Installing a Unifi Controller on Windows Operating System

The UniFi Controller is a software application from Ubiquiti that allows you to manage your UniFi network devices from a single interface.

Before beginning the installation, please make sure your Windows machine meets the following requirements:

- A compatible version of Windows (Windows 7, 8, 10, or later).

- Sufficient RAM and storage for smooth operation (at least 2GB of RAM and 20GB of free disk space).

- A network connection for downloading the software and managing devices

Step 1 – Download the Unifi Controller Software

Visit the Ubiquiti website (ui.com/download/unifi)

Select the latest version of the Unifi controller that is compatible with Windows.

UniFi Network **Controller** 6.1.71 for Debian/Ubuntu Linux and UniFi Cloud Key	25 Mar 2021	V6.1.71	Release Notes	Download
UniFi Network **Controller** 6.1.71 for Windows	25 Mar 2021	V6.1.71	Release Notes	Download
UniFi Network **Controller** 6.1.71 for macOS	25 Mar 2021	V6.1.71	Release Notes	Download
UniFi Network **Controller** 6.0.45 for Debian/Ubuntu Linux and UniFi Cloud Key	27 Jan 2021	V6.0.45	Release Notes	Download
UniFi Network **Controller** 6.0.45 for Windows	27 Jan 2021	V6.0.45	Release Notes	Download
UniFi Network **Controller** 6.0.45 for macOS	27 Jan 2021	V6.0.45	Release Notes	Download
UniFi Network **Controller** 6.0.43 for macOS	28 Dec 2020	V6.0.43	Release Notes	Download
UniFi Network **Controller** 6.0.43 for Windows	28 Dec 2020	V6.0.43	Release Notes	Download

Figure 1: Select the latest version of the controller on Windows

Download the latest version of the controller

UniFi Network **Controller** 6.1.71 for Debian/Ubuntu Linux and UniFi Cloud Key	25 Mar 2021	V6.1.71	Release Notes	Download
UniFi Network **Controller** 6.1.71 for Windows	25 Mar 2021	V6.1.71	Release Notes	Download
UniFi Network **Controller** 6.1.71 for macOS	25 Mar 2021	V6.1.71	Release Notes	Download
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UniFi Network **Controller** 6.0.45 for Windows	27 Jan 2021	V6.0.45	Release Notes	Download
UniFi Network **Controller** 6.0.45 for macOS	27 Jan 2021	V6.0.45	Release Notes	Download
UniFi Network **Controller** 6.0.43 for macOS	28 Dec 2020	V6.0.43	Release Notes	Download
UniFi Network **Controller** 6.0.43 for Windows	28 Dec 2020	V6.0.43	Release Notes	Download

Figure 2: Download the latest version of the controller

Step 2 – Install the Unifi Controller

Run the installer by double-clicking the downloaded installer file to start the installation process.

Follow the installation wizard to guide you through the setup. Accept the license agreement, choose the installation folder, and configure any necessary settings.
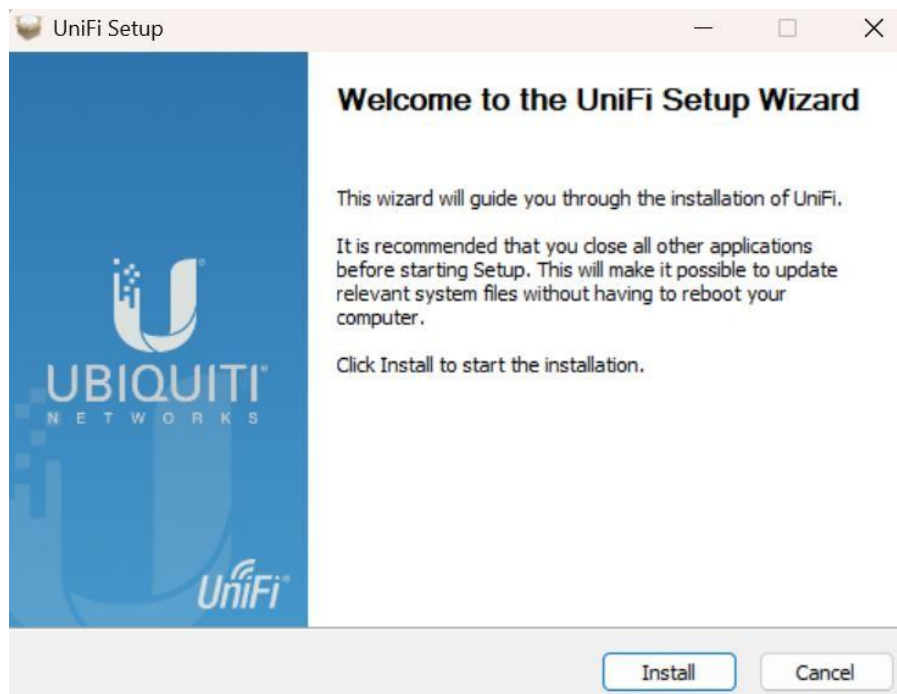

