Cisco Data Center Networking (DCN) Licensing



© 2026 Cisco and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Contents

How to order Cisco Nexus Dashboard 3
Ordering is made easy through two simple steps 3
Option 1: Cisco DCN Premier license 3
Option 2: Cisco DCN Advantage license 3
Option 3: Cisco DCN Essentials license 3
Step 1: License per device 4
Option 1: Cisco DCN Premier license 4
Option 2: Cisco DCN Advantage license 5
Option 3: Cisco DCN Essentials license 6
Step 2: Cisco Nexus Dashboard Platform 7
Option 1: Cisco Nexus Dashboard Platform (ND-CLUSTERG5S, ND-NODE-G5S, ND-CLUSTERG5L, ND-NODE-G5L) physical compute 7
Option 2: Cisco Nexus Dashboard Platform (ND-CLUSTER-L4, ND-NODE-L4) physical compute 8
Option 3: Cisco Virtual Nexus Dashboard (ND-VIRTUAL=) 8
Option 4: Cisco Nexus Dashboard hosted on public cloud (ND-CLOUD-AWS=, ND-CLOUD-AZURE=) 9
Option 5: Cisco Nexus Dashboard with native Splunk (ND-SPLUNK) 10
Other resources 13

© 2026 Cisco and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

How to order Cisco Nexus Dashboard

Cisco Nexus® Dashboard is a single console for full-lifecycle data center network automation, operations, and analytics across LAN, SAN, IP Fabric for Media (IPFM), Cisco Nexus Data Broker.

This document covers the ordering of Cisco Nexus Dashboard appliances and related licensing.

Components include:

- **Cisco Nexus Dashboard Platform:** Physical compute, virtual Nexus Dashboard, and public cloud-hosted Nexus Dashboard. Nexus Dashboard platform does not require licensing; instead, the usage of Nexus Dashboard features is entitled through the licensing assigned to onboarded switches.

Ordering is made easy through two simple steps

Step 1: Choose the appropriate switch license.

For the full breakdown of what features are included in each tier, please reference the Cisco® Data Center Networking (DCN) Software Subscriptions page. You can order these subscription licenses for three-year, five-year, and seven-year terms. They are available under “Subscription Licenses” when you order a Cisco N9000 Series Switch.

Option 1: Cisco DCN Premier license

Option 2: Cisco DCN Advantage license

Option 3: Cisco DCN Essentials license

Step 2: Choose Cisco Nexus Dashboard Platform: physical, virtual, or cloud.

Cisco Nexus Dashboard Platform: The Cisco Nexus Dashboard physical appliances (ND-NODE-L4, ND-NODEG5S and ND-NODEG5L) are purpose-built to provide a suite of services. The Cisco Nexus Dashboard solution offers high availability, lifecycle management, and network automation. Cisco Nexus Dashboard can be deployed as 1, 3, or 6 node clusters, with additional nodes to operate as standby appliances for higher resiliency and faster recovery. Larger clusters may be required to provide the necessary hardware performance and scale.

Virtual Nexus Dashboard: Cisco Nexus Dashboard is available as a virtual appliance (ND-VIRTUAL=).

Nexus Dashboard hosted on public cloud: Available on AWS and Microsoft Azure platforms (ND-CLOUD-AWS=, ND-CLOUD-AZURE=). Please refer to the Nexus Dashboard services and deployment guide for more information.

Cisco Nexus Dashboard with native Splunk: Cisco Nexus Dashboard now offers native Splunk®, allowing for seamless data observability and analytics within your data-center environment (ND-SPLUNK).

© 2026 Cisco and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Step 1: License per device

Option 1: Cisco DCN Premier license

Cisco DCN Premier license is available under “Subscription Licenses” when you order a Cisco N9000 Series Switch.

