

WiFi Schedules

Introduction

- In February 2023 we introduced an enhancement to MESHdesk and APdesk that allows you to specify an optional schedule per SSID.
- The schedule allows you to specify which times the WiFi radio will make the various SSIDs available to users.
- Home deployments can have two SSIDs.
 - One will be used by the adults which does not have any schedule.
 - A second SSID can be used by the kids and have a schedule associated to it.
- SME deployments can have a dedicated staff SSID with a schedule that matches office hours.

Applying A Schedule

The screenshot shows the RADIUSdesk interface with the 'Edit mesh entry point' dialog box open. The dialog has a 'Schedule' tab selected, showing a grid for enabling the schedule for different time slots across the days of the week. The grid is as follows:

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
11:30 to 12:00	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red
12:00 to 12:30	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red
12:30 to 13:00	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red
13:00 to 13:30	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
13:30 to 14:00	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red
14:00 to 14:30	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red

The '13:00 to 13:30' slot is highlighted in yellow. The dialog also has an 'Enable' checkbox checked and an 'OK' button at the bottom right.

- To apply a schedule, simply select a Mesh or AP Profile and edit it.
- On the Mesh network select an **Entry Point** to which you want to apply the schedule and edit it.
- On the AP Profile select the SSID to which you want to apply the schedule and edit it.
- There is a **Schedule** tab that allows you to enable the schedule and then which time-slots the SSID should be available.

- After you set up the schedule to your liking, click **OK** to save the schedule.
- Reboot the Access Points to which this schedule apply to allow it to fetch its schedule from the controller.
- Any time you want to make a change to the schedule you can simply edit the existing schedule, save it and reboot the Access Point for the changes to apply.



- To toggle a whole column; select the heading e.g. **Mon, Tue** etc.
- To toggle a whole row; select the the time-slot on the left e.g. **10:00 to 10:30** etc.

Some important points

- When applying a WiFi Schedule it is important that the timezone on the Access Point matches where it is deployed.

