Choose Stable Cisco IOS® XE Release for Enterprise Routing Platforms

Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Background Information](#)

[Cisco IOS XE Software Support](#)

[Recommendations](#)

[Additional Considerations](#)

[Related Information](#)

Introduction

This document describes how to choose a stable Cisco IOS® XE release for enterprise routing platforms.

Background Information

This document covers recommended releases for Catalyst 8000 Edge, ASR1000, ISR4000 and ISR1000 Platforms.

The software versions provided in this document are generally considered stable for the majority of deployments. Before you select a release, review the associated Release Note document and verify there are no open caveats that can impact the device based on its configured features. The Release Notes also contain tables that identify when Rommon, Field-Programmable Gate Array (FPGA), or Complex Programmable Logic Device (CPLD) versions must be upgraded before you perform the Cisco IOS XE upgrade.

Whenever possible, it is advised to install an Extended-Support release of Cisco IOS XE software. Where hardware support or support for a particular feature is not yet available in an Extended-Support release, a Standard-Support release is required. When the next Extended-Support release becomes available, it is advised to move from the Standard-Support to an Extended-Support version that provides the same hardware and software support.

Cisco IOS XE Software Support

Each Cisco IOS XE software release is classified as either an Standard-Support release or an Extended-Support release.

Standard-Support Release - A sustaining support lifetime of 12 months from First Customer Shipment

(FCS) with scheduled rebuilds. Examples are Cisco IOS XE Software releases 17.7, 17.8, 17.10 and 17.11. Extended-Support Release - A sustaining support lifetime of 36 months from FCS with scheduled rebuilds. Examples are Cisco IOS XE Software releases 17.9, and 17.12.

Note: Every subsequent third release (for example, Cisco IOS XE Software release 17.6, 17.9, 17.12, 17.15 and so on) is an Extended-Support release.

Recommendations

Product Family	Recommended Versions	Known Caveats/ Notes	Release Notes
Catalyst 8500	17.12.8 or 17.15.6	Depending on feature requirements.	Release Notes Catalyst 8500 Series Edge Platforms
Catalyst 8500L	17.12.8 or 17.15.6	Depending on feature requirements.	Release Notes Catalyst 8500 Series Edge Platforms
Catalyst 8300	17.12.8 or 17.15.6	Depending on feature requirements.	Release Notes Cisco Catalyst 8300 Edge Platforms
Catalyst 8200	17.12.8 or 17.15.6	Depending on feature requirements.	Release Notes Cisco Catalyst 8200 Edge Platform
Catalyst 8200L	17.12.8 or 17.15.6	Depending on feature requirements.	Release Notes Cisco Catalyst 8200 Edge Platform
Catalyst 8000v	17.12.8 or 17.15.6	Depending on feature requirements.	Release Notes for Cisco Catalyst 8000V Edge Software
ASR1000	17.15.6 (RP3), 17.9.10 (RP2)	• Earlier versions of 17.x are aware of FN - 70611 • When you upgrade RP2 from older versions to 16.12+ be familiar with the	Release Notes for Cisco ASR 1000 Series, Cisco IOS XE

		ROMMON/CPLD requirements. • 17.9 is the last release for ASR1000 RP2, ASR1001-X, and ASR1002-X	
ISR4461	17.12.8 or 17.15.6	Depending on feature requirements.	Release Notes for Cisco 4000 Series ISRs, Cisco IOS XE 17.15.x
ISR4200/4300/4431/4451	17.9.10 or 17.12.8	Depending on feature requirements.	Release Notes for Cisco 4000 Series ISRs, Cisco IOS XE Dublin 17.12.x
ISR1100	17.12.8 or 17.15.6	On Cisco 1000 Series routers (C11xx models) running Cisco IOS XE version 17.4 or older there is a mandatory interim upgrade required to any Cisco IOS XE version between 17.5 and 17.10 before upgrading to Cisco IOS XE release 17.11 or newer.	Release Notes for Cisco 1000 Series Integrated Services Routers, Cisco IOS XE

Additional Considerations

- Version 17.9, 17.12, 17.15 and 17.18 continue to receive long-term bug fix support with additional rebuilds to incorporate fixes in the future.
- Starting in Version 17.11.1 and later, Weak Cryptographic Algorithms Are Not Allowed by Default. Please review FN - 72510 for additional details.
- In the future Cisco IOS XE release Bundle Mode (.bin file) is going to be discontinued, and Install Mode (packages.conf file) can be the only option supported. Customers are encouraged to start the transition to Install Mode as soon as practical.

- Starting with Cisco IOS XE Dublin 17.11.1a, the PAK-managing library is discontinued. If you have a PAK license without a snapshot, and you want to upgrade to Cisco IOS XE Dublin 17.12.1a or a later release, you have to upgrade twice. First upgrade to the latest 17.6.x or 17.9.x release, where the system can take a snapshot of the PAK license and complete DLC, and then upgrade to the required target release. Please review FN-74148 and Snapshots for PAK Licenses for additional details.

Related Information

- Recommended Releases for Cisco SD-WAN
- Cisco IOS XE 17 - Release Notes - Cisco
- Cisco Support and Downloads
- Cisco IOS XE Naming Convention

