kHz in frequency will appear as one signal, with a combined power measurement for both signals.

**Total Number of Bins** – The total number of bins is approximately the Span being monitored divided by the RBW.

For example, if a 100 MHz span of the spectrum is being viewed—and if that span is divided into bins of 2 MHz in size—then the plot displays 50 separate power readings, indicating the power detected in each separate 2 MHz bin.

#### Note

The minimum number of bins is never less than 16, and the maximum number of bins on the plot is at most 1024. If you try to establish settings for the Span and RBW which would cause higher or lower bin values, AnalyzeAir will auto-adjust the **RBW** or **Span** setting to bring the number of bins within the allowed range.

The **Power Vs. Frequency** plot also has a series of **Trigger** settings, similar to those for **Power Vs. Time**:

- **Trigger Type** This determines when the plot is updated. Use the drop-down list box to select one of the three options.
  - Free Run RF energy (in your selected bandwidth) is sampled on a continuous basis, and data is "dumped" to the screen as it is available.
  - Single –The display is only updated when RF energy is detected which matches your Trigger Threshold criteria (discussed later). If you select Single, you must then click on [Arm] (discussed later).

After such RF energy is detected, it is displayed on the plot, and the plot is then frozen – no further activity is displayed. To catch any further activity, you click **[Arm]** again.

 Continuous – The plot is only updated when AnalyzeAir detects RF energy that matches your Trigger Threshold criteria. However, the plot automatically "re-arms" itself, meaning every time a RF energy comes along which exceeds the Trigger Threshold, the plot is updated with new data.

- [Arm] If you have selected a Trigger Type of Single, click [Arm] to tell AnalyzeAir to be on the lookout for the RF energy which exceeds your Trigger Threshold.
- Trigger Threshold This indicates the minimum RF power must be seen in order to update the plot. Units are in dBm, where 0 dBm is equivalent to 1 milliwatt.

For example, if you indicate -10 dBm, then RF energy which reaches -5 dBm will cause the display to be updated, while RF energy below -10 dBm does not result in any update.

#### Note

After the trigger line is shown on screen (as a white horizontal line), you can also change the setting by clicking-and-holding on the line with the mouse, and dragging it up or down. The current **Threshold** is displayed on the plot, just above the line.

#### Swept Spectrogram

The **Swept Spectrogram** plot uses colors to represent RF power levels. The Color Scale options enable you to map the "highest color" and "lowest color" to specific power levels.

4	-1	1	0	d	В	m

-30 dBm 🕨

erh40s hmn

Here, the color blue has been mapped to -110 dBm, while Red has been mapped to -30 dBm.

Values below the minimum value (-110 dBm, in this case) are automatically mapped to purple, while values above the maximum value (-30 dBm here) are automatically mapped to white.

Ξ	Color Scale		Auto Scale
	Maximum	-30 dBm	
	Minimum	-110 dBm	

erb41s.tif

## Note

For the **Swept Spectrogram**, the color scale is only visible when there is enough room to display it on screen. Depending on how many plots you have open, and on your display monitor resolution, you may need to close some plots to see the color scale.

[Auto Scale] chooses appropriate upper- and lower-values based on recent power measurements.

# FFT Duty Cycle Plot

For the **FFT Duty Cycle** plot, the scale of the Y-axis is based on a **Maximum** and **Minimum**, where (typically) the **Maximum** would be 100% and the **Minimum** would be 0%.

# Spectrum Charts

The AnalyzeAir Spectrum Charts use bar, line, and pie charts to provide broad summary information about activity in the RF spectrum. Like the spectrum plots, the spectrum charts are based on data from the Spectrum PC Card Sensor. In this section, we explain the kinds of information displayed in each graph.

# **Using Spectrum View Charts**

For a discussion of creating charts, pausing/resuming the display, and saving chart configurations, see "Working with Spectrum Tabs, Spectrum Plots, and Charts" on page 45.

Note

Spectrum Plots are discussed under "Spectrum Plots" on page 53.

# **Chart Content**

Spectrum View offers six different types of charts. We list all of them here and provide more detailed discussion in the following pages.

- Active Devices
- Devices vs. Channel
- Devices vs. Time
- Channel Utilization
- Channel Utilization vs. Time
- Interference Power

#### Active Devices

A pie chart indicates—via different sized "slices" of the pie—what percentage of your RF activity is coming from different kinds of RF sources. You select which channel / band to monitor.

## Devices vs. Channel

A bar chart displays the number of devices detected on different channels. You can select which frequency bands or channels will be monitored.

## Devices vs. Time

A line chart displays the number of devices detected at different times. You can select the time interval of interest (ranging from ten minutes up to 24 hours), the channel or band to monitor, and the types of devices which will be tracked on the plot.

## Channel Utilization

A bar chart displays RF duty cycle as a function of channel. You can select which frequency bands or channels will be plotted. The stacked bars represent each user selected channel. A stacked bar consists of several colored segments that represent the duty cycle of each device that is contributing to the overall duty cycle of that channel..

Two performance alert thresholds are displayed in the background of the chart. The threshold values and colors are the same as in the **Channel Summary View**. The red background color represents the critical threshold and yellow represents the warning threshold. The default threshold values are 50% (critical) and 25% (warning).

# Channel Utilization vs. Time

A line chart displays RF duty cycle as a function of time. You can select the time interval of interest (ranging from ten minutes up to 24 hours) and the channel or band to monitor. For longer time intervals, you can also select how data is aggregated – that is, you can track the average duty cycle, the maximum duty cycle, or the minimum duty cycle.

As with the **Channel Utilization** chart, performance alert thresholds are displayed in the background of the chart. The threshold values and colors are the same as in the **Channel Summary View**. The red background color represents the critical threshold and yellow represents the warning threshold. The default threshold values are 50% (critical) and 25% (warning).



erb12s.tif

Spectrum Charts

erb13s.tif

# Interference Power

A bar chart shows the total power for each selected channel. The height of the bar indicates the total power of all interference signals. Each bar consists of several lines representing the signal strength of a specific device type. The receive signal strength of the strongest Wi-Fi AP on each channel is shown by a + (plus) sign.

Interferen	nce Power	॥?®,×
Vertical S	Gicale: 10 dBm / + Wi-Fi AP Cordless Phones - Wi-Fi ACI al Noise	
0 dBm	2.4 - 2.5 GHz Band 5.15 - 5.35 GHz Band	5.725 - 5.850
-50 dBm		
-100 dBm	1 3 5 7 9 11 13 36 44 52 60 <sup>-</sup>	149 157 165

Interference Power Chart for Wi-Fi

The **X**-axis shows the channels, and the **Y**-axis shows the signal strength (from -100 dBm to 0 dBm). The height of the bar indicates the cumulative power (in dBm) for all devices in this category that affect a given channel.

To view channel and power information:

- Place the mouse to hover over a stacked bar to view pop-up information about the channel, total power, and the signal strength of each interfering device. Or, place the mouse to hover over a + sign to view pop-up information about the channel and the signal strength of the strongest Wi-Fi AP.
- Right-click either a stacked bar or + sign to view the same pop-up menu available on the **Devices vs. Channel** chart.

# Navigating to Other Views

You can right-click the bars and graph lines on certain charts to obtain additional information on a particular channel. You can navigate from **Spectrum View** to **Devices** or **Channel Summary View**.

On the following plots/charts: Channel Utilization, Devices vs. Channel, Real Time FFT, FFT Duty Cycle, Swept Spectrogram, and Power vs. Frequency right-click on a channel bar (or anywhere in the workspace of the plot) to display the pop-up menu. Select Show Devices Affecting <channel ID> to display the active devices in Devices View. Select Show Channel <channel ID> to display related data on this channel (highlighted in blue) in Channel Summary View.

# **Chart Controls**

The chart **Control Panel** lets you fine-tune the data presented by the charts. Concerning band and channel selections, first note the following:

- You can change the bands available here—that is, the bands shown on the Channel menus—by changing the Monitored Bands settings (Tools → Settings → Monitored Bands). See "Monitored Bands" on page 99 for more information.
- You can change the channels available here by changing your Channel Settings. (Tools → Settings → Channel Settings). See "Channel Settings" on page 98.

Note

AnalyzeAir will only make available, for selection here, those channels which you have selected under **Channel Settings**, provided those channels also fall within the bands you have selected under **Monitored Bands**. (In other words, the available channels are determined by the intersection of your **Channel Settings** and **Monitored Bands**.)

#### Channel or Band Selection for Channel-Based Charts

Charts which use the RF channel as the independent variable (on the X-axis) include the **Channel Utilization** chart and the **Devices Vs. Channel** chart. These charts enable you to select exactly which channels will be displayed on the chart.

	Control Panel		<b>џ</b>	×
Ξ	2.4 - 2.5 GHz Ban	All Channels		~
	From	WiFi Ch. 1		
	То	WiFi Ch. 11		
Ξ	5.15 - 5.35 GHz B	Channel Range		~
	From	WiFi Ch.36		
	То	WiFi Ch.64		
Đ	5.725 - 5.850 GH	z None		~

For each band supported by your product, a drop-down list box enables you to select one of three options:

- All Channels All channels in the band will be charted.
- **Channel Range** If you select this option, select a **From** channel (the lower end of a range) and a **To** channel (the upper end of the range) using the drop-down list boxes.
- None None of the channels in the band are charted.

Note that you may need to click on the [+] tree control buttons to expand visible options for each band displayed on the **Control Panel**.

The **Active Devices** chart, which is a pie chart, has no X-axis. The pie chart simply shows the distribution of different device types in a selected band or channel.

# Selection Options for Time-Based Charts

The **Devices vs. Time** and **Channel Utilization vs. Time** charts both use time as the independent (X-axis) variable. The two charts have similar, but slightly different controls.

# Devices vs. Time

This section describes the controls for **Devices vs. Time**.

	Control Panel	_	_	4 ×
Ξ	Metric			
	Interval	8 hours		
	Channel	WiFi Ch. 1		
Ξ	Trace 1	💿 On	Off	
	Category	Bluetooth D	evices	
	Aggregation	Maximum		•
Ξ	Trace 2	On	⊙ Off	
	Category	All Devices		
	Aggregation	Average		
Ξ	Trace 3	On	⊙ Off	

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For **Devices vs. Time**, you can select:

- Interval The total time interval for the X-axis. For example, if you select 8 hours, the chart will display the number of devices seen over time period extending from "now" back to "now minus 8 hours."
- **Channel** Use the **Channel** listbox to select which channel or band to monitor.