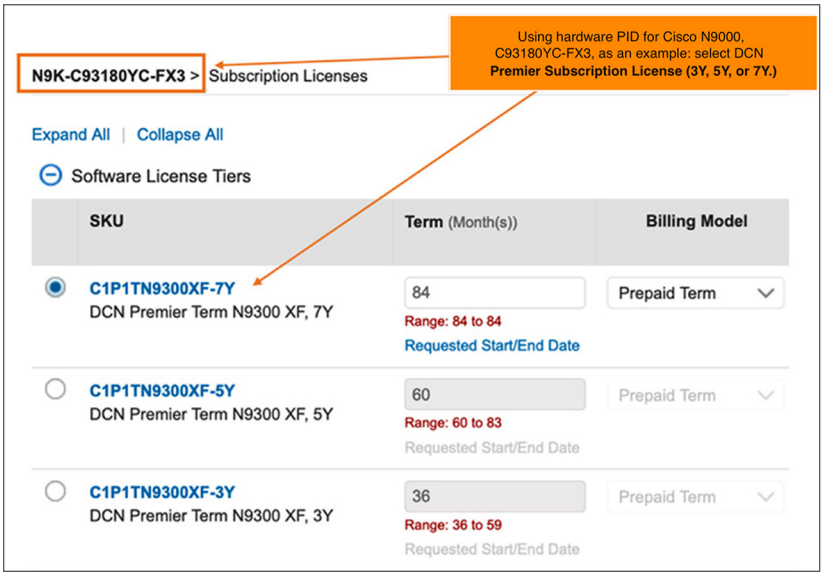


Figure 1. Cisco DCN Premier subscription license three-year, five-year, and seven-year terms as part of ordering hardware Cisco DCN Premier license is also available without hardware under C1-N9K-ADD-T top level PID.

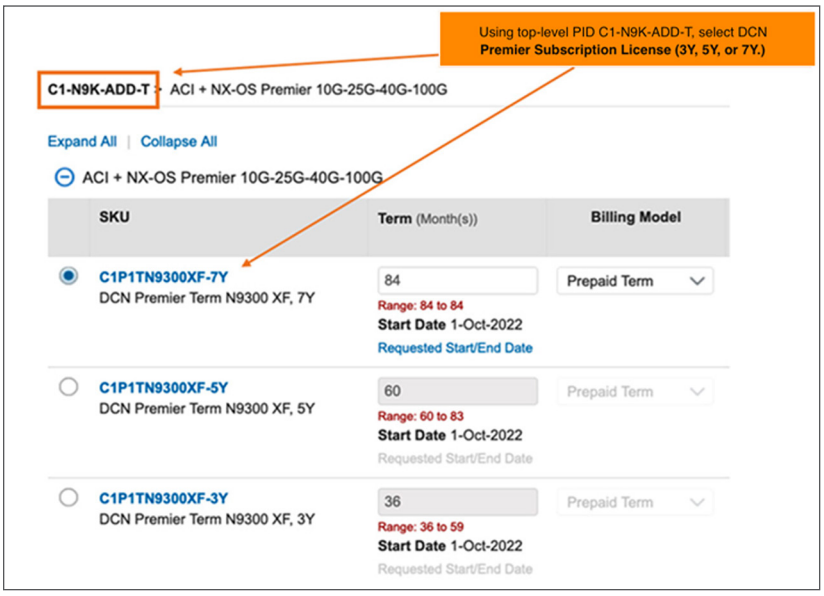


Figure 2. Cisco DCN Premier subscription license three-year, five-year, and seven-year terms ordered à la carte

© 2026 Cisco and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Option 2: Cisco DCN Advantage license

A Cisco DCN Advantage license is available under “Subscription Licenses” when you order a Cisco N9000 Series Switch.

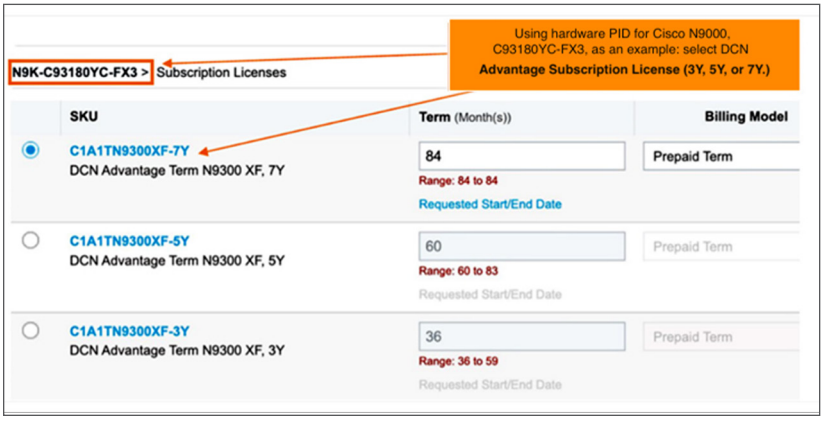


Figure 3. Cisco DCN Advantage subscription license three-year, five-year, and seven-year terms as part of ordering hardware

A Cisco DCN Advantage license is also available without hardware under a C1-N9K-ADD-T top-level PID.

