JEREMY'S IT LAB

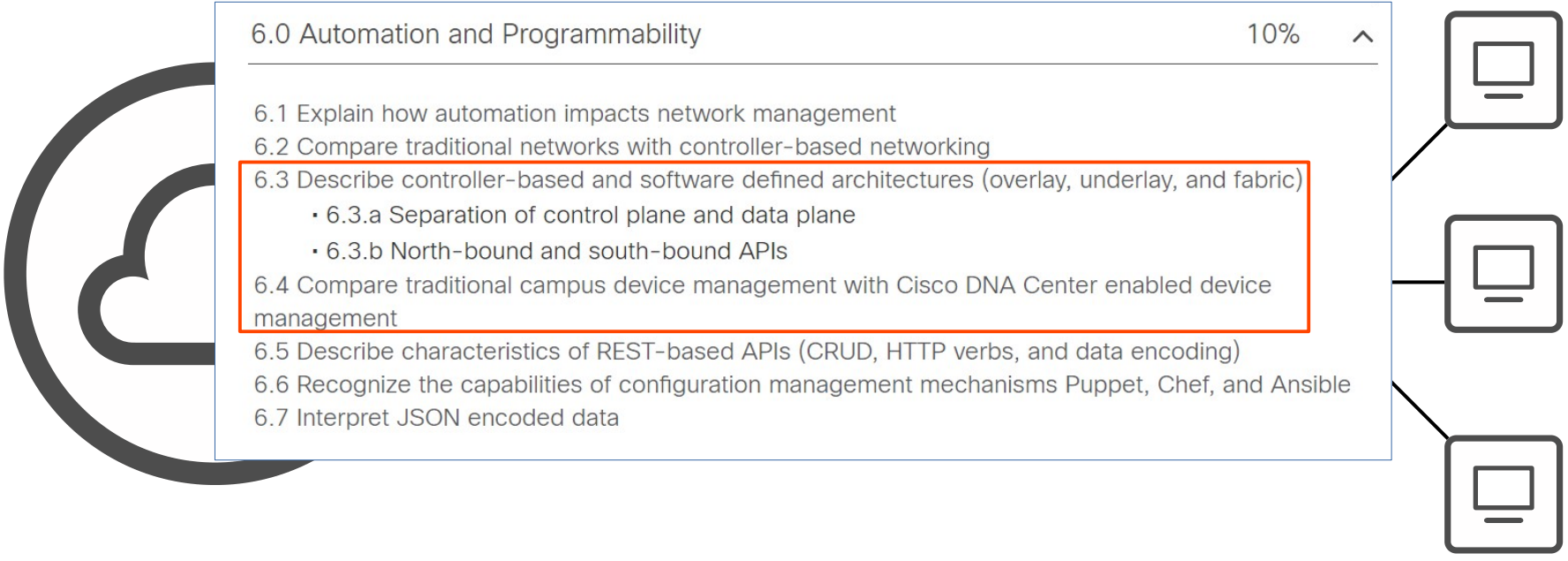
CCNA Day 62

Software-Defined Networking

6.0 Automation and Programmability 10%

6.1 Explain how automation impacts network management
6.2 Compare traditional networks with controller-based networking
6.3 Describe controller-based and software defined architectures (overlay, underlay, and fabric)
- 6.3.a Separation of control plane and data plane
- 6.3.b North-bound and south-bound APIs

6.4 Compare traditional campus device management with Cisco DNA Center enabled device management
6.5 Describe characteristics of REST-based APIs (CRUD, HTTP verbs, and data encoding)
6.6 Recognize the capabilities of configuration management mechanisms Puppet, Chef, and Ansible
6.7 Interpret JSON encoded data



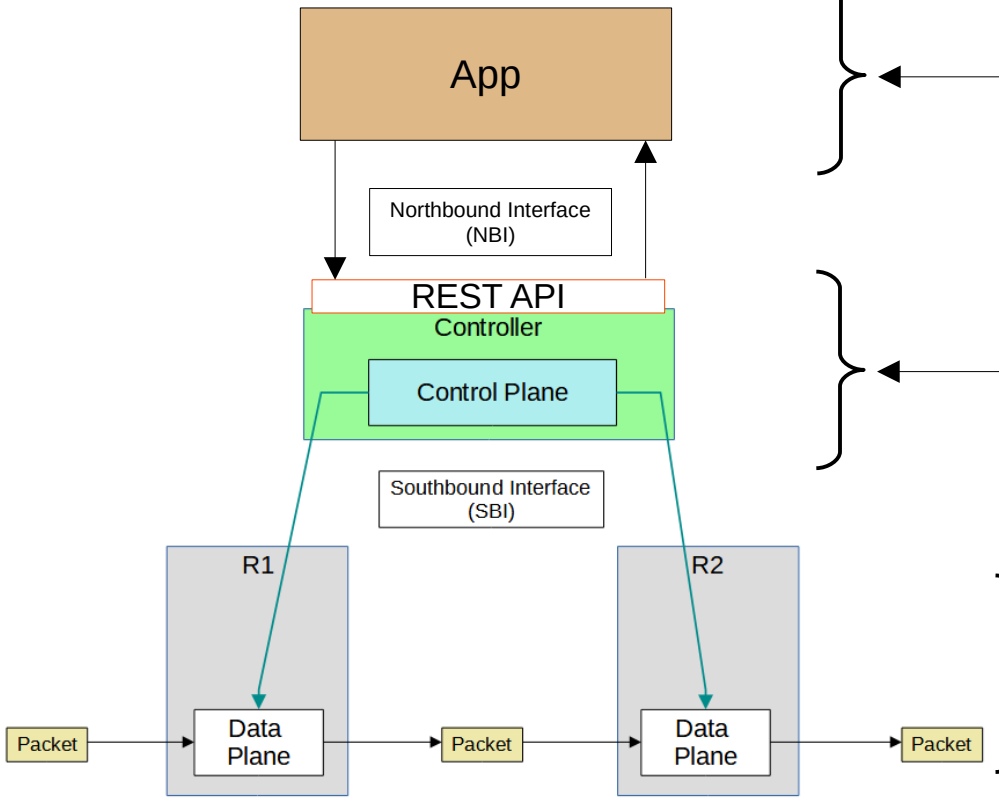
Things we'll cover

- SDN Review
- Cisco SD-Access
- Cisco DNA Center
- DNA Center network management vs traditional

SDN Review

- **Software-Defined Networking (SDN)** is an approach to networking that centralizes the control plane into an application called a *controller.*
- Traditional control planes use a distributed architecture.
- An SDN controller centralizes control plane functions like calculating routes.
- The controller can interact programmatically with the network devices using APIs.
- The **SBI** is used for communications between the controller and the network devices it controls.
- The **NBI** is what allows us to interact with the controller with our scripts and applications.

SDN Architecture



Application Layer

Contains scripts/applications that tell the SDN controller what network behaviors are desired.

Control Layer

Contains the SDN controller that receives and processes instructions from the application layer.

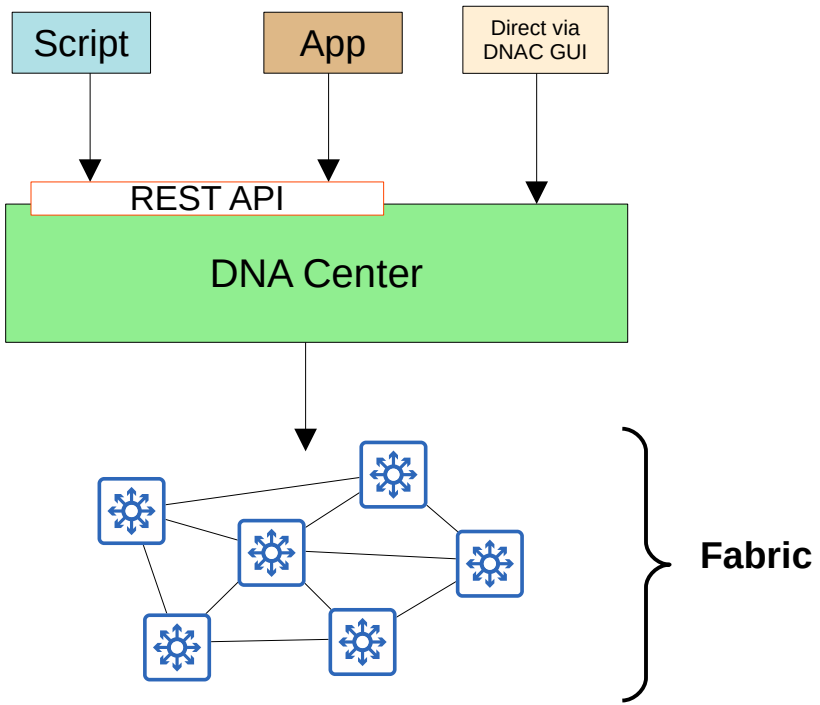
Infrastructure Layer

Contains the network devices that are responsible for forwarding messages across the network.

