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WebSockets and webhooks: Embed network intelligence into your applications

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Agenda

- WebSockets
- Webhooks
- Conclusion
- Resources

Cisco Webex App

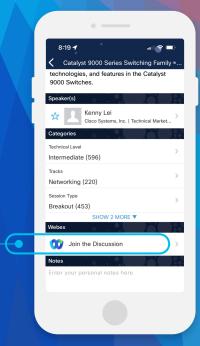
Questions?

Use Cisco Webex App to chat with the speaker after the session

How

- Find this session in the Cisco Live Mobile App
- Click "Join the Discussion"
- Install the Webex App or go directly to the Webex space
- Enter messages/questions in the Webex space

Webex spaces will be moderated by the speaker until June 9, 2023.



https://ciscolive.ciscoevents.com/ciscolivebot/#DEVNET-1841

WebSockets





What is a WebSocket?

- Communication protocol used to send/receive data on the Internet (RFC6455)
- Like HTTP but much better and more efficient (TCP ports 80 & 443)
- Persistent 2-way connection between client <--> server
- Easy to build real-time applications:
 - · Online games
 - Financial trading
 - Collaboration apps
 - Notifications
 - Chat





HTTP

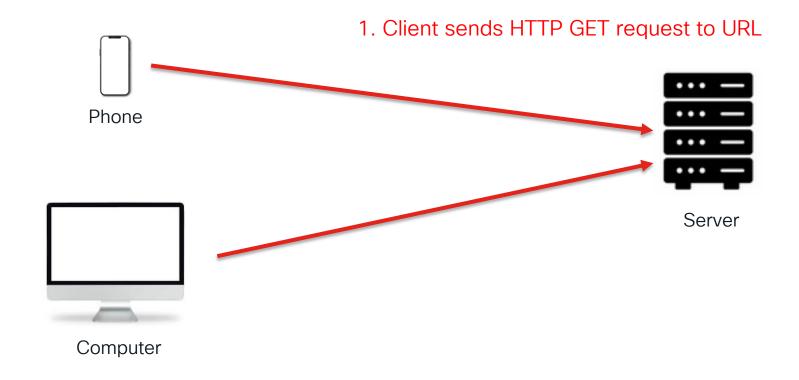
- Half-duplex (like walkie-talkie)
- Traffic flows in 1 direction at a time
- Connection closes after 1 request/response
- Large headers (1000s of bytes)
- 150ms to establish new TCP connection for each HTTP message
- Polling overhead
- Request from client to server
- 2. Response from server to client

WebSocket

- Full-duplex (like phone)
- Bi-directional traffic flow
- Connection stays open
- Uses "frames" (2 bytes)
- 50ms for message transmission
- No polling overhead
- Both client and server are simultaneously "transmitting" and "listening"

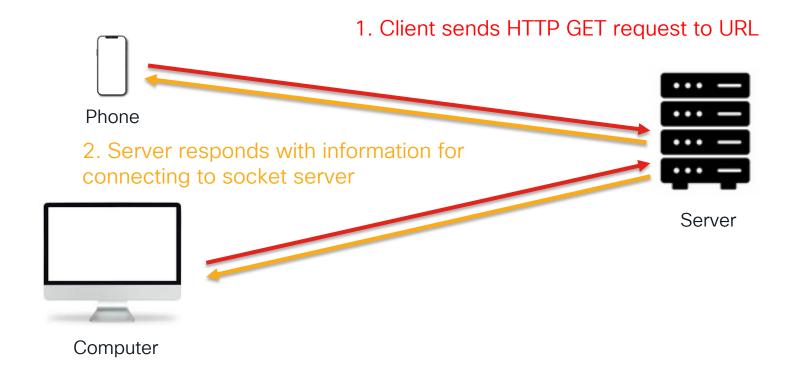


How do WebSockets work?



