

Recommended Releases for Cisco MDS 9000 Series Switches

Recommended Releases for Cisco MDS 9000 Series Switches 2

Revised: August 31, 2026

Recommended Releases for Cisco MDS 9000 Series Switches

Change History

Date	Description
August 06, 2026	Updated the document with Cisco MDS NX-OS Release 9.4(5) as the recommended release.
May 08, 2026	Removed old End-of-Life and End-of-Sale Extended Support information. Removed Cisco MDS NX-OS Release 8.4(2f) and MDS NX-OS Release 9.2(1a) as the recommended releases.
September 08, 2025	Updated the document with Cisco MDS NX-OS Release 9.4(3b) as the recommended release.
May 02, 2025	Updated the document with Cisco MDS NX-OS Release 9.4(3a) as the recommended release.
March 07, 2025	Updated the document with Cisco MDS 9396V 64-Gbps 96-Port Fibre Channel switch in **General Recommendation for New Deployments for Fabric Switches** table.
January 16, 2025	Updated the document with Cisco MDS NX-OS Release 9.4(1a) as the recommended FICON release.
November 13, 2024	Updated the document with Cisco MDS NX-OS Release 9.4(2a) as the recommended release.
June 03, 2024	Updated the document with • Cisco Nexus Dashboard Fabric Controller Release 12.2.1 as the recommended release. • Cisco MDS NX-OS Release 9.4(1a) as the recommended release.
Sep 22, 2023	Updated the document with the following: • Cisco MDS NX-OS Release 8.4(2f) and Release 9.3(2a) as the recommended release • Cisco Nexus Dashboard Fabric Controller Release 12.1.3b as the recommended release • Cisco DCNM Release 11.5(4) as the recommended release
January 23, 2023	Updated the document with smart licensing recommended release, Cisco MDS NX-OS Release 9.3(2) and non-smart licensing recommended release, Cisco MDS NX-OS Release 9.2(1a).

Date	Description
September 22, 2022	Updated the document with smart licensing recommended release, Cisco MDS NX-OS Release 9.3(1) and non-smart licensing recommended release, Cisco MDS NX-OS Release 9.2(1a).
April 6, 2022	Updated the document with Cisco MDS NX-OS Release 9.2(2) as the recommended releases.
March 22, 2022	Updated the document with Cisco MDS NX-OS Release 8.4(2d) as the recommended releases.
September 8, 2021	Updated the recommended release for Cisco DCNM to release 11.5(1).
August 25, 2021	Added the Cisco MDS 48-Port 64-Gbps Fibre Channel Switching Module and updated its recommended release.
July 16, 2021	Updated the document with Cisco MDS NX-OS Release 8.4(2c) as the recommended releases.
May 27, 2021	Updated the document with Cisco MDS NX-OS Release 6.2(33) as the recommended releases.
March 22, 2021	Added recommended release information for Cisco MDS 9220i switch.
November 24, 2020	Updated the recommended release to Cisco MDS NX-OS Release 8.4(2a).
June 15, 2020	Added the MSM-18/4 or SSN-16 Module information for Cisco MDS 9506 and 9513. Removed the following modules because of their end-of-life: • Cisco MDS 9000 48-Port 8-Gbps Fibre Channel Switching Module (DS-X9248-96K9) • Cisco MDS 9000 4/44-Port Host-Optimized 8-Gbps Fibre Channel Switching Module (DS-X9248-48K9) • Cisco MDS 9000 Series 4-Port 10-Gbps Fibre Channel Switching Module (DS-X9704)
May 21, 2020	Removed Cisco MDS 9222i and Cisco MDS 9000 Series 18/4-Port Multiservice Module (DS-X9304-18K9) information because of their end-of-support.
May 1, 2020	Updated the recommended release for IOA to Cisco MDS NX-OS Release 8.4(2).
April 1, 2020	Updated the document with Cisco MDS NX-OS Release 6.2(29) and Release 8.4(1a) as the recommended releases.

This document lists the recommended Cisco MDS NX-OS software release for use with Cisco MDS 9000 Series switches for both new deployments and existing deployments. These are Cisco release recommendations based on important software fixes and hence we recommend that you upgrade to these releases at a minimum, if permitted by your current deployment and SAN design. These recommendations are general and should not replace environment-specific design review efforts. Customers can alternatively deploy more recent software releases to take advantage of newer hardware and software capabilities.

General Recommendations for New and Existing Deployments

The current releases for Cisco MDS 9000 Series provides latest security updates.