SD-Access

- Cisco **SD-Access** is Cisco's SDN solution for automating campus LANs.
  → ACI (Application Centric Infrastructure) is their SDN solution for automating data center networks.
  → SD-WAN is their SDN solution for automating WANs.

- Cisco **DNA (Digital Network Architecture) Center** is the controller at the center of SD-Access.



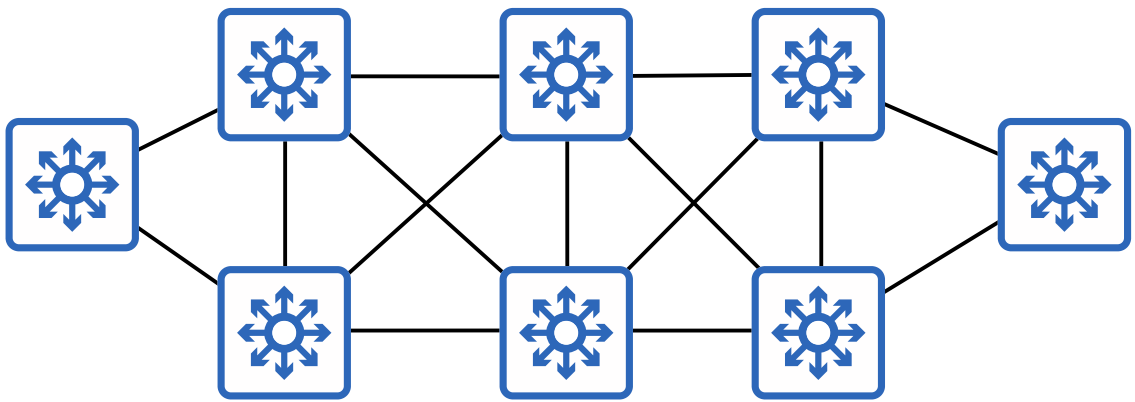
SD-Access

- The **underlay** is the underlying physical network of devices and connections (including wired and wireless) which provide IP connectivity (ie. using IS-IS).
  → Multilayer switches and their connections.

- The **overlay** is the virtual network built on top of the physical underlay network.
  → SD-Access uses VXLAN (Virtual Extensible LAN) to build tunnels.

- The **fabric** is the combination of the overlay and underlay; the physical and virtual network as a whole.

Underlay



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Overlay

SD-Access

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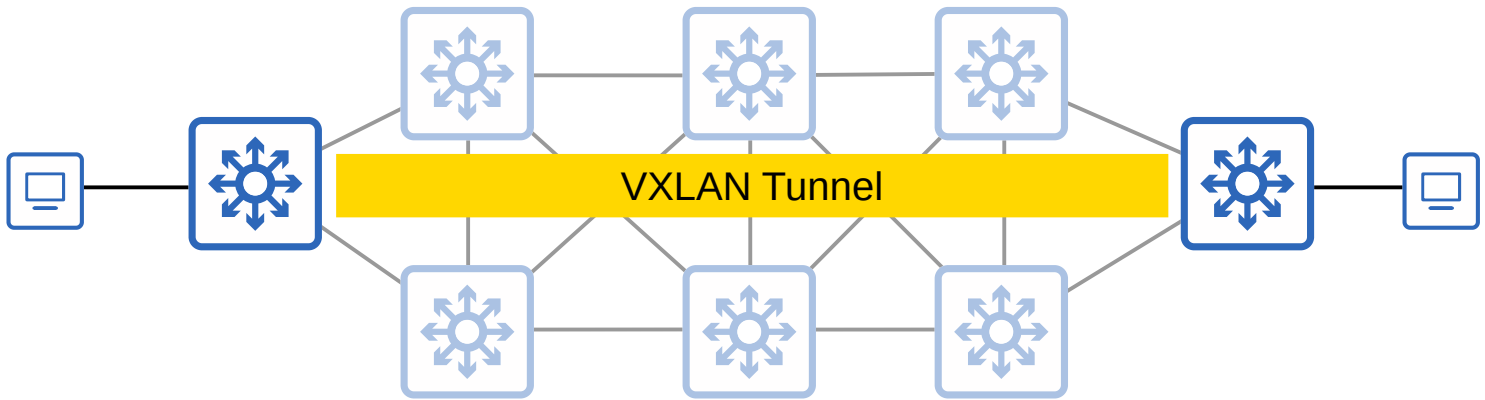
Fabric



SD-Access Underlay

- The underlay's purpose is to support the VXLAN tunnels of the overlay.

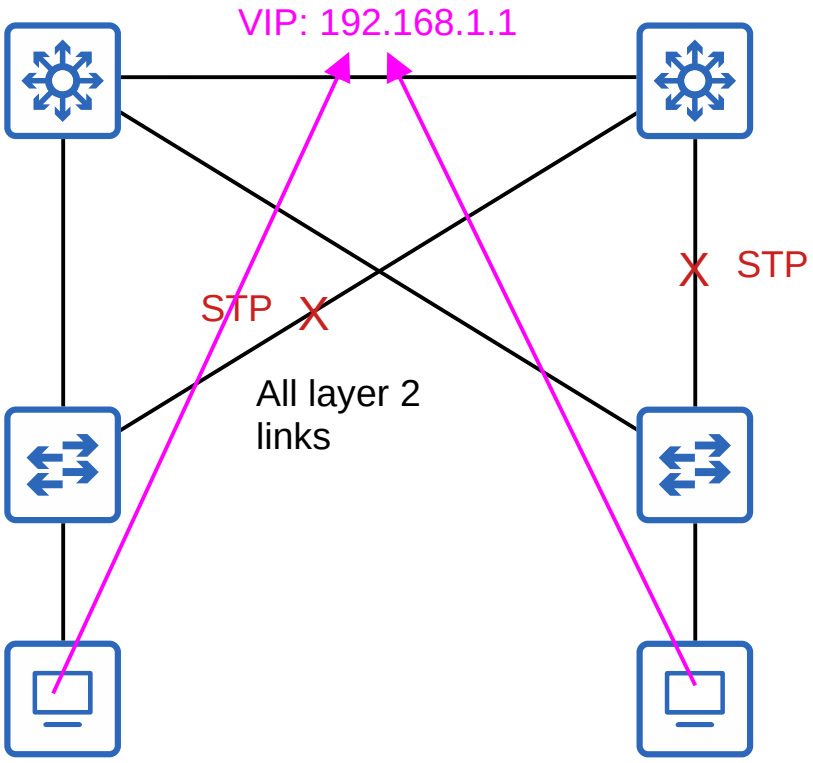
- There are three different roles for switches in SD-Access:
  - → **Edge nodes**: Connect to end hosts
  - → **Border nodes**: Connect to devices outside of the SD-Access domain, ie. WAN routers.
  - → **Control nodes**: Use LISP (Locator ID Separation Protocol) to perform various control plane functions.

- You can add SD-Access on top of an existing network *(brownfield deployment)* if your network hardware and software supports it.
  - → Google 'Cisco SD-Access compatibility matrix' if you're curious.
  - → In this case DNA Center won't configure the underlay.