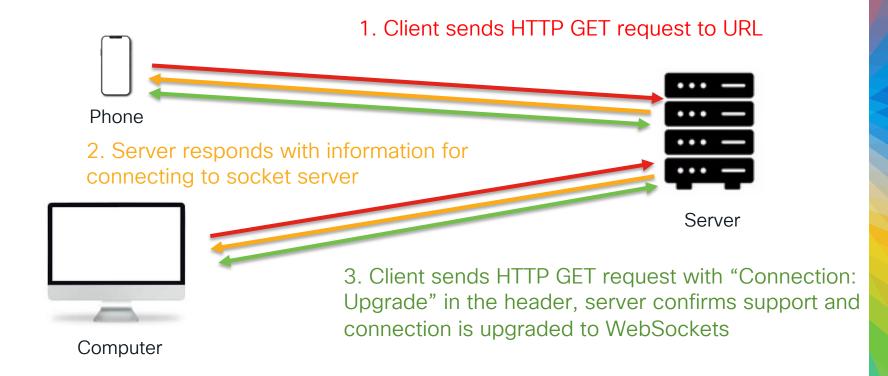


How do WebSockets work?





How do WebSockets work?





The handshake

· Client sends:

--- request header ---

GET

/socketW2OM/Potf4WGMUt/vFMgQ7w6EUOCBonqeYK2jFvCPD KF5LFcu5ea6v/WcccAuRbm+qKhjvEvwu/ukymvGul96GOHZ1fFr 6Sce041cuChZCfz0JXog5y9iUKlofi84UswURGylKaw2fhedCJfj46 1cX/BhsHvpvqM1AivQA1qwRq= HTTP/1.1

Upgrade: websocket

Host: 10.10.10.177

Origin: https://10.10.10.177

Sec-WebSocket-Key: FtK1+TbzPV4dHiuPQW+Z/Q==

Sec-WebSocket-Version: 13

Connection: Upgrade

Server responds:

--- response header ---

HTTP/1.1 101 Switching Protocols

Server: nginx/1.7.10

Date: Sat, 14 Jan 2023 05:55:11 GMT

Connection: upgrade

Sec-WebSocket-Accept: FzXeL1fziR8iOHfBd2szRy7SKZ0=

Upgrade: websocket

Strict-Transport-Security: max-age=31536000;

includeSubDomains

X-Frame-Options: SAMEORIGIN

Content-Security-Policy: block-all-mixed-content; base-uri 'self'; default-src 'self'; script-src 'self' 'nonce-xxUytQEYl3o8U8bZX6PRnfwdh1c139fQ'; style-src 'self' 'nonce-xxUytQEYl3o8U8bZX6PRnfwdh1c139fQ'; img-src 'self'; connect-src 'self'; font-src 'self'; object-src 'self'; media-src 'self'; form-action 'self'; frame-ancestors 'self';



Advantages and disadvantages

- Advantages:
 - Great for real-time applications
 - Low latency
 - Low overhead
 - Less traffic

- Disadvantages:
 - Not good for retrieving old historical data
 - Not largely implemented for network monitoring
 - Varied support in Internet browsers



Cisco Open NX-OS - Login function

```
nxos login:
                                                                   address: "10.10.10.177"
                                                                   username: "admin"
                                                                   password: "admin"
def nxosLogin():
       response = requests_post(
               'https://' + config['nxos_login']['address'] + '/api/aaaLogin.json',
               headers = {'Content-Type': 'application/json'},
               data = json.dumps(nxosLoginTemplate),
               verifv = False
       responseDict = json.loads(response.text)
       token = responseDict['imdata'][0]['aaaLogin']['attributes']['token']
       message = "NXOS Login successful."
       writeLog(message)
       return token
```



Cisco Open NX-OS - Login function (cont.)

```
def nxosLogin():
       response = requests.post(
               'https://' + config['nxos login']['address'] + '/api/aaaLogin.json',
               headers = {'Content-Type': 'application/json'},
               data = json.dumps(nxosLoginTemplate),
               verify = False
       responseDict = json.loads(response.text)
       token = responseDict['imdata'][0]['aaaLogin']['attributes']['token']
       message = "NXOS Login successful."
       writeLog(message)
                                                                 "aaaUser" : {
                                                                      "attributes" : {
       return token
                                                                           "name" : "admin"
                                                                            "pwd" : "admin"
```