Figure 3: Follow the setup wizard to install the controller

The application will require some Java packages. Please download Java for desktop.
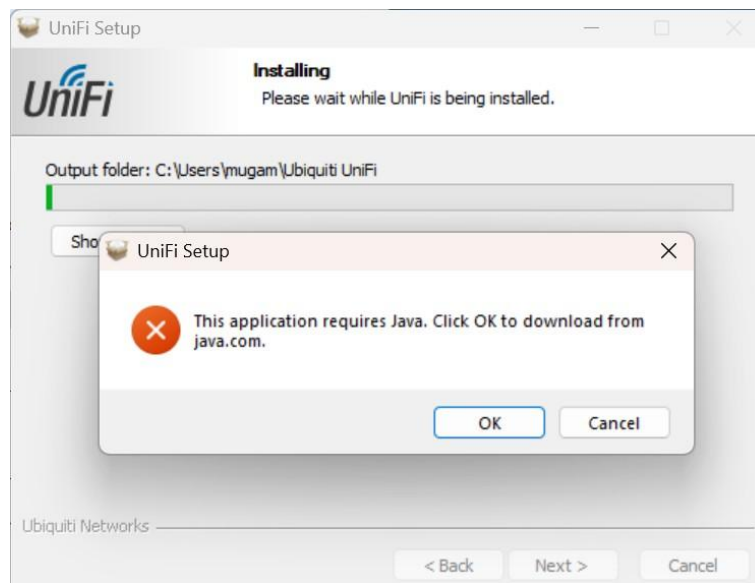

Figure 4: Download the Java for desktop package

You will be redirected to the Java website to download Java for Desktop. Click on the provided link to install this package.
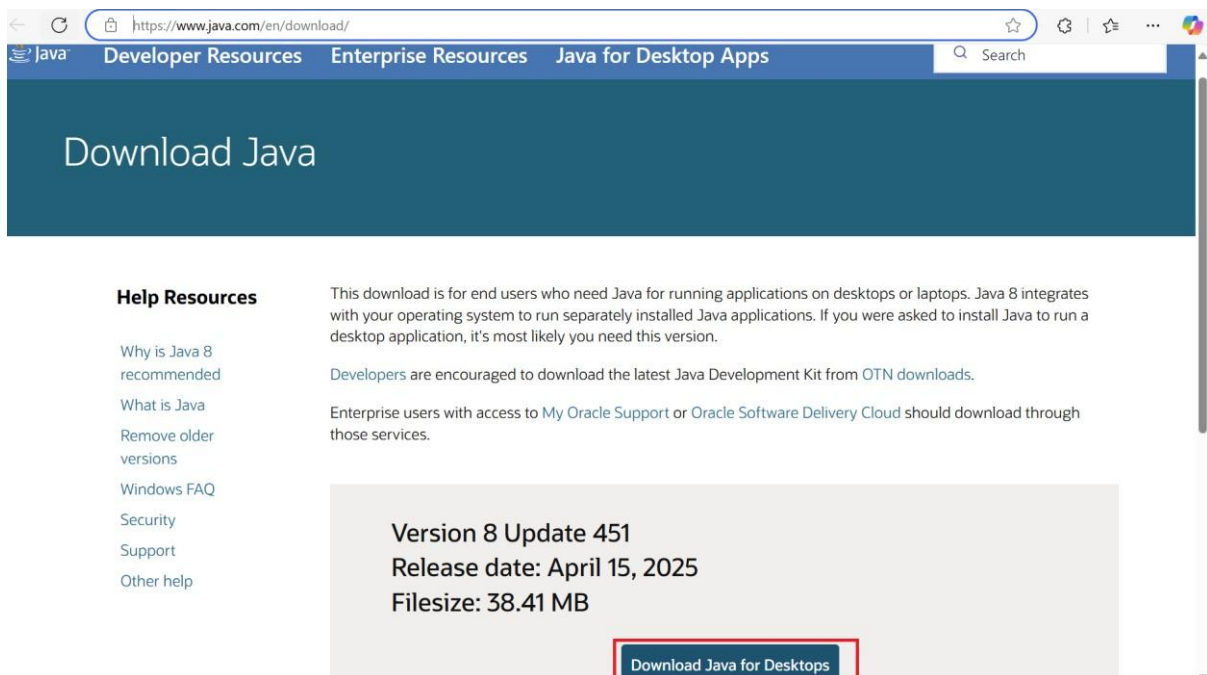