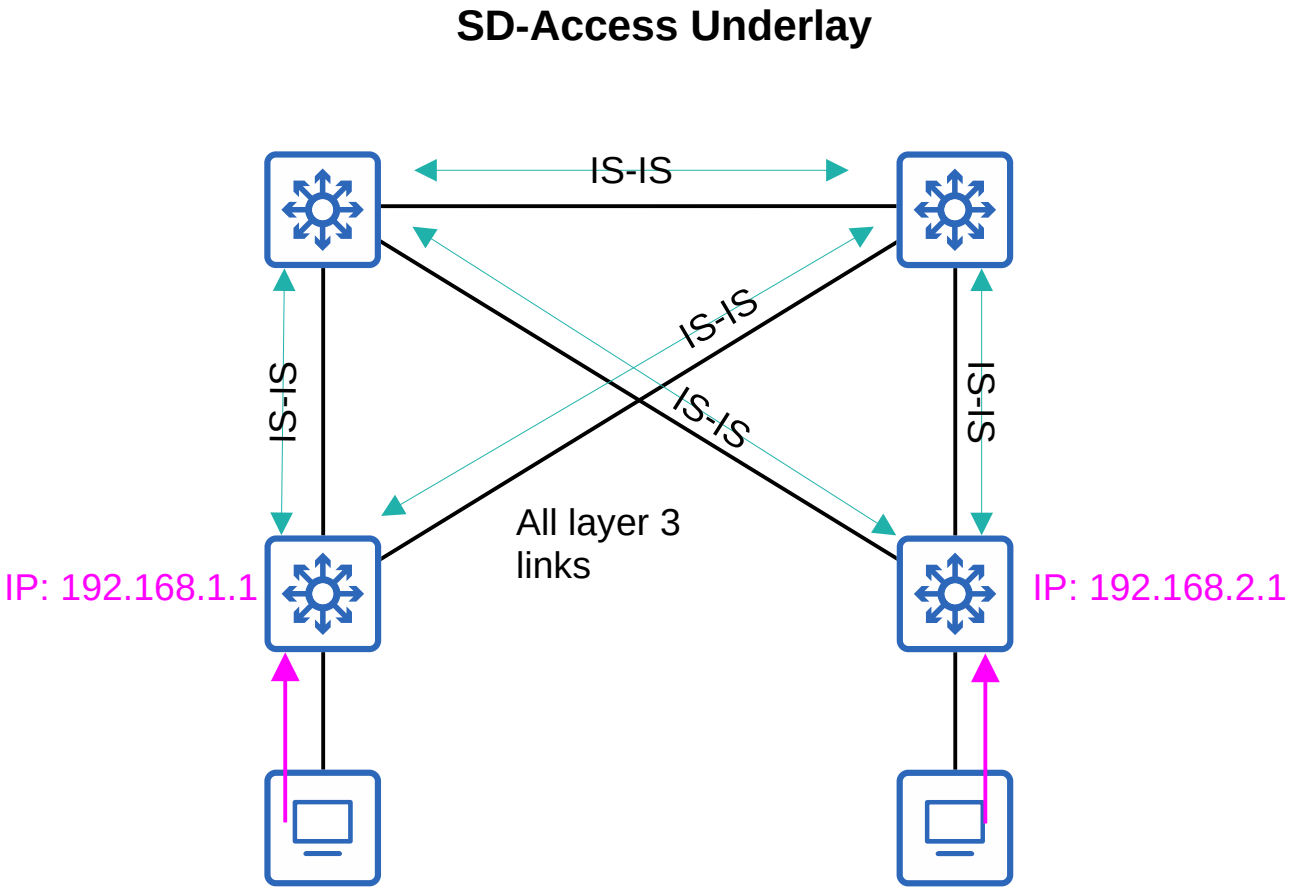
- A new deployment *(greenfield deployment)* will be configured by DNA Center to use the optimal SD-Access underlay:
  - → All switches are Layer 3 and use IS-IS as their routing protocol.
  - → All links between switches are routed ports. This means STP is not needed.
  - → Edge nodes (access switches) act as the default gateway of end hosts *(routed access layer)*.

SD-Access Underlay

Traditional LAN



SD-Access Underlay

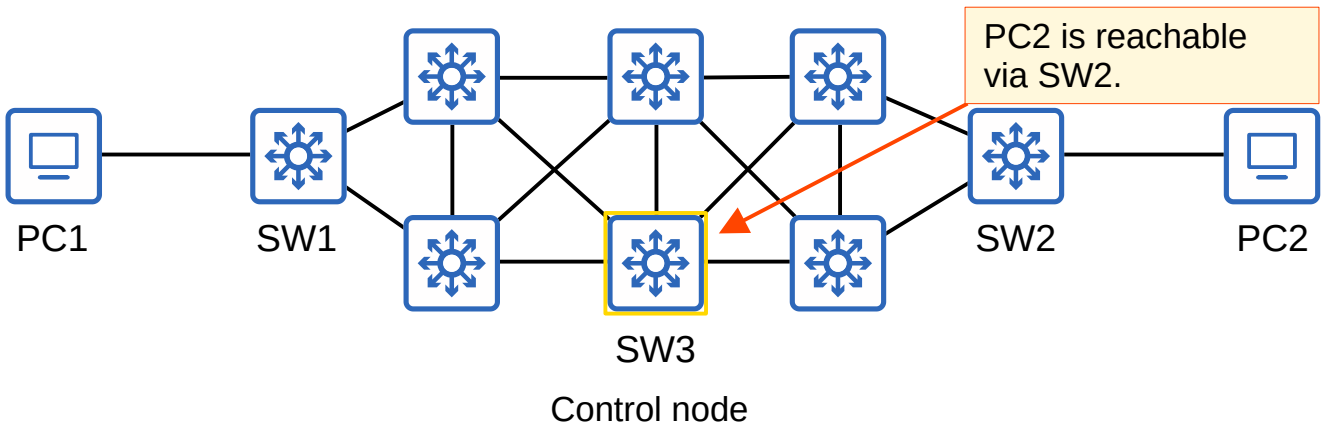


SD-Access Overlay

- LISP provides the control plane of SD-Access.
  → A list of mappings of EIDs (endpoint identifiers) to RLOCs (routing locators) is kept.
  → EIDs identify end hosts connected to edge switches, and RLOCs identify the edge switch which can be used to reach the end host.
  → There is a LOT more detail to cover about LISP, but I think you can see how it differs from the traditional control plane.

- Cisco TrustSec (CTS) provides policy control (QoS, security policy, etc).

- VXLAN provides the data plane of SD-Access.



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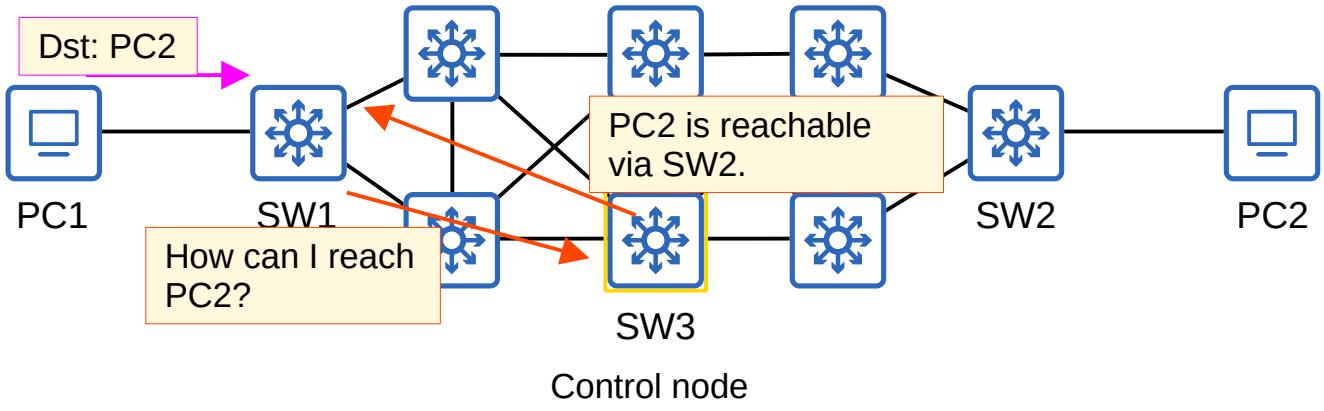

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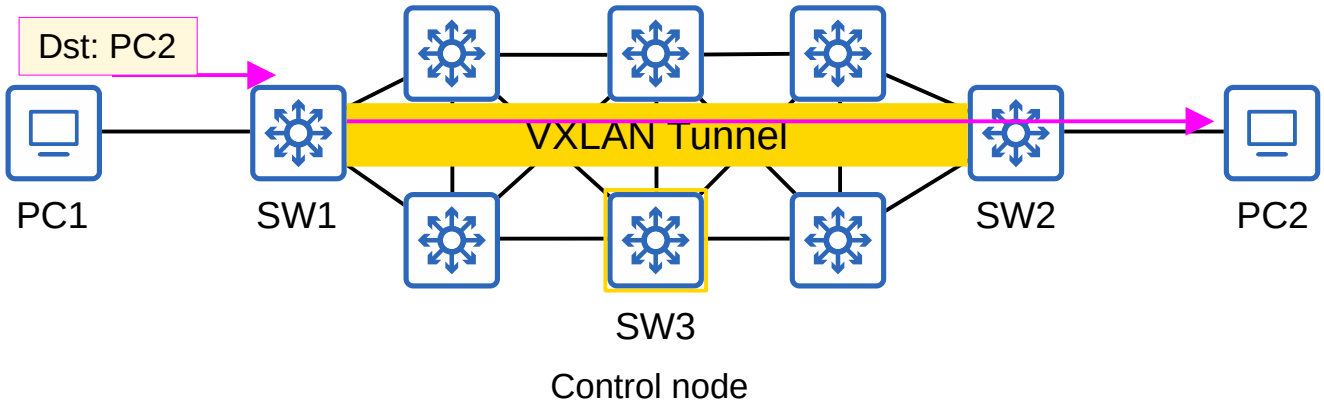


