Release Notes for Cisco C9550 Series Smart Switches, Release Cisco IOS XE 26.2.x

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Cisco C9550 Series Smart Switches, Release Cisco IOS XE 26.2.x

Cisco C9550 Series Smart Switches are fixed switches based on the Silicon-One ASIC architecture. These switches deliver high throughput ethernet switching and integrated security for enterprise core and aggregation networks.

Look up Cisco Feature Navigator for the complete list of supported features.

New software features

This section provides a brief description of the new software features introduced in Cisco IOS XE 26.2.x releases.

Software Features in Cisco IOS XE 26.2.1

Table 1. New software features for Cisco C9550 Series Smart Switches, Release Cisco IOS XE 26.2.1

Product impact	Feature	Description
API experience	Enhanced Network Traffic Monitoring	You can now utilize Flexible NetFlow for enhanced network traffic monitoring and analysis, providing customizable flow records that improve anomaly detection and security. By defining specific key and non-key fields within flow records, you gather detailed statistics for efficient accounting, network monitoring, and planning, allowing for better insight into network behavior.
Ease of Setup	Local Area Bonjour in Multicast DNS (mDNS)	Local Area Bonjour in Multicast DNS (mDNS) enables devices to discover local network services across LAN and wireless network segments. You can configure service definitions, service lists, and service policies to control the Bonjour service traffic allowed on each VLAN interface. Wireless deployments require transparent mDNS forwarding through the wireless LAN controller.
Software Reliability	Cisco Catalyst Center	Cisco Catalyst Center is a comprehensive network management solution with functionality that spans all aspects of modern network management, including design, discovery, policy, provisioning, predictive analytics, intelligent monitoring, visibility, and compliance.
Software Reliability	IPv6 Prefix Guard	The IPv6 Prefix Guard feature operates within the IPv6 source guard framework to ensure that only traffic from topologically correct source addresses is permitted.
Software Reliability	Live Protect	Live Protect validates security shields that protect Cisco products without requiring device reloads or service interruptions. You can deploy security shields in two modes: • Monitoring mode: Provides visibility into potential exploit attempts without enforcement, allowing you to assess threats before taking action. • Enforce (Protecting) mode: Actively applies mitigation policies to reduce exposure to known vulnerabilities. Live Protect allows you to monitor, enforce, disable, and retire the security shields enabling a smooth transition to remediation. This capability helps businesses maintain continuous operations while managing risks until the software upgrades or patches are deployed.

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Product impact	Feature	Description
Software Reliability	Multicast VPN-Rosen with PIM + GRE encapsulation (Rosen) IPv4/IPv6	Multicast VPN (mVPN) using the Rosen model is a mechanism for carrying IP multicast traffic across an MPLS/IP backbone, enabling service providers or large enterprises to deliver multicast services over a shared network infrastructure while maintaining per-VPN routing isolation.
Software Reliability	Negotiated port-speed	On-change subscriptions support negotiated-port-speed leaf to enable real-time notifications along with the existing subscription-based access.
Software Reliability	PQC dual-sign support	Dual signing enhances software authenticity and integrity by preparing systems for post quantum cryptographic requirements while maintaining backward compatibility. This approach adds both a legacy RSA signature and a quantum-resistant ML-DSA-87 signature to IOS-XE software images. Supported platforms verify the stronger quantum-resistant seal, while older systems continue to rely on the existing RSA signature. This method ensures seamless operation in mixed environments and reduces disruption during the transition to next-generation security standards.
Upgrade	PQC support with ML-DSA algorithm	Secure your enterprise data against future quantum threats with the new ML-DSA algorithm support. This update integrates quantum-resistant technology to protect your systems from advanced quantum-mechanical calculations. By adopting these algorithms, you ensure long-term data integrity and maintain robust security standards for your environment.
Software Reliability	Resilient Infrastructure changes	As part of Cisco's Resilient Infrastructure program and Cisco's commitment to secure infrastructure, this release includes additional changes aimed towards continuing to make Cisco IOS XE more secure by default. Note that some of these changes may require operational changes if you are not following secure best practices. This release includes the following changes: • The RADIUS client appends the Message-Authenticator attribute (Attribute 80 HMAC-MD5) to all outgoing Access-Request packets to mitigate cryptographic forgery and Blast-RADIUS vulnerabilities (CVE-2024-3596). • The RADIUS client drops incoming Access-Accept, Access-Reject, and Access-Challenge packets if the Message-Authenticator packet is absent or invalid. Ensure AAA servers (example, Cisco ISE) are configured to return Attribute 80. • Outbound SSH connections enforce Trust-On-First-Use (TOFU). The device prompts to verify and store remote server host keys in the known-hosts database on first connection and validates against them on subsequent sessions. • Proxy ARP is disabled by default across all routed interfaces, SVIs, and subinterfaces to reduce Layer 2 broadcast domains and prevent ARP spoofing. Configure the **ip proxy-arp** command explicitly if required. • The embedded web server daemon is disabled by default on factory configurations to restrict unauthenticated management access. Web UI and RESTCONF require explicit enablement of the **ip http secure-server** command. • The IOS XE device rejects unauthenticated NTP Mode 6 and Mode 7 control queries (monlist) to prevent NTP reflection and amplification DDoS attacks. Standard time synchronization (Modes 3 and 4) is unaffected. • System logging timestamps automatically include the four-digit calendar year (service timestamps log datetime msec year) to standardize multi-year audit logs and SIEM compliance.