RADIUSdesk | NETWORK

Meshes Mesh Nodes AP Profiles APs Unknown Dev-2

General Entry points Mesh settings Exit points Node settings Nodes

System

Password

Country

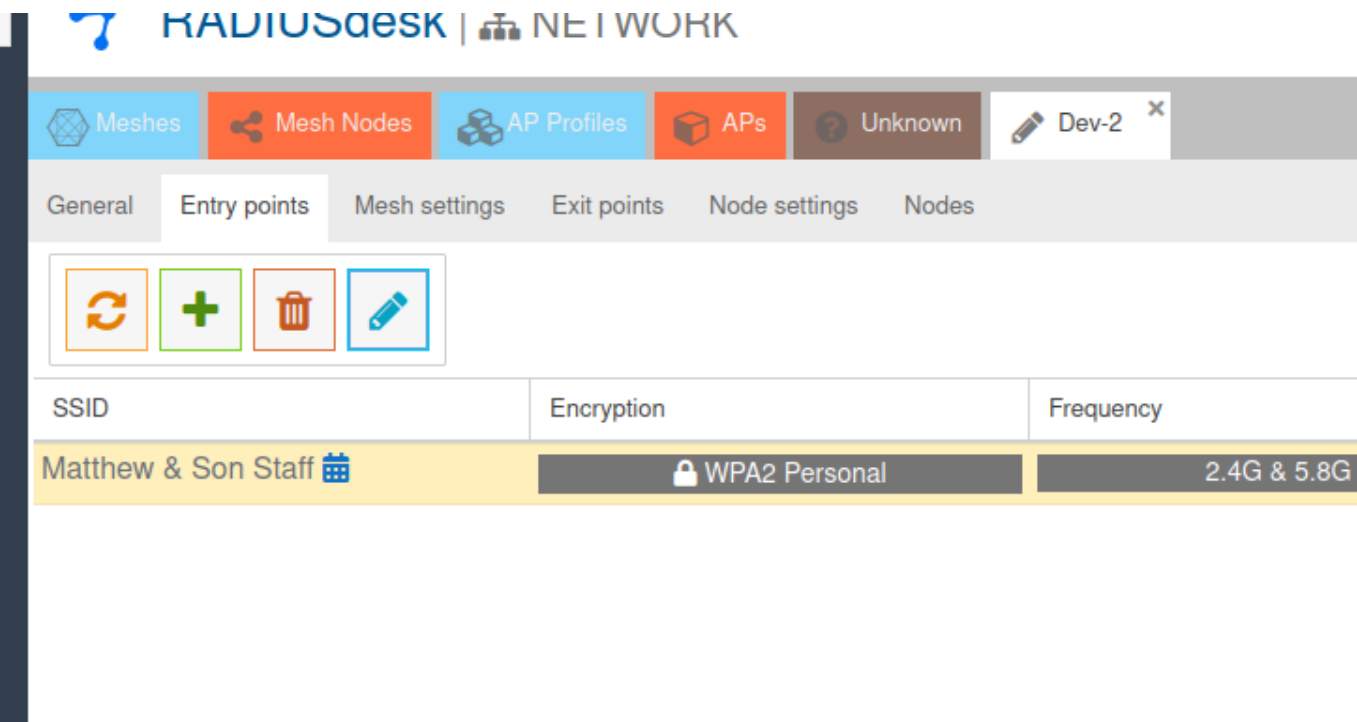
Timezone



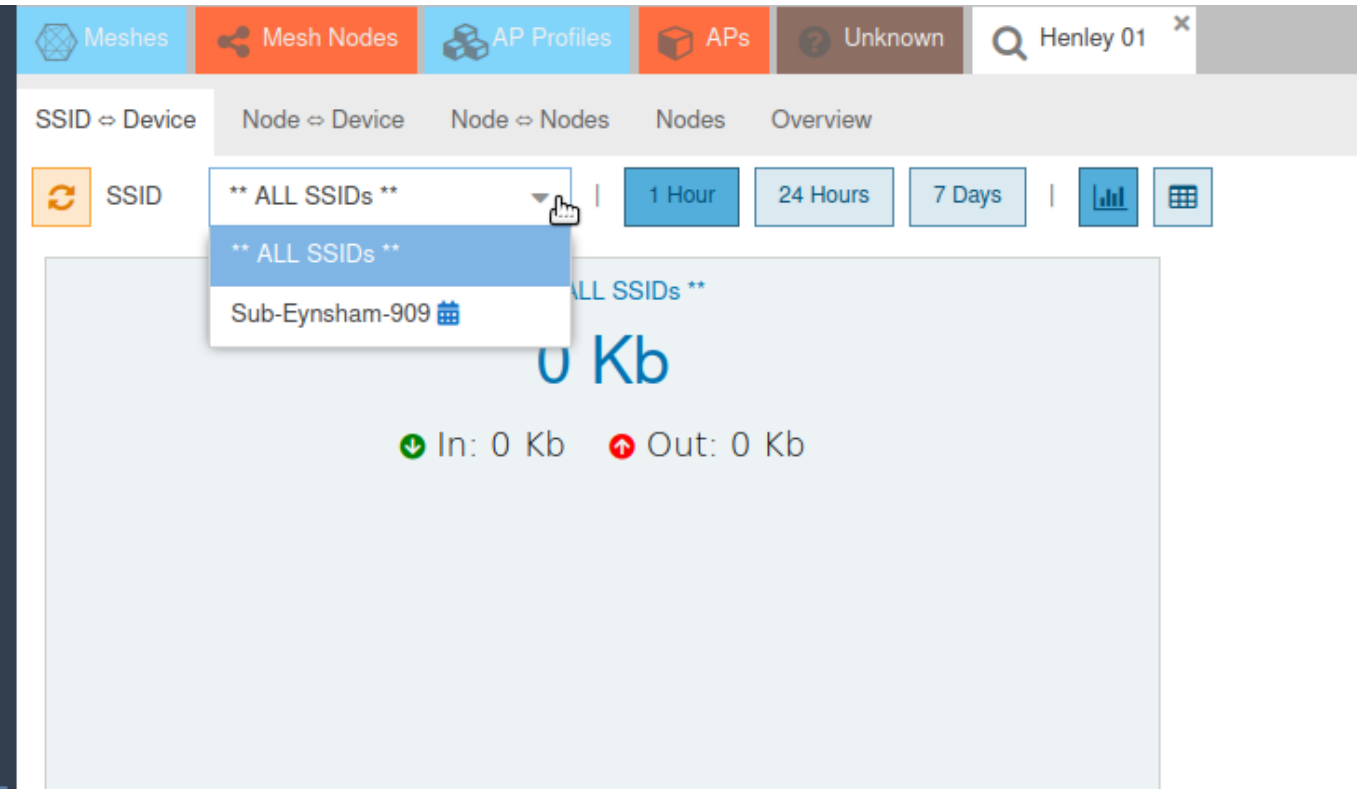
If the timezone is not set correctly the results might be not as expected.

Some visual cues

- We made sure that that there is a clear indication in the GUI for you to see the SSIDs which has a Schedule applied to them.



- Edit - Listing Entry Points or SSIDs



- View - Showing stats per SSID graph view

SSID ⇄ Device

Node ⇄ Device

Node ⇄ Nodes

Nodes

Overview

SSID

** ALL SSIDs **

1 Hour

24 Hours

7 Days

Alias / MAC Address

Vendor

Last Seen

Sub-Eynsham-909

No devices

- View - Showing stats per SSID grid view

Technical Details

- The WiFi schedules taps into the existing schedules feature of the MESHdesk firmware.
- If there is a schedule associated with a SSID, the controller will insert entries to the **schedules** JSON reply data.
- Below is a snippet which we will discuss further.

```
"schedules": [
  {
    "id": 35,
    "mo": true,
    "tu": false,
    "we": false,
    "th": false,
    "fr": false,
    "sa": false,
    "su": false,
    "event_time": "0",
    "command": "\\etc\\MESHdesk\\utils\\ssid_on_off.lua \u0027Dev\u0027
\u0027off\u0027",
    "type": "command"
  },
  {
    "id": 36,
    "mo": false,
    "tu": true,
    "we": false,
    "th": false,
    "fr": false,
    "sa": false,
    "su": false,
    "event_time": "0",
    "command": "\\etc\\MESHdesk\\utils\\ssid_on_off.lua \u0027Dev\u0027
\u0027off\u0027",
    "type": "command"
  },
]
```

- Each entry will have a **event_time** (0 means 00:00 and 1439 is 23:59)

- Then we also have a flag for the day of the week.
- We also have a command to execute.
- To turn a SSID on and off we have a utility script **/etc/MESHdesk/utls/ssid_on_off.lua**
- This is given the SSID and the action (on or off) as arguments.
- With this implementation the activating and disable of a SSID does not depend on communication to the controller but is offloaded to the Access Point when it fetches its configuration.
- It is however important that the time on the Access Point matches the timezone where it is deployed for the minute of the day when the schedule entry runs to match the actual time where the Access Point is deployed.

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