Cisco DNA Center

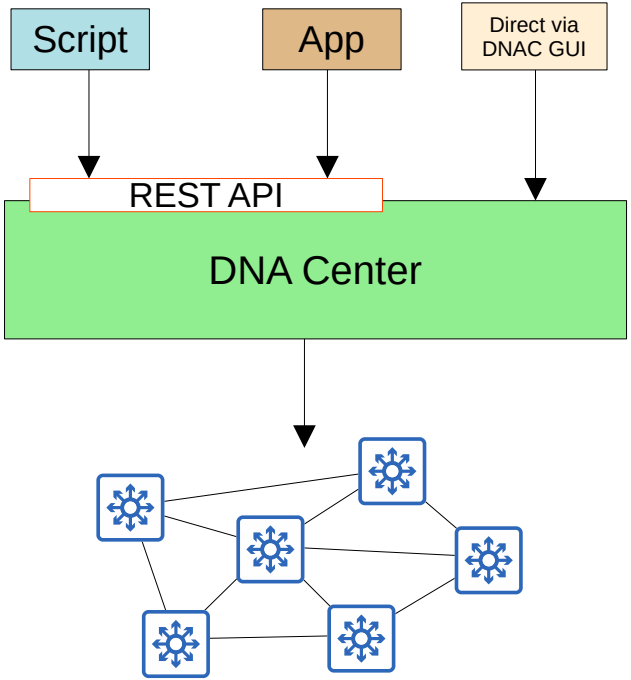
- Cisco DNA Center has two main roles:
  → The SDN controller in SD-Access
  → A network manager in a traditional network (non-SD-Access)

- DNA Center is an application installed on Cisco UCS server hardware.

- It has a REST API which can be used to interact with DNA center.

- The SBI supports protocols such as NETCONF and RESTCONF (as well as traditional protocols like Telnet, SSH, SNMP).

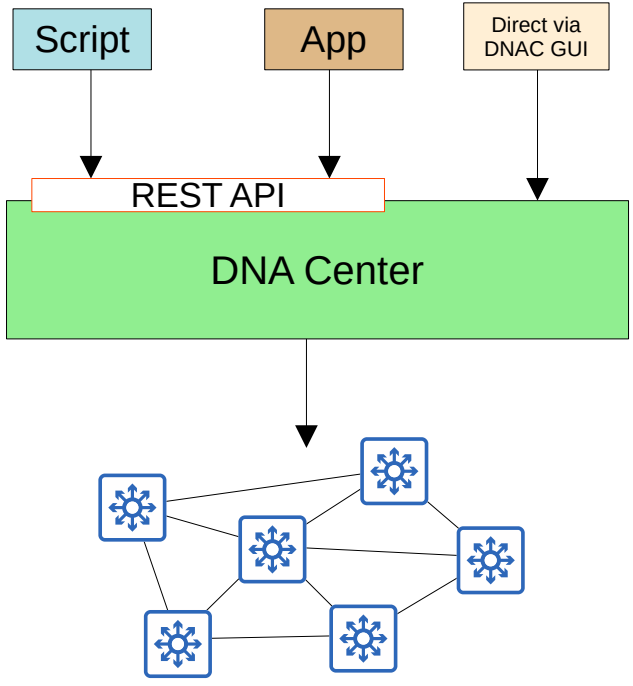
- DNA Center enables *Intent-Based Networking* (IBN).
  → More buzzwords! Yay!
  → The goal is to allow the engineer to communicate their intent for network behavior to DNA Center, and then DNA Center will take care of the details of the actual configurations and policies on devices.



Cisco DNA Center

- Traditional security policies using ACLs can become VERY cumbersome.
  → ACLs can have **thousands** of entries.
  → The intent of entries is forgotten with time and as engineers leave and new engineers take over.
  → Configuring and applying the ACLs correctly across a network is cumbersome and leaves room for error.

- DNA Center allows the engineer to specify the intent of the policy (this group of users can't communicate with this group, this group can access this server but not that server, etc.), and DNA Center will take care of the exact details of implementing the policy.



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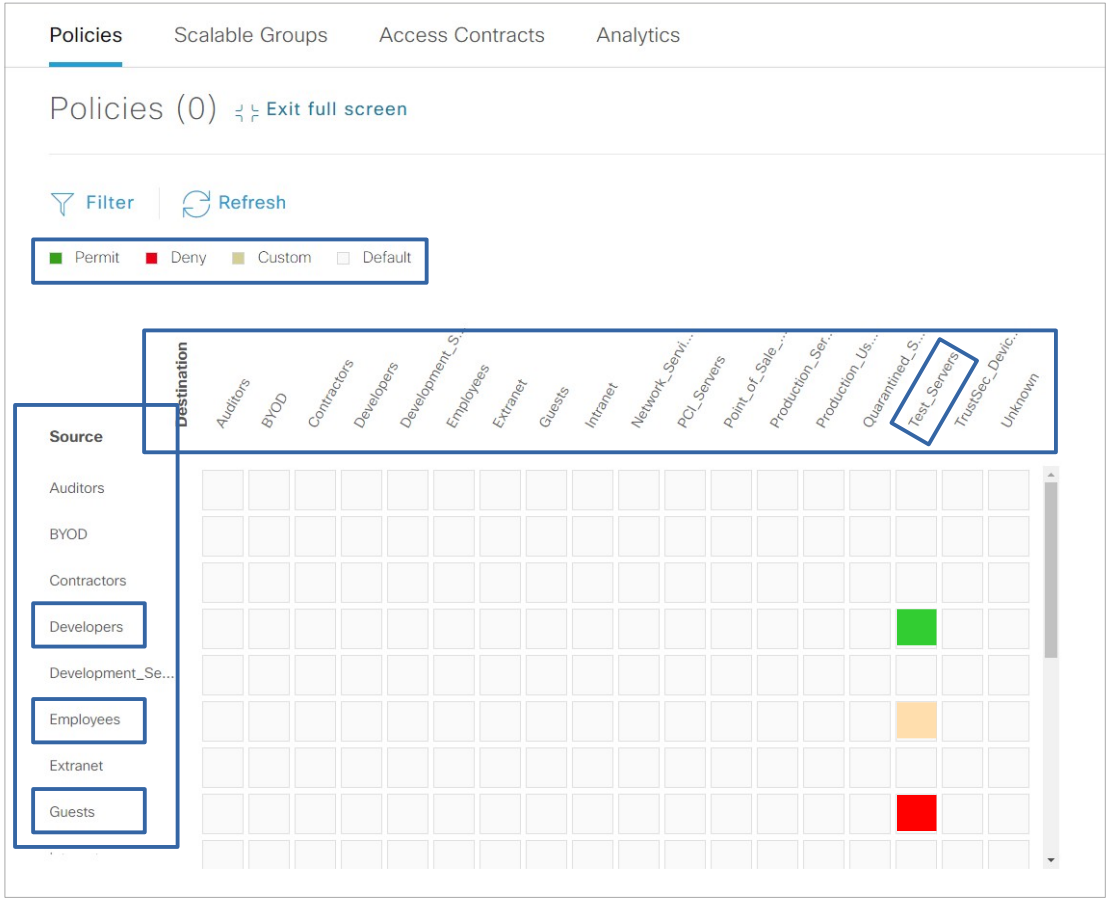