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Product impact	Feature	Description
		• Integrates Linux auditd inside Cisco IOx Guest Shell. All commands, system calls, and privilege escalation events (sudo) executed inside the container are forwarded to the host syslog facility. • Warning messages are emitted on the console and logged to syslog whenever legacy insecure protocols (telnet, ftp, tftp, http) are enabled in the configuration. • Real-time tracking of active insecure services is published to the operational database (operDB) and YANG data models, allowing management controllers (such as Cisco Catalyst Center) to monitor security compliance. For more information, refer Resilient Infrastructure.

New hardware features

This section provides a brief description of the new hardware features introduced in Cisco IOS XE 26.2.x releases.

Hardware Features in Cisco IOS XE 26.2.1

Table 2. New hardware features for Cisco C9550 Series Smart Switches, Release Cisco IOS XE 26.2.1

Product impact	Feature	Description
Hardware Reliability	Cisco C9550 Series Smart Switches	The following new models are introduced in the series: • C9550-32C: 32 QSFP28 ports of 100/40G, two power supply slots, five fan trays, and optional SSD storage of up to 960 GB capacity. • C9550-64C-XL: 64 QSFP28 ports of 100/40G, two power supply slots, three fan trays, and optional SSD storage of up to 960 GB capacity.

Changes in behavior

This section provides a brief description of the behavior changes introduced in Cisco IOS XE 26.2.x releases.

Hardware and Software Behavior Changes in Cisco IOS XE 26.2.1

Table 3. Behavior changes for Cisco C9550 Series Smart Switches, Release Cisco IOS XE 26.2.1

Description	Behavior changes
CDP and LLDP device ID	In cloud-managed mode, CDP and LLDP use the device hostname as the device ID instead of the switch MAC address.
Port-channel VLAN configuration synchronization	When the **switchport trunk allowed vlan** command is applied to a portchannel via the configuration database (CDB) or NETCONF, the inherited configurations on member interfaces do not synchronize with the CDB database.

Resolved issues

There are no resolved caveats in Cisco IOS XE 26.2.x release.

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Open issues

This table lists the open issues in Cisco IOS XE 26.2.x releases.

Table 4. Open issues for Cisco C9550 Series Smart Switches, Release Cisco IOS XE 26.2.x

Bug ID	Description
CSCwt95123	C9550:SFP-H25GBase-CU3M or QDD-400-CU3M with autonegotiation enabled may not link up with Ixia/Spirent or other 9550 devices
CSCwt98847	C9550: Link up issues with CU5M copper direct-attach cable with autonegotiation enabled

Known issues

This section lists the limitations for this release.

