

Getting Started With Cisco SD-WAN Cloud

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The Cisco SD-WAN Cloud platform

The Cisco SD-WAN Cloud networking solution (formerly referred to as "Cloud-delivered Catalyst SD-WAN") is a platform for Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN services that:

- reduces and simplifies operational tasks for your Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN fabric,
- provides flexible cloud consumption, operational simplicity, and the comprehensive analytics features that are part of Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN,
- requires you to manage only edge devices and the edge network while Cisco handles almost all the operational responsibilities for the fabric, and
- is ideal for small or medium-sized businesses and enterprises that have limited network resources and want to limit the operational burdens of running the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN fabric.

This document describes the initial setup and configuration procedures for Cisco SD-WAN Cloud. Perform these procedures from the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Portal, which provides options for creating and accessing management tools for fabrics in Cisco SD-WAN Cloud.

Feature differences of the Cisco SD-WAN Cloud platform

The Cisco SD-WAN Cloud platform is designed as a simplified, cloud-delivered SD-WAN operating model. As a result, some capabilities differ from traditional customer-managed Cisco SD-WAN deployments.

- **Device support**: The Cisco SD-WAN Cloud platform supports Cisco IOS XE SD-WAN edge devices. Legacy edge devices running Viptela OS, commonly referred to as vEdge devices, are not supported.

- **Identity provider integration**: At this time, the Cisco SD-WAN Cloud platform uses Cisco CCO as the identity provider. Bring Your Own Identity Provider (BYOIdP) capabilities are planned for a future release through integration with Cisco's centralized identity platform.
- **Multi-Region Fabric**: Multi-Region Fabric (MRF) is a highly customizable deployment capability used in traditional SD-WAN environments. To keep the Cisco SD-WAN Cloud platform simple, standardized, and easy to operate, MRF is not currently supported.
- **Integration with customer-managed on-premises services**: Direct integration with customer-managed on-premises services such as AAA, TACACS, and Syslog servers is not supported in the current SaaS operating model. The Cisco SD-WAN Cloud platform is designed to provide a cloud-delivered experience with simplified operations and reduced dependency on customer-hosted infrastructure.
- **Cloud controller location and data sovereignty**: Customer selection of specific cloud controller deployment locations is limited at this time. Future roadmap plans include expanding regional deployment options to support broader data sovereignty and residency requirements.

If you require any of these features, see the instructions for creating a Cisco SD-WAN Cloud-Pro dedicated fabric in the *Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Portal Configuration Guide*.

Prerequisites for Cisco SD-WAN Cloud implementation

These requirements must be met to implement the Cisco SD-WAN Cloud platform:

- An active Cisco Smart Account.
- An active Cisco Virtual Account.
- The SA-Admin role for your Cisco Smart Account.

  This is required to access the Catalyst SD-WAN Manager for the first time to create a fabric. It is not required thereafter.
- A valid order for a Cisco DNA Cloud subscription or for a paid SD-WAN Control Component SKUs on the Cisco Commerce site (formerly called Cisco Commerce Workspace).

Create a Cisco SD-WAN Cloud fabric in Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Portal

Note Cisco SD-WAN Cloud is only available in limited locations in the US, EU, and APAC regions. To host a Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN fabric in a specific location apart from the available locations for Cisco SD-WAN Cloud fabrics, provision a Cisco SD-WAN Cloud-Pro dedicated fabric instead.

Before you begin

After you log into Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Portal, you can:

- create a Cisco SD-WAN Cloud fabric by default, or

- find information about requesting a Cisco SD-WAN Cloud-Pro dedicated fabric.

These instructions apply to creating Cisco SD-WAN Cloud fabrics only.

A valid Smart Account and Virtual Account are required to create a Cisco SD-WAN Cloud fabric.

Procedure

Step 1 Log in to the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Portal at https://ssp.sdwan.cisco.com with your CCO username and password.

Step 2 Select the **SD-WAN Customer** role.

Step 3 In the **Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Portal Dashboard**, select **Create Fabric**.

Step 4 Select the **SD-WAN Cloud** fabric type.

Step 5 Select your **Smart Account** and **Virtual Account**.

Step 6 If your Smart Account has unused SD-WAN control component licenses, you are asked if you want to use them to create your fabric. Select **Yes** or **No** and click **Submit**.

a) If you selected **Yes**, an option to **Assign SDWAN Fabric License** appears. Click the option to display a list of available licenses.

b) Enter the quantity of each type of license you want to use and click **Assign**.

