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Download any Wi-Fi analyzer onto an iPhone and watch what it cannot tell you.

By **Keith Parsons, CWNE #3** · 2026-09-16 · originally on LinkedIn

It will not list the networks around you. It will not show you a single frame that was not addressed to your own device. It knows what your phone is connected to and almost nothing about the air it is sitting in.

That is not a bad app. Every one of them hits the same wall, because iOS exposes no public interface for scanning neighbors or for monitor mode, which is the listening mode that captures every frame rather than only yours.

Here is what that does to the market. On iOS you cannot buy your way past the wall with better software. You buy your way past it with hardware you carry.

So the tools sort into rungs, and the rungs are not really about features. Each one buys you a different amount of information.

I rebuilt that ladder this week, priced end to end, because Ekahau announced new SaaS pricing.

The whole ladder is in this week's newsletter, with what each rung buys and what it costs.

Before you look: which rung do you think you are on?

By Keith Parsons, CWNE #3, Wireless LAN Professionals. Free to read and share. Facts