

**SOPHOS**

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Sophos Central

# Creating Hotspots

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# 1 About captive portals and hotspots

The hotspot function turns the AP behind the SSID into a hotspot. This allows businesses (for example, cafes and hotels) to provide time- and traffic-restricted Internet access to guests. Guests have to authenticate themselves in a captive portal after connecting to the hotspot. A captive portal forwards network clients to a special website for authentication purposes or to accept terms of use. After authentication users are able to use the Internet.

Technically, the hotspot feature serves to restrict traffic which is basically allowed by the firewall. Therefore you have to ensure that a firewall rule exists which allows the traffic to be managed by hotspots. We recommend that you test the traffic with the hotspot feature disabled. Enable the hotspots if the test is successful.



**Attention:** In many countries, operating a public hotspot is subject to specific national laws, restricting access to websites of legally questionable content (for example, file sharing sites, extremist websites). Legal regulations may require you to register your hotspot with the national regulatory body.

## Deployment possibilities

Hotspots can be used to provide Internet access for several scenarios:

- Providing access to users via a RADIUS server with Password Authentication Protocol (PAP).
- Providing access to users by creating passwords on a fixed schedule and sending it automatically to individual email addresses.
- Providing access via (time or data limited) vouchers.

## Good to know

There are some things you should know about hotspots:

- Users who connect to an hotspot have to authenticate themselves on the Captive Portal page which opens automatically when opening the browser.
- After authentication users will be redirected either to the original URL they entered or to a URL you defined in the settings.
- You can schedule the availability of the hotspot.

## 2 Creating hotspots with backend authentication

### Objectives

When you complete this lesson, you'll know how to do the following:

- Create an SSID with basic settings
- Turn an SSID into a hotspot with backend authentication

### 2.1 Create an SSID with basic settings

#### About this task

#### Procedure

1. Go to **Wireless > SSIDs** and click **Create**.

The screenshot shows the 'SSIDs' configuration page in Sophos Central. The breadcrumb trail is 'Overview / Wireless Dashboard / SSIDs / New SSID'. The user is logged in as 'Administrator Super Admin'. The page is titled 'Basic Settings' and has 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons. The configuration fields are:

- SSID\***: A text input field for the SSID Name, with a sub-label 'Name for the network.'
- Encryption Mode**: A dropdown menu set to 'WPA2-Personal'. A note below says 'We recommend to use WPA2.'
- Encryption Algorithm**: A dropdown menu set to 'AES'. A note below says 'The default algorithm is AES. It is recommended for security reasons.'
- Passphrase\***: A text input field for a secure passphrase, with a 'Password strength' indicator.
- Frequency Band**: A dropdown menu set to '2.4 GHz and 5 GHz'. A note below says 'Limit the bands the network should be broadcasted on. This might restrict the APs you broadcast the SSID on as some models can only broadcast on specific bands or not all bands at the same time.'

On the right side, there is a 'Help' section with instructions on choosing encryption mode and SSID type, and a 'Your Settings' section listing the current configuration: Encryption Mode WPA2-Personal, Encryption Algorithm AES, Frequency Band 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz, and Enable SSID Enabled. There is also an 'Advanced Settings' link with a chevron icon. A 'Next' button is located at the bottom right of the form.

2. Enter the name for the SSID.
3. Enter a secure passphrase.
4. Click **Next**.
5. Assign at least one access point to the network.
6. Save your settings.

## Results

The SSID is activated.

## What to do next

You can now turn the SSID into a hotspot.

# 2.2 Create a hotspot with backend authentication

## About this task

## Procedure

1. Click on the newly created SSID (**Wireless > SSID**).
2. Go to **Advanced Settings > Captive Portal** and click **Enable hotspot**.
3. Enter the information you want to provide on the landing page.
4. Select the backend authentication.

The screenshot shows the 'SSIDs' configuration page in Sophos Central. The breadcrumb trail is 'Overview / Wireless Dashboard / SSIDs / New SSID'. A left-hand navigation menu includes 'Client Connection', 'Network Availability', 'Quality of Service', 'Captive Portal', and 'Mesh'. The 'Captive Portal' section is active, showing a 'Terms of Service' area with a green checkmark. Below this, the 'Authentication Types' section has 'Backend Authentication' selected. Underneath, there are input fields for 'RADIUS Server\*' (containing 'IPv4'), 'RADIUS Port\*' (containing '1812'), and 'Shared Secret\*' (containing 'Enter passphrase').

5. Type the address of the RADIUS server.

6. If required, change the default RADIUS port.
7. Type a passphrase.
8. Save your settings.

The hotspot is available after a few seconds.

## 3 Creating hotspots with password schedule

### Objectives

When you complete this lesson, you'll know how to do the following:

- Create an SSID with basic settings
- Turn an SSID into a hotspot with authentication via scheduled passwords

### 3.1 Create an SSID with basic settings

#### About this task

#### Procedure

1. Go to **Wireless > SSIDs** and click **Create**.

The screenshot shows the 'SSIDs' configuration page in Sophos Central. The breadcrumb trail is 'Overview / Wireless Dashboard / SSIDs / New SSID'. The user is logged in as 'Administrator Super Admin'. The page is titled 'Basic Settings' and has 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons at the top right. On the left, there is a sidebar with 'Basic Settings' selected, and other options like 'Assign Network', 'Save configuration', and 'Advanced Settings'. The main content area contains the following fields:

- SSID\***: A text input field for the SSID Name.
- Encryption Mode**: A dropdown menu set to 'WPA2-Personal'. A note below says 'We recommend to use WPA2.'
- Encryption Algorithm**: A dropdown menu set to 'AES'. A note below says 'The default algorithm is AES. It is recommended for security reasons.'
- Passphrase\***: A text input field for a secure passphrase, with a 'Password strength' indicator.
- Frequency Band**: A dropdown menu set to '2.4 GHz and 5 GHz'. A note below says 'Limit the bands the network should be broadcasted on. This might restrict the APs you broadcast the SSID on as some models can only broadcast on specific bands or not all bands at the same time.'

