

Recommended Releases for Catalyst 9200/9300/9400/9500/9600 Platforms

Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Background Information](#)

[Cisco IOS XE Software Support](#)

[Recommendations](#)

[Software Recommendation FAQ](#)

[Software Maintenance Upgrade \(SMU\) and Engineering Special \(ES\)](#)

[Caveats](#)

[Related Information](#)

Introduction

This document describes how to find a stable software release for the Catalyst 9000 series Enterprise switching platforms.

Background Information

The information in this document is not meant to be exhaustive and is intended to serve as a general guide to you especially in cases of mass deployments/upgrades. Beyond these recommendations, if you are required to run a release to utilize newer software features or hardware, the recommendation is to select Extended Maintenance (EM) release trains wherever possible.


- If you use Software-Defined Access (SDA), please refer to the product compatibility matrix which is available [here](#).
- For software recommendations on Cisco Catalyst 1000/2960/3560/CDB/4500, Catalyst 3650/3850, and Catalyst 6500/6800 series switches, please refer to [this page](#).
- For software recommendations on Cisco Catalyst 9800 Series Wireless Controllers, please refer to [this page](#).

Cisco IOS XE Software Support

Each Cisco IOS® XE software release is classified as either a 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 48 months from First Customer Shipment (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 17.3, 17.6, 17.9 and 17.12) is an Extended-Support release.

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

Recommendations

The recommendations stated here are current as of **June 2024**, and are periodically updated when appropriate.

Product Family	Product Details	Recommended Cisco IOS-XE release
Catalyst 9200	C9200CX(all models)	17.9.5 17.12.3
	C9200L (all models)	17.9.5 17.12.3
	C9200 (all models)	17.9.5 17.12.3
Catalyst 9300	9300L (all models)	17.9.5 17.12.3
	C9300-24H, C9300-48H, C9300X-48HX	17.9.5 17.12.3
	C9300X (C9300X-12Y, C9300X-24Y and C9300X-48TX)	17.9.5 17.12.3
	C9300X (C9300X-24HX)	17.9.5 17.12.3
	C9300 (all other models)	17.9.5

		17.12.3
	C9300LM (all models)	17.9.5 17.12.3
Catalyst 9400	C9400-SUP-1, C9400-SUP-1XL and C9400-SUP-1XL-Y	17.9.5 17.12.3
	C9400X-SUP2(XL)	17.9.5 17.12.3
Catalyst 9500	C9500 (all models)	17.9.5 17.12.3
	C9500X (C9500X-28C8D)	17.9.5 17.12.3
Catalyst 9600	C9600 (C9600-SUP-1)	17.9.5 17.12.3
	C9600X-SUP2	17.9.5* 17.12.3

Note: * For newer hardware such as C9500X-60L4D, please select the compatible software release listed on the Cisco Software Download page.

- The 9500X & 9600X Stackwise Virtual feature is available in 17.10.1 & later versions.
- For newer hardware the preference can be to select an Extended Maintenance Release if available.

Software Recommendation FAQ

Question: What if I see a recommended version of code on this page, but it is not available to download for that specific switch model?

Answer:

- When Catalyst switches are launched, they might not support earlier versions of software that were released before the hardware was launched. Always confirm what software is actually available to download for **that specific platform**.
- **Do not download a version of code from some other platform page and attempt to install on your device.** The software available on the specific product page takes precedent over this release

recommendation page

- In a situation like this, use the feedback feature at the right hand side of the article to let us know! We make every effort to keep this page up to date, but in some cases (such as a new platform release) this page recommendation can be slightly behind.

Software Maintenance Upgrade (SMU) and Engineering Special (ES)

In certain cases, fix for critical bugs can be made available via Software Maintenance Upgrade (SMU) or Engineering Special (ES) builds.

- **Software Maintenance Upgrade (SMU)** is a package that can be installed on a system to provide a patch fix or a security resolution to a released image. A SMU package is provided on a per release and per component basis, and is specific to the platform. SMUs are supported only on Extended Maintenance Releases and for the full lifecycle of the parent software release.
- **Engineering Special (ES)** builds are meant to be deployed for a limited time frame and are not available on CCO (cisco.com). You are advised to move to the next maintenance rebuild as soon as it is available on Cisco.com. Engineering special builds are fully supported by the Cisco Customer Experience (CX) and the Business Unit (BU).

If you encounter any issues specific to your environment which is not already fixed in existing cisco.com releases, please contact Cisco Customer Experience (CX) to explore the possibility of a SMU or ES.

Caveats

Identifier	Headline	Affected Versions (EMR)	Workaround Available	Fixed Version
Cisco bug ID CSCwh87343	Cisco IOS XE Software Web UI Privilege Escalation Vulnerability	Please refer to the Advisory	Please refer to the Advisory	Please refer to Fix Availability
Cisco bug ID CSCwe54104/CSCwd78924	C9300-24H/C9300-48H switches running 17.6.5 will not provide PoE	17.6.5	No (17.6.5 ES available)	17.6.6, 17.6.6a
Cisco bug ID CSCwe36743	Segmentation Fault - Crash - SSH - When Changing AAA Group Configs	17.6.3, 17.6.4, 17.6.5	Yes (SMU available)	17.6.6, 17.6.6a, 17.9.4, 17.9.4a, 17.9.5
Cisco bug ID CSCwe54047	9300X-24Y booted as Standalone will Observe packet loss between Inter-ASIC Traffic Flows	17.6.1, 17.6.2, 17.6.3, 17.6.4, 17.9.1, 17.9.2, 17.9.3	Yes	17.6.6, 17.6.6a, 17.9.4, 17.9.4a,

				17.9.5
Cisco bug ID CSCwf91450	Stackwise-Virtual: Unexpected Reload with Last reload reason: CPUReset	17.11.1, 17.12.1	No (17.12.1 ES available)	17.12.2, 17.12.3
Cisco bug ID CSCwe20900	Stackwise Virtual May Fail to Program Own MAC Address In Hardware	17.11.1,17.12.1	Yes (17.12.1 ES available)	17.12.2, 17.12.3
Cisco bug ID CSCwh01883	LCs can't boot from Golden region of IOFPGA when Upgrade/Primary region is corrupted	17.9.4, 17.12.1	No	17.12.2, 17.12.3, 17.9.5

Related Information

[Cisco Support and Downloads](#)

[Cisco IOS XE 16 - Release Notes - Cisco](#)

[Cisco IOS XE 17 - Release Notes - Cisco](#)

[End-of-Sale and End-of-Life Announcement for the Cisco IOS XE 16.6.x](#)

[End-of-Sale and End-of-Life Announcement for the Cisco IOS XE 16.9.x](#)

[End-of-Sale and End-of-Life Announcement for the Cisco IOS XE 16.12.x](#)

[End-of-Sale and End-of-Life Announcement for the Cisco IOS XE 17.3.x](#)

[End-of-Sale and End-of-Life Announcement for the Cisco IOS XE 17.6.x](#)

[End-of-Sale and End-of-Life Announcement for the Cisco IOS XE 17.9.x](#)