- **Trace** The chart can show usages for up to four different types of devices at one time. For each of the four traces (represented as different colors on the chart), you have the following options:
  - **On / Off** Indicates if the trace is in use at all.
  - Category Indicates the type of device to be tracked by the trace. Options include 802.11 devices, microwave ovens, cordless phones, etc.
  - Aggregation For time intervals of 8 hours or 24 hours, each "point" on the plot actually spans a significant period of time in its own right. You can select whether, for each point on the plot, you are seeing the Average number of devices active in that time interval; the Maximum number of devices seen in that time interval; or the Minimum number of devices seen in the time interval.

For shorter total time intervals (4 hours or less), this option is not available. For these shorter timeframes, each point on the plot represents a short enough time period so that you do not need to distinguish between the minimum/maximum/average number of devices. The average value is automatically shown.

#### Channel Utilization vs. Time

For **Channel Utilization vs. Time**, the options are similar to those for **Devices vs. Time**, but not quite the same.

	Control Panel	_	_	ά×
Ξ	Metric			
	Interval	8 hours		
Ξ	Trace 1	💿 On	Off	
	Channel	WiFi Ch. 1		
	Aggregation	Average		
Ξ	Trace 2	💿 On	Off	
	Channel	WiFi Ch. 1		
	Aggregation	Maximum		
Ξ	Trace 3	💿 On	Off	
	Channel	WiFi Ch. 1		
	Aggregation	Minimum		•

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You can select the following:

Interval – The total time interval for the X-axis. For example, if you select 8 hours, the chart will indicate display the numbers of devices seen over time period extending from "now" back to "now minutes 8 hours."

- **Trace** Here, each trace, rather than corresponding to a device type, corresponds to a band/channel, and/or to a different type of data aggregation. The chart can show up to four different traces at a time. For each of the four traces (represented as different colors on the chart), you have the following options:
  - On / Off Indicates if the trace is in use at all.
  - **Channel** Use the **Channel** list-box to select which channel or band to monitor.
  - Aggregation For time intervals of 8 hours or 24 hours, each "point" on the plot spans a significant period of time. You can select whether, for each point on the plot, you are seeing the Average duty cycle in that time interval, the Maximum duty cycle, or the Minimum duty cycle.

For shorter total time intervals (4 hours or less), this option is not available. For these shorter timeframes, each point on the plot represents a short enough time period that you do not need to distinguish between the minimum/maximum/average duty cycle. The average value is shown automatically.

# **Devices View**

The **Devices View** shows detailed statistics for each device, including both currently active devices and historical devices. Devices listed here include both network devices and interferers. You access this view by selecting the **Devices** tab. The data in **Devices View** is organized in tabular form.

- **Device** The name of the interfering device.
- Network ID Network address for this device, if available (for example, the BSSID for 802.11 device, or the piconet address for Bluetooth devices).
- **Device ID** The device address for the device, if available. Examples are the MAC address for 802.11 APs, the device address for Bluetooth devices, etc.
- Discovery Time When the device was first detected.
- On Time Amount of time the device has been on since it was detected.
- **Channels Affected** Channels affected by transmissions from this device.
- Duty Cycle Measured duty cycle for this device.
- **Signal Strength** Average received signal strength (log average) for pulses from the device.
- Avg Pulse Duration Average pulse duration for pulses received from this device.
- **Details** Miscellaneous details are reported here, which are device dependent. For example, for 802.11 APs this may include WEP information, supported rates, protocols, etc.

If there is more than one instance of a device type, the number of instances will be indicated in brackets (for example, **[5]**) in the **Device** field.

AQ 2.4 GHz	Spectrum Spec An 2.4	(2) + GHz	<b>Devices</b>	Chanr Sumn	nel nary	R Device Finde	er		
svices: Last Hour, All Channels									
Device '	Signal Strength (dBm)	Duty Cycle (%) " \(\not\)	Discovery Time	On Time	Channels Affected	Network ID	Details	Device ID	Avg Pulse Duration
Bluetooth [16]									
Bluetooth Paging/Inquiry De	-86.3		Tue Aug 29 13:5	00:01:32 (Down)	N/A	9C:3B:92	BW: 0.6 MHz		0.131 ms
Bluetooth Paging/Inquiry De	-85.3		Tue Aug 29 13:4	00:01:00 (Down)	N/A	9C:3B:92	BW: 0.6 MHz		0.125 ms
Piconet 1 [2]									
Device 1	-80.0	2	Tue Aug 29 13:4	00:01:41 (Down)	110;12	DB:B7:81	BW: 0.4 MHz		0.192 ms
Device 2	-82.5	2	Tue Aug 29 13:4	00:01:41 (Down)	110;12	DB:B7:81	BW: 0.4 MHz		0.181 ms
Piconet 2 [2]			_						
Device 1	-77.8	3	Tue Aug 29 13:4	00:01:20 (Down)	113	7C:3F:69	BW: 0.4 MHz		0.200 ms
Device 2	-83.4	3	Tue Aug 29 13:4	00:01:20 (Down)	113	7C:3F:69	BW: 0.4 MHz		0.192 ms
Piconet 3 [2]									
Device 1	-85.7	3	Tue Aug 29 13:4	00:04:15 (Down)	710	DB:B7:81	BW: 0.4 MHz		0.296 ms
Device 2	-84.9	3	Tue Aug 29 13:4	00:04:15 (Down)	710	DB:B7:81	BW: 0.4 MHz		0.233 ms
Piconet 4 [2]									
Device 1	-82.2	2	Tue Aug 29 13:5	00:00:36 (Down)	58	DB:B7:81	BW: 0.4 MHz		0.227 ms
Device 2	-87.3	2	Tue Aug 29 13:5	00:00:36 (Down)	58	DB:B7:81	BW: 0.4 MHz		0.186 ms
Piconet 5 [2]									
Device 1	-80.1	4	Tue Aug 29 13:5	00:01:45	710	7C:3F:69	BW: 0.4 MHz		0.210 ms
Device 2	-77.4	4	Tue Aug 29 13:5	00:01:45	710	7C:3F:69	BW: 0.4 MHz		0.282 ms
Piconet 6 [2]									
Device 1	-76.3	1	Tue Aug 29 13:5	00:00:34 (Down)	15	DB:B7:81	BW: 0.4 MHz		0.175 ms
Device 2	-71.9	1	Tue Aug 29 13:5	00:00:34 (Down)	15	DB:B7:81	BW: 0.4 MHz		0.202 ms
Piconet 7 [2]									
Device 1	-80.6	1	Tue Aug 29 13:5	00:00:00	N/A	DB:B7:81	BW: 0.4 MHz		0.356 ms
Device 2	-71.8	1	Tue Aug 29 13:5	00:00:00	N/A	DB:B7:81	BW: 0.4 MHz		0.191 ms
Cordless Phones [2]									
DECT-Like Base Station 1	-73.7	1	Tue Aug 29 13:4	00:10:34 (Down)	114	20:50:02:78:1C	BW: 0.5 MHz		0.229 ms
DECT-Like Base Station 2	-74.6	1	Tue Aug 29 13:5	00:01:00	13;11	20:50:02:78:1C	BW: 0.5 MHz		0.222 ms
- Wi-Fi APs [14]									
(00:0B:85:66:79:5D) (Ch 11)	-55.0		Tue Aug 29 13:4	00:12:15	813	00:0B:85:66:79:5D	WEP Enabled	00:0B:85:66:79:5D	N/A
(00:0B:85:66:7D:9D) (Ch 1)	-61.0		Tue Aug 29 13:4	00:12:15	14	00:0B:85:66:7D:9D	WEP Enabled	00:0B:85:66:7D:9D	N/A
FNET (Ch 11)	-74.0		Tue Aug 29 13:5	00:02:15	813	00:0C:E5:53:B7:6E	WEP Enabled	00:0C:E5:53:B7:6E	N/A
FNET (Ch 11)	-58.0		Tue Aug 29 13:4	00:12:15	813	00:0D:88:A4:64:FF	WEP Enabled	00:0D:88:A4:64:FF	N/A
FNET (Ch 6)	-64.0		Tue Aug 29 13:4	00:08:45	39	00:0F:3D:DF:CE:32	WEP Enabled	00:0F:3D:DF:CE:32	N/A
FNETWirelessTst (Ch 6)	-69.0		Tue Aug 29 13:4	00:12:15	39	00:14:1B:5B:E9:B0	WEP Enabled	00:14:1B:5B:E9:B0	N/A
HS_AEGIS (Ch 11)	-76.0		Tue Aug 29 13:4	00:03:01 (Down)	813	06:09:58:87:E2:72	WEP Enabled	06:09:5B:B7:E2:72	N/A
Hide <u>S</u> eek (Ch 11)	-76.0		Tue Aug 29 13:4	00:10:26 (Down)	813	00:09:58:87:E2:72	WEP Enabled	00:09:5B:B7:E2:72	N/A
REWIFI3 (Ch 1)	-53.0		Tue Aug 29 13:4	00:12:15	14	00:0B:85:66:7D:9E	WEP Enabled	00:0B:85:66:7D:9E	N/A
REWIFI3 (Ch 11)	-54.0		Tue Aug 29 13:4	00:12:15	813	00:0B:85:66:79:5E	WEP Enabled	00:0B:85:66:79:5E	N/A
RKO_C1200_P5K (Ch 11)	-72.0		Tue Aug 29 13:4	00:12:15	813	00:0C:CE:88:23:C7	WEP Enabled	00:0C:CE:88:23:C7	N/A
RKO_C350_CKIP (Ch 6)	-74.0		Tue Aug 29 13:4	00:12:15	39	00:40:96:55:FF:20	WEP Enabled	00:40:96:55:FF:20	N/A

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#### **Devices View**

#### Note

In the default view, not all the fields are shown. You can add or delete columns, as discussed in the next section under "Adjusting the Column Display".

#### Working with Devices View

This section shows you how to modify the display of information in the **Devices View**.

#### Adjusting the Column Display

- **Resize Columns** You can resize the columns by using the mouse to select the dividing line between columns then sliding the line to the left or right.
- **Change Column Order** You can change the order of columns by leftclicking-and-holding on a column heading and dragging the column to the left or right. (This works exactly the same as moving columns in the Windows Explorer.)

#### Note

In Tree View, you cannot switch the placement of the **Device** column.

- Add or Delete Columns Not all of the available columns needs be on display at one time. In fact, in the default view, several columns are normally omitted.
  - You can add any of the available columns by right-clicking on the column headings. From the pop-up menu, select Add Column → <column name>.
  - You can delete a column by right-clicking on any column heading. From the pop-up menu, select **Remove Column**.
- Saving The Current Column Settings Your current column settings are automatically saved when you exit AnalyzeAir.
- **Restore The Default Column Settings** You can restore the default column configuration by right-clicking on the column headings. From the pop-up menu, select **Use Default Column Settings**.
- **Column Definitions** To obtain a definition for any column, place the mouse pointer over the column heading. A definition for that column heading appears in a tooltip window.

