

Remote Unifi Controller Setup Procedure - Windows

For the Residential AV installer, the better solution for Unifi Controller setup is to run a controller at your home or business and redirect all your customers A/P's to report to your controller, under their own unique "site".

For the easiest setup, you will want to insure you have a newer router that has the DDNS loopback feature. If you don't have a router with these specifications, access to your controller locally (when you are in the same building as the controller) will be different than when you are outside of your building.

Unifi Installation

Install Ubiquiti Unifi – <https://www.ubnt.com/downloads>

You may be prompted to install or upgrade Java.

When installation is complete, you may choose to start the controller and test to insure it is properly working, but when you are ready for the next step, you will stop the controller by clicking the red X on the rectangle window that is running at the bottom right of your screen.

If you have issues accessing your controller or adopting or provisioning, look for 3rd party anti virus solutions. Most times during problems in adopting and provisioning it is anti virus that is blocking access to the controller, from the AP.

Controller Setup for remote access

Create DDNS settings on the router

Open Ports on Router

- TCP:
 - 8080
 - 8081
 - 8443
 - 8880
 - 8843
 - 27117
- UDP
 - 3478

Open Ports on Windows OS Firewall

- TCP:
 - 8080
 - 8081
 - 8443
 - 8880
 - 8843
 - 27117
- UDP
 - 3478

Enter DDNS in controller settings

- Settings → Controller → Controller Hostname/IP

Install Unifi as a Windows Service

- Make sure UniFi is not running
- Locate your java installation directory.
- On 64-bit, it's usually at "C:\Program Files (x86)\Java\jre6\bin"; otherwise "C:\Program Files\Java\jre6\bin". (replace jre6 for jre7 if you have the latest Java)
- Add the dir above to the PATH (from Computer->Properties->Advanced system settings)
- run a command prompt (as an Administrator, right click on 'Command Prompt' and choose 'Run as administrator'. THIS IS IMPORTANT ON WIN2008/7+, otherwise the service may not get created)
- cd <unifi_base> (cd "%userprofile%\Ubiquiti Unifi" will usually do the trick, including the quote marks)
- java -jar lib\ace.jar installsvc
- Start the service: net start "Unifi Controller"

Enter SMTP Settings and test

Backup Procedure

- Stop Unifi Service
 - Right click on My Computer → Manage
 - Choose Services
 - Scroll to Ubiquiti Unifi – Right click and choose stop
- Backup C:\Users\USERNAME\Ubiquiti Unifi directory
- Restart Unifi Service

Access to your controller

Open a web browser. Any web browser will work. If yours does not, check your computer for malware, add-ins, browser corruption etc. Until fixed, use a different browser.

Navigate to the URL https://*yourddns*:8443

For instance if your DDNS account is MYOFFSITECONTROLLER.HOMEIP.NET, the URL for your browser would be:

<https://MYOFFSITECONTROLLER.HOMEIP.NET:8443>

If DNS loopback is not functioning on your router, your URL would be

<https://127.0.0.1:8443>

Adopting Access Points

- Insure you have a recent version of Ubiquiti Unifi installed on your laptop
- Install your A/P's
- Open a web browser and navigate to your off site controller, log in
- Create a new Site from the Site pull down menu
- Navigate to the newly created site
- Create an SSID and Password under Settings → Wireless Networks
- Change the default refresh rate from "Every 2 Minutes" to "5 Seconds"
- From your PC, open Unifi Discover (Click start and type Unifi Discover)
- Unifi Discover should locate the A/P's you have installed
- Choose one of them and click Manage
 - Modify the inform URL to point towards your offsite install
 - The default inform URL is <http://unifi:8080/inform>
 - Replace the word "unifi" with your DDNS. Click Apply
 - In the example above, your inform URL would be
 - <http://MYOFFSITECONTROLLER.HOMEIP.NET:8080/inform>
- The A/P should be ready to adopt on your off site controller within 1-5 seconds

Making it Easy

- Buy A/P's in 3 packs
- Create a test site on your off site controller
- Adopt the 3 A/P's onto your controller, to the test site
- Label them and replace them into the original box
- Place the box in your truck

- Later, when you sell a wireless job the procedure is
- Hang the A/P(s)
- Open a web browser on anything from anywhere (mobile phone?)
- Navigate to your off site controller
- Create a new site
- Navigate to the new site
- Create the SSID and Password
- Navigate to the Test Site
- Choose the A/P's you just installed (they should be Active) – the configuration window will appear
- At the bottom of the configuration tab, choose the Move command, then choose the new site
- The selected A/P will move to the new site and provision to the new SSID and password you created.