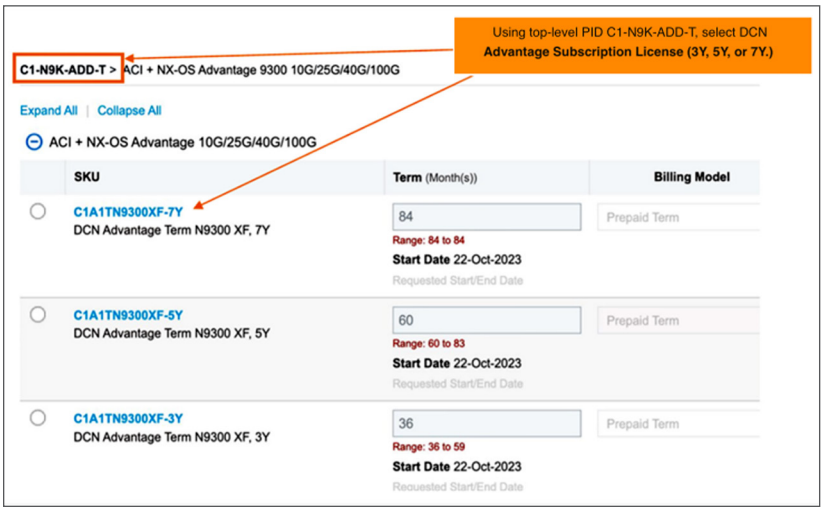


Figure 4. Cisco DCN Advantage subscription license three-year, five-year, and seven-year terms ordered à la carte

© 2026 Cisco and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Option 3: Cisco DCN Essentials license

A Cisco DCN Essentials license is available under “Subscription Licenses” when you order a Cisco N9000 Series Switch.

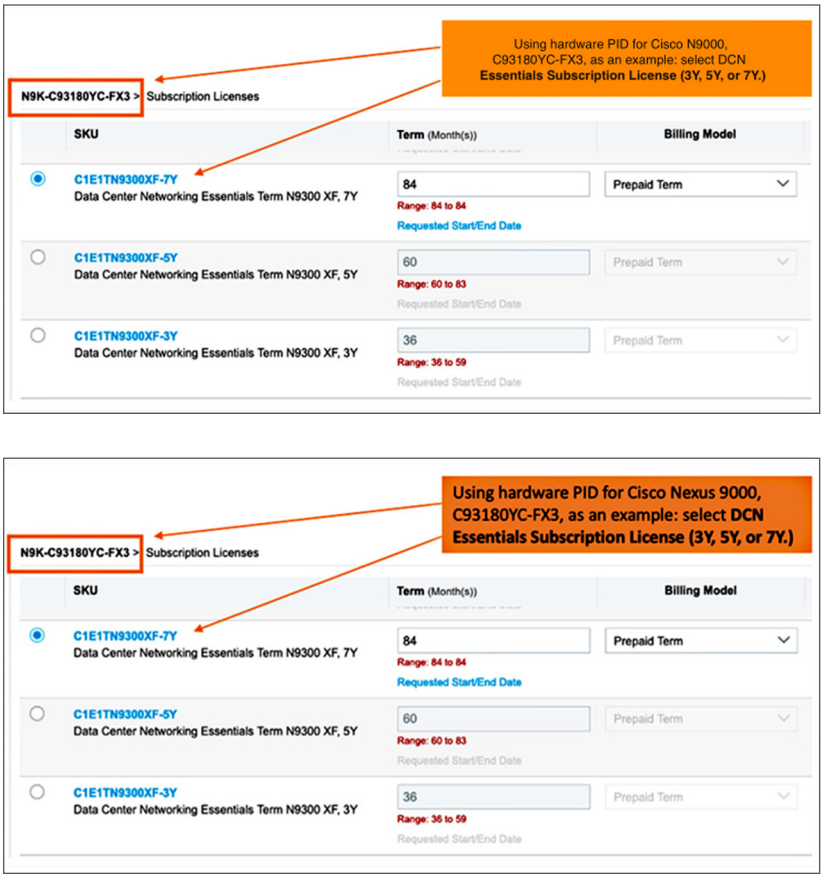


Figure 5. Cisco DCN Essentials subscription license three-year, five-year, and seven-year terms as part of ordering hardware A Cisco DCN Essentials license is also available without hardware under a C1-N9K-ADD-T top-level PID.

© 2026 Cisco and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

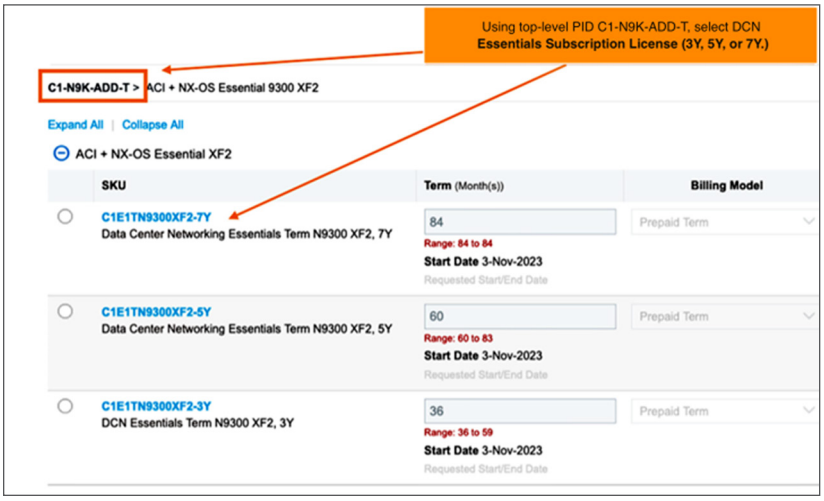


Figure 6. Cisco DCN Essentials subscription license three-year, five-year, and seven-year terms ordered à la carte