Figure 5: Download Java for desktops

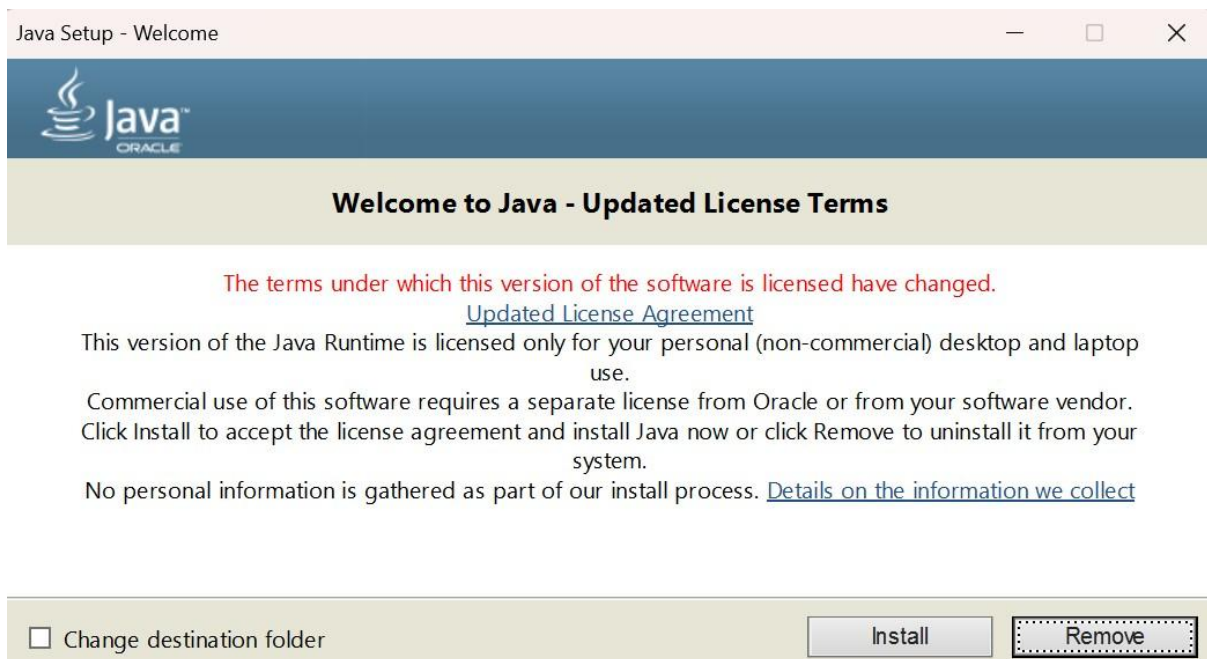Install the Java for desktop setup on the Windows machine.
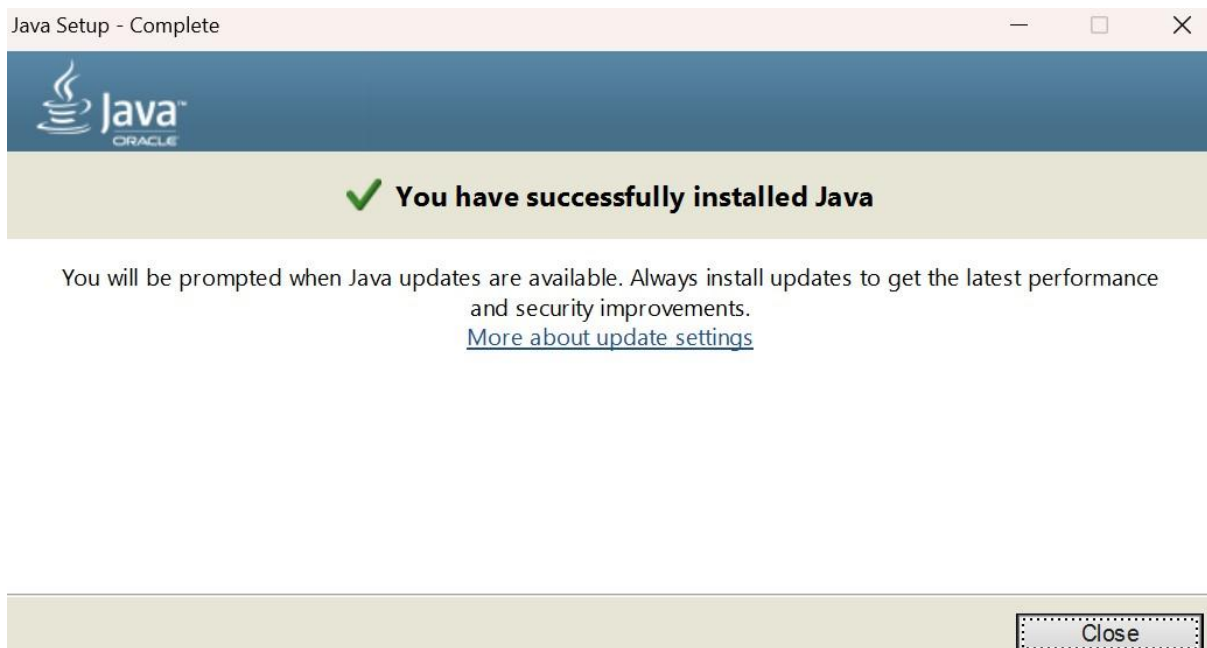