# Selecting the Display Type

There are two viewing modes available in **Devices View**.

- **Tree View** In this view, devices in the first column (**Device**) are organized hierarchically, first under a device type heading, then under a network master (for example, AP, base station) heading. This is the default view after start-up. The following device type headings apply for the tree view:
  - o Wi-Fi APs
  - o Wi-Fi Ad Hocs
  - o Bluetooth Piconets
  - o Cordless Phones
  - o Microwave Ovens
  - o Continuous Transmitters
  - o Burst Transmitters
  - Chirp Transmitters
- List View In this view, there is no hierarchical organization for Device data. In addition, two additional columns are available: Category and Network Name.

You can switch between these two viewing modes by selecting the **Tree View** or **List View** radio buttons in the **Control Panel** on the left side of AnalyzeAir. (If the **Control Panel** is not showing, select **View**  $\rightarrow$  **Control Panel**.)

#### Setting the Time Range

You can set the time range for which devices will be listed by using the dropdown list box on the **Control Panel**.

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#### **Device Control Panel**

#### Sorting the Display

You can sort the data in the **Devices View** by any of the column headings.

- Primary Sort Column The primary sort is invoked by left-clicking on the column heading. The primary sort column is indicated with a single tick-mark.
- Secondary Sort Column The secondary sort is invoked by holding the <Shift> key while left-clicking on the column heading. The secondary sort column is indicated with a double-tick mark.

The sorts do not affect the outline headings in the **Device** column (the first column) for the hierarchical viewing mode; for this mode, the sort is applied only to the data at the lowest level in the hierarchy for each outline heading. The default sort order is:

- Primary Device (ascending)
- Secondary Duty Cycle (descending)

#### Ascending and Descending Sort Order

For any given column, you can toggle between ascending sort order and descending order simply by clicking on the column heading. (If the column is currently sorted in ascending order, click once to sort it in descending order; click again to restore it to ascending order.)

This works exactly the same for the secondary sort column – repeated shiftclicking toggles between ascending and descending order.

#### Keeping Your Eye on a Particular Device

If there is a particular device that is of interest to you, you can keep an eye on the device simply by clicking on it. Your selected row will be highlighted. As new devices are detected (or disappear from view), the **Device List** will auto-scroll and auto-sort. However, AnalyzeAir will make sure your highlighted row always remains in view. (In other words, auto-scrolling and auto-sorting will be adjusted so that the highlighted row always remains visible on the display.)

#### Locating a Device

**Device Finder** mode enables you to use your PC as a "sniffer" to track down a specific interfering device. **Device Finder** is discussed in detail under "Device Finder" on page 85.

To get started, you can right-click on any interfering or AP device shown in the **Devices View**. Assuming the device is currently transmitting, you can select **Find This Device** from the pop-up menu. This starts the **Device Finder** mode. If the selected device is not currently active, the **Find This Device** option will be grayed out.

## Notes

The **Device Finder** does not find Ad Hoc and 802.11 FH devices. If you right-click on one of these devices, you will not see a menu option for **Device Finder**.

If you right-click on an interferer, and do not see the **Find This Device** option, it means the device is not currently transmitting.

## Obtaining Detailed Information on a Device

To obtain detailed information for any device, double-click on the device in the list. A pop-up dialog box appears showing detailed information for that device.

## Miscellaneous Device Issues

This section describes miscellaneous issues that affect data displayed in the **Device View**.

## Signal Bounce and Fading

Narrowband signals—such as signals from analog FM cordless phones or analog video cameras—are prone to fading. Signals naturally fade (grow weaker) with increased distance from an RF signal source. But as a technical term, fading refers to the fact that as a signal travels, it bounces and reflects off of multiple surfaces. So, at some distance from a single source, that single source of RF power results in multiple signals (all from the same source) crisscrossing each other.

When a single RF signal—reflected from multiple directions—crosses paths with itself, the result is signal interference. Signal interference can be constructive (resulting in a stronger signal at a given point), or destructive (resulting in a weaker signal, or even no signal, at a distance not at all far from the original source).

The result is that, at a given receiving antenna, the signal can vary greatly in power when the antenna is moved just a few inches in any direction. To further complicate matters: As people and other objects in the environment move, the source signal is reflected differently. So even if the receiving antenna stays in one place, signal strength can vary unpredictably over time.

As a result, when AnalyzeAir is detecting a narrowband interferer, the detection status may toggle on and off due to fading. Fading occurs in most indoor environments, and the fluctuations in received signal level are typically correlated to the rate of motion for nearby people/objects.

#### Near/Far Effect

The presence of strong signals may further impair the ability of the classification software to detect weaker signals. This is the so-called near/far effect, which is caused when the strong and weak signals use up the limited dynamic range of the receiver. (In other words, the receiver can only handle so much signal strength, in total, at one time. So if the receiver is getting two signals, the stronger one can essentially swamp the weaker one.)

**Example**: When you walk near one cordless phone while you are simultaneously listening to another cordless phone that's far away (for example, at your next-door neighbor's house), you may find that you lose the weaker signal. When you turn off the nearby cordless phone, you may find that you can detect the weaker signal again.

These effects cannot be removed by AnalyzeAir. We make you aware of them so that you can understand why certain interferers fade in and out of view at times.

#### Device Detection Time

In general, the time required for AnalyzeAir to detect and classify devices (and reclassify their status, if they go from being **On** to **Off**) varies depending on RF environment and location of devices relative to sensor. In general, most devices (other than 802.11) should take approximately 5 to 30 seconds. However, 802.11a/b/g devices and 802.11 frequency hoppers may take as long as ten minutes to be detected.

# **Channel Summary**

The **Channel Summary** shows specific levels of RF activity, such as average power and maximum power, and whether or not interferers are present, on a channel-by-channel basis.

AQ 2.4 G	im iHz	Spectrum Spec An 2.4	(2) 1 GHz	Devices		nannel ummary	🔀 Devi	ce Finder	
Channel 🛆	Center Frequency (MHz)	802.11 Present?	Total Channel Utilization (%)	Wi-Fi Device Max Power (dBm)	Interferer Max Power (dBm)	Wi-Fi ACI Max Power (dBm)	Wi-Fi Device(s)	Interferer(s)	Wi-Fi ACI
1	2412	~	7	-59.0	-72.0	N/A	2	1	0
2	2417		8	N/A	-72.0	-59.0	0	1	2
3	2422		7	N/A	-72.0	-63.0	0	1	6
4	2427		8	N/A	-72.0	-69.0	0	1	6
5	2432		8	N/A	-72.0	-67.0	0	1	4
6	2437	~	8	-67.0	-72.0	N/A	4	1	0
7	2442		8	N/A	-72.0	-67.0	0	2	4
8	2447		9	N/A	-72.0	-64.0	0	2	9
9	2452		6	N/A	-72.0	-58.0	0	2	9
10	2457		5	N/A	-72.0	-54.0	0	2	5
11	2462	~	5	-54.0	-72.0	N/A	5	1	0
12	2467		5	N/A	-72.0	-54.0	0	1	5
13	2472		4	N/A	-72.0	-58.0	0	1	5
14	2484		0	N/A	-72.0	N/A	0	1	0
36	5180		0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
40	5200		0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
44	5220		0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
48	5240		0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
52	5260		0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
56	5280		0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
60	5300	~	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
64	5320		0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
149	5745		0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
153	5765		0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
157	5785		0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
161	5805	~	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
165	5825		0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	0

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#### **Channel Summary**

This information is very helpful in determining whether channel reallocations might improve your network performance.

# Working with the Channel Summary

To access the Channel Summary:

• Select the [Channel Summary] tab

or

• Select View > Channel Summary

## Sorting the Display

You can do a column sort of the display simply by clicking on the desired column heading.

# **Channel Data**

The following data is presented for each channel:

- **Channel** The channel number. (The display is sorted by channel number by default.)
- Center Frequency The center frequency of the channel, in MHz.
- 802.11 Present? A check mark (√) in this field indicates that AnalyzeAir detected activity by a 802.11 device during the last measurement interval.
- **Total Channel Utilization** The current duty cycle of RF activity in that channel. In this case, the percentage of the time that some signal was present in the channel during the last measurement interval.
- Wi-Fi Device Max Power (dBm) The maximum power level (in dBm) of the strongest Wi-Fi (802.11) device on the channel.
- Interferer Max Power (dBm) The maximum power level (in dBm) of the strongest non-Wi-Fi device on the channel (including Wi-Fi cochannel interference).
- Wi-Fi ACI Max Power (dBm) The maximum power level (in dBm) of the strongest Wi-Fi ACI on the channel.
- Wi-Fi Device(s) The number of APs and Ad Hoc devices transmitting on the channel.
- **Interferer(s)** The number of non-Wi-Fi devices transmitting on the channel (including Wi-Fi co-channel interference).
- Wi-Fi ACI(s) The number of Wi-Fi ACIs transmitting on the channel.

## Miscellaneous Channel Summary Issues

## 802.11 Detection Sensitivity

The threshold for AnalyzeAir to detect 802.11 devices is an RF power of approximately -80 dBm. This detection sensitivity is commensurate to that of a reliable 54 Mbps connection. In a large environment, users should take detection measurements at several representative locations to cover entire area 802.11.

## 802.11 Device Types

When AnalyzeAir indicates that an 802.11 a/b/g signal is present on a channel, this may or may not indicate an AP or network in use. It could also be a zero config client (a station not currently affiliated with a network) which is transmitting probes, as it seeks out a network.

# **Problem Indicators**

Performance alert triggering allows you to enable or disable alerts for problematic channel devices being displayed in the Channel Summary View. See "Alert Settings" on page 101 for channel summary alert information.

# **Device Finder**

In **Device Finder** mode, AnalyzeAir acts as a lightweight portable probe which enables you to quickly track down the location of a specific interfering device. Essentially, your AnalyzeAir-enabled PC acts as a wireless "sniffer."

# **Overview**

Here we present a summary description of how to put **Device Finder** to work. Detailed instructions are presented in the next subsection.

- 1. From the **Devices View** or the **Active Devices** tree, select the device that you want to locate.
- 2. Carry the AnalyzeAir system to different locations in the network environment.
- 3. At each location, use AnalyzeAir to measure the signal strength from the device of interest.
- 4. Using these signal strength measurements, identify when you are closer to—and further from—the device of interest.

Essentially, the signal strengths indicate when you are "getting warmer" or "getting colder" in terms of getting near to the signal source of interest. Based on these measurements, you can then home in on the location of the intruding device.

5. You can also use the **Measurement Log** to record RF signal strength levels at specific locations.

If the "warmer/colder" approach is proving problematic—which may happen if, for example, the signal is intermittent—the log keeps a record of where different RF levels were recorded. You can use this information, possibly with the help of a map of your network space, to triangulate the location of the interfering device.