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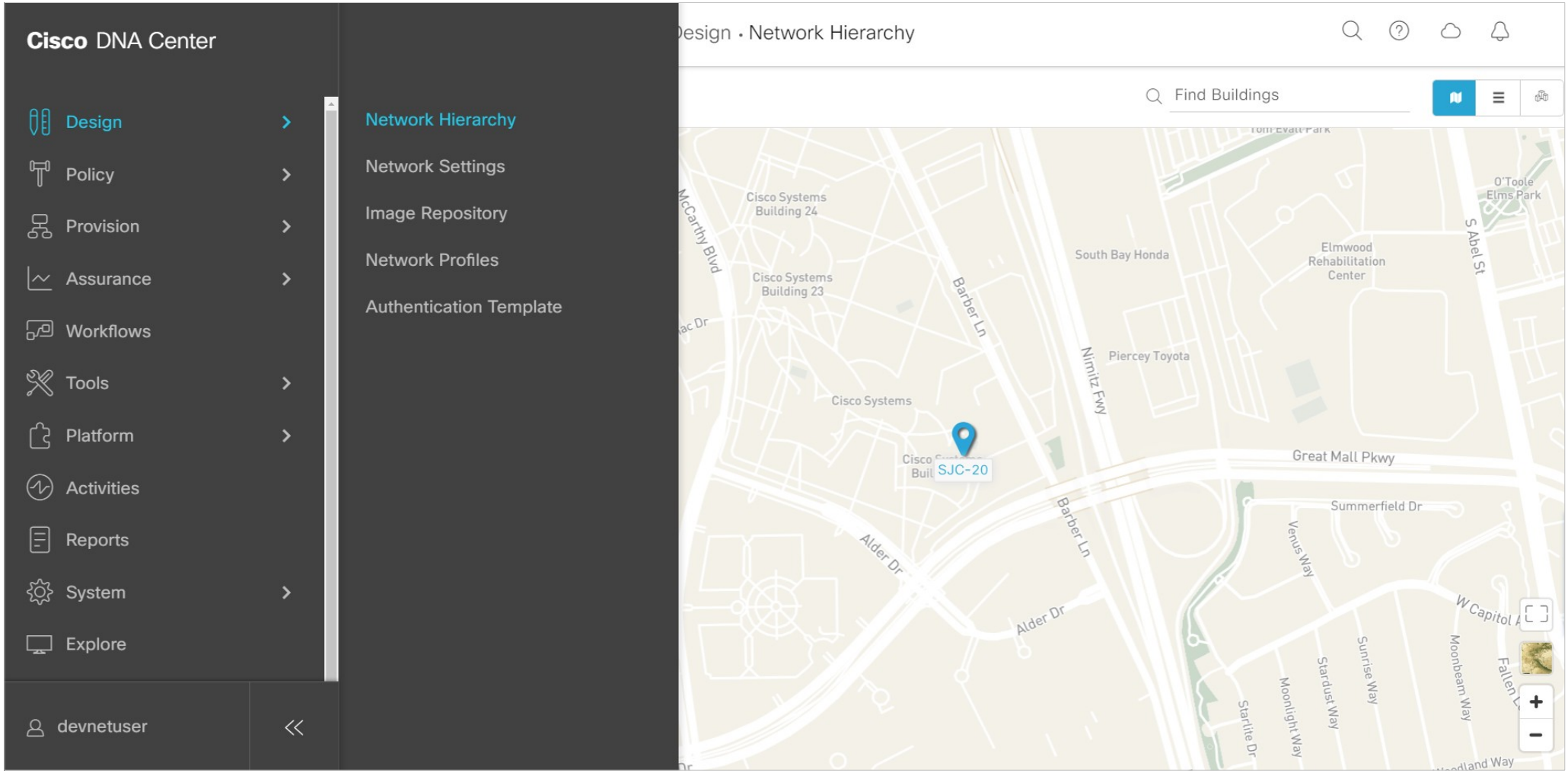

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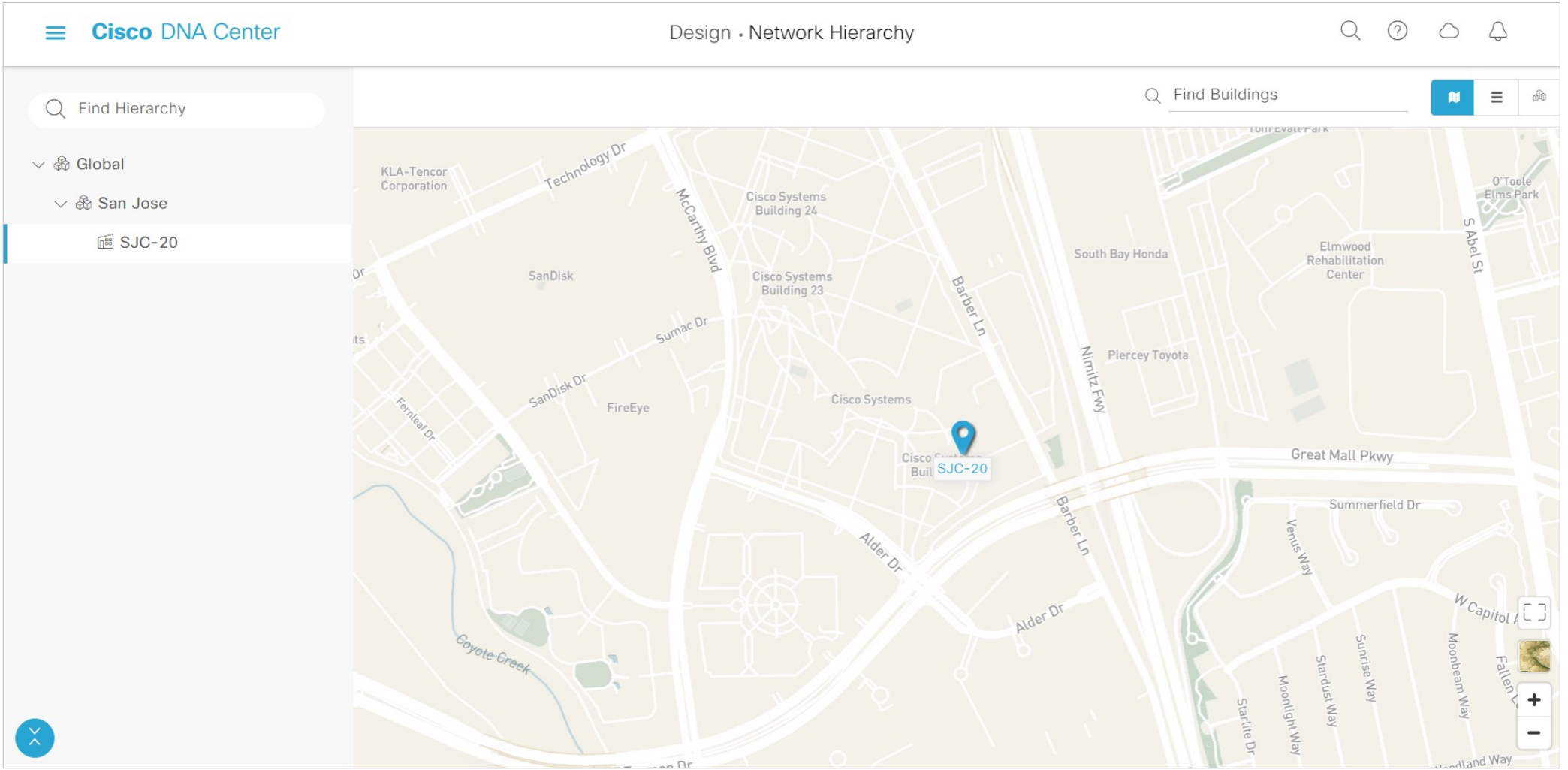

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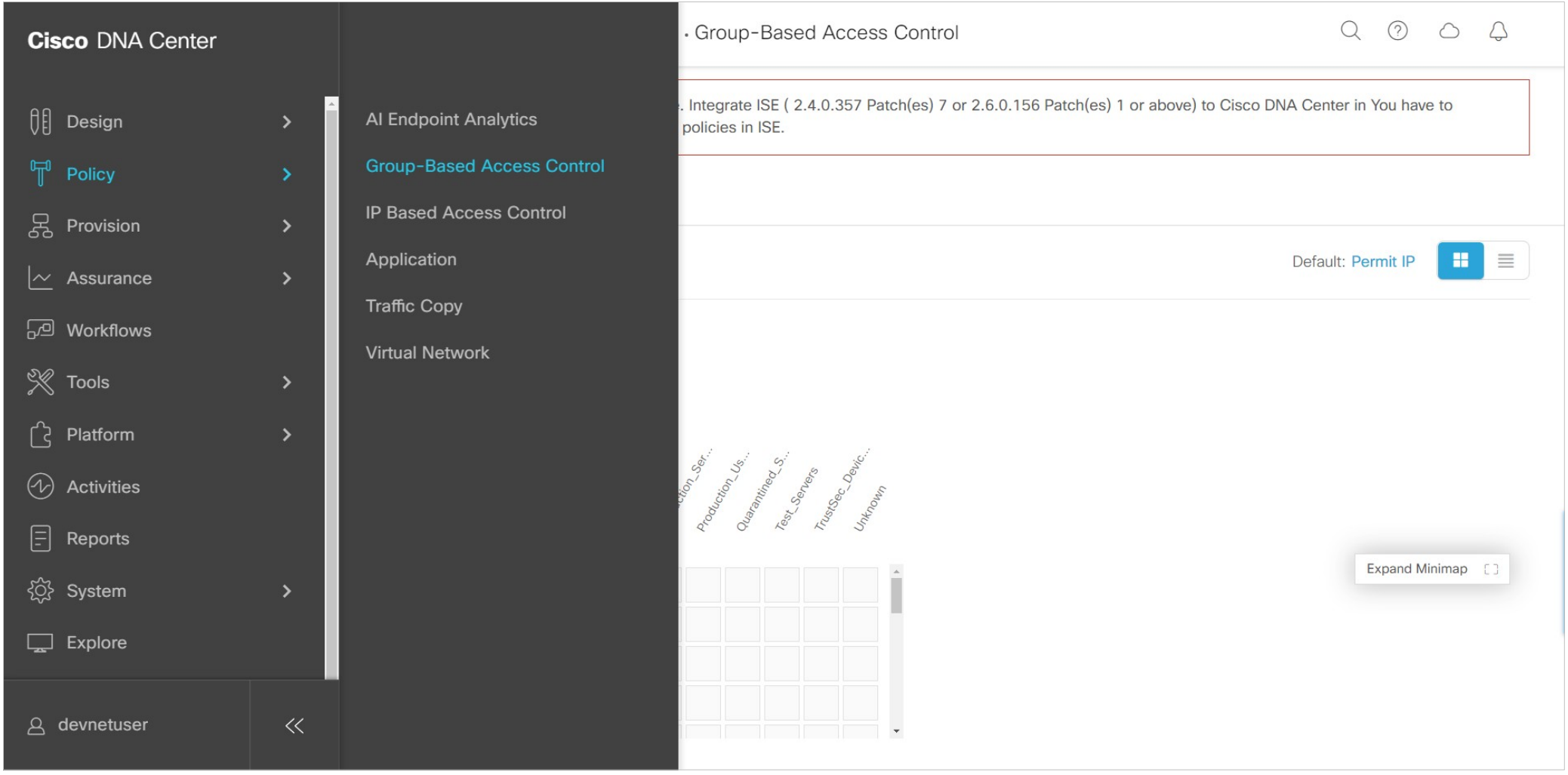
Cisco DNA Center