Figure 6: Install the downloaded Java Package

Figure 7: Successful installation of the Java package

After installing the Java package, resume with the installation of the Unifi controller by using the previously downloaded Unifi setup.
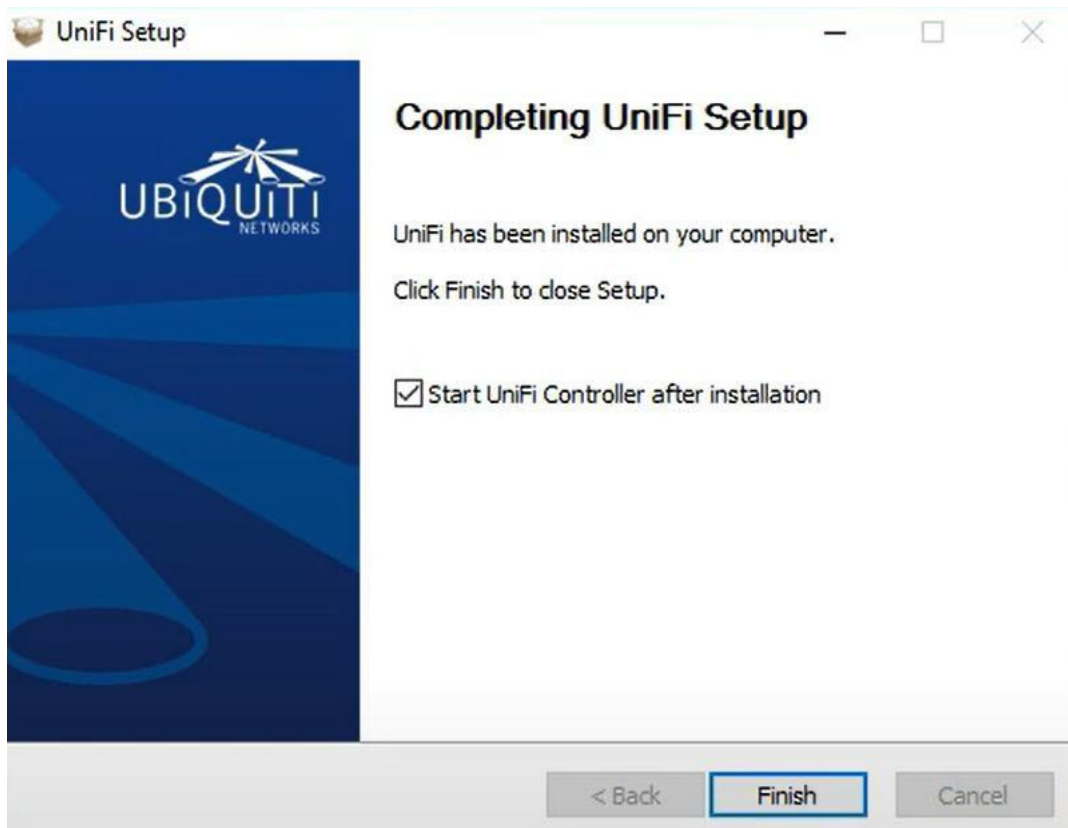
Figure 8: Successful installation of the Unifi controller

Step 3 – Initial Controller Setup

Upon finishing the installation process, launch the Unifi Controller Application for initial setup.
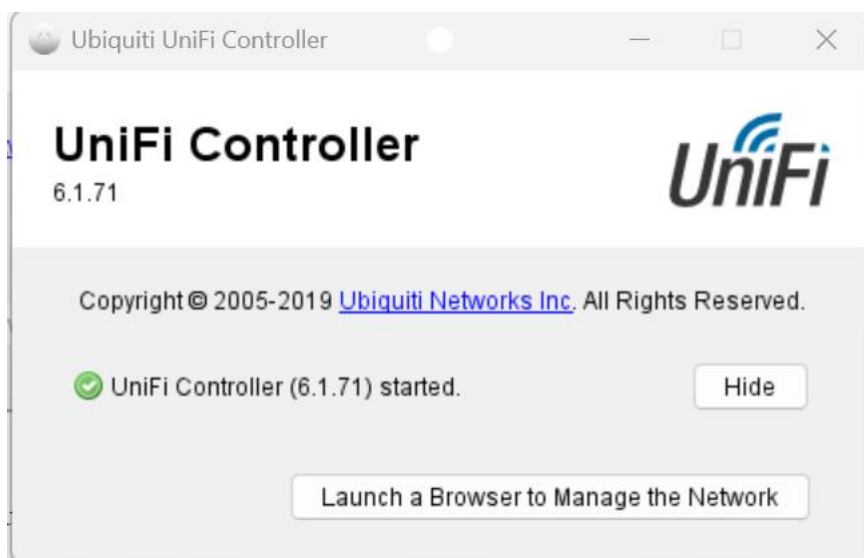
Figure 9: Unifi Controller Launcher

Upon successful application startup, launch the application graphical user interface in a browser of your choice, by clicking the **"Launch a Browser to Manage the Network".**