Step 2: Cisco Nexus Dashboard Platform

Option 1: Cisco Nexus Dashboard Platform (ND-CLUSTERG5S, ND-NODE-G5S, ND-CLUSTERG5L, ND-NODE-G5L) physical compute

Cisco Nexus Dashboard Platform is a purpose-built physical appliance that is designed to run Cisco Nexus Dashboard. Cisco Nexus Dashboard will be preinstalled on the physical Nexus Dashboard before shipment. The latest 3rd-generation physical appliances come in two form factors – G5S (small) and G5L (large) – which have different scaling capacities. These appliances can be ordered as a cluster of three appliances or individually. Please see the Nexus Dashboard Capacity Planning tool for scaling information.

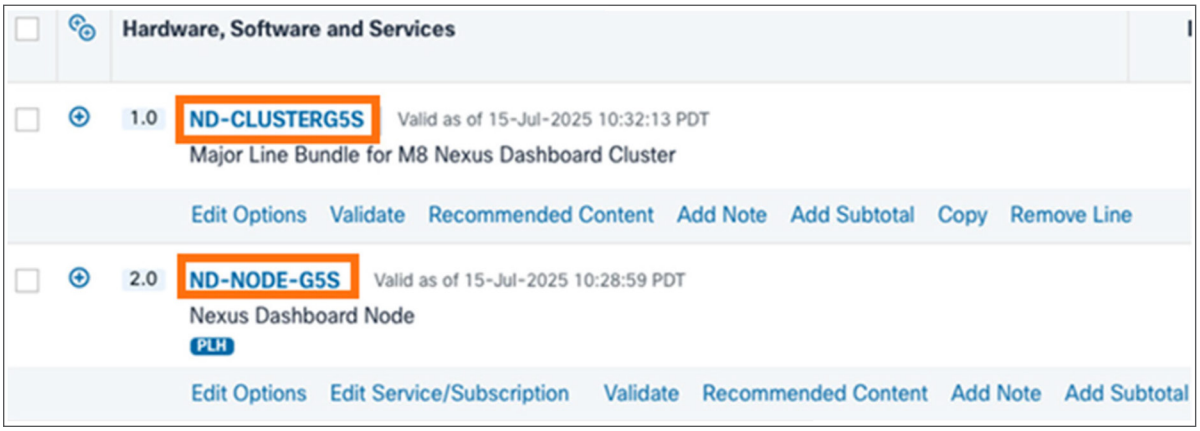


Figure 7. Ordering Cisco Nexus Dashboard Platform 3rd-generation physical appliances

© 2026 Cisco and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Option 2: Cisco Nexus Dashboard Platform (ND-CLUSTER-L4, ND-NODE-L4) physical compute

The Cisco Nexus Dashboard Platform is a purpose-built physical appliance that is designed to run Cisco Nexus Dashboard. Cisco Nexus Dashboard will be preinstalled on the physical Nexus Dashboard before shipment. These 2nd-generation physical appliances can be ordered as a cluster of three appliances or individually. Please see the Nexus Dashboard Capacity Planning tool for scaling information.

Option 3: Cisco Virtual Nexus Dashboard (ND-VIRTUAL=)

Cisco Nexus Dashboard is available as a virtual appliance (ND-VIRTUAL=). One PID is required per cluster regardless of the number of virtual nodes. Please see the Nexus Dashboard Capacity Planning tool for scaling information

A support contract specific to Cisco Virtual Nexus Dashboard is not required. It is covered by the switch support.