- Breakout cables are not supported.
- CVR/QSA adapter module is not supported.
- On Cisco C9550 Smart Switch, SFP-10G-T-X module cannot operate in 1G mode.

Compatibility

To view the software compatibility information between Cisco C9550 Series Smart Switches, Cisco Identity Services Engine, and Cisco Prime Infrastructure, go to Cisco C9000 Series Smart Switches Software Version Compatibility Matrix.

Supported hardware

This section lists the hardware support information.

Supported Cisco C9550 Series Smart Switches model numbers

The following table lists the supported hardware models and the default license levels they are delivered with.

Table 5. Cisco C9550 Series Smart Switches model numbers

Switch model	Description	Introductory release
C9550-32C	• 32 x QSFP28 ports of 100/40G • 2 power supply slots • 5 fan trays • Optional SSD storage of up to 960 GB capacity.	Cisco IOS XE 26.2.1
C9550-64C-XL	• 64 x QSFP28 ports of 100/40G • 2 power supply slots • 3 fan trays • Optional SSD storage of up to 960 GB capacity.	Cisco IOS XE 26.2.1
C9550-24L4CD	• 24 x 50/25/10/1G as downlink ports • 4 x 100/40G or 2 x 400G as fixed uplink ports	Cisco IOS XE 26.2.1ea

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Switch model	Description	Introductory release
	• 2 power supply slots • 5 fan trays • 960 GB SATA SSD local storage • SVL front-side stacking on all ports	
C9550-48L4CD	• 48 x QSFP-DD ports of 50/25/10/1G as downlink ports • 4 x 100/40G or 2 x 400G as fixed uplink ports • 2 power supply slots • 5 fan trays • 960 GB SATA SSD local storage • SVL front-side stacking on all ports	Cisco IOS XE 26.2.1ea
C9550-96L4D	• 96 x QSFP-DD ports of 50/25/10/1G as downlinks ports • 4 x QSFP-DD ports that can support 40G/100G/400G • 2 power supply slots • 3 fan trays • 960 GB SATA SSD local storage • SVL front-side stacking on all ports	Cisco IOS XE 26.2.1ea

Supported optics modules

Cisco Catalyst Series Switches support a wide range of optics and the list of supported optics is updated on a regular basis. Use the Transceiver Module Group (TMG) Compatibility Matrix tool, or consult the tables at this URL for the latest transceiver module compatibility information: https://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/hw/modules/ps5455/products_device_support_tables_list.html

Supported software packages

This section provides information about the release packages associated with Cisco C9550 Series Smart Switches.

Finding the software version

The package files for the Cisco IOS XE software are stored on the system board flash device (flash:).

You can use the **show version** privileged EXEC command to see the software version that is running on your switch.

Note: Although the **show version** output always shows the software image running on the switch, the model name shown at the end of this display is the factory configuration and does not change if you upgrade the software license.

You can also use the **dir** *filesystem:* privileged EXEC command to see the directory names of other software images that you might have stored in flash memory.

Finding the software Images

Table 6. Software images

Release	Image type	File name
Cisco IOS XE 26.2.1	CISCO9K_IOSXE	cisco9k_iosxe.26.2.01.SPA.bin

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Release	Image type	File name
	No Payload Encryption (NPE)	cisco9k_iosxe_npe.26.2.01.SPA.bin
Cisco IOS XE 26.2.1ea	CISCO9K_IOSXE	cisco9k_iosxe.26.2.01ea1.SPA.bin
	No Payload Encryption (NPE)	cisco9k_iosxe_npe.26.2.01ea1.SPA.bin

To download software images, visit the software downloads page: Cisco C9550 Series Smart Switches.