A new tab in your default your browser will open up with a security risk warning as shown below;
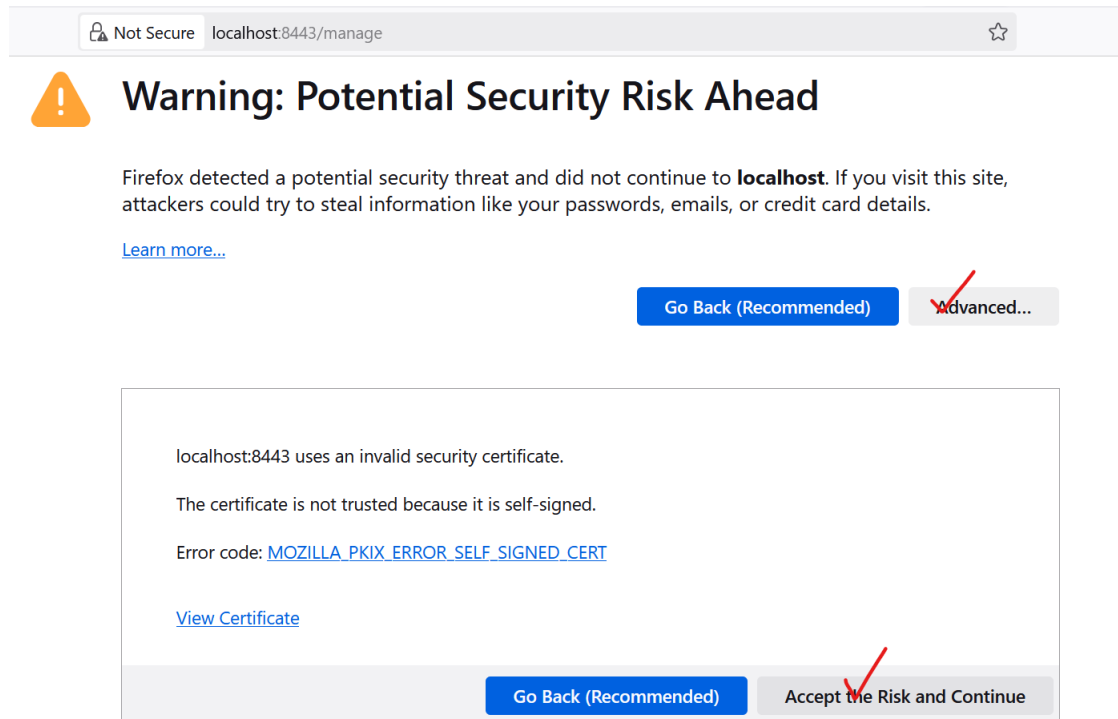
Figure 10: Unifi Application Launch

Choose the **"Advanced..."** option, then **"Accept the Risk and Continue"** option
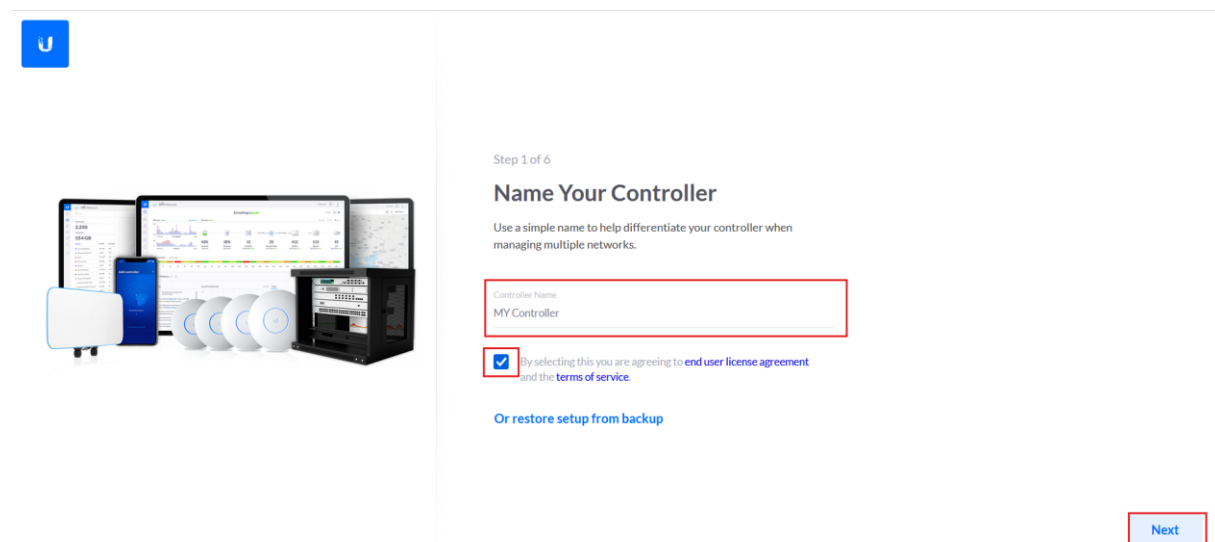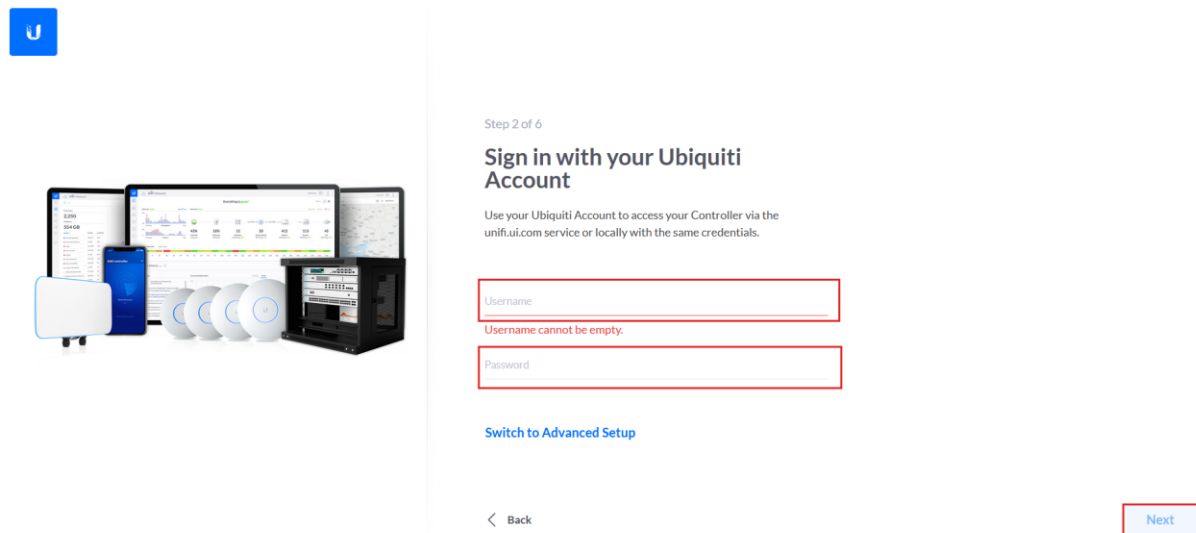
Figure 11: Unifi Controller Naming

On a new window (shown above), choose an appropriate name for your Unifi Controller and check the license agreement option, then Click **"Next"**.