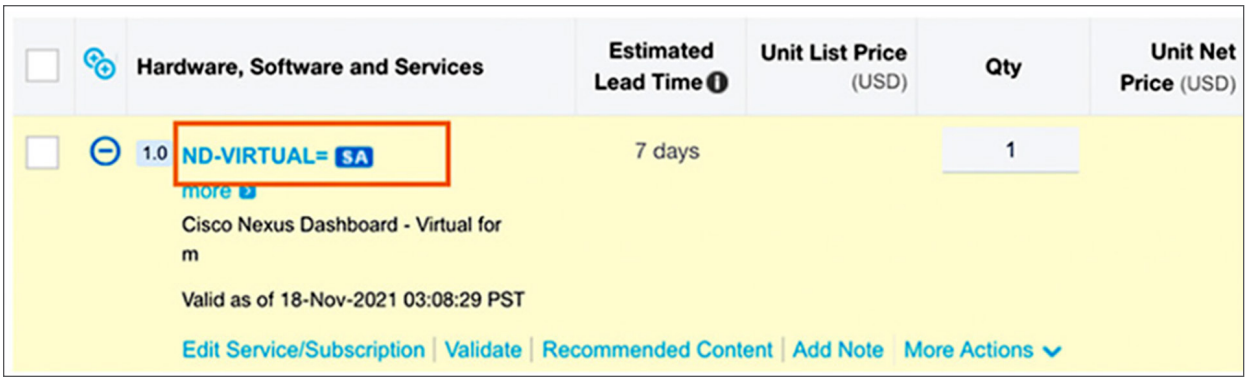


Figure 8. Ordering Cisco Virtual Nexus Dashboard

© 2026 Cisco and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Option 4: Cisco Nexus Dashboard hosted on public cloud (ND-CLOUD-AWS=, ND-CLOUD-AZURE=)

Please note that Cisco Nexus Dashboard hosted in the cloud is designed to be used with Nexus Dashboard capabilities but will have some scale limitations and connectivity requirements. Please check out the latest Nexus Dashboard deployment guides for more information.

Licenses can be purchased through Cisco Commerce and applied in AWS and Microsoft Azure.