Cisco Open NX-OS - Login function (cont.)

```
def nxosLogin():
         response = requests_post(
                 'https://' + config['nxos login']['address'] + '/api/aaaLogin.json',
                 headers = {'Content-Type': 'application/json'},
                 data = json.dumps(nxosLoginTemplate),
                 verify = False
        responseDict = json.loads(response.text)
        token = response\[ ict['imdata'][0]['aaaLogin']['attributes']['token']
        message = "NXOS Login successful."
                                                       "imdata":
        writeLog(message)
                                                             "aaaLogin": {
                                                                  "attributes": {
        return token
                                                                     "token": "RPLUpnB3atz8LUsi6v0MYZDZ6XrEl58k045...="
                                                                     "siteFingerprint": "",
                                                                     "refreshTimeoutSeconds": "600".
                                                                     "quiIdleTimeoutSeconds": "1200",
                                                                     "restTimeoutSeconds": "300",
                                                                     "creationTime": "1674424630",
```

Cisco Open NX-OS - Subscribe function

```
monitored objects:
                                                             - /api/mo/sys/intf/phys-[eth1/3]
                                                             - /api/mo/sys/intf/phys-[eth1/11]
                                                             - /api/node/mo/sys/bd/bd-[vlan-101]
def subscribe(loginToken):
     subIds = []
    for sub in config['monitored objects']:
        response = requests qet(
             "https://" + config['nxos login']['address'] + sub + ".json?subscription=yes",
             headers = {'Cookie': "APIC-cookie=" + loginToken},
             verify = False
        subIds.append(json.loads(response.text)['subscriptionId'])
    message = "Subscription successful. Subscription IDs:\n"
     for subid in subIds:
        message = message + subid + "\n"
    writeLog(message)
```



Cisco Open NX-OS - Subscribe function (cont.)



Cisco Open NX-OS - Refresh function

```
def refresh():
    while True:
        time_sleep(55)
        with open(pathSubscriptionIds, "r") as handle:
             subscriptionIds = json.load(handle)
        loginToken = nxosLogin()
        message = "Subscription Refresh successful. Refreshed subscription IDs: \n"
        for sub in subscriptionIds:
             response = requests_get(
                 "https://" + config['nxos_login']['address'] + "/api/subscriptionRefresh.json?id=" + sub
                 headers = {'Cookie': "APIC-cookie=" + loginToken},
                 verify = False
             print(response text)
             if not json.loads(response.text)['imdata']:
                message = message + sub + "; "
             else:
                message = message + "Subscription " + sub + " could not be refreshed.\n"
        writeLog(message)
```



Cisco Open NX-OS - Main function

```
def on_message(ws, message):
                                                                              outputToFile(message)
import websocket
import threading
import ssl
                                                                         def on_error(ws, error):
import os
                                                                              writeLog(error)
if __name__ == "__main__":
        loginToken = nxosLogin()
                                                                         def on open(ws):
                                                                              subscribe(loginToken)
        refreshThread = threading.Thread(target=refresh/
        refreshThread.start()
        websocket.enableTrace(True)
        ws = websocket.WebSocketApp("wss://" + config['nxos login']
                                                                      'address']
                                                                                 + "/socket" + loginToken
                                           on_message = on_message,
                                           on error on error,
                                           on close = on close,
                                                                      def on close(ws):
                                           on open = on open)
                                                                           os remove(pathSubscriptionIds)
                                                                           message = "Socket was closed."
        ws.run_forever(sslopt={"cert_regs": ssl.CERT_NONE})
                                                                           writeLog(message)
```



Cisco Open NX-OS - Subscription output

```
"subscriptionId": ["18374686505424650242"],
"imdata": [{
         "l1PhysIf": {
                   "attributes": {
                             "adminSt": "up",
                             "childAction": ""
                             "dn": "sys/intf/phys-[eth1/11]",
                             "modTs": "2023-01-22T06:04:36.208+00:00",
                             "rn": ""
                             "status": "modified"
}]
"subscriptionId": ["18374686505424650243"],
"imdata": [{
          "l2BD": {
                   "attributes": {
                             "childAction": ""
                             "dn": "svs/bd/bd-[vlan-101]",
                             "status": "modified"
```

Webhooks



What is a Webhook?