Figure 12: Unifi Controller Sign in Page

To proceed further, you must fill in your Ubiquiti account details. If you do not have an account yet, use the link below to create one yourself.

https://account.ui.com/register

On successful account creation, use the registered **email** and the respective **password** from the proceeding step to log onto the local Unifi Controller on the computer.

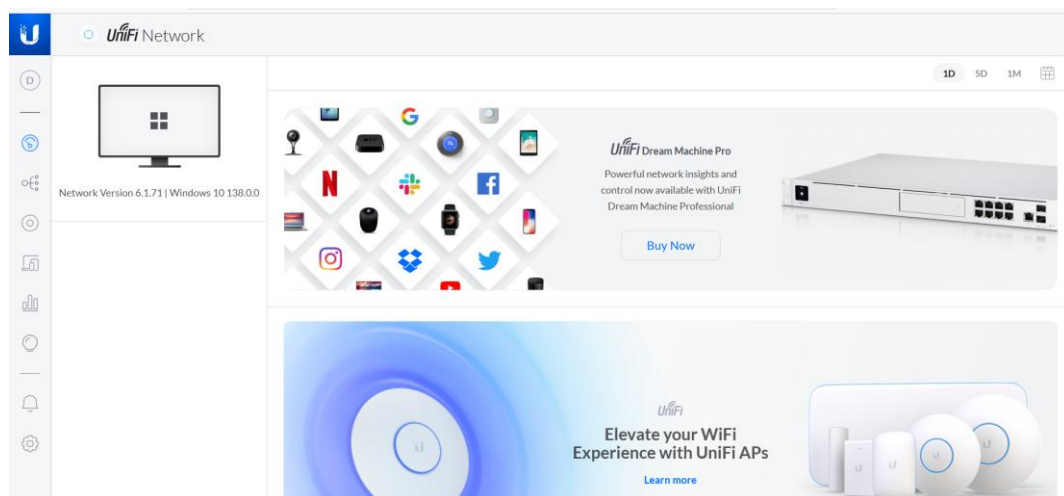Retrieve the code sent to your email address to complete the two-factor authentication requirement.

Figure 13: Unifi Controller Home Page

The home page of the Unifi Controller will launch upon successful authentication as shown in the screenshot above.

Step 4 – Access Point Adoption

This step involves adopting the Unifi access point into the controller. Connect the AP to the local Area Network.

Reset the access point if its lighting blue. To do so, use a pin to press down the reset button located at the back of the AP for a few seconds until the AP reboots.
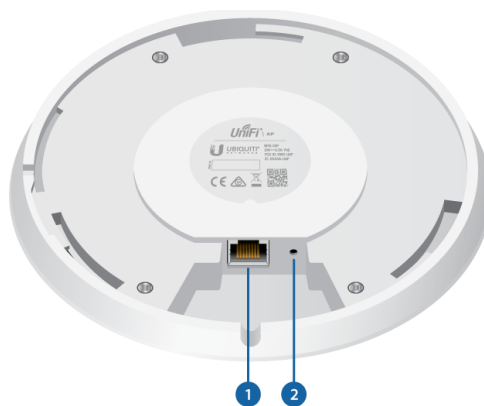

Figure 14: Access Point Copper Port and reset button

Obtain the IP address assigned to the AP using the MikroTik switch provided in the Lab. You can use the command **ip arp print** in the terminal.

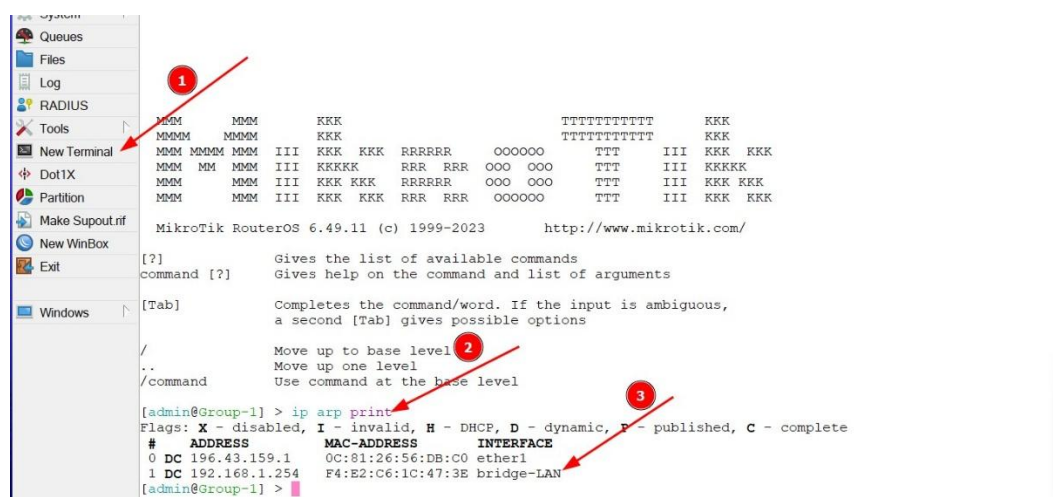Locate the AP by looking for its MAC address in the ARP table.