All Cisco NX-OS software releases undergo extensive system level testing and validation. Cisco NX-OS recommended releases are software releases that have undergone extensive system level testing, field validation and demonstrated stable operation across a wide range of customer deployments. Hence, we recommend the following releases for Cisco MDS 9000 Series deployments:

Director Switches	**Recommended Release**
Cisco MDS 9718	9.4(5)
Cisco MDS 9710	9.4(5)
Cisco MDS 9706	9.4(5)

Fabric Switches	**Recommended Release**
Cisco MDS 9396V 64-Gbps 96-Port Fibre Channel switch	9.4(5)
Cisco MDS 9396T 32-Gbps 96-Port Fibre Channel Switch	9.4(5)
Cisco MDS 9396S 16G Multilayer Fabric Switch	9.4(5)
Cisco MDS 9250i Multiservice Fabric Switch	9.4(5)
Cisco MDS 9220i Fabric Switch	9.4(5)
Cisco MDS 9148V 64-Gbps 48-Port Fibre Channel Switch	9.4(5)
Cisco MDS 9148T 32-Gbps 48-Port Fibre Channel Switch	9.4(5)
Cisco MDS 9148S 16G Multilayer Fabric Switch	9.4(5)
Cisco MDS 9132T 32-Gbps 32-Port Fibre Channel Switch	9.4(5)
Cisco MDS 9124V 64-Gbps 24-Port Fibre Channel Switch	9.4(5)

Recommendation for SAN Analytics

Before upgrading from Cisco MDS NX-OS Release 8.2(x) or 8.3(x) to 8.4(1a) or later releases, ensure that you disable the SAN Analytics feature using the **feature analytics** command before upgrading and this is a one time requirement.

Recommendations for FICON Environments

We recommend that customers choose the following FICON Qualified release of NX-OS for use in FICON environments:

Director Switches	**Recommended Release**
Cisco MDS 9718	9.4(3b)
Cisco MDS 9710	9.4(3b)

Director Switches	Recommended Release
Cisco MDS 9706	9.4(3b)

Director Switches	Supported Modules	Recommended Release
Cisco MDS 9718	Cisco MDS 48-Port 64-Gbps Fibre Channel Switching Module (DS-X9748-3072K9)	9.4(3b)
	Cisco MDS 9700 Series Supervisor-1E (DS-X97-SF1E-K9)	9.4(3b)
	Cisco MDS 9700 48-Port 32-Gbps Fibre Channel Switching Module (DS-X9648-1536K9)	9.4(3b)
	Cisco MDS 9718 Crossbar Fabric-3 Switching Module (DS-X9718-FAB3))	9.4(3b)
	Cisco MDS 9000 48-port 16-Gbps Fibre Switching Module (DS-X9448-768K9)	9.4(3b)
	Crossbar Fabric Switching Module (DS-X9718-FAB1)	9.4(3b)
	Cisco MDS 9700 Series Supervisor-4 Module (DS-X97-SF4-K9)	9.4(3b)
	Cisco MDS 24/10 Port SAN Extension Module (DS-X9334-K9)	9.4(3b)
Cisco MDS 9710	Cisco MDS 48-Port 64-Gbps Fibre Channel Switching Module (DS-X9748-3072K9)	9.4(3b)
	Cisco MDS 9700 Series Supervisor-4 Module (DS-X97-SF4-K9)	9.4(3b)
	Cisco MDS 9700 48-Port 32-Gbps Fibre Channel Switching Module (DS-X9648-1536K)	9.4(3b)
	Crossbar Fabric Switching Module (DS-X9710-FAB3)	9.4(3b)
	Cisco MDS 24/10 Port SAN Extension Module (DS-X9334-K9)	9.4(3b)
	Cisco MDS 9700 Series Supervisor-1 Module (DS-X97-SF1-K9)	9.4(3b)
	Cisco MDS 9000 48-port 16-Gbps Fibre Switching Module (DS-X9448-768K9)	9.4(3b)
	Crossbar Fabric Switching Module (DS-X9710-FAB1)	9.4(3b)

Director Switches	Supported Modules	Recommended Release
Cisco MDS 9706	Cisco MDS 48-Port 64-Gbps Fibre Channel Switching Module (DS-X9748-3072K9)	9.4(3b)
	Cisco MDS 9700 Series Supervisor-4 Module (DS-X97-SF4-K9)	9.4(3b)
	Cisco MDS 9700 48-Port 32-Gbps Fibre Channel Switching Module (DS-X9648-1536K)	9.4(3b)
	Crossbar Fabric Switching Module (DS-X9706-FAB3)	9.4(3b)
	Cisco MDS 24/10 Port SAN Extension Module (DS-X9334-K9)	9.4(3b)
	Cisco MDS 9700 Series Supervisor-1 Module (DS-X97-SF1-K9)	9.4(3b)
	Cisco MDS 9000 48-port 16-Gbps Fibre Switching Module (DS-X9448-768K9)	9.4(3b)
	Crossbar Fabric Switching Module (DS-X9706-FAB1)	9.4(3b)

For more information about FICON supported platforms with MDS NX-OS Releases, see the *Release Notes for Cisco MDS 9000 Series*.