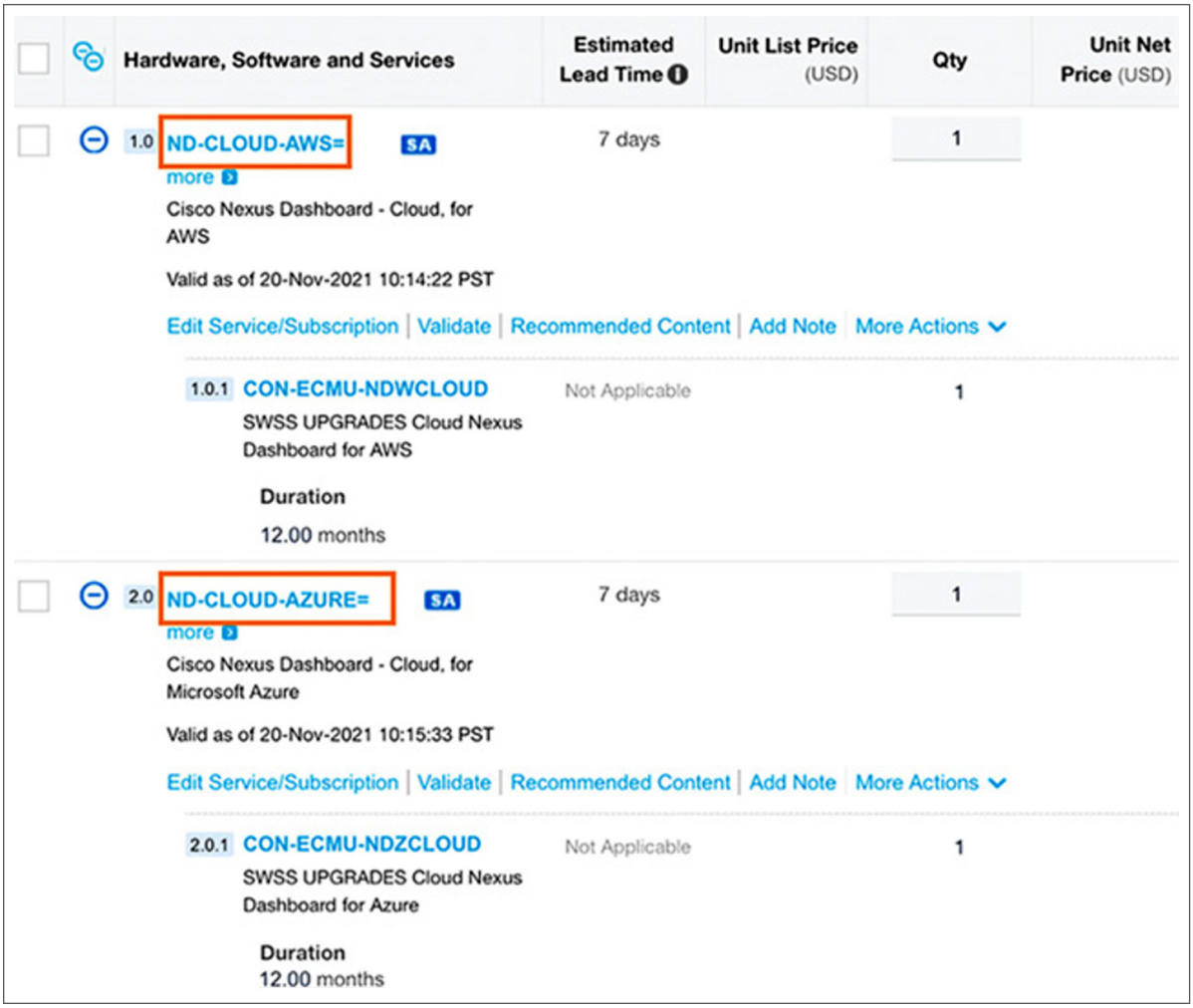


Figure 9. Ordering Cisco Nexus Dashboard hosted on public cloud

© 2026 Cisco and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Option 5: Cisco Nexus Dashboard with native Splunk (ND-SPLUNK)

Cisco Nexus Dashboard now offers native Splunk, allowing for seamless data observability and analytics within your data center environment. This capability enables users to leverage Splunk's powerful diagnostic tools directly alongside their Cisco Nexus Dashboard.

Technical specifications and limitations

- **Hardware support:** This capability is supported exclusively on the single-node appliance: ND-NODE-G5S. A new bundle (ND-SPLUNK) must be purchased.
- **Usage limits:** Splunk is configured with a maximum daily ingestion limit of 10 GB and a data retention period of 30 days.

Licensing and ordering

- **License tier:** This feature is included as part of the switch DCN Premier license tier.

Ordering eligibility for native Splunk

Partners are required to be both certified by Cisco and badged by Splunk with:

- Splunk Sell Associate or higher and Cisco Integrator Select or higher, or
- Splunk MSP or higher and Cisco Provider Select or higher

Distributor eligibility includes:

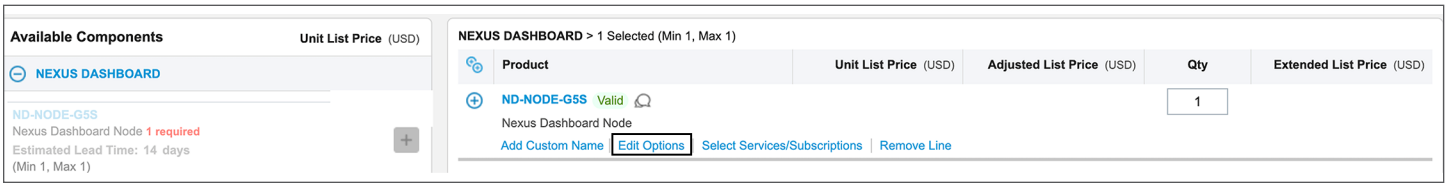
- Cisco Customer Experience (CX) specialization.
- Cisco Advanced Security specialization.
- Splunk Sell (Resell) and Manage (MSP) fundamentals enablement.
- Cisco Enterprise Agreement (EA) accreditation: Distributor Center of Excellence for Enterprise Agreements.

For the next steps in ordering (in this case, a native Splunk example), follow the instructions below to configure your order through Cisco Commerce:

Step 1: Select the new Major Line Bundle (MLB).

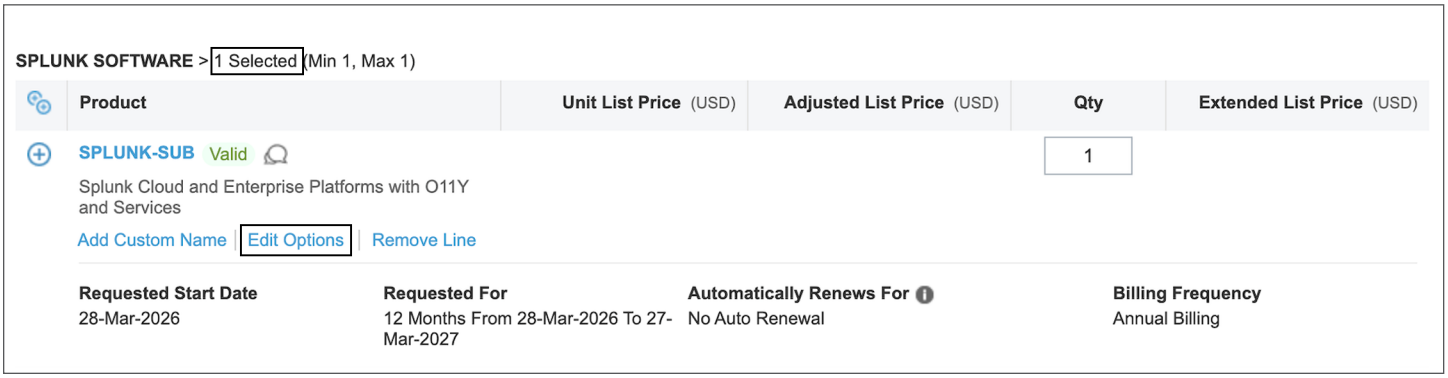


Step 2: Select Nexus Dashboard options such as Image and power supply.