# Working with Device Finder

To use the **Device Finder**:

- 1. In **Devices View** or on the **Active Devices** tree, select the device you want to locate.
- 2. Right-click on the name of the device and then select **Find This Device** from the pop-up menu.

Device '	Signal Strength	Duty Cycle	Discovery Time
Device -	(upin)	(70) 1	Discovery fille
E Bluecooth [2]			
E Piconet 9 [2]			
Device 1	-77.1	3	Tue Aug 29 14:0
Device 2	0/ 5	~	Tue Aug 29 14:0
Cordless Phones [1]	Find This D	evice	N
DECT-Like Base Station 2	What is Thi	s Device?	Aug 29 13:5
Wi-Fi APs [11]			
(00:0B:85:66:7D:9D) (Ch 1)	Export Dat	a	Aug 29 13:4
FNET (Ch 11)	-58.0		Tue Aug 29 13:4
FNET (Ch 6)	-65.0		Tue Aug 29 13:4
FNETWirelessTst (Ch 6)	-71.0		Tue Aug 29 13:4
HS_AEGIS (Ch 11)	-74.0		Tue Aug 29 13:5
linksys-g (Ch 6)	-76.0		Tue Aug 29 13:5
REWIFI3 (Ch 1)	-56.0		Tue Aug 29 13:4
REWIFI3 (Ch 11)	-55.0		Tue Aug 29 13:4
RKO_C1200_P5K (Ch 11)	-71.0		Tue Aug 29 13:5

erb17s.tif

The device is now listed in the **Device Finder**.

The **Signal Strength History** graph shows a moving plot of the signal strength. (The plot does not automatically reset if the signal is lost.) This plot makes it easy to visualize when you are walking towards or walking away from the source of the signal.



The **Rx Signal Strength** meter also provides a real-time indicator of the signal strength from the device of interest, and is an additional tool in determining whether you are "getting warmer" or "getting colder" in terms of tracking down the interfering device.

 To maintain a record of the signal of interest, click the [Record Signal] button or press the <Spacebar>.



erb48s.tif

AnalyzeAir records the current signal strength and the time in the **Measurement** log. For a **Description**, AnalyzeAir uses the device name as a default value.

- 4. Type a description that indicates where the measurement was taken.
- 5. Press the **<Enter>** key to confirm your description.

Measurement Log							
Time	Description	Rx dBm					
09:25:09 AM 09:23:33 AM 09:21:42 AM	Location 3 - Base Station 1 - Conference Room Location 2 - North Conference Room Location 1 - East Conference Room	-58 ± 0 -54 ± 0 -63 ± 1					

erb47.bmp

- 6. You can also edit the location information in the **Measurement Log** at a later time. To do this:
  - a) Double-click on the description, and then key in your new description
  - b) Press <Enter>.

Note Press **<Esc>** to cancel any changes you make.

## Additional Device Finder Features

The **Device Finder** has the following additional features and capabilities:

 Reset Signal Averaging – If you click the [Reset Signal Averaging] button, AnalyzeAir no longer uses prior signal values to calculate the average signal strength. Instead, AnalyzeAir only calculates average signal strength from "now" forward, where "now" is when you click [Reset Signal Averaging].

If you are moving around—or changing the orientation of a directional antenna—this command causes the signal averaging measurement to restart, so you don't display data that may be representative of the prior position/orientation. A great deal of filtering is applied to provide accurate measurements, and this can help AnalyzeAir respond more quickly and not be biased from prior measurements.

• **Clear All Measurements** – You can clear all signal strength measurements and restart the trace by clicking this button.

Control Panel	Ψ×
Reset Signal Averaging	
Clear All Measurements	
Stop Finding	

erb50s.bmp

erb51s.tif

- **Stop Finding** You can stop tracking the interferer by selecting the **[Stop Finding]** button. It is a good idea to do this after you have found the interferer of interest, since it reduces the drain on system processing resources.
- Clear Click the [Clear] button (over the Rx Signal Strength History plot) to clear the plot.
- Clear Log You can clear the Measurement Log of all data by selecting the [Clear Log] button above the log.

Record Signal	Clear Log
---------------	-----------

- Delete A Single Log Entry You can also delete an individual row from the Measurement Log. Simply select the entry, and then press <Del> above the log.
- Reset Maximum Signal Strength If you click [Reset Max], AnalyzeAir deletes the current value for the maximum signal strength; AnalyzeAir then ascertains, starting from "now", the maximum interferer signal strength measured from this time forward.
- **[Reset Max]** only clears the **Max Strength** text box and the black rectangular box in the vertical signal meter that indicates the highest strength seen. Use the **[Clear]** button to clear the plot.

Max Strength (dBm): -50 ± 0	-100 dBm—
Cur. Strength (dBm): -59 ± 0	-120 dBm_
Reset Max	

erb52s.tif

# "Divide and Conquer" Search Strategy

To minimize your effort, and maximize your chances of locating the interferer, we recommend that you use a "divide and conquer" search strategy (also known as "rectangular bisection"). We illustrate the strategy, first with the omni-directional antenna, and then using the directional antenna. To use this process, you will greatly benefit from using a physical map of your network space.

## Note

It is possible to hit a "blind spot" when using **Device Finder**. This is a location—typically a corner of a large building—where you may not get any measurements at all. If you find you are spending more than 30 seconds at any one spot, without getting an updated device reading, you should move away from that spot and try a different location.

# **Omni-directional Antenna**

For purposes of simplicity, assume that your interfering device is located somewhere within a large rectangular office space (which might measure, for example, 50' by 150').

 Go to each of the far corners of the office space, and measure the signal strength from the interfering device of interest. Take note of which corner of the office yields the highest signal strength. (A printed map of your office space can be helpful for jotting down data.)



erb53s.tif

# Note

Each time you move the AnalyzeAir system to a new location, click the **[Reset Signal Averaging]** button on the **Device Finder**. Then, at each test location, wait for the confidence level to settle to a small value—ideally less than ±3 dBm, but certainly less than ±5 dBm—before recording the signal strength.



2. In the corner that has the highest signal strength, map out a rectangular sub-search area comprising one quarter of the total office space.



3. Repeat this process, as necessary to localize your measurement.



By repeating this process, you can home in on the location of the interfering device.



#### Directional Antenna

The advantage of using the directional antenna is that you can save yourself a substantial amount of walking, because four measurements at a time can be made from one central location. (See "Attaching the Antenna on page 21 for more on the directional antenna.)

 Assuming a rectangular office space, take your AnalyzeAir PC to the center of the office space. Use the directional antenna, with **Device Finder**, to determine the signal strength coming from your interferer, as measured in each of four directions. For each measurement, the antenna should be pointed towards each of the four corners of the office.



erb59s.eps

#### Note

Each time you point the antenna in a new direction—as well as when you move to a new location—click the **[Reset Signal Averaging]** button on the **Device Finder**. Then, wait for the confidence level to settle to a small value (at most ±5 dBm) before recording the signal strength.





2. For the corner that has the highest signal strength, map out a rectangular sub-search area comprising one quarter of the total office space. You only need to make measurements from one spot, pointing the antenna towards four different directions.



erb60s.eps

Stages 3 through N: Repeat the process again, once more using one quarter of the original search area, with one vertex at the location of the highest previous measurement.

3. Repeat, making measurements in the quadrant with the highest power reading.

erb61s.eps

You will learn from experience whether the final measurements are best made by a continued process of rectangular bisection or whether the final measurements should be made on a systematic grid of a local area.



# Detecting Narrowband Devices

Interfering devices fall into two RF categories: narrowband and wideband. By the very nature of wideband transmissions, the signal strength from a wideband device—as measured at any one location—tends to be consistent. (If the directional antenna is in use, the signal strength from a wideband device will tend to be consistent, at a given measurement location, and for a given direction in which you point the antenna.) By contrast, narrowband devices have certain signal peculiarities. Small changes in the physical environment—changes which have nothing to do with the device emitting the signal—can cause large fluctuations in the signal strength. For example, the simple movement of people or furniture can change the way a narrowband signal is reflected throughout the enterprise space, resulting in changes in signal strength as measured from some distance away.

The signal from narrowband devices can vary significantly over the space of just a few inches. As a result, there are some simple antenna tricks to use when searching for such devices:

- Omni-directional antenna: If you are using the omni-directional antenna (including the built-in antenna on the AnalyzeAir Spectrum PC Card Sensor), it can be helpful to slowly, physically sweep the AnalyzeAir PC in an arc along several inches, until you achieve the maximum signal strength.
- Directional antenna: If you are using the directional antenna, a similar trick applies. With the PC resting in place (such as on a cart), and with the antenna pointed in a desired direction, you can slowly sweep the antenna along an arc of roughly 30 degrees to 45 degrees, centered on the primary direction of interest, until you achieve the maximum signal strength.



erb62s.eps

# Local Settings

There are a number of settings you can change to determine how AnalyzeAir operates and presents data. The available settings are for:

- Sensors and Antennas Determine which Sensor AnalyzeAir uses to obtain data. For the internal Spectrum PC Card Sensor, you can also indicate the type of antenna in use.
- **Console Settings** Use this to set the default startup view and to change the date format.

- **Channel Settings** Determines which 802.11 channels will be monitored by AnalyzeAir.
- Monitored Bands Determines how wide a bandwidth is actually monitored by the Sensor.
- Alert Settings Used to enable or disable security and performance alerts for an interferer type or category.

#### Sensors and Antennas

To select which antenna is used by AnalyzeAir:

1. Select **Tools** → **Settings...** 

By default, the **Sensor Setup** panel is displayed. If it is not, click the **[Sensors and Antennas]** button.

Settings - Sensors and Antennas		
Sensors and Antennas	<ul> <li>Sensor Setup</li> <li>Internal Spectrum PC Card Antenna</li> <li>External Spectrum PC Card Antenna</li> </ul>	
802.11 CH 1 CH 2 CH 2 CH 3 CH 3 CH 4 CH 4 CH 4 CH 4 CH 5 CH 5	Automatically start sensor connection with these settings when software is launched. Some cardbus sensors may select external vs. internal antenna automatically in lieu of above setting.	
Monitored Bands		
Alert Settings	Help OK Cancel Apply	

erb18s.tif

Sensors and Antennas Settings

- 2. Select the desired sensor/antenna combination. Choose one of the following:
  - Internal Spectrum PC Card Antenna Tells AnalyzeAir to use the internal Spectrum PC Card antenna.
  - External Spectrum PC Card Antenna Tells AnalyzeAir to use the external Spectrum PC Card antenna.
- 3. Optionally, select the Automatically start sensor connection with these settings when software is launched check box.

