Written by Marco Attard
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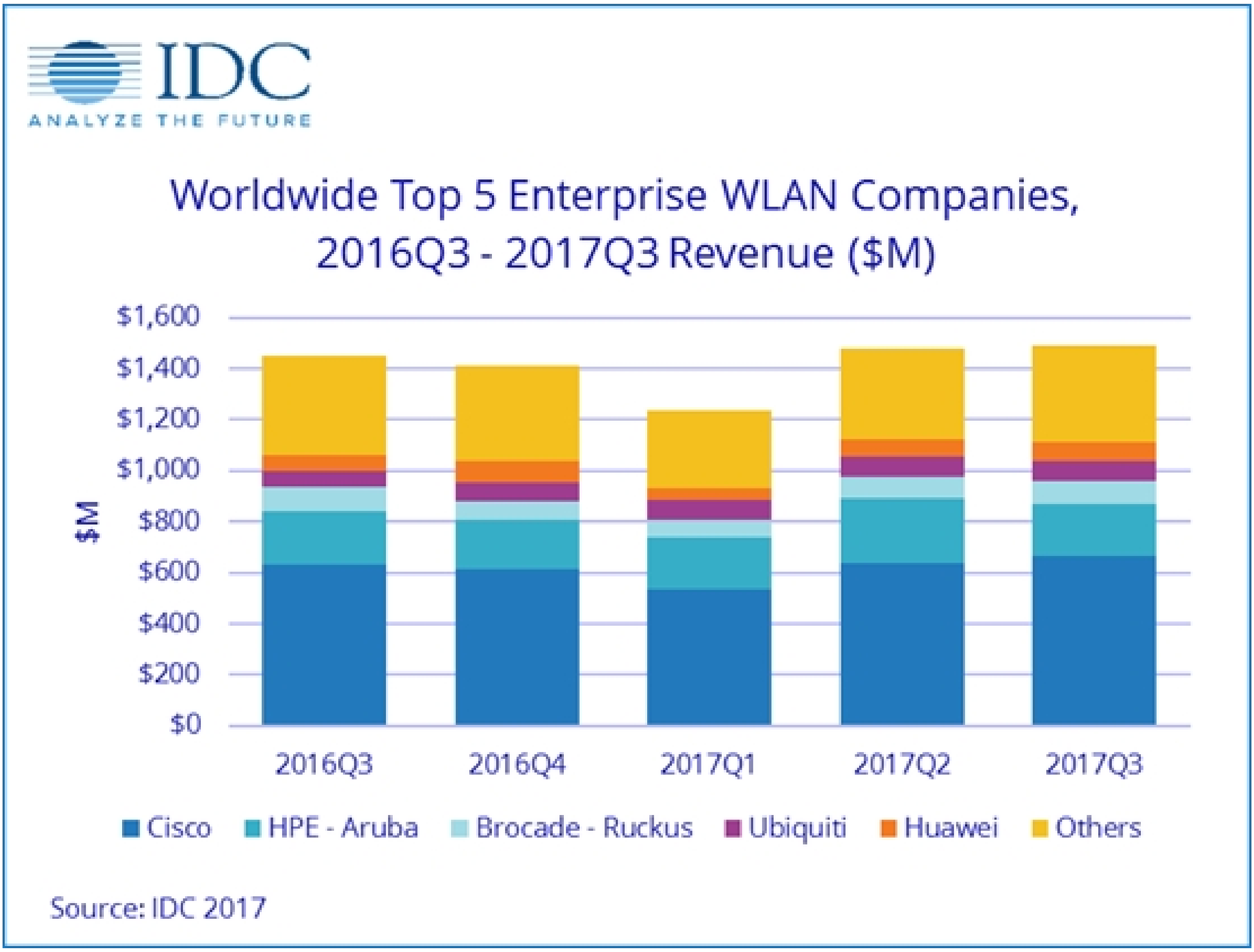
The enterprise WLAN market sees the lowest Y-o-Y increase in over 2 years in Q3 2017, IDC reports-- 2.8%, a "significant growth deceleration" compared to the 9.4% Y-o-Y growth of Q2 2017.

Enterprise WLAN revenues for the quarter total $1.49 billion.



However, despite such weaker than expected results the analyst says the enterprise WLAN market remains strong, and growth should return to the normal mid- to high-single digit rate in upcoming quarters. Upgrades to 802.11ac-based hardware remain a shipment driver, part of the ongoing enterprise digital transformation (DX).

"While the enterprise WLAN market's Q3 2017 performance showcased much slower growth than we have seen in a while, it's important to remember this market is still in growth mode," IDC continues. "Even with the advent of other emerging wireless technologies, WLAN is a foundational connectivity technology, a critical enabler of end-to-end digital transformation and Edge IT and IoT strategies as wireless applications and services continue to unlock new business outcomes."

MEA shows the strongest Q3 2017 growth, with a 12.9% Y-o-Y increase. W. Europe also shows "solid" 8.6% Y-o-Y growth, while CEE growth is of just 5.5% Y-o-Y, a significant deceleration compared to the 19.8% Y-o-Y increase of Q2 2017. However the main reason for the Q3 2017 results is N. America, with performance lagging behind other key regions with a -5.6% Y-o-Y decline, the result of a "lumpy" educational segment.

In the vendor rankings, Cisco continues to lead the enterprise WLAN market with Q3 2017 share of 44.7% (up from 43.2% in Q2 2017) and a revenue increase of 5.3% Y-o-Y. The Meraki cloud-based managed WLAN portfolio is a primary growth driver for the company, one managing to offset declines in tradtitional controller-based WLAN products.

On the other hand 2nd placing HPE-Aruba (excluding OEM business) is down by -1.7% Y-o-Y from a record Q2 2017 due to the delay of a number of deals to Q4 2017. As a result market share is down from 14.3% in Q3 2016 to 13.7%. Also facing decline is Brocade-Ruckus, with revenues down by -9.7% Y-o-Y (if up by 3.2% Q-o-Q) and 5.9% market share, down from 6.7% in Q3 2016.

Ubiquity sees another quarter of strong growth reaching 28.1% Y-o-Y, as well as a market share increase from 4.3% in Q3 2016 to 5.3% in Q3 2017. In 5th place is Huawei, with 20.1% Y-o-Y growth and 5% market share (up from 4.3% in Q3 2016).

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