Figure 15: Finding the IP address of the AP in the ARP table

Open the terminal on your PC and log into the switch using the following command. **ssh ubnt@y.y.y.y**, where **y.y.y.y** is the IP address assigned to the AP.

Use **ubnt** as the default login password

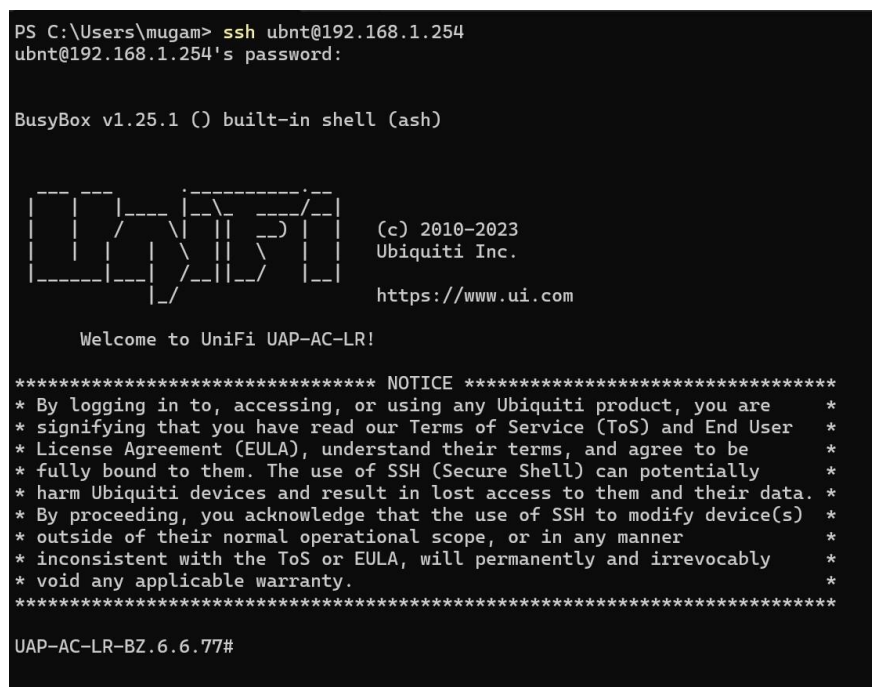**Figure 16: Logging into the AP using the assigned IP address**

Figure 17:AP terminal after logging in

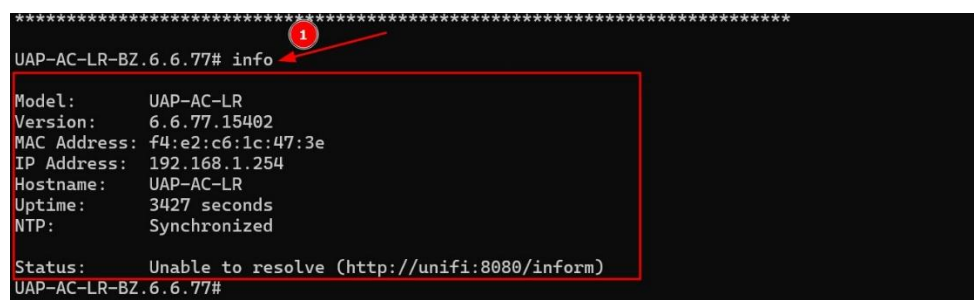In the AP terminal, type the command **info** to check the adoption status.

Figure 18: AP adoption status showing that the AP is not yet adopted

The AP is not adopted in the controller. Let us use the following command to send a request to the controller.

set-inform http://x.x.x.x:8080/inform

where **x.x.x.x** is the IP address of the controller. After executing this command, check the adoption status by typing the command **info**.

Figure 19: Adoption request sent to the controller

At this point, the adoption request has been sent to the controller. Proceed to the controller to complete the adoption.
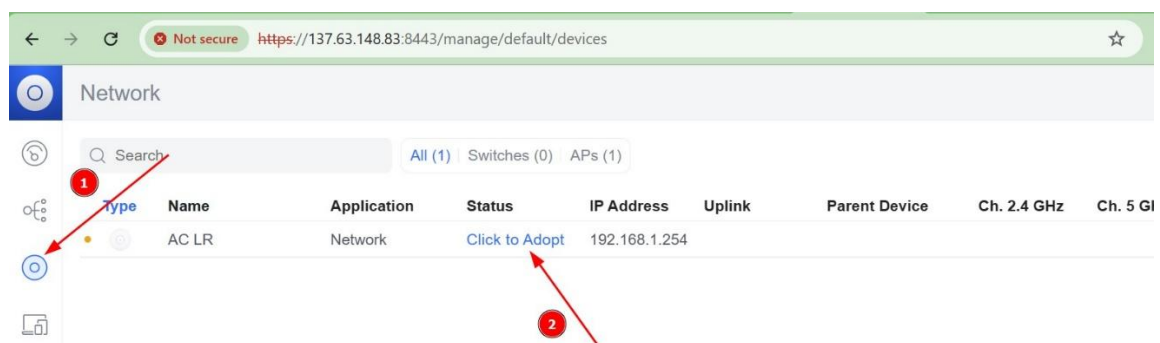