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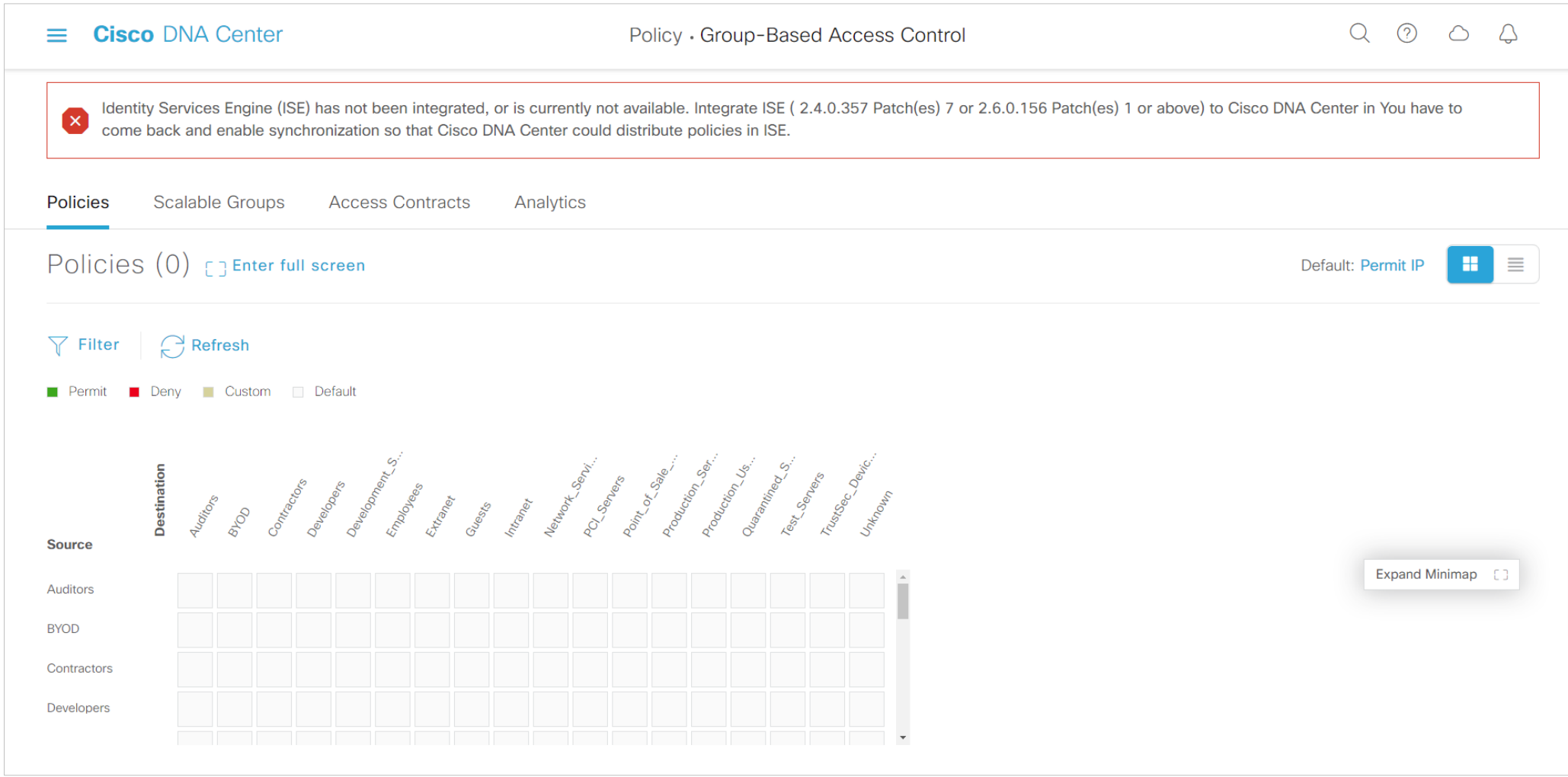

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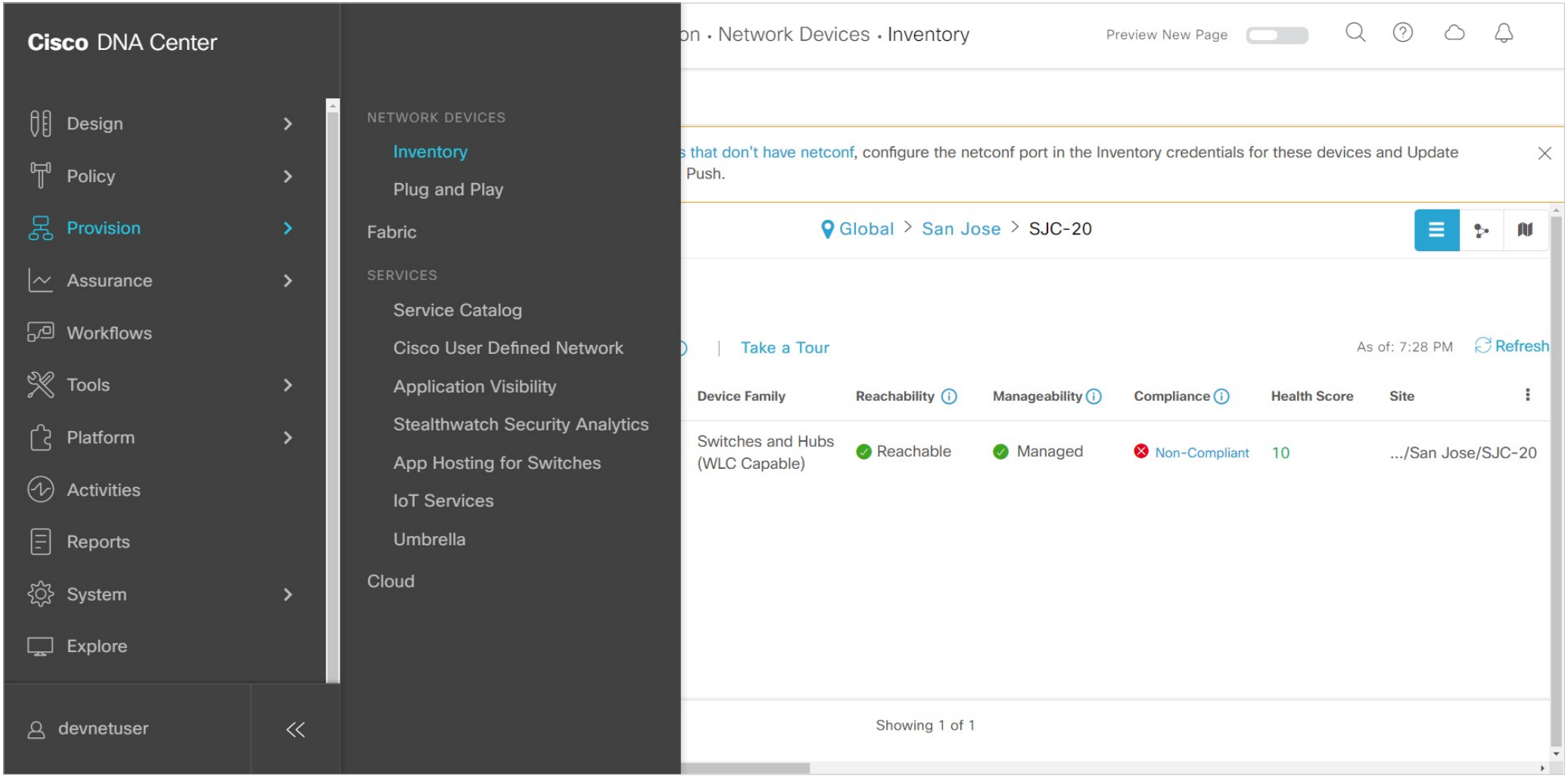