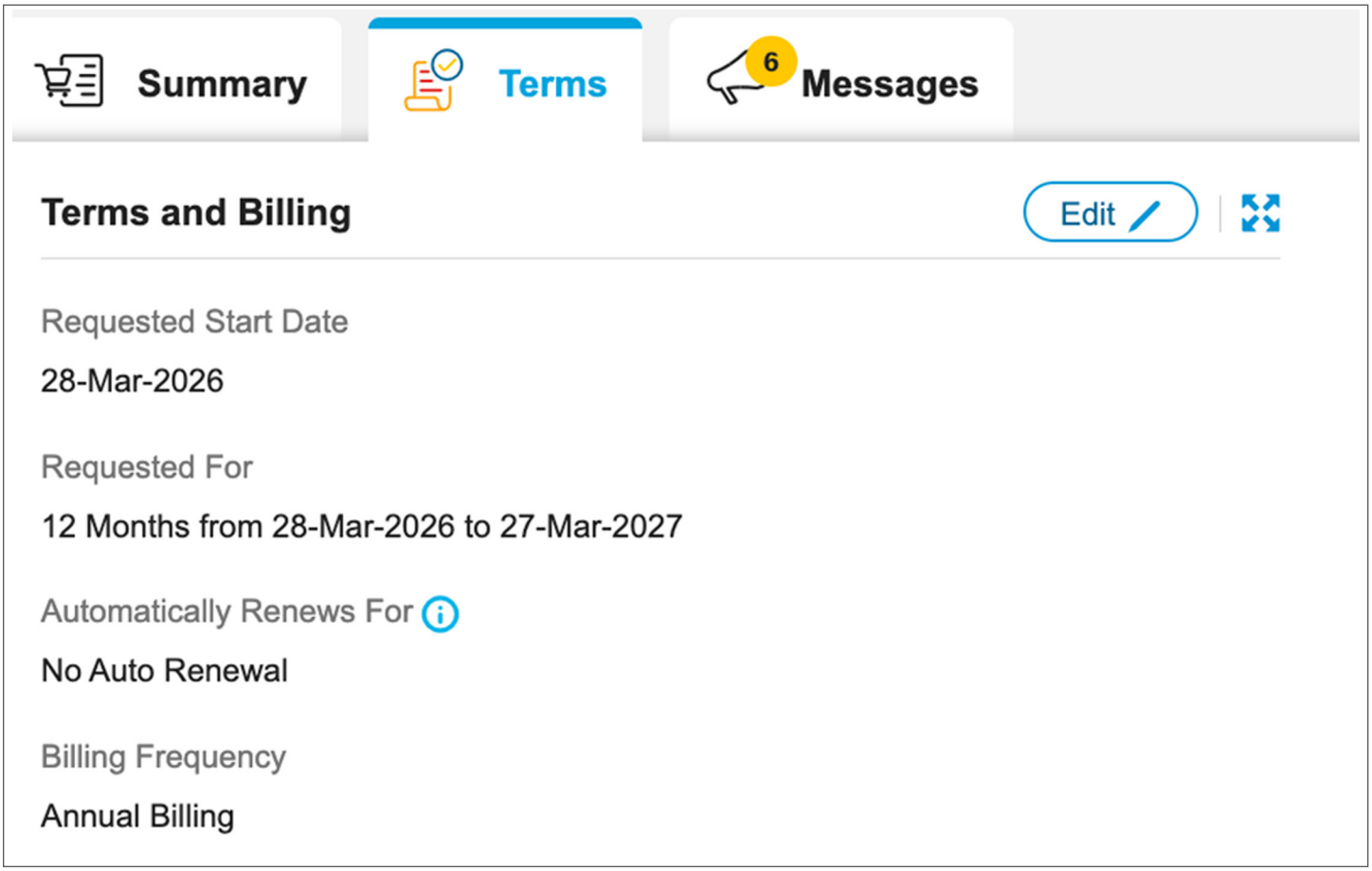


© 2026 Cisco and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Step 3: Select Splunk subscription by clicking on edit options.