On the right side, there is a 'Help' section with instructions on how to choose encryption mode and SSID type, and a 'Your Settings' section showing the current configuration: Encryption Mode WPA2-Personal, Encryption Algorithm AES, Frequency Band 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz, and Enable SSID Enabled. At the bottom right, there is a 'Next' button.

2. Enter the name for the SSID.
3. Enter a secure passphrase.
4. Click **Next**.
5. Assign at least one access point to the network.
6. Save your settings.

## Results

The SSID is activated.

## What to do next

You can now turn the SSID into a hotspot.

# 3.2 Create a hotspot with scheduled passwords

## About this task

## Procedure

1. Click on the newly created SSID (**Wireless > SSID**).
2. Go to **Advanced Settings > Captive Portal** and click **Enable hotspot**.
3. Enter the information you want to provide on the landing page.
4. Select **Password schedule**.

The screenshot shows the 'SSIDs' configuration page in Sophos Central. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with 'Captive Portal' selected. The main content area is titled 'Authentication Types' and shows three options: 'None', 'Backend Authentication', and 'Password schedule'. The 'Password schedule' option is selected. Below this, there are settings for 'Schedule' (daily, weekly, monthly), 'Timezone' (GMT+02:00 Europe/Berlin), and 'Time' (12:00 AM). There is also a 'Notifications' section with a checkbox for 'Notify all admins' and an 'Other users' text input field containing 'john.doe@email.com'. A 'Voucher' option is also visible at the bottom.

5. Set the cycle for creating new passwords.
6. If all administrators should be notified about new passwords, activate the checkbox.
7. Type the e-mail addresses of all users who should receive the passwords.
8. Save your settings.

The hotspot is available after a few seconds. The passwords will be created and sent out at the scheduled times.

## 4 Creating hotspots with vouchers

### Objectives

When you complete this lesson, you'll know how to do the following:

- Create an SSID with basic settings
- Turn an SSID into an hotspot with authentication via vouchers
- Create vouchers

### 4.1 Create an SSID with basic settings

#### About this task

#### Procedure

1. Go to **Wireless > SSIDs** and click **Create**.

The screenshot shows the 'SSIDs' configuration page in Sophos Central. The breadcrumb trail is 'Overview / Wireless Dashboard / SSIDs / New SSID'. The user is logged in as 'Administrator Super Admin'. The page is titled 'Basic Settings' and has 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons at the top right. A sidebar on the left contains navigation options: 'DETAILS', 'Basic Settings', 'Assign Network', 'Save configuration', and 'Advanced Settings'. The main content area includes the following fields:

- SSID\***: A text input field for the SSID Name.
- Encryption Mode**: A dropdown menu set to 'WPA2-Personal'. A note below says 'We recommend to use WPA2.'
- Encryption Algorithm**: A dropdown menu set to 'AES'. A note below says 'The default algorithm is AES. It is recommended for security reasons.'
- Passphrase\***: A text input field with a strength indicator.
- Frequency Band**: A dropdown menu set to '2.4 GHz and 5 GHz'. A note below says 'Limit the bands the network should be broadcasted on. This might restrict the APs you broadcast the SSID as some models can only broadcast on specific bands or not all bands at the same time.'

On the right side, there is a 'Help' section with general instructions and a 'Your Settings' section listing the current configuration: Encryption Mode WPA2-Personal, Encryption Algorithm AES, Frequency Band 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz, and Enable SSID. A 'Next' button is located at the bottom right of the form.

2. Enter the name for the SSID.
3. Enter a secure passphrase.
4. Click **Next**.
5. Assign at least one access point to the network.
6. Save your settings.

## Results

The SSID is activated.

## What to do next

You can now turn the SSID into a hotspot.

# 4.2 Create a hotspot with voucher authentication

## About this task

### Procedure

1. Click on the newly created SSID (**Wireless > SSID**).
2. Go to **Advanced Settings > Captive Portal** and click **Enable hotspot**.
3. Enter the information you want to provide on the landing page.
4. Select **Voucher** as authentication type.
5. Save your settings.

The hotspot is available after a few seconds.

## What to do next

Create vouchers.

# 4.3 Create a hotspot with voucher authentication

## About this task

### Procedure

1. Click on the newly created hotspot (**Wireless > SSID**).
2. Go to **Advanced Settings > Captive Portal** and click **Create Voucher**.

The voucher creation dialog opens.

3. Define the values for the voucher.

**Create Voucher**

Name\*  
Voucher name

Access time  
 Unlimited  
 Period

Start date  
Mon, Jun 12, 2017 12:00 AM

End date  
Wed, Jul 12, 2017 12:00 AM

Timezone  
(GMT+02:00) Europe/Berlin

Amount of vouchers  
- 8 +

Valid for  
D H  
1 0

Save Cancel

4. Save your settings.

The newly created voucher appears in the voucher list.

5. Click **Show PDF** and save the file or print it directly.

## What to do next

Hand the voucher out to the users.