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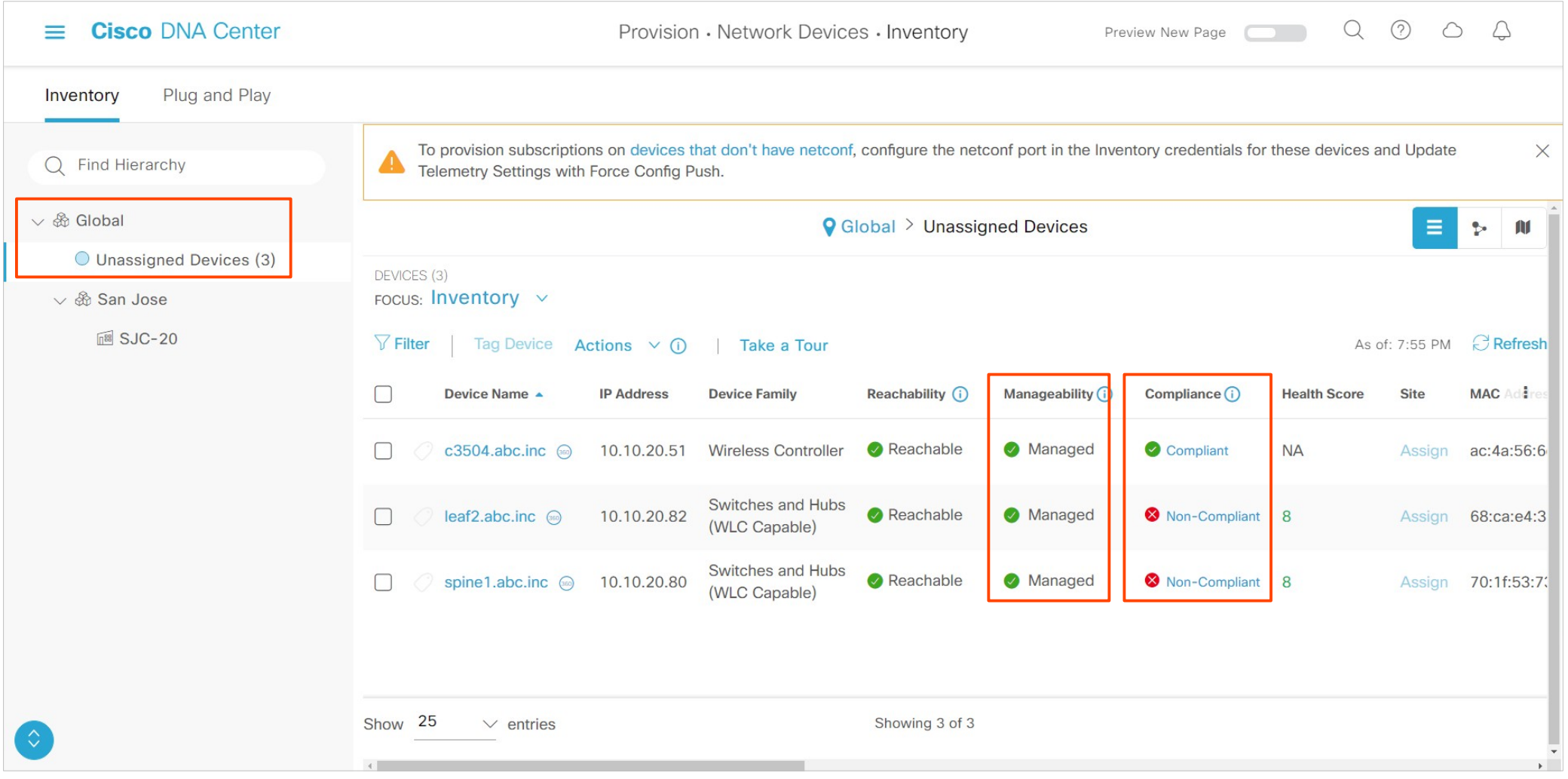

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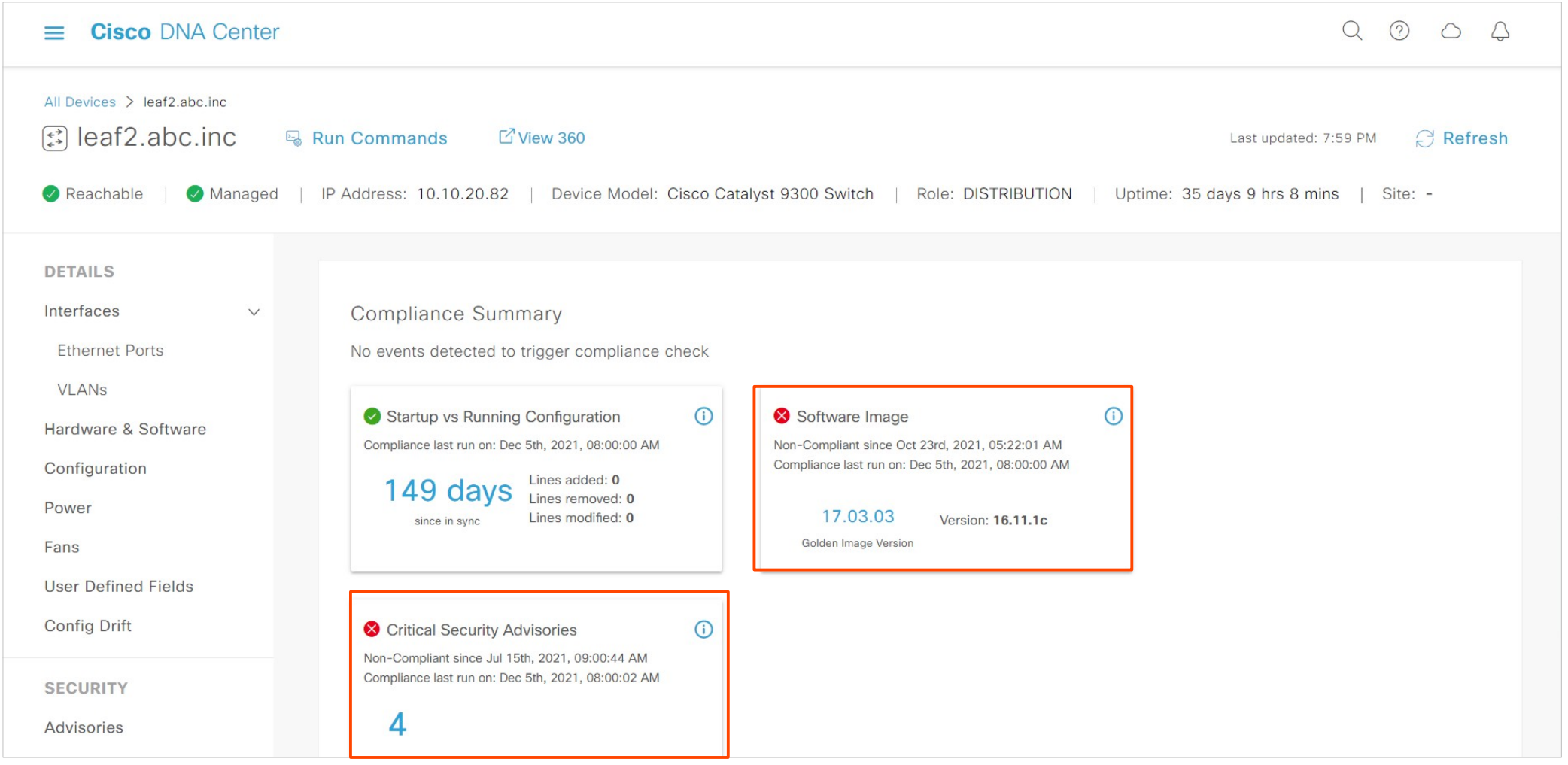