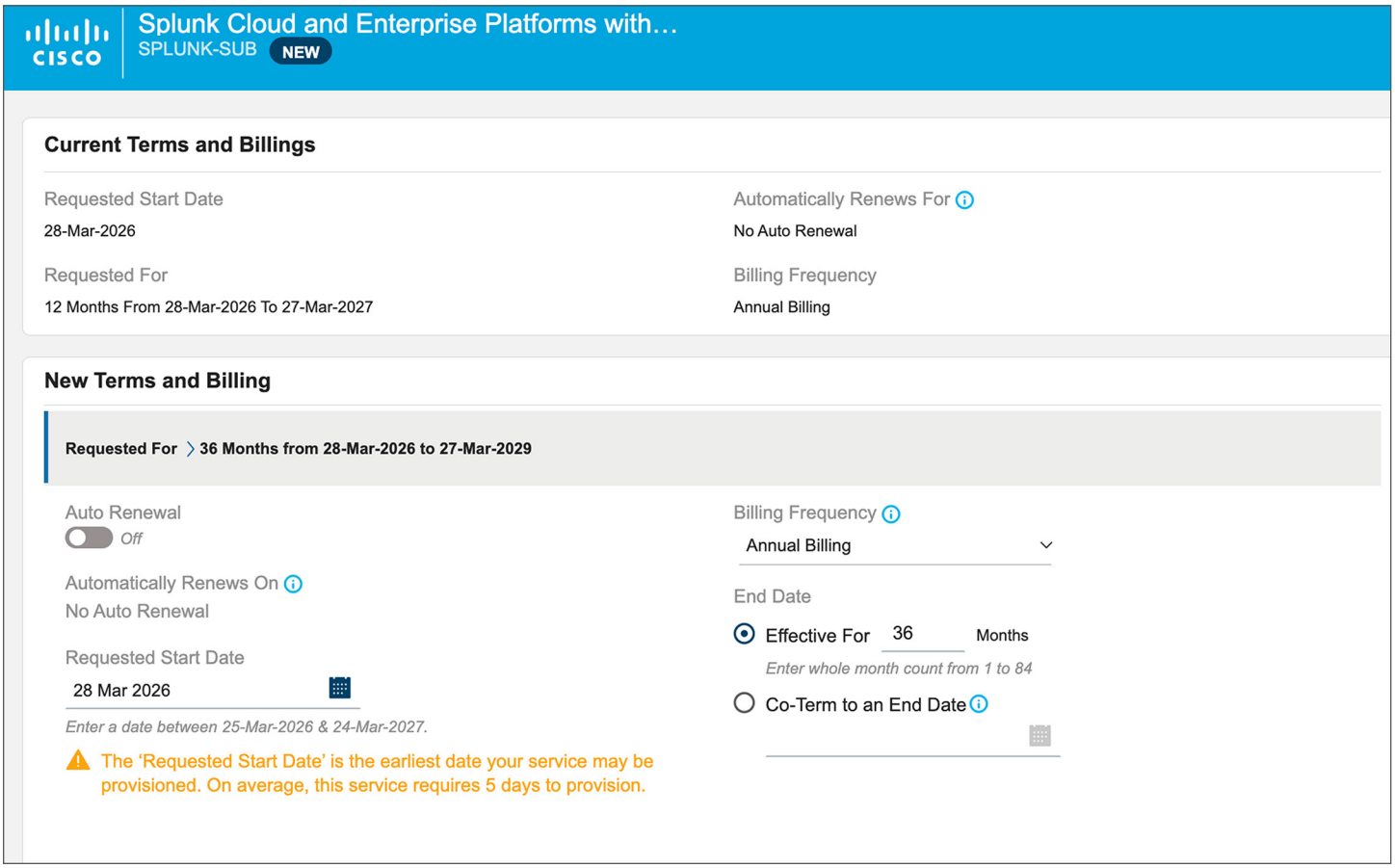


Step 4: Edit the Terms for Splunk subscription.



© 2026 Cisco and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Step 5: Update the billings to 36 months or an end date based on your current premier subscription.



Step 6: Verify the License details.



For additional Splunk licenses:

The native Splunk integration with your DCN switch Premier license supports up to 10GB/day of data ingest within Nexus Dashboard. For ingesting greater than 10GB/day within Nexus Dashboard or ingesting data from other products in your Cisco portfolio, please reach out to your Splunk account team for a complete Splunk Enterprise license.

© 2026 Cisco and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

Other resources

- Cisco Nexus Dashboard
- Cisco DCN software subscriptions
- Cisco NX-OS licensing options guide
- Cisco Application Centric Infrastructure (Cisco ACI®) ordering guide
- Cisco Nexus Dashboard capacity planning and sizing calculator
- Cisco Enterprise Agreement (EA) 3.0 networking guide.
- Chat with Cisco Sales
- Learn about Splunk licensing
- Chat with Splunk Sales

© 2026 Cisco and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved. Cisco and the Cisco logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Cisco and/or its affiliates in the U.S. and other countries. To view a list of Cisco trademarks, go to this URL: www.cisco.com/go/trademarks. Third-party trademarks mentioned are the property of their respective owners. The use of the word partner does not imply a partnership relationship between Cisco and any other company. (1110R)
C07-744361-12 04/26