

Firetide 5100 Series

Theory of Operation

The 5100 Hotpoint Indoor Access Point Mesh Node is a desktop 802.11 a/g/n capable access point designed to provide internet access to wireless client devices. The 5100 is housed in a plastic enclosure and has two main printed wiring assemblies; a motherboard and 802.11 mini pci radios. It is powered by via an AC/DC desktop adapter (48V out, 1.8 A rating). The Mother Board accepts the 48 VDC input through a 2.1 mm dc connector. The Mother Board converts the 48 VDC into four other supply voltages used by the rest of the system; 1.8, 2.5, 3.3, and 5.0 VDC.

The main processing unit of the 5100 is the Atheros 7131. Memory configuration is 16 Mbytes of FLASH and 64 Mbytes SDRAM. The 5100 supports a single wired 10/100/1000 Base-TX LAN network interface using the IC+ IP1001 PHY. The interface to the wired LAN network is through a RJ45 ports on the rear. The radio cards plug into the Mother Board. Communication between the Mother Board and the radio cards are made via a PCI interface.

The 5100 series uses a Wistron MB82 mini PCI radio card. The Radio Card runs from 3.3 volt, which is provided by the Mother Board. The output TX stage of the radio is powered from +3.3 VDC and has a supply current of 250 mA. Each Radio is a full featured 802.11a/b/g/n client card. The Radio operates in the 2.4 GHz band according to the IEEE 802.11b/g specification and in the 4.9 GHz Public safety and 5 GHz band according to the IEEE 802.11a/n specification. Only proprietary software written and distributed by Firetide Inc. can be installed on the Hotpoint 5100. “Source code” is controlled solely by Firetide Inc. and is not distributed to end users.

The data rates supported are 1 Mbit (DBPSK), 2 Mbit (DQPSK), 5.5 Mbit (CCK), and 11 Mbit (CCK) for .11b, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 36, and 54 MBit OFDM for .11a/g and HT20/HT40 MCS0 – MCS7 for .11n. The HotPort Node uses three 3 dBi omnidirectional antennas per radio and is housed in an injection molded plastic enclosure.