If you select this option, AnalyzeAir uses these settings each time the program starts. If left unchecked, AnalyzeAir presents a dialog box each time the program starts, asking you which Sensor to use.

- 4. Do one of the following:
  - Click **[OK]** to confirm your changes and close the dialog box.

OR

• Click **[Apply]** to apply your changes while leaving the dialog box open for further work.

# **Console Settings**

This enables you to fine-tune how AnalyzeAir displays data.

- 1. Select **Tools** → **Settings...**
- 2. From the tool bar on the left side of the dialog box, select **Console Settings**.

Settings - Console	•
Sensors and Antennas	Default View Loaded at Application Startup     Spectrum View     Channel Summary     Date Formats Used Throughout the Application
802.11 CH 1 CH 2 CH 2 Ch 4 CH 4 CH 4 CH 5 Channel Settings	Date Format Used in Devices View: Tue Aug 29 16:00:00
Monitored Bands	
Alert Settings	Help OK Cancel Apply

erb19s.tif

#### **Console Settings**

- 3. You can change the following settings:
  - **Default View Loaded At Application Startup** Select whether you will first view the **Spectrum View** or the **Channel Summary** on startup.
  - Date Formats Used Throughout the Application Select from the drop-down list box. This format is used wherever the date appears throughout the application.
- 4. Do one of the following:
  - Click **[OK]** to confirm your changes and close the dialog box.
  - Click **[Apply]** to apply your changes while leaving the dialog box open for further work.

# **Channel Settings**

You can customize AnalyzeAir to use the appropriate channels for your geographic region.

#### Note

Of the channels you select, AnalyzeAir only monitors those that also fall within the bands you configured under **Monitored Bands**. See "Monitored Bands" on page 99.

- 1. Select **Tools** → **Settings...**
- 2. From the tool bar on the left, select **Channel Settings**.

Settings - Channe	els	X
Sensors and Antennas	802.11b/g Regulatory Domain Quickset Americas/Australia EMEA/Asia/Pacific Japan All (1-14) User Configure None	Channels          1         2         3         4         5         4         5         4         7
Console Scange B02.11 EPG2 CH12 Ch12 Ch42 Channel Settings Monitored Bands	802.11a Regulatory Domain Quickset Americas/Australia EMEA Japan Asia/Pacific All (34-64, 100-140, 149-165) User Configure None	34       36       38       ¥ 40       42       ¥ 44       46       ¥ 48
Alert Settings	Note that 802.11 Regulatory Du are subject to change and loc HelpOK	omain mappings ral variations. Cancel Apply

erb20s.tif

#### **Channel Settings**

- 3. Select the channels to monitor. Your options are:
  - Various application specific configurations

Options include: Americas/Australia, EMEA/Asia/Pacific, Japan, and can be chosen separately for 802.11a and 802.11b/g.

- All Selects all available channels for the applicable domain or band.
- User Configure If you select this radio button, you also need to check off individual check boxes in the Channels list.
- None Deselects all channels.

- 4. Do one of the following:
  - Click **[OK]** to confirm your changes and close the dialog box
  - Click **[Apply]** to apply your changes while leaving the dialog box open for further work.

Note

Regulatory domains are subject to change without notice and may vary based on where the devices are being used (indoors or outdoors) or the protocol data rate and associated keying or modulation techniques.

## **Monitored Bands**

The Spectrum PC Card Sensor is capable of monitoring up to 1 GHz of RF bandwidth at a time. In practice, however, monitoring this much of the spectrum can result in some performance issues for AnalyzeAir. Moreover, for most practical applications, it is rarely necessary to monitor that much of the spectrum at one time.

The **Monitored Bands** settings enable you to determine how much bandwidth is actually monitored by the Spectrum PC Card Sensor. Monitoring only the bandwidth you need to monitor—rather than trying to have the Sensor scan its full potential range—results in more effective system performance.

- If you change the settings for Monitored Bands, AnalyzeAir automatically restarts, clearing all internal buffers. The display does not close down, but you lose any data currently shown on the Spectrum Plots, Channel Summary, Devices View, etc.
- The bands you define here determine which bands are available for selection on the spectrum plots. See "Frequency and Bandwidth to Monitor" on page 62 for more information.
- If you select two bands that are adjacent or overlap (for example, 5.47 to 5.725 GHz and 5.725 to 5.850 GHz), AnalyzeAir automatically consolidates the two bands into one band.

To define the bands you will monitor:

- 1. Select Tools → Settings...
- 2. From the tool bar on the left side of the dialog box, select **Monitored Bands**.

Settings - Monito	red Bands	X
Sensors and	Automatically Monitor Bands Needed for Current Channel Plan Settings	
Antennas	Bands to Monitor	
	865 - 870 MHz Band     902 - 928 MHz Band     950 - 956 MHz Band	
Console Settings	✓ 2.4 - 2.5 GHz Band	
B02:11 CH 1 CH 2 CH 2 Ch 3 Ch 4 Ch 4	<ul> <li>4.94 - 4.99 GHz US Public Safety Band</li> <li>✓ 5.15 - 5.35 GHz UNII Lower/ Middle (802.11 channels 34-64)</li> <li>S.47 - 5.725 GHz UNII / EMEA Middle (802.11 channels 100-140)</li> <li>✓ 5.725 - 5.850 GHz UNII Upper (802.11 channels 149-161)</li> </ul>	
Monitored Bands		
Alert Settings	Help OK Cancel Apply	

erb21s.tif

#### Monitored Bands Settings

- 3. Select one or more of the available check boxes. The options are described in the following sections.
- 4. Click [Apply] or [OK].

## Automatically Monitor Bands for Current Channel Plan Settings

If you select the **Automatically Monitor Bands Needed for Current Channel Plan Settings** check box, all other options will be disabled. Selecting this option tells AnalyzeAir to only monitor the channels indicated on the **Channel Settings** dialog.

**Example**: If you select **Automatically Monitor Bands Needed for Current Channel Plan Settings** here and if on the **Channel Settings** dialog you selected **Americas/Australia**, the Spectrum PC Card Sensor only monitors channels 1 through 11 for 802.11 b/g and the various appropriate channels for the 802.11a regulatory domain.
#### Bands to Monitor

You can select one or more of the **Bands to Monitor**. Selecting all or most of the bands shown may result in reduced performance or data quality, so we suggest that you select only those bands that are essential for your current monitoring and testing needs.

#### Band Settings and Channel Settings Interaction

AnalyzeAir only monitors those channels that you select under **Channel Settings** and that also fall within the bands you select under **Monitored Bands** settings.

# **Alert Settings**

The **Settings - Alert** screen is used to configure security and performance alerts.

To access alert settings:

- 1. Select Tools → Settings...
- 2. Select the Alert Settings icon on the left side of the Settings dialog.



erb22s.tif

Alert Settings

This screen contains three tabs:

• Active Devices –used to enable or disable interferer duty cycle performance alerts and security alerts for interferer types or categories. Security alerts can be enabled/disabled for one, several, or all interferer categories.

#### Note

#### Alerts appear in the Active Devices pane.

- Spectrum –used to enable or disable Spectrum alerts
- Channel Summary –used to enable or disable alerts for channel devices being displayed in the Channel Summary view.

#### Active Devices Tab

The **Active Devices** tab controls the display of security and performance alerts in the **Active Devices** pane. From the **Active Devices** tab, you can disable triggering for performance alerts. You can also throttle performance alert triggering to alert only if a Wi-Fi network exists. By default the alerts are enabled. The default critical threshold value is 50%, and the default warning threshold value is 25%.

• **Performance Alerts** - When **Enable Performance Alerts** is selected, interferers are highlighted in the **Active Devices** pane.

If you have the **Alert only if Wi-Fi network exists** box checked, you will see performance alerts only if there is a Wi-Fi network on the same channel as the interferer.

Performance alerts can be set for **Interferer Duty Cycle (%)**. When the interferer duty cycle (in %) is greater than the critical threshold value (default=50 %), the interferer will be highlighted in red in the **Active Devices** pane. If the total duty cycle is greater than the warning value, but less than the critical value (default=25 %), the interferer will be highlighted in yellow in the **Active Devices** pane.

• Security Alerts - When Enable Security Alerts is checked, a security icon appears beside the device (highlighted in red) in the Active Devices pane if the device category has been selected from the Category listing. Devices can be selected or deselected using the checkboxes in the list.

#### Spectrum Tab

The **Spectrum** tab is used to set the alert threshold values for the **All Devices Channel Utilization**, and the **Interferers Channel Utilization** metrics. These metrics (in %) control the background color display on the **Channel Utilization** and **Channel Utilization vs. Time** charts. The default threshold values are 50% (critical) and 25% (warning).

By default the alerts are enabled. You can disable them by checking (to clear) the checkbox.

### Channel Summary Tab

From the **Channel Summary** tab, you can disable triggering for channel summary alerts. By default triggering for channel summary alerts is enabled. Additionally, you can select to perform triggering only if a Wi-Fi network is present on the channel.

The alerts for channel summary can be set for the following metrics:

- Total Channel Utilization (%) When the total duty cycle (in %) is greater than the critical threshold value (50%), the cell in the Total Channel Utilization (%) column will be red. When the total duty cycle is greater than the warning value (25%), but less than the critical value (50%), the cell in the Total Channel Utilization (%) column will be yellow.
- Wi-Fi Device Max Power (dBm) When the Wi-Fi maximum power (in dBm) is less than the critical threshold value (-88), the cell in the Wi-Fi Device Max Power (dBm) column will be red. When the Wi-Fi maximum power is less than the warning value (-80), but greater that the critical value (-88), the cell in the Wi-Fi Device Max Power (dBm) column will be yellow.
- Wi-Fi Device To Interferer Max Pwr Difference (dBm) When the Wi-Fi maximum power is within the critical threshold value (10) of the maximum power of the interferer or less than the interferer maximum power value, the cell in the Interferer Max Power (dBm) column will be red. When the Wi-Fi maximum power is within the warning threshold value (20), but greater than the critical threshold value (10) of the interferer's maximum power, the cell in the Interferer Max Power (dBm) column will be yellow.

Note

Similar to non-Wi-Fi interferers, Wi-Fi adjacent channel interference can affect the Wi-Fi network.

- Wi-Fi Device To Wi-Fi ACI Max Pwr Difference (dBm) When the Wi-Fi maximum power is within the critical threshold value (10) of the maximum power of the Wi-Fi ACI or less than the Wi-Fi ACI maximum power value, the cell in the Wi-Fi ACI Max Power (dBm) column will be red. When the Wi-Fi maximum power is within the warning threshold value (20), but greater than the critical threshold value (10) of the of the Wi-Fi ACI's maximum power, the cell in the Wi-Fi ACI Max Power (dBm) column will be yellow.
- Wi-Fi Device Count When the Wi-Fi device count is greater than the warning threshold value (2), the cell in the Wi-Fi Device(s) column will be yellow.
- Interferer Count When the number of interferers is greater than the critical threshold value (1), the cell in the Interferer(s) column will be yellow.
- Wi-Fi ACI Count When Wi-Fi ACI count is greater than the critical threshold value (1), the cell in the Wi-Fi ACIs column will be yellow.