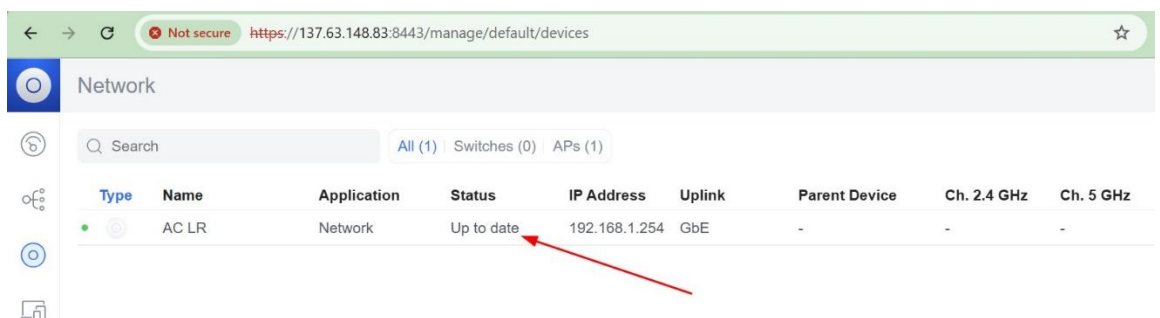**Figure 20: Complete the AP Adoption in the controller**

Figure 21: AP status after completing the adoption process

After the AP has been adopted, proceed to create a wireless network. Assign an **SSID** of your choice, e.g, **Group1.** Assign a password of your choice to the wireless network.
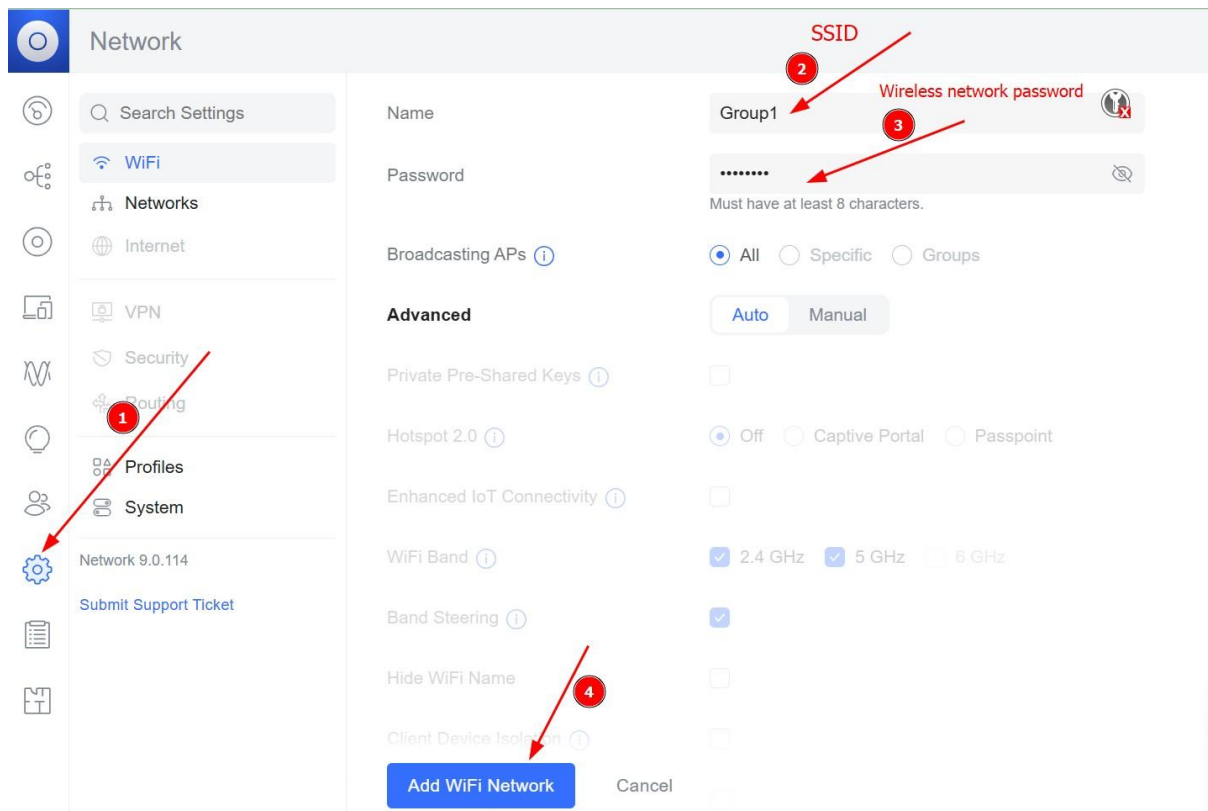

Figure 22: Creating a wireless network

END