- Webhooks are automated messages sent from apps when something happens
- Message is sent to a preconfigured URL when an event gets triggered
- Faster and less resource intensive than polling
- Like SMS notifications
- Used for:
 - Sending small amounts of data
 - Trigger automation workflows



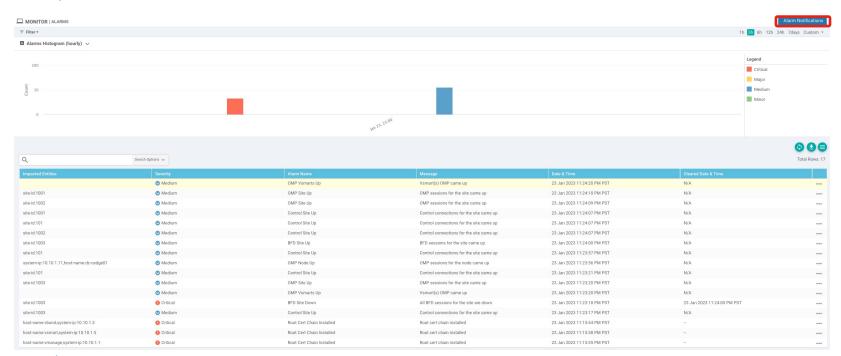
How do Webhooks work?





Webhook configuration for Cisco SD-WAN

Step 1: Select "Alarm Notifications" from "Monitor -> Alarms"

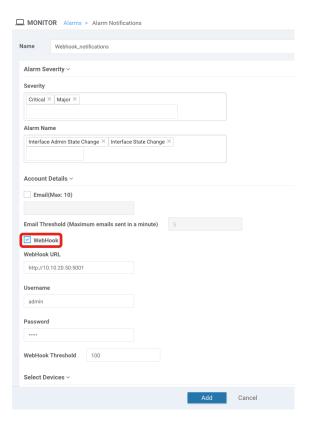




Webhook configuration for Cisco SD-WAN (cont.)

Step 2:

- Enter a name for the webhook
- Select severity level (all, critical, major, medium, minor)
- Select alarm name (disk usage, process restart, etc.)
- Enable WebHook checkbox
- Provide the WebHook URL, username and password
- Select devices (all, custom)



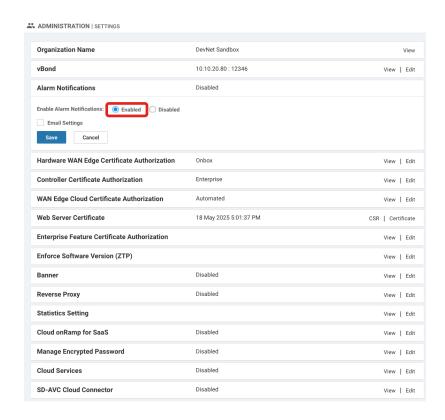


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Webhook configuration for Cisco SD-WAN (cont.)

Step 3:

 Enable "Alarm Notifications" under the Administration Settings





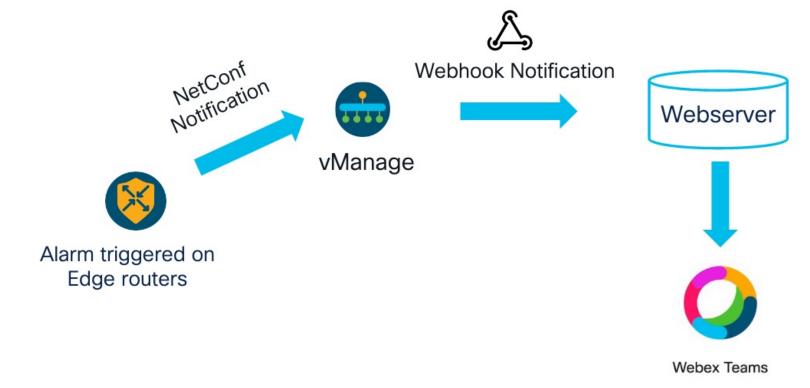
Webhook configuration for Cisco SD-WAN (cont.)