Step 7 Enter or select the **Fabric Name**, **Fabric Location**, and **Fabric Admin(s)**.

Step 8 Select the **Release Category**:

- The **Recommended** release category is the preferred option for most customers. It is selected based on rigorous quality and stability standards and supported by metrics, customer feedback, and extensive testing. Recommended releases are classified as long-lived and are widely adopted across the customer base. They offer maximum stability and reliability for most production environments.
- The **Early Adopter** release category, if available in your location, is required to access the latest features, platform enhancements, and bug fixes. This release is ideal for deployments that require capabilities not yet available in the Recommended release. Early Adopter versions continue to receive patches and bug fixes as they mature and may be reclassified as Recommended over time.

  You must select the Early Adopter category if you plan to add Cisco 8000 Series Secure Routers to your Cisco SD-WAN Cloud fabric.

  Early Adopter releases are the newest software versions available.

  Note
  Early Adopter is the default Release Category option for sites with UNX licenses.

  You cannot downgrade from an Early Adopter release to an older Recommended release.

  When an Early Adopter version newer than your current version is reclassified as Recommended, you will be upgraded to this Recommended release.

a) If your selected Release Category supports Cisco Identity Services Engine (ISE), an option appears to enable it. To enable ISE for the new fabric, select the option and enter the VPN ID.

Refer to Cisco Identity Services Engine for more information on ISE.

Step 9 All the information you provide is listed in the **Preview** section on the right panel of the page. Accept the Terms and Conditions.

Step 10 Select **Create Fabric**.

You are notified by email when the fabric has been created.

What to do next

You can access the new fabric by logging back into the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Portal.

Add a user to a fabric and assign a role

User roles assign specific access permissions to users for a fabric.

Roles, or user groups, are configured in Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Manager. A user group specifies which features the users in the group have read-only access to, and which features the users have read and write access to.

When you create a fabric, you are automatically assigned the Admin user role for that fabric and you can configure roles for other users.

Note Before you can add a role for a user, the user must have an account in Cisco Connection Online.

1. Log in to the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Portal with the Admin role for the fabric.
2. Click **View Details**.
3. On the **Fabric Details** page, click **User Role**.
4. Click **Add User**.
5. In the **User Email ID** field, enter the CCO email address of the user.
6. From the **Role** drop-down list, choose the user group the user should belong to.
7. Click **Add**.

The user is added to the fabric with the assigned role.

Access Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Manager from the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Portal

Cisco SD-WAN Manager provides options for configuring, managing, and monitoring a fabric. Any user with a user role that has been added to the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Portal can access Cisco SD-WAN Manager.

1. Log into the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Portal.

   This login provides single sign-on authentication for the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Portal and Cisco SD-WAN Manager.
2. Click **Manage Fabric** for the fabric you want to access.

The Cisco SD-WAN Manager opens.

3. To exit the Cisco SD-WAN Manager and return to the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Portal, choose **SD-WAN Portal** from the Cisco SD-WAN Manager menu.



Note You can also bookmark the SD-WAN Manager URL, which allows you to directly access it with your CCO email address and password after you have logged into the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Portal at least once.

Add devices from a Smart Account to Cisco SD-WAN Manager

Procedure

Step 1 Log in to the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Portal.

Step 2 From the list of available fabrics, select a fabric to add devices to and click **Manage Fabric**.

Step 3 From the Cisco SD-WAN Manager menu, select **Configuration** > **Devices**.

Step 4 Click **Sync Smart Account**.

Step 5 In the Sync Smart Account pane, click **Sync**.

After synchronization, the devices in your Smart Account appear in the list of edge devices in the Cisco SD-WAN Manager instance for the selected fabric.

Access Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Analytics for a Cisco SD-WAN Cloud

Use Cisco SD-WAN Analytics to view information about device behavior, traffic, and related activities in your fabric.

1. Log in to the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Portal as a user with the Admin role for the fabric.
2. Navigate to the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN page for the fabric.
3. From the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN menu, choose **Analytics** > **Overview**.

Cisco SD-WAN Analytics opens, displaying device behavior, traffic, and related activities for your fabric.

For more information, see Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Analytics.