Recommendation for Cisco Nexus Dashboard (formerly Cisco Data Center Network Manager)

We recommend that customers choose the following Cisco Nexus Dashboard (NDFC formerly Cisco Data Center Network Manager (DCNM)):

Nexus Dashboard	Recommended Release
Cisco Nexus Dashboard	4.2

Recommendation for Cisco MDS 9000 Series Intelligent Applications

We recommend that customers choose from the following **Cisco MDS 9000 Series Intelligent Applications** recommended releases:

Intelligent Application	Recommended Release
I/O Accelerator (IOA)	9.4(5)

Related resources

The documentation set for the Cisco MDS 9000 Series includes the documents that are listed in this section. To find a document online, access the following URL:

https://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps5989/tsd_products_support_series_home.html

Release Notes

https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/support/storage-networking/mds-9000-nx-os-san-os-software/products-release-notes-list.html

Documentation Suite

https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/td/docs/storage/san_switches/mds9000/roadmaps/rel90.html

Statement of Volatility

https://trustportal.cisco.com/c/r/ctp/trust-portal.html?search_keyword=mds%209000&solutioncategory=Data%20Center#/1646059028492371

Cisco Nexus Dashboard Fabric Controller (Formerly DCNM)

https://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps9369/tsd_products_support_series_home.html

THE SPECIFICATIONS AND INFORMATION REGARDING THE PRODUCTS IN THIS MANUAL ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. ALL STATEMENTS, INFORMATION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS MANUAL ARE BELIEVED TO BE ACCURATE BUT ARE PRESENTED WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED. USERS MUST TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR APPLICATION OF ANY PRODUCTS.

THE SOFTWARE LICENSE AND LIMITED WARRANTY FOR THE ACCOMPANYING PRODUCT ARE SET FORTH IN THE INFORMATION PACKET THAT SHIPPED WITH THE PRODUCT AND ARE INCORPORATED HEREIN BY THIS REFERENCE. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO LOCATE THE SOFTWARE LICENSE OR LIMITED WARRANTY, CONTACT YOUR CISCO REPRESENTATIVE FOR A COPY.

The Cisco implementation of TCP header compression is an adaptation of a program developed by the University of California, Berkeley (UCB) as part of UCB's public domain version of the UNIX operating system. All rights reserved. Copyright © 1981, Regents of the University of California.

NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER WARRANTY HEREIN, ALL DOCUMENT FILES AND SOFTWARE OF THESE SUPPLIERS ARE PROVIDED “AS IS" WITH ALL FAULTS. CISCO AND THE ABOVE-NAMED SUPPLIERS DISCLAIM ALL WARRANTIES, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, THOSE OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND NONINFRINGEMENT OR ARISING FROM A COURSE OF DEALING, USAGE, OR TRADE PRACTICE.

IN NO EVENT SHALL CISCO OR ITS SUPPLIERS BE LIABLE FOR ANY INDIRECT, SPECIAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, OR INCIDENTAL DAMAGES, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, LOST PROFITS OR LOSS OR DAMAGE TO DATA ARISING OUT OF THE USE OR INABILITY TO USE THIS MANUAL, EVEN IF CISCO OR ITS SUPPLIERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES.

Any Internet Protocol (IP) addresses and phone numbers used in this document are not intended to be actual addresses and phone numbers. Any examples, command display output, network topology diagrams, and other figures included in the document are shown for illustrative purposes only. Any use of actual IP addresses or phone numbers in illustrative content is unintentional and coincidental.

All printed copies and duplicate soft copies of this document are considered uncontrolled. See the current online version for the latest version.

Cisco has more than 200 offices worldwide. Addresses and phone numbers are listed on the Cisco website at www.cisco.com/go/offices.

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: https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/about/legal/trademarks.html. 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. (1721R)

© 2018–2026 Cisco Systems, Inc. All rights reserved.

Americas Headquarters
Cisco Systems, Inc.
San Jose, CA 95134-1706
USA

Asia Pacific Headquarters
CiscoSystems(USA)Pte.Ltd.
Singapore

Europe Headquarters
CiscoSystemsInternationalBV
Amsterdam,TheNetherlands

Cisco has more than 200 offices worldwide. Addresses, phone numbers, and fax numbers are listed on the Cisco Website at www.cisco.com/go/offices.