 Step 4: Verify list of webhooks under "Alarms -> Alarm Notifications"





Webhook notifications flow





Sample alert

```
"entry time": 1557638912000,
"severity": "Medium",
"rule_name_display": "Interface_State_Change",
"severity number": 3,
"component": "VPN",
"values short display": [
     "if-name": "GigabitEthernet4",
     "host-name": "BR2-CSR1000v",
     "system-ip": "1.1.1.6",
     "new-state": "up"
"devices": [
     "system-ip": "1.1.1.6"
"eventname": "interface-state-change",
"receive time": 1557638912888,
"statcycletime": 1557638912000,
"values": [
```

```
"values": [
     "if-name": "GigabitEthernet4",
     "vpn-id": "10",
     "host-name": "BR2-CSR1000v",
     "system-ip": "1.1.1.6",
     "new-state": "up"
"cleared events": [
   "8459e3a0-5bea-4370-ab57-6f45f8022d66"
"rulename": "interface-state-change",
"active": false,
"message": "The interface oper-state changed to up",
"type": "interface-state-change",
"acknowledged": false,
"uuid": "7a514a95-7c24-4348-b7e9-8d6775a3bc36"
```



Setup webhook receiver server

```
from flask import Flask, request, jsonify
from webexteamssdk import WebexTeamsAPI
import ison
import os
import datetime
import pytz
bearer token = os.environ.get("bearer token")
room id = os.environ.get("room id")
app = Flask( name
@app.route('/',methods=['POST'])
def alarms():
         trv:
                  PDT = pvtz.timezone('America/Los Angeles')
                  data = json.loads(request.data)
```

```
"entry time": 1557638912000,
"severity": "Medium",
"rule name display": "Interface State Change",
"severity number": 3,
"component": "VPN",
"values short display": [
                 "if-name": "GigabitEthernet4",
                 "host-name": "BR2-CSR1000v",
                 "system-ip": "1.1.1.6",
                 "new-state": "up"
"devices": [
                 "system-ip": "1.1.1.6"
```

Setup webhook receiver server (cont.)

```
temp time = datetime.datetime.utcfromtimestamp(data['entry time']/1000.)
                  temp time = pytz.UTC.localize(temp time)
                 message = message + '**Alarm Date & Time:** ' +
                                    temp time.astimezone(PDT).strftime('%c') + ' PDT'
                  temp = data['values short display']
                  for item in temp:
                           for key, value in item.items():
                                    message = message + '<br> **' + key + ':** ' + value
                 message = message + '<br> **' + 'Details:' + '** ' +
                           "https://test.sdwanlab.com/#/app/monitor/alarms/details/" + data['uuid']
                 api = WebexTeamsAPI(access token=bearer token)
                  res=api.messages.create(roomId=room id, markdown=message)
         except Exception as exc:
                  print(exc)
                  return jsonify(str(exc)), 500
         return isonify("Message sent to Webex Teams"), 200
if name == ' main ':
         app.run(host='0.0.0.0', port=5001, debug=True)
```



Webex Teams message



You 10:05 PM

Team, Alarm event: Interface_State_Change is received from vManage and here are the complete details

Alarm Date & Time: Sat May 11 22:28:32 2019 PDT

if-name: GigabitEthernet4

host-name: BR2-CSR1000v

system-ip: 1.1.1.6

new-state: up

Details: https://test.sdwanlab.com/#/app/monitor/alarms/details/7a514a95-7c24-4348-b7e9-8d6775a3bc36



Conclusions



- WebSockets and Webhooks are popular web technologies
- Websockets supported by: Cisco Open NX-OS, Cisco ACI, Cisco ISE, Webex Teams
- Webhooks supported by: Cisco SD-WAN, Meraki, Cisco DNA Center, ThousandEyes, Webex Teams, Cisco Intersight, Cisco SecureX
- Easy to integrate JSON formatted status and alert information received over websockets and webhooks
- Embed this information into applications to make them aware of infrastructure status in real-time



Resources





- https://developer.cisco.com/codeexchange
- https://developer.cisco.com/docs/nx-os/#!cisco-nx-apiwebsocket-notifications
- https://developer.cisco.com/learning/labs/sd-wanwebhooks/getting-started-with-webhooks-on-cisco-sd-wan/



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Thank you



Cisco Live Challenge

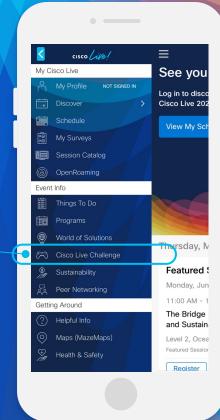
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