Cisco Recommended Catalyst SD-WAN Software Versions for Controllers and WAN Edge Routers

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Introduction

This document provides guidance to customers on how to find the most suitable Catalyst SD-WAN software for Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN controllers and Edge routers, which includes vEdge and Cisco IOS® XE SD-WAN devices. The information in this document is not meant to be exhaustive and is intended to serve as a general guide to customers, especially in cases of mass deployments/upgrades. Beyond these recommendations, if customers are required to run a release to utilize newer software features or hardware, the recommendation is to choose Extended Maintenance release trains wherever possible.

Background Information

This document covers these software/components:

- Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Manager (formely vManage), Validator (formely vBond), Controller (formely vSmart)
- Viptela OS (for vEdge100, vEdge1000, vEdge2000, vEdge5000, vEdge-Cloud, and ISR1100-4G/6G)
- Cisco IOS XE SD-WAN

Cisco performs extensive internal testing and then evaluates software quality after publishing for general availability before making a recommended release. It includes the review of any new defects filed or found against the release, severity, or impact of those, as well as general field feedback. This evaluation happens for each new release.

Cisco SD-WAN Software Support Lifecycle

Each Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN software release is classified as either a Standard Maintenance release or an Extended Maintenance release. This applies to WAN Edge and controller software.

Standard Maintenance Release - A sustaining support lifetime of 12 months from First Customer Shipment (FCS) with scheduled rebuilds. Examples are Cisco IOS XE Software Releases 17.8, 17.10, 17.11, 17.13 and 17.14. For controllers/vEdges, examples are 18.3, 19.1, 20.1, 20.4, 20.5, 20.7, 20.8, 20.10, 20.11, 20.13, 20.14 and so on.

Extended Maintenance Release - A sustaining support lifetime of 36 months from FCS with scheduled rebuilds. Examples are Cisco IOS XE Software Releases 17.9, 17.12, 17.15 or 17.18. For vEdges, examples are 18.4, 19.2, 20.3, 20.6 and 20.9. For controllers examples are 20.9, 20.12, 20.15 and 20.18

Release 18.4/16.10 was the first Extended Maintenance SD-WAN release. Starting from Release 19.2/16.12 every subsequent third release is an Extended Maintenance release (for example, 19.2/16.12, 17.3/20.3, 17.6/20.6, 17.9/20.9, 17.12/20.12, 17.15/20.15 and so on).

Given that Standard Maintenance releases have much shorter support lifetimes whereas Extended Maintenance releases have longer support with more scheduled rebuilds/bug fixes, it is recommended that customers stay on Extended Maintenance releases wherever possible.

Current Recommended Releases Overview

Releases	Controllers	vEdge 100b, 100m, 1000, 2000, 5000 and vEdge Cloud Routers	Cisco IOS XE SD-WAN **
Recommended releases marked "golden star" on CCO	20.12.8.1, 20.15.6	20.6.6 20.9.8*	17.12.8, 17.15.6

* - Only for vEdge-2000, vEdge-5000 and vEdge Cloud

** - Only routers that support the version will qualify. As hardware reaches end-of-life and cannot accommodate the latest versions, the "golded star" will remain on the last supported train for that hardware.

Cisco SD-WAN Hardware Compatibility Matrix

The most up-to-date information on the Cisco SD-WAN Hardware Compatibility Matrix is integrated into the Release Notes. See the Release Notes link in the Related Information section.

List of Resolved and Open Defects

The list of Resolved and Open Defects is integrated with the Release Notes. See the Release Notes link in the Related Information section.

Related Information

- Release Notes
- Cisco SD-WAN - Release and Compatibility
- Cisco SD-WAN
- Cisco SD-WAN Configuration Guides
- Cisco SD-WAN - Release and Compatibility
- End-of-Life and End-of-Sale Notices
- Technical Support & Documentation - Cisco Systems