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# android-wifi-tether

Wireless Tether for Root Users

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## Issue **1104**: Random BSSID (MAC address) in every connection.

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Status: New

Owner: ---

Type-Defect

Priority-Medium

[Add a comment below](#)Reported by [thesolu...@gmail.com](#), Aug 31, 2011**Which device (manufacturer, type)?**

Any tested, actually I own a Desire Z

**Which firmware is installed?**

Doesn't matter, actually Cyanogen 7

**What version of wireless tether are you using?**

3.1 Beta5

**What steps will reproduce the problem?**

1 Just made the connection, ping the phone from the PC and do an arp -a from the PC. You will get the Android phone's MAC address

2 Disconnect and repeat the step 1, you will get a different MAC address.

3 Windows 7 (and vista) interpret this as a new connection, triggering the public/home/work network wizard at each connection.

And naming a new connection with a progressive number

**What is the expected output? What do you see instead?**

An unique MAC address/BSSID should be used, I guess that just a single line of code to enforce the mac address should be enough.

**Please provide any additional information below.**

The froyo and gingerbread stock tethering are affected too, the HTC hot spot tethering is unaffected, Barnacle has a field to manually put a fixed BSSID

Project Member [#1 harald....@gmail.com](#)

Aug 31, 2011

Which device-profile and setup-method (all in app-settings) are you using?  
Have you tried to select the "desire"-profile and "softap"-setting?

[#2 thesolu...@gmail.com](#)

Sep 1, 2011

desire + softap doesnt work for me (windows doesnt ask for the passphrase).

btw i looked via ifconfig and the HWaddr is still changing every time the internet sharing is enabled

I use nexus one + netd, which works perfectly for me, aside the annoying problem mentioned.

[#3 christia...@googlemail.com](#)

Dec 2, 2012

Hi same here, Android AP's interface MAC address keeps changing every time I create an AP. May that actually be a feature?

[#4 alfred.e...@gmail.com](#)

Mar 25, 2013

I have a Samsung Galaxy Nexus running CyanogenMod 9 (Android ICS) and I've been experiencing this "bug". This behavior is clearly intentional, but I'm not sure why...

The Broadcom WiFi driver is the culprit. My driver is called 'bcmhdhd', but yours might be different (check your dmesg output to see). If you "repo" the CM9 source and cd to the kernel dir like so:

```
cd kernel/samsung/tuna
```

You'll find the offending code in this file:

```
drivers/net/wireless/bcmhdhd/dhd_linux.c
```

It looks like this (I removed some of it):

```
#ifdef SET_RANDOM_MAC_SOFTAP
// ...
srandom32((uint)jiffies);
rand_mac = random32();
iovbuf[0] = 0x02;           /* locally administered bit */
iovbuf[1] = 0x1A;
iovbuf[2] = 0x11;
iovbuf[3] = (unsigned char)(rand_mac & 0x0F) | 0xF0;
iovbuf[4] = (unsigned char)(rand_mac >> 8);
iovbuf[5] = (unsigned char)(rand_mac >> 16);
// ...
}
#endif /* SET_RANDOM_MAC_SOFTAP */
```

So we see that the last three octets of the SoftAP's BSSID get randomized.

This causes my laptop to always think it's seeing the AP for the very first time and therefore it never remembers my AP's password (which is annoying)...

The fix for me was to hardcode the last three octets (making them like the first three) and rebuild the kernel for my phone...

I realize this is not something that most users of android-wifi-tether will want or be able to do. If someone wanted to create a more general fix in android-wifi-tether, I think it would be possible as the WiFi driver has some code nearby where it allows a custom MAC to be assigned, but I did not look into that...

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