### Modifying Default Settings

All threshold values are editable, meaning they can be changed to reflect different RF policies. Modify the settings as follows:

- 1. Left-click in the cell containing the value being changed.
- 2. Edit the existing value or enter a new value.
- 3. Click within another cell to set the change.
- 4. Select <Apply>.
- 5. Select **<OK>**.

## Capture Current Display

The **Capture Current Display** command creates and saves an image of the information displayed in the main window of AnalyzeAir. Information can be recorded, for example, at various locations (as when performing a site survey) or at different times. The images produced by this feature can be easily emailed, and can be viewed at any time using any favorite image display software for Bitmaps or JPEG images.

To capture the current Console display:

 Select Tools → Capture Current Display... or press <Ctrl+S> on the keyboard.

The application will create a snapshot of the information visible within the main application window at the moment the command is issued.

After the snapshot is created, a **Save As...** dialog box is displayed.

- 2. Select the file location and then enter a **File Name** (or use the default file name already shown).
- 3. Select the file format from the **Save As Type** list box.

Image file formats that are available include Bitmap (for larger file size with maximum clarity), and JPEG (for smaller file size; useful for email and space savings).

4. Click [Save].

**Example**: If the **Channel Summary** tab is currently selected, the image will contain the current channel information that is displayed on-screen. If the current active view is one of the **Spectrum** tabs, the image will capture the plot data that is visible on-screen. The **Active Devices Tree** and **Control Panel** are also preserved in the image, assuming they are currently on display.

#### Tips on Image Capture

If a view has scroll bars, be sure to scroll so that the information you want to capture is displayed on screen.

For best results make sure the application window is fully on-screen. (If the application is partially off-screen, the image captured will contain only the area of the main application window that was visible on-screen.)

#### Tips on Image File Naming

It may be helpful to include the location and date as part of the image file name for future reference, or to organize images into a clearly labeled folder with this information.

This feature automatically suggests a file name including a date/time stamp. If you customize the text appearing before the date/time stamp, AnalyzeAir will preserve this customization and automatically apply it to snapshots created later during the same console session.

# AnalyzeAir and Your Network Operations

The preceding sections of this manual have been devoted to an overview of AnalyzeAir, and then a detailed discussion of how to use specific features and operational modes. This section explains how to put AnalyzeAir to work in the real world of network planning, maintenance, and troubleshooting.

A key, general principle to keep in mind is that the RF environment, by its very nature, is highly dynamic and unpredictable. The environment varies over time as both RF sources and RF reflectors move about or change in their activity. (And keep in mind that an "RF reflector" can be virtually anything at all, obviously including metallic objects, but also other types of objects, and even people.) Further, some RF sources, such as directional antennas, have a strong RF impact in limited spaces or directions. As discussed later, the variability of the RF environment must be taken into account when putting AnalyzeAir to work.

#### Site Survey

A site survey is a series of RF measurements conducted not only prior to network deployment, but possibly even prior to deciding what type of network equipment to purchase. The site survey is intended to provide a general picture of the RF environment, and particularly those aspects of the RF environment which may influence purchase decisions. The information gained in a site survey will also contribute to network planning (covered in the next subsection).

The primary goal of the site survey is to determine which channels/bands are acceptable for network deployment. The survey can also suggest the number of network devices, such as APs, that may need to be purchased and deployed. This is particularly crucial for those networks where you have a choice of the type of network equipment to purchase (802.11a, b, or g).

#### The Physical Movement of the PC

The site survey entails physically moving your AnalyzeAir PC or OptiView Series II Integrated Network Analyzer throughout the network space, monitoring changes in the readings as you go. You can carry the PC or OptiView Series II, but typically you place it on a cart and wheel the cart about. In offices, you will want to at least walk around the perimeter of each office, and perhaps up and down and side-to-side through the center of each office. In a hallway or corridor, it may be sufficient to roll the PC or OptiView Series II down the center of the hallway. In a large open space, you may want to walk up and down in lanes, much as if you were "mowing" the carpeting or floor tiles with the PC or the OptiView Series II.

We can't tell you the exact physical "granularity" of the survey – that is, we can't say if you should walk up and down your office in lanes spaced five feet apart or fifteen feet apart. Partly it depends on the size of the site you are covering – you are likely to have the time to follow a finer, more closely spaced path in a 5,000 square foot office than in a 100,000 square foot warehouse. We can say that the more fine-grained your site survey, the more accurate the information you will obtain. Certainly, just taking measurements in four corners of a large space, and at the center of that same space, is generally not sufficient.

Note that site surveys can be done not only for indoor areas, but also for outdoor deployments of network equipment. For example, it is now common to set up network backhaul links on the rooftops of buildings. A site survey done on the rooftop can detect all kinds of interference activity from neighboring transmitters. Again, the more rooftop space that is covered in the survey, the clearer and more accurate will be the picture of RF activity.

#### AnalyzeAir Survey Data

Typically, during the survey you will want to look at the AnalyzeAir **Channel Summary**, the **Devices View**, and two or three of the spectrum plots: the **Real Time FFT** plot, the **FFT Duty Cycle** plot, and very likely the **Swept Spectrogram** plot.

- The **Channel Summary** tells you which channels are showing the most RF activity, and gives a rough indication of how much of that activity is due to interferers, and how much is due to other network devices.
  - If the activity is due to interferers—and if those devices are in your space and under your control—you may be able to either remove or shield some of the interfering devices.
  - We are assuming that you have not deployed your own network yet. So, if you are picking up activity from other network devices, these are likely to be devices in neighboring networks. If you do not own these networks (for example, they belong to a company in an adjoining office), you may not be able to do anything to prevent this interference. In this case, you may need to plan your own network to use other channels or bands which are not in use by that network.
- The **Devices View** shows you specifically which devices are causing RF activity. The information includes the channels on which these devices are operating. Based on this specific information, you can start to determine whether you can mitigate or remove these devices or whether, instead, you need to plan your network operations to work around this device activity. For example, if the devices cannot be removed, shielded, or turned off, you may need to operate your network on channels that are not affected by those devices.
- The plots—Real Time FFT, FFT Duty Cycle, and Swept Spectrogram can be used to obtain a more fine-grained view of spectrum activity. Note that the Swept Spectrogram can be used to view either RF power or RF duty cycle. The combined time and frequency view offered by the Swept Spectrogram is also especially useful for viewing variation or stability in spectrum activity over the time interval of a few minutes.
  - These plots can be particularly useful for evaluating borderline channels in the **Channel Summary** or viewing the number of devices seen on a channel in the **Devices View**.

Both the **Channel Summary** and **Devices View** present a summary of RF activity seen over some extended period of time. It may be, however, that on some particular channel(s), the RF activity is in fact bursty in nature, i.e., it is characterized by sporadic pulses of RF activity. Because network activity itself is also bursty, such a channel may in fact acceptable for network purposes – RF activity from non-network devices will only occasionally occur at the same time as network RF activity.

In other words, looking at the spectrum plots can help you determine if the interference is constant or intermittent and if the interference on a given channel is, in fact, tolerable from a network standpoint.

 The spectrum plots are also useful for detecting interference which is created by devices that are completely unclassified by AnalyzeAir. While these devices will not show up in the **Devices View** and will not impact the measurements in the **Channel Summary**, you will see their RF activity on the spectrum plots.

There are at least two conclusions you can generally draw from the data obtained:

- You can determine which RF channels are your cleanest. This may determine which types of network equipment you buy, or at least which bands or channels you set your network equipment to use. For example, if you find that the entire 5 GHz band is being swamped by nearby RF activity, you can plan your network purchases and configuration to operate in the 2.4 GHz band.
- You may find that even your best channels or bands are only relatively clean; there may still be substantial, unpreventable RF activity. This will generally indicate that you will need to purchase more network devices to obtain adequate network performance and coverage.

Of course, "more network devices" is a relative term. You would need to make some kind of baseline decision for your particular network technology—for example, how many APs would it take to provide adequate coverage for your Wi-Fi network, in a clean RF environment?—based on the particular specifications of the network equipment. Then, if the available channels are fairly congested with RF activity, you may need to scale that number by, say, 50% or 100%, to ensure reliable and speedy network performance.

Rather than purchasing more network devices, another option—if significant RF interference will be an ongoing issue—is to instead purchase more powerful network backbone devices, which can overcome the local interference with a stronger signal.

Note, however, that boosting, say, the power of your Wi-Fi APs, does not boost the power of the Wi-Fi stations which may be in use. (Your network environment may be a public one, where you do not control the design or broadcast power of all the stations that may be in use.) In this case, a higher density of backbone devices (e.g., APs) may be the only effective solution.

#### Additional Notes on Site Survey and the Spectrum Plots

This section provides additional information about conducting a site survey and viewing the Spectrum plots.

#### Monitoring Multiple Bands on Spectrum Plots

A spectrum plot can only monitor one band at a time. However, on a single **Spectrum** tab, you can open more than one instance of the same type of plot (such as the **Real Time FFT**). By setting each instance to monitor a different band, you can monitor at the same time all, or almost all, of the bands of interest.

#### Real Time vs. Software-Based Plots

The reader may note that we have not recommended the **Power vs. Frequency** or **Power vs. Time** plots for site survey purposes. These two plots require extensive software analysis on your AnalyzeAir PC, and are intended mainly for analyzing specific RF issues (typically, RF problems related to some unknown device).

The **Real Time FFT**, **FFT Duty Cycle**, and **Swept Spectrogram** plots offer data directly from the Spectrum PC Card Sensor hardware, and are designed to give a better, more accurate picture of overall RF activity in a particular band. The band-inclusive view is most applicable for site survey purposes.

#### Conducting the Site Survey

We indicated earlier that AnalyzeAir needs to be wheeled about the anticipated network environment and that you will benefit from using multiple AnalyzeAir modes—**Devices View**, **Channel Summary**, and several spectrum plots—to conduct an effective site survey. So you need to wheel the PC about, while switching between viewing modes, in order to get the job done.

In addition, a physical map of your site, where you can record notes of key readings, may prove helpful. There is no mandatory method of doing the site survey, but what follows is a possible approach.