ROMMON versions

ROMMON, also known as the boot loader, is firmware that runs when the device is powered up or reset. It initializes the processor hardware and boots the operating system software (Cisco IOS XE software image). The ROMMON is stored on the following Serial Peripheral Interface (SPI) flash devices on your switch:

- Primary: The ROMMON stored here is the one the system boots every time the device is powered-on or reset.
- Golden: The ROMMON stored here is a backup copy. If the one in the primary is corrupted, the system automatically boots the ROMMON in the golden SPI flash device.

ROMMON upgrades may be required to resolve firmware defects, or to support new features, but there may not be new versions with every release.

Table 7. ROMMON versions

Release	ROMMON Version
26.2.1	26.1.1.A
26.2.1ea	26.1.1.A

Field-programmable gate array version upgrade

A field-programmable gate array (FPGA) is a type of programmable memory device that exists on Cisco switches. They are re-configurable logic circuits that enable the creation of specific and dedicated functions.

To check the current FPGA version, enter the **version -v** command in ROMMON mode.

Notes:

- Not every software release has a change in the FPGA version.
- The version change occurs as part of the regular software upgrade, and you do not have to perform any other additional steps.

Related resources

This section provides troubleshooting information, links to the product documentation, and licensing information.

Troubleshooting

For the most up-to-date, detailed troubleshooting information, see the Cisco TAC website at Support & Downloads.

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Go to Product Support and select your product from the list or enter the name of your product. Look under Troubleshoot and Alerts, to find information for the problem that you are experiencing.

Accessing hidden commands

Hidden commands have always been present in Cisco IOS XE but were not equipped with CLI help. That is, entering a question mark (?) at the system prompt did not display the list of available commands. These commands were only meant to assist Cisco TAC in advanced troubleshooting and were not documented either.

Hidden commands are available under:

- Category 1—Hidden commands in privileged or User EXEC mode. Begin by entering the **service internal** command to access these commands.
- Category 2—Hidden commands in one of the configuration modes (global, interface and so on). These commands do not require the **service internal** command.

Further, the following applies to hidden commands under Category 1 and 2:

- The commands have CLI help. Enter enter a question mark (?) at the system prompt to display the list of available commands.
- **Note**: For Category 1, enter the **service internal** command before you enter the question mark; you do not have to do this for Category 2.
- The system generates a %PARSER-5-HIDDEN syslog message when a hidden command is used. For example:

```
*Feb 14 10:44:37.917: %PARSER-5-HIDDEN: Warning!!! 'show processes memory old-header '
is a hidden command.
Use of this command is not recommended/supported and will be removed in future.
```

Apart from category 1 and 2, there remain internal commands displayed on the CLI, for which the system does NOT generate the %PARSER-5-HIDDEN syslog message.

Important: We recommend that you use any hidden command only under TAC supervision.

If you find that you are using a hidden command, open a TAC case for help with finding another way of collecting the same information as the hidden command (for a hidden EXEC mode command), or to configure the same functionality (for a hidden configuration mode command) using non-hidden commands.

Related documentation

For all support documentation of Cisco C9550 Series Smart Switches, visit Cisco C9550 Series Smart Switches.

For information about Cisco IOS XE, visit Cisco IOS XE.

For information about Cisco IOS XE releases, visit Networking Software (IOS & NX-OS).

For Cisco Validated Designs documents, visit Cisco Validated Design Zone.

To locate and download MIBs for selected platforms, Cisco IOS releases, and feature sets, use Cisco MIB Locator found at Cisco Feature Navigator.

Communications, services, and additional information

- To receive timely, relevant information from Cisco, sign up at Cisco Profile Manager.

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- To obtain general networking, training, and certification titles, visit Cisco Press.
- To find warranty information for a specific product or product family, access Cisco Warranty Finder.

Licensing

For information about licenses required for the features available on Cisco 9000 Series Smart Switches, see Cisco Networking Subscription for Cisco C9000 Series Smart Switches.

Cisco bug search tool

Cisco Bug Search Tool (BST) is a web-based tool that acts as a gateway to the Cisco bug tracking system that maintains a comprehensive list of defects and vulnerabilities in Cisco products and software. BST provides you with detailed defect information about your products and software.

Documentation feedback

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