

**After 25 years
in Wi-Fi, I've
learned **ONE**
thing about
your tools.**

(swipe →)

A field guide to handheld WLAN troubleshooting

STOP ASKING ↓

~~“What's the **BEST**
Wi-Fi tool?”~~

START ASKING ↓

Best for **WHICH** job
performed by **WHOM**
with **WHAT** proof?

Classify the symptom

...before you reach into the bag.

01

Coverage

Signal where the user sits. SNR. MCS.

02

Spectrum

Non-Wi-Fi interference stomping the channel.

03

Co-channel / OBSS

Too many APs. Mixed primary channels.

04

Roaming

Sticky clients. Ping-pong. Slow handoff.

05

Throughput

Wi-Fi slow vs. Internet slow.

06

Auth / DHCP / DNS

Does the client even get on?

The 10 tools

To consider

1	Ekahau Sidekick 2 + Survey / Analyzer Apps	\$6,690
2	NetAlly AirCheck G3	\$4,195
3	Oscium Nomad + Hamina Onsite App	\$2,180
4	Hamina Clip + WiFi Explorer Pi App	\$1,230
5	Hamina Clip + Hamina Onsite App	\$1,180
6	WLAN Pi Go + WiFi Explorer Pi App	\$600
7	Ubiquiti WiFiMan Wizard + App	\$99
8	Wi-Fi Check App	\$80
9	nOversight App	\$28
10	Ekahau Pulse + Speedtest Pulse App	TBA

If you need a validation survey

Ekahau Sidekick 2

\$6,690

4 radios – built-in Spectrum Analyser + Survey / Analyzer apps

The benchmark. Dual-Band radios, calibrated antennas, integrated spectrum, mature workflow.

Not just a 'throw it in your bag' tool, a 'this is the day's job' tool. Still a strong answer for formal Wi-Fi work, and the deepest installed base of trained professionals.

Reach for it when the deliverable is a formal report.

Oscium Nomad + Hamina Onsite App

\$2,180

4 radios · iPad / iPhone · add Lucid or NXT-2000 for Spec An

Mobile survey with serious horsepower. Four simultaneous radios reduce blind spots in dense, multi-band, roaming-heavy environments.

Lighter than a Sidekick rig, broader visibility than a Clip. Spectrum via Oscium Lucid or NetAlly NXT-2000.

Reach for it when you need range + roaming visibility and easily sharable reporting.

In the bag, every day

Hamina Clip + Hamina Onsite App

\$1,180

BLE to iPhone / iPad · provides both validation survey and live Wi-Fi data

Pocket-size survey + validation. Excellent for AP-on-a-stick and 'does this match the design?' walk-throughs. Works offline, syncs to cloud later. Lightweight troubleshooting

Hamina Clip + WiFi Explorer Pi App

\$1,230

USB-C cable · beacon-level truth

Same Clip, different brain. Investigative scanning, capabilities, IEs, country codes, MCS, BSSID truth. Includes the WLAN Pros checklists. Full decodes of informational elements

WLAN Pi Go + WiFi Explorer Pi App

\$600

Magnetic mount · add Oscium Lucid for spectrum

The enthusiast-pro crossover. Rich scanning plus the full WLAN Pi toolbox when you need to dig into frames, or packet captures. Also works with AirTool Pi for frame captures

Boots fast. Answers faster.

NetAlly AirCheck G3

\$4,195

Standalone Android handheld · Wi-Fi 6/7 · + NXT-2000

Self-contained, rugged, no companion device required. SSID, signal, channel use, AP ID, basic auth, DHCP / DNS — instantly.

The tool I trust in the hands of distributed field teams. Runs Analiti and other Android apps when you want more depth.

Reach for it when you need an answer in seconds.

Ekahau Pulse + Speedtest Pulse

TBA

One-tap validation · autonomous performance testing

Not yet announced. A different category — guided diagnostics built for scale, not deep RF forensics.

Designed for ISPs, MSPs, and field teams that need repeatability, recommendations, and fewer escalations. Detailed reporting baked in.

Reach for it when scale matters more than depth.

The client's-eye view

Wi-Fi Check App

\$80

Wi-Fi vs. Internet performance comparison

Separates 'Wi-Fi is slow' from 'the cloud app is slow' from 'DNS is slow' — from a single Apple client, no extra hardware. Testing Wi-Fi vs ISP throughput differences. Always with you.

nOversight App

\$28

Timeline diagnostics · AR overlay of capture locations

What the actual Apple client is living through, roaming, retries, SNR, link ratse, with location context, and very extensive details. My 'go to' app for learning about Wi-Fi details when I only have my iPhone.

Ubiquiti WiFiMan Wizard & App

\$99

MagSafe-friendly · 2.4 & 5 GHz scan + throughput

Cheap, pocketable, always-in-the-bag sanity check. Especially handy on Ubiquiti networks where it can talk to the infrastructure.

At a glance

What each tool actually does

Tool	Scan	Spec	Tput	Survey	6 GHz	Price
Sidekick 2 + Survey	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$6,690
AirCheck G3	✓	—	✓	—	✓	\$4,195
Nomad + Onsite	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	\$2,180
Clip + WiFi Explorer Pi	✓	—	●	—	✓	\$1,230
Clip + Onsite	✓	—	✓	✓	✓	\$1,180
WLAN Pi Go + WEP	✓	●	✓	—	✓	\$600
WiFiMan Wizard	✓	—	✓	—	—	\$99
Wi-Fi Check	—	—	✓	—	✓*	\$80
nOversight	●	—	✓	—	✓*	\$28
Pulse + Speedtest Pulse	●	—	✓	—	✓	TBA

✓ built-in ● add-on / partial — none * capable iPhone

Price ≠ value.

Match the tool to the problem, the person, and the proof you need.

When the Wi-Fi

misbehaves... ask these 6 questions

1

What am I being asked to prove?

Coverage, interference, roaming, throughput, or 'it's broken'?

2

Configuration Data or Coverage Data?

Scanners see the air. Validation tools see RF coverage issues.

3

Wi-Fi or not-Wi-Fi?

If the RF spectrum matters, you may need a real spectrum analyzer.

4

How fast do I need an answer?

AirCheck or WiFi Explorer Pi in mere seconds. Others may take much longer.

5

Who is holding the tool?

Field tech, help-desk, or CWNE, usability matters.

6

What's the deliverable?

Customer report? Or just satisfying your curiosity? Or providing Wi-Fi Checklist answers?



THE REAL TRUTH

Tools don't *fix* Wi-Fi. **KNOWLEDGE** does.

*Learn how Wi-Fi works first.
Then pick the tool that validates it.*

Which tools are in YOUR bag?

Drop a comment and pass this on to a Wi-Fi friend.