- Pick a location, typically one corner of the anticipated network space, in which to start the survey. Look at both the **Devices View** and the **Channel Summary** to see which channels are causing the most activity and which devices are responsible for that activity. Make note of this information on your map of the network space.
- 2. Switch to the Spectrum View mode and set up the plots you want to view. Since there are two Spectrum tabs, you may want to use each tab for a different kind of plot. For example, on one tab you can set up multiple instances of the Real Time FFT, with each instance set for a different band. On the other tab, you might establish multiple instances of the Swept Spectrogram (again, picking a different band for each instance) with the Trace Type set to Duty Cycle.
- Wheel the AnalyzeAir PC through the anticipated network environment. As you move, keep your eye on the spectrum plots— Real Time FFT or Duty Cycle, as you prefer—perhaps pausing occasionally to switch from one Spectrum tab to the other.

- 4. View all the bands you have set to display on the plots. However, mentally, you probably want to keep an eye on those bands which encompassed both the most active and least active channels seen on the **Devices View** and the **Channel Summary**. The goal is to see if this activity remains fairly consistent throughout the network space, or varies significantly.
- 5. Any time you see a significant change in the spectrum plots—either a spike in RF activity at some frequency, or a notable drop-off—you can switch back to Channel Summary or Devices View. The Channel Summary will likely confirm what you've seen on the plots, namely, that there is a notable increase or decrease in RF activity on particular channels. The Devices View, of course, will help you identify the particular cause(s) of that activity.
- 6. Switch back to the spectrum plots, and continue your walk through the network space.
- 7. Again, at appropriate points, stop and make notes on your map of the network space.

There are several possible variations on this procedure.

- In terms of how you set up your display during the survey, another option is to put two **Real Time FFT** plots and two **Duty Cycle** plots on the same tab, covering two bands. Then, put two more **Real Time FFT** plots and two more **Duty Cycle** plots on the other tab, measuring two other bands. (And—not to confuse the reader—you always have the option of using the **Swept Spectrogram**, and setting it to display either duty cycle or RF power.)
- You could make an entire sweep through the network environment looking only at the **Channel Summary**; then another sweep, along the same path, with the spectrum plots on display. After determining those locations with the most RF activity, you may return to those specific locations and use the **Devices View** to ascertain the particular RF sources involved.
- If you note a particularly high level of RF activity at some point, but the source is not obvious, the **Device Finder** may help you track down the source. See "Device Finder" on page 85.

#### Save the RF Map

We recommend that you save the RF map you create in the course of the site survey. It will come in handy later, both for initial network device deployment, and for charting any changes in your RF environment over time.

#### Drawing Conclusions

At the conclusion of this process—and with your marked up network map in hand—you should have a very clear picture of which frequencies are relatively clear, and which frequencies are relatively crowded with RF activity, throughout your network space. Ideally, it will be immediately clear which channels or bands you wish to use for your network deployment.

Conceivably, you may find that certain bands would be best to use at some locations in your network environment, while other bands would be better to use elsewhere. In the worst case, these bands may be hardware incompatible (for example, if want to use 802.11b/g in one part of your network and 802.11a in another part). In this case, part of your network planning may entail removing or shielding some current sources of RF activity, to free up a particular band in a particular location.

As indicated earlier, the general level of network activity will also help you determine the number of network backbone devices (for example, APs) that you need.

#### Antenna Options

During the initial phase of a site survey, you will want to use the standard omni-directional antenna, so that at each location you can pick up RF activity from all possible sources in the vicinity.

In some cases, you may find RF activity that is highly localized, without the source being apparent. (This can happen, for example, if there is a directional broadcast antenna at some distance. You will only pick up a signal when you happen to cross the path of the antenna beam.) At these locations, the directional antenna can be used to help determine the exact direction of the source of RF activity. See "Using the Directional Antenna" on page 23 for more information.

#### Network Layout

After you purchase your network backbone equipment, AnalyzeAir can support a dynamic, real-time network layout process that results in nearoptimum placement of APs. You will rely upon the **Devices View**, the **Channel Summary**, and the spectrum plots (**Real Time FFT**, **Duty Cycle**, and/or **Swept Spectrogram**) to perform this task.

#### Placing the First AP

1. To start the process of deploying devices, select a location for placement of your initial AP. Of course, you'll need to select a location that is sufficiently close to an Ethernet connection for your wired LAN.

In addition, you'll want to select a location which you had determined, in the course of your site survey, to have low RF interference. (Again, we recommend that you save the RF map that you created during your RF site survey.)

2. At the selected location, you'll use AnalyzeAir to double-check that RF activity remains at acceptably low levels in the channel you intend to use. (Depending on your overall environment, the RF activity may or may not vary substantially over a relatively short time frame. For example, a neighboring office may have rearranged or reconfigured their WLAN in ways that will affect your network deployment.)

As with the site survey, you can use the **Channel Summary** and spectrum plots to check the overall level of RF activity at the selected location. The **Devices View** can tell you about any specific devices that are now causing interference, and which can possibly be removed or shielded. If there is new, and uncontrollable, RF interference which had not been detected during the site survey, you may need to select another location for initial AP deployment.

- 3. You have selected a location for the initial AP, set it in place, and probably wired it into the LAN. Before powering up the AP, you should set one of the **Real Time FFT** plots to monitor the channel which will be used by the AP. When you turn on the AP, you should see an immediate and dramatic gain in RF power in that channel. This tells you that the AP is broadcasting RF on the appropriate channel.
- 4. You will now turn to the **Devices View**. AnalyzeAir should quickly detect and classify the AP so that it is shown in **Devices View**. Of the most interest is the **Signal Strength** field. Normally, the signal strength near the AP should be well above -70 dBm.

#### Note

The expected signal strength when you are near the device varies depending on the type of network you are deploying. Similarly, depending on the network technology you are implementing, the power level that is too low for reliable operations (discussed later) also varies. The values described here (in the range of -70 dBm to - 80 dBm) are appropriate for Wi-Fi network APs.

#### Placing the Second AP

1. With AnalyzeAir once again in hand or on a rolling cart, you now want to move in some direction away from the AP you have just placed. The direction you choose will depend on your general plan of network deployment, as well as on the RF map created during the site survey.

For simplicity of description here, we'll assume you are laying out your network in some relatively, wide open space, such as a warehouse or airport terminal. Naturally, if you are in a more constrained space, such as an office, your movements will probably entail leaving one room and entering an adjacent room, or possibly walking down a hallway outside the room.

- 2. In general, your goal for placing the next AP is to aim for location which is again structurally convenient—for example, you may want to remain close to a wall, so the AP is relatively out of the way of other activity and movement—and is close to another Ethernet connection.
- 3. As you move AnalyzeAir in the general desired direction, keep an eye on the device signal strength on the **Devices View**. When the signal strength falls to around -70 to -80 dBm, this indicates that the first AP can no longer reliably communicate with network devices at your current location.

Choosing the higher threshold value, -70 dBm, will provide greater network reliability, at the price of placing APs closer together. That will mean purchasing more APs. The lower threshold, -80 dBm, may result in somewhat less network reliability and/or data rates, but also involves deploying fewer APs.

- 4. At this point, where the AP signal strength has dropped to -70 dBm or -80 dBm, you will probably want to deploy the next AP. You should set the new AP to a channel substantially apart from the channel used for the first AP. (For example, you might vary your APs between channels 2, 5, and 8, or 1, 6, and 11.)
- 5. However, before "committing" your AP to this new location, you should use AnalyzeAir to double-check a few things:
  - Using the **Channel Summary**, make sure that the channel you have in mind is reasonably free of local interference.
  - Check the **Spectrum** plots to ensure that the location is fairly free from excessive RF activity of all kinds.

As usual, if you encounter undesirable RF activity at the location of interest, you will need to take steps to mitigate the interference, deploy a more powerful AP, or choose another location.

- 6. Set the second AP in place at the new location, and wire it into the LAN. Set one of the **Real Time FFT** plots to monitor the channel which will be used by the AP. When you turn on the AP, you should see an immediate and dramatic gain in RF power in that channel. This tells you that the AP is broadcasting RF on the appropriate channel.
- 7. Again turn to the **Devices View**. AnalyzeAir should quickly detect and classify the AP, so that it is shown in **Devices View**.

#### Placing Successive APs

From here, you will continue the deployment process in a similar manner, repeating the previous steps 1 through 7. You may very likely need to go back to the first AP, and head off in a new direction—at right angles to your first path, or directly opposite—to place the third AP. Depending where each AP is placed in your overall network environment, you may need to place anywhere from one to four APs that are adjacent to it at some distance.

- In each case, however, as you travel away from an AP, an indication that the AP no longer provides adequate signal coverage is when the AP's signal falls to around -70 to -80 dBm.
- Also, be sure that adjacent APs are not broadcasting on the same channel.

#### After-Deployment Site Survey

After deploying all your APs, you will want to conduct another site survey. This time, you do not need to cover all the ground, as with the initial survey. However, you want to focus on areas which, just by reviewing your AP layout, you can see are relatively far from any one AP.

In those areas, you will want to move AnalyzeAir around a bit, and use the **Devices View** to ensure that at least one AP is clearly detectable, preferably, giving a **Signal Strength** greater than -70 dBm. This ensures that any device in the area will be able to communicate with at least one AP.

In addition, you may want to activate some of the known interferer devices that operate within or near the perimeter of your network—cordless phones, microwave ovens, etc. You can use both the spectrum plots and the **Channel Summary** to see if any of these devices are swamping the RF environment with so much energy that they are likely to impede RF communications. If that is the case, you can deploy additional APs, or more powerful APs, to compensate for the interference.

#### Long-Term Trend Analysis

Your network's RF environment can change over time, requiring adaptive changes in your network deployment. Quite typically, these changes will be for the worse—more RF activity, and more interference—as your organization grows, and the number of wireless devices (both network related, and interferers), increases as well. You may need to deploy more network backbone devices or more powerful devices, to compensate for the change.

Ideally, you would like to know about emerging RF trends before they impact your network. AnalyzeAir can be used for systematic monitoring and recording of the RF environment, enabling you to observe emerging trends. The key tools here are: the **Devices View**, the **Channel Summary**, the spectrum charts, the screen capture feature, and the record/playback feature.

#### Trend Analysis Procedure

The general strategy is to pick a number of key locations in your network environment, and record spectrum data at those locations at regular intervals. How frequent those intervals should be depends on your own assessment of the pace of change in your network environment. At a small but rapidly growing startup company, you may want to make measurements as often as every two weeks. At a much larger, established organization, with a more gradual growth curve in staff and activity, once every two months might be sufficient.

You can record data both in the form of screen captures of relevant data (see "Capture Current Display" on page 104) and in the form of Spectrum Capture files, which capture real-time data for later playback (see "Recording and Playback" on page 38). For screen shots, you can maintain a notebook where you store printouts of the captured screens. The screen images should be annotated by both date and location. Flipping through the pages in date order (or laying them out on a table for side-by-side comparison) will make it easy to see significant trends in network and RF activity. Similarly, you can view successive Spectrum Capture files, one after another, to discern any important increases in RF activity.

