

Recommended Releases for Catalyst 9200/9300/9400/9500/9600 and Catalyst 3650/3850 Platforms

Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Cisco IOS XE Software Support](#)

[Recommendations](#)

[Engineering Special Releases](#)

[Important Caveats in Recommended Releases](#)

[Related Information](#)

Introduction

This document is to help customers find a stable software release for the enterprise switching platforms running Catalyst 9000 series switches. The information in this document is not meant to be exhaustive & is intended to serve as a general guidance to customers especially in cases of mass deployments/upgrades. Beyond these recommendations, if customers 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.

For customers deploying Software Defined Access, please refer to the product compatibility matrix which is available [here](#).

Cisco IOS XE Software Support

Each Cisco IOS XE software release is classified as either a Standard Maintenance release or an Extended Maintenance release.

Standard Maintenance Release - A sustaining support lifetime of 12 months from First Customer Shipment (FCS) with scheduled rebuilds. Examples are Cisco IOS XE Software releases 16.8, 16.10, and 16.11

Extended Maintenance Release - A sustaining support lifetime of 36 months from First Customer Shipment (FCS) with scheduled rebuilds. Examples are Cisco IOS XE Software releases 16.9, and 16.12

Note: Every subsequent third release (for example, Cisco IOS XE Software release 16.6, 16.9, 16.12 etc.) will be an Extended Maintenance release.

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

Recommendations

The recommendations stated below are current as of February 2020, and these will be updated as and when appropriate.

Product Family	Product Details	Recommended IOS-XE releases	
		Non Stackwise-Virtual	Stackwise-Virtual*
Catalyst 9200	9200L MultiGigabit Ethernet switch models (C9200L-24PXG-2Y, C9200L-24PXG-4X, C9200L-48PXG-2Y, C9200L-48PXG-4X)	16.12.2	not supported
	9200L (all other models)	16.9.4	not supported
	9200 (all models)	16.12.2	not supported
Catalyst 9300	9300 (all models)	16.9.4	not supported
	9300L (all models)	16.12.2	not supported
	9300-24S, 9300-48S	16.12.2	not supported
	9300-24UB, 9300-24UXB, 9300-48UB	16.12.2	not supported
Catalyst 9400	Supervisor 1XL 25G uplinks (C9400-SUP-1XL-Y) in any 9400 chassis	16.9.4	16.12.2
	Supervisor Engine-1 or Supervisor Engine-1XL in 9404 chassis	16.9.4	16.9.4
	Supervisor Engine-1 or Supervisor Engine-1XL in 9407 chassis	16.9.4	16.9.4
	Supervisor Engine-1 or Supervisor Engine-1XL in 9410 chassis	16.9.4	16.12.2
	C9400-LC-48H line card in any chassis	16.12.2	16.12.2
Catalyst 9500	9500 high performance models (C9500-32C, C9500-32QC, C9500-48Y4C, C9500-24Y4C)	16.9.4	16.12.2

	9500 with Stackwise-Virtual links on C9500-NM-8X or C9500-NM-2Q modules	does not apply	16.12.2
	9500 (all other models)	16.9.4	16.9.4
Catalyst 9600	9600 (all models)	16.12.2	16.12.2
Catalyst 3650	3650 (all models)	16.9.4+	not supported
Catalyst 3850	3850-12XS, 3850-24XS, 3850-48XS	16.9.4+	16.9.4+
	3850 (all other models)	16.9.4+	not supported

* StackWise Virtual requires Network Advantage License on Catalyst 9000 Switches

+ If you are not prepared for smart licensing, then 16.6.7 is the recommended version for Catalyst 3850 and 3650 Switches.

Engineering Special Releases

In certain cases, critical bugs are made available on Engineering Special (ES) builds. These builds are not available on CCO (cisco.com). If you are running into 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 an Engineering Special (ES) code. Engineering Special builds are meant to be deployed for a limited time frame and customers 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 Cisco Customer Experience (CX) and the Business Unit (BU).

Important Caveats in Recommended Releases

If any of caveats below are being encountered, please reach out to Cisco Customer Experience (CX) team to obtain an Engineering Special (ES) build that contains the fix.

Identifier	Headline	Affected Version	Workaround Available
CSCvk70181	Memory Leak under Session Manager Daemon (sessmgrd/smd)	16.9.4	No
CSCvq78529	IOSd Segmentation Fault on SGT enabled stack	16.9.4	Yes

For a complete list of resolved and open caveats in any software version, refer the release notes.

Related Information

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

[Cisco Support and Downloads](#)