Meraki Deployment **Checklist**

Step-by-step Cisco Meraki access point, switch, and security appliance deployment. Ensure a smooth, best-practice Meraki rollout with this comprehensive checklist.

5	**40+**	**Cloud**	**Free**
DEPLOYMENT PHASES	DEPLOYMENT TASKS	MANAGED FROM DASHBOARD	DEPLOYMENT GUIDE

How to Use This Checklist

Work through each phase sequentially during your Meraki deployment. Complete the Dashboard configuration before installing hardware. This checklist covers MX security appliances, MS switches, and MR access points.

1 Dashboard & Licence Setup

Configure the Meraki Dashboard organisation and network before any hardware installation.

- ☐ Create **Meraki Dashboard organisation** and network with correct naming convention
- ☐ **Claim all devices** into the Dashboard using serial numbers or QR codes from packaging
- ☐ Verify all **licence subscriptions** are active and have sufficient term (check expiry dates)
- ☐ Configure **Dashboard admin accounts** with appropriate permissions and MFA enabled
- ☐ Set **organisation-wide settings**: timezone, firmware upgrade schedule, alert preferences
- ☐ Configure **network-level settings**: VLAN configuration, DHCP, DNS, SNMP
- ☐ Set up **Dashboard alerts** for device offline, configuration changes, and rogue AP detection

Section Score: [   ] /10

2 MX Security Appliance

Configure and deploy the Meraki MX firewall/security appliance.

- [ ] Configure **WAN uplink(s)** with static IP or DHCP as required by your ISP
- [ ] Configure **VLAN interfaces** for each network segment (corporate, guest, VoIP, IoT)
- [ ] Set up **firewall rules** following least-privilege principles (L3 and L7)
- [ ] Configure **site-to-site VPN** (Auto VPN) for multi-site connectivity
- [ ] Enable **client VPN** for remote access with MFA via RADIUS or Active Directory
- [ ] Configure **content filtering** and threat protection (AMP, IDS/IPS)
- [ ] Set up **traffic shaping** rules to prioritise business-critical applications
- [ ] Physically install MX, connect WAN and LAN cables, verify **green status** in Dashboard

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3 MS Switches

Configure and deploy Meraki MS switches.

- ☐ Configure **switch port profiles** for each VLAN type (data, voice, AP, trunk, unused)
- ☐ Configure **trunk ports** between switches and to access points
- ☐ Enable **PoE** on ports for access points and IP phones
- ☐ Configure **STP (Spanning Tree Protocol)** for loop prevention on trunk ports
- ☐ Disable or **shut down unused ports** for security
- ☐ Configure **QoS** to prioritise VoIP traffic with appropriate DSCP markings
- ☐ Install switches in racks/cabinets and **patch to structured cabling**
- ☐ Verify all switches show **green/online status** in Dashboard with correct port connectivity

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4 MR Access Points

Configure and deploy Meraki MR wireless access points.

- ☐ Configure **SSIDs**: corporate (802.1X), guest (captive portal), and any additional networks
- ☐ Assign each SSID to the **correct VLAN** for network segmentation
- ☐ Configure **802.1X authentication** for corporate SSID via RADIUS
- ☐ Set up **guest WiFi** with splash page, bandwidth limits, and client isolation
- ☐ Configure **radio settings**: channel width, minimum bitrate, band steering
- ☐ Enable **Air Marshal** for rogue AP detection and containment
- ☐ Physically mount APs at **planned locations** from the site survey
- ☐ Verify all APs show **green/online** in Dashboard and are broadcasting correct SSIDs

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5 Testing & Handover

- ☐ Conduct a **WiFi walk-test** verifying signal strength across all areas (≥ -65 dBm)
- ☐ Test **corporate WiFi authentication** with multiple user accounts and device types
- ☐ Test **guest WiFi** captive portal, isolation from corporate, and bandwidth limits
- ☐ Test **VPN connectivity** for site-to-site and client VPN
- ☐ Verify **firewall rules** are blocking and permitting as expected
- ☐ Run **speed tests** from multiple locations to verify throughput
- ☐ Document the deployment: **network diagram, port maps, SSID details, credentials**
- ☐ Provide **handover documentation** and admin training to the client IT team

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Notes

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