#### Type of Data to Record

We recommend the following types of data as being most useful for long-term trend analysis.

• **Devices View** – The particular RF devices in use at any given moment can vary widely during the course of a day. However, you can set the **Devices View** to display all devices that have been used during an extended period of time during the day, such as the last four hours or the last twelve hours. This will create a broad picture of all the RF devices in use during a typical day, or large part of a day. If you capture this data at regular intervals (for example, every few weeks or every few months), you can see whether there is substantial growth in device usage.

You can also see if a particular type of device is being used more and more, and can make a decision as to whether the type of device in question is likely to impact network operations.

• **Channel Summary** – This view of the RF spectrum indicates the amount of activity on each channel. Taking "snapshots" of this information at regular intervals will help you determine if any particular channels are become crowded with excess activity. This may result in you choosing to change the channel assignments for your network backbone devices.

Note that the **Channel Summary** is, by its basic design, a snapshot view of "right now." Like the use of devices, channel usage can vary significantly over the course of a day. Therefore, on the days when you elect to record data for long-term trend analysis, you may want to capture channel usage at several times during the day. This will make it easier to determine which channels have consistently high activity or low activity.

Time-Oriented Charts – The time-oriented spectrum charts—Devices vs. Time and Channel Utilization vs. Time—are the ideal tool to ascertain overall RF activity over the course of a single day. By setting the time interval to 8 hours or 24 hours, you can obtain a global view of RF activity over the course of a day. (Eight hours is appropriate for most office environments; while the 24-hour view is appropriate for environments such as factories, warehouses, and airports which are the hub of day and night activity.)

Since a single **Devices vs. Time** chart can display, at most, four different types of devices, you may want to put two charts on display at the same time, to capture up to eight different device types. Similarly, the **Channel Utilization vs. Time** chart can only display data for one band. Putting multiple instances of the chart on display enables you to record data for multiple bands.

The goal is to take screen captures of these charts at regular intervals in time (for example, every two weeks), noting both the location and date. After some extended time has passed (typically several months), placing the charts from different dates side-by-side, in ascending date order, will clearly indicate significant increases in the number of devices in use, or the RF duty cycle, or both.

 Channel-Oriented Charts – The Devices vs. Channel and Channel Utilization charts provide more specific information about RF usage. While they only cover a fixed, short interval of time—they update approximately every twenty seconds—they provide a clearer indication of specifically which channels are being impacted by RF activity. As with the Channel Summary display (discussed earlier), we recommend that on your "trend analysis days", you take snapshots of the channel-oriented charts at several times over the course of the day. This will help provide a combined time and channel-oriented view of RF activity.

#### **Routine Network Monitoring and Troubleshooting**

After your network is up and running, AnalyzeAir enables you to monitor the RF environment on a daily basis, often detecting potential problems before they become apparent to users. In addition, when users flag problems, such as network slowdowns or lost connectivity, AnalyzeAir enables you to quickly pinpoint the source of the problem.

#### Routine Monitoring

For routine monitoring, we suggest that you set one of the two **Spectrum** tabs to display the following plots and charts: **Real Time FFT, FFT Duty Cycle**, **Swept Spectrogram**, and all of the spectrum charts (**Active Devices, Channel Utilization, Channel Utilization vs. Time, Devices vs. Channel/Time**).



erb23s.tif

#### AnalyzeAir Set for Routine Network Monitoring

Notice that more than one **Devices vs. Time** chart is in use (lower right of the previous figure). This is because each such chart can track a maximum of four device types. To track more than four devices, you need to put at least two such charts into use. Similarly, you have the option of using more than one **Real Time FFT** plot, or **FFT Duty Cycle** plot, in order to monitor additional bands.

#### Monitoring Points and Monitoring Rotation

The general procedure for routine monitoring is to pick selected monitoring points throughout your network environment.

- Throughout the day, move AnalyzeAir from one monitoring location to another, holding your position at each location for some extended length of time (say, one hour, or two hours).
- In a large network environment—depending on how many AnalyzeAir computers you have and the size of your network support staff—you may not be able to cover all of your monitoring points in a single day. Instead, you may have a rotation among monitoring points that takes, say, a full week to complete, and then starts again, covering the same points, the following week.
- Vary The Sampling Times If possible, each set monitoring point on your route should not always be sampled at the same time of day. As a very simple example, and supposing you had just five designated monitoring points (call them A, B, C, D, and E), and exactly one AnalyzeAir computer, you might employ a rotation similar to the following:

Time Period	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 a.m. to 10 a.m.	А	В	С	D	E
10 a.m. to Noon	В	С	D	Е	А
Noon to 2 p.m.	С	D	E	А	В
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	D	E	А	В	С
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.	E	А	В	С	D

Table 4. Sample Time Rotation Schedule

The point is to make sure that each location is monitored at different times of day, because it is possible that certain locations have low network utilization at one time of day, and higher utilization at another time of day.

 Selection of Monitoring Points – As for the selection of monitoring points, you will typically seek a mix of locations, some of which are relatively near your network backbone devices (such as APs) while others are relatively far from the network backbone devices.

The goal is both to make sure that those points removed from the network backbone have a healthy RF environment so that they can pick up signals from the backbone and ensure that the backbone devices themselves will be able to clearly receive signals from network members.

 Variation Analysis – Under "Long-Term Trend Analysis" on page 115, we discuss capturing screen shots or recording spectrum activity, as a tool for long-term trend analysis. Conceivably, you could use this daily monitoring as the core of that long-term trend analysis. However, recording and storing data from multiple locations every single day is likely to result in an overwhelming amount of data. That is why we recommend measurements intended for long-term trend analysis be taken at longer intervals.

What you can do is make spectrum recordings or spectrum screen shots on a daily basis during the week and then compare the recordings/screen taken at the same location, but on different days of the week and at different times. This comparison will quickly reveal any unexpected, dramatic changes in the RF and network environment.

- You can quickly determine if a particular location has dramatically increased activity at different times of day.
- If you measure the same location, at the same time, at the beginning of a week, and again at the end of the week, you can immediately detect any abrupt change in RF activity. This can occur, for example, if a new RF device (say, a new microwave oven) was installed during the course of the week, and is now introducing unacceptable levels of RF interference.

#### RF and Device Monitoring

Using the spectrum view configuration described earlier:

- Spectrum Charts The spectrum charts will show you if there is an excess of RF activity on a given channel, or an excess of devices on a given channel. You can also see how RF activity and device activity vary over time.
- Spectrum Plots The Real Time FFT, FFT Duty Cycle, and the Swept Spectrogram all help you detect "bursty" RF activity, which may or may not register strongly on the spectrum charts (the charts generally reflect more sustained trends in RF activity). Bursty RF activity can cause network transmission and reception problems, even if the spectrum charts seem to show a relatively clear environment.
- Active Devices Chart and Active Devices tree Together, these two display elements provide a clear picture of just which types of devices—network or interferer—are active in the network environment. The Active Devices tree will also show you if there are network devices impacting your network, but which are not actually part of your network (e.g., APs from neighboring Wi-Fi networks).

#### Troubleshooting

In addition to routine monitoring, there will be times when a network user notifies you about problems with network performance or connectivity. In these cases, you will want to take AnalyzeAir to the location(s) where the problems are being reported and scan the same plots, charts, and the **Active Devices List**, as described earlier.

It is possible that the flawed network activity will be intermittent. You can set AnalyzeAir in place at the location where the troubles are reported, and set it to record spectrum data over the course of a day for later review. At the conclusion of monitoring, you can also look at the **Devices View**, which presents an historical view of devices that were seen over a period of up to 24 hours.

#### Problem Resolution

Once a problem —such as too many devices in use, or excessive interference on a particular channel—has been detected and the general cause has been ascertained, the exact nature of the solution will vary depending on the problem at hand.

In some cases, the cause of the problem is immediately evident. For example, a new microwave oven has been put into use, and the RF energy leaking from the microwave can clearly be seen as increasing the duty cycle every time the microwave is turned on. Try moving or shielding the microwave. Similarly, the office may just have gone from standard wired phones to cordless phones, and the new phones are causing the interference. The solution here may be to change the channel used by the network backbone devices.

In other cases, it may be that more and more network devices are being put into use—for example, as more staff is hired, more wireless computers are used—and a threshold has finally been reached where the existing network backbone (APs) can no longer handle the traffic. The solution here is to purchase additional APs or reallocate some APs from locations where network demand is not as strong.

#### **Device Finder**

In other cases, the general nature of the problem may be apparent, but the particular cause is not. For example, the plots and charts may clearly show increased RF activity when some device is coming into use—but the device itself is not known. (For example, it may be a generic device, and the network administrator does not recognize what device is actually implicated, based solely on the generic parameters.)

In this case, the **Device Finder** feature becomes an essential tool for tracking down the interfering RF device. See "Device Finder" on page 85 for more information.

# Appendix A Glossary of Terms

Key terms used in this manual are defined in the following table.

Term	Meaning			
Fast Fourier Transform (FFT)	A Fourier Transforms is a mathematical operation which takes a waveform (such as RF waves) and determines the magnitude of the different frequency components (sine waves and cosine waves) that comprise the wave. The numbers that give the magnitudes of the sine and cosine waves can be thought of as a kind of RF "fingerprint" which distinctively identifies the wave. Waves that are very similar to each other can be matched because the numbers in their Fourier Transforms will be very similar to each other. A Fast Fourier Transform is a computational method which enables Fourier			
	Transforms to be performed very rapidly (on programmable chips, for instance), with some very minor imprecision.			
Spectrum Analysis	Fluke Networks' technology for enabling RF discovery services, and supporting WLAN performance and interference mitigation services.			
Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN)	A computer network which uses wireless communication, such as 802.11 technology, and central Access Points (APs), to allow computers to communicate without physical connecting wires.			

#### Table 5. Glossary of Terms

# Appendix B Notices and Declarations

#### Introduction

The products discussed in this manual are covered by several categories of regulation in a number of countries. Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the manufacturer could void the user's authority to operate the equipment in these regions.

#### **FCC Notices**

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference when the equipment is operated in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and if not installed and used in accordance with the instruction manual may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation distance between the equipment and the receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio TV technician for help.

## Industry Canada's Interference Causing Equipment Standard for Digital Apparatus

This Class B digital apparatus complies with Canadian ICES-003.

Cet appareil numérique de la Classe B est conforme à la norme NMB-003 du Canada.

## Declaration of Conformity (Spectrum PC Card Sensor Only)

This equipment has been tested and conforms to the European Council Directive 89/336/EEC, Standard EN61326-1:1997/A2:2001 relating to Electromagnetic Compatibility for Laboratory Test Equipment.