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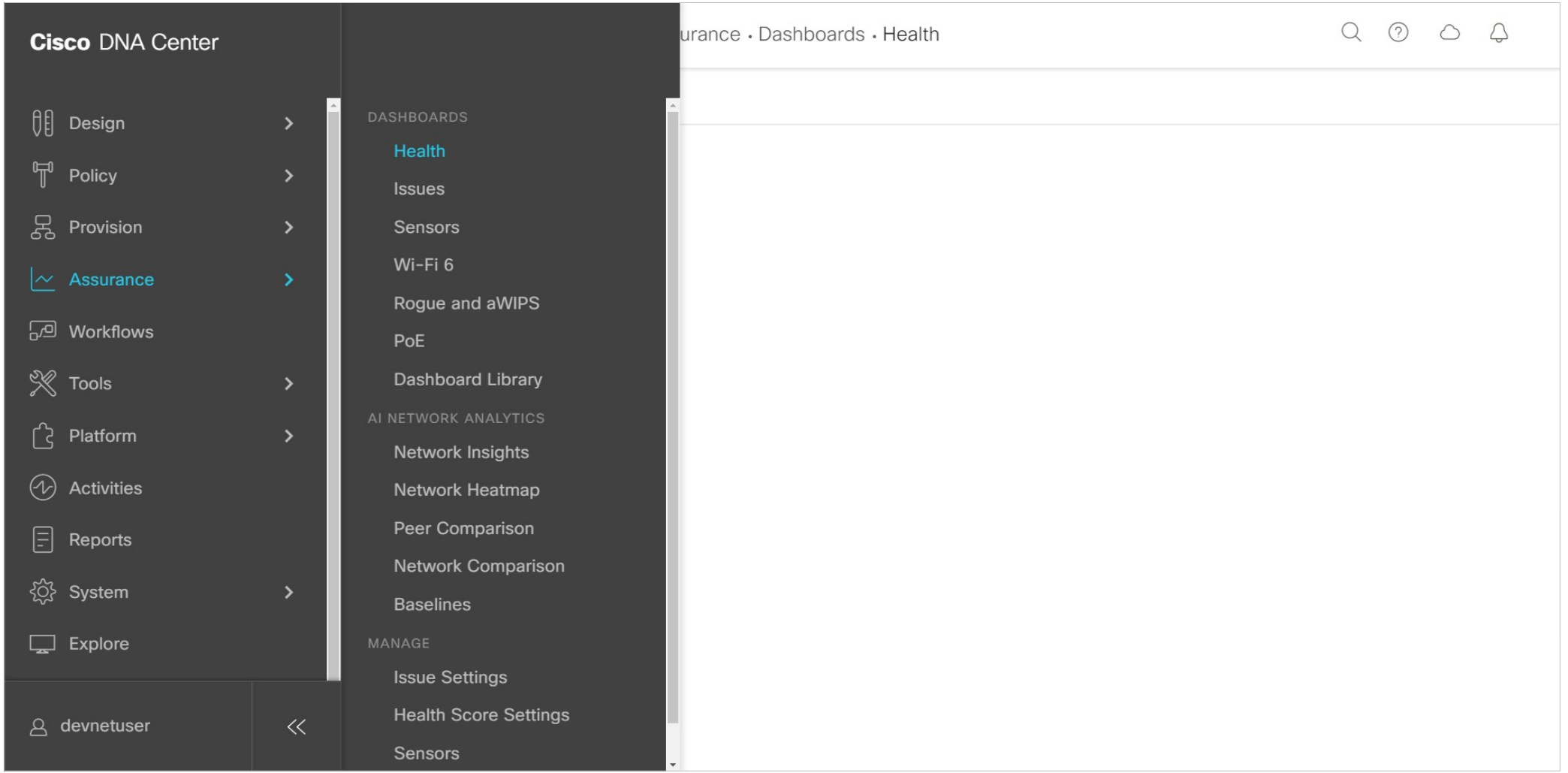

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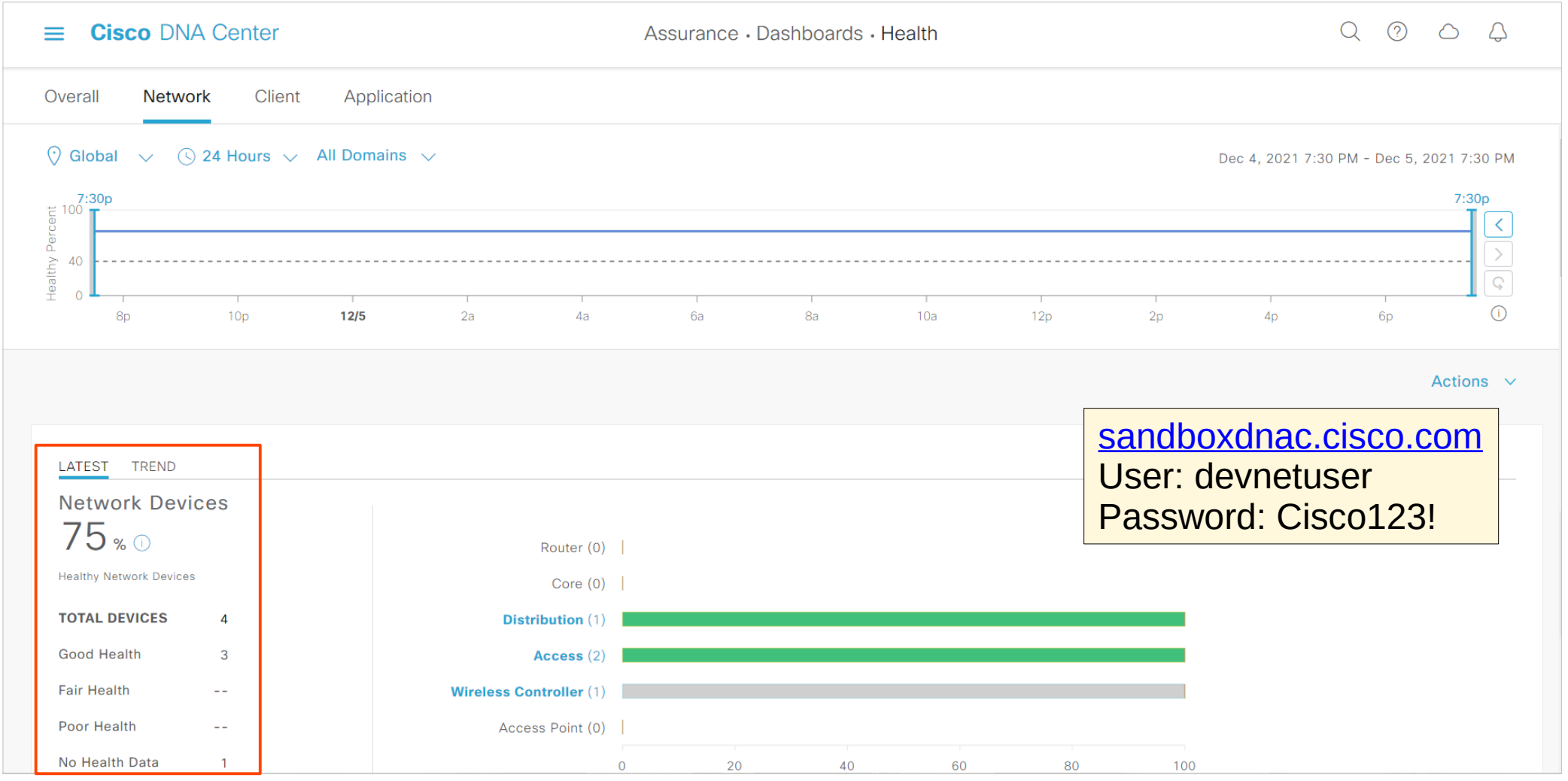


sandboxdnac.cisco.com
User: devnetuser
Password: Cisco123!

DNA Center vs Traditional Network Management

- Traditional network management:
  → Devices are configured one-by-one via SSH or console connection.
  → Devices are manually configured via console connection before being deployed.
  → Configurations and policies are managed per-device. (distributed)
  → New network deployments can take a long time due to the manual labor required.
  → Errors and failures are more likely due to increased manual effort.

- DNA Center-based network management:
  → Devices are centrally managed and monitored from the DNA Center GUI or other applications using its REST API.
  → The administrator communicates their intended network behavior to DNA Center, which changes those intentions into configurations on the managed network devices.
  → Configurations and policies are centrally managed.
  → Software versions are also centrally managed. DNA Center can monitor cloud servers for new versions and then update the managed devices.
  → New network deployments are much quicker. New devices can automatically receive their configurations from DNA Center without manual configuration.

Things we covered

- SDN Review
- Cisco SD-Access
- Cisco DNA Center
- DNA Center network management vs traditional

ExSim-Max™ PRACTICE EXAMS

Quiz 1

Which of the following terms describes the network of devices and physical connections?

a) Underlay

b) Fabric

c) Overlay

d) Tunnel

Quiz 2

In which of the following layers would you expect to find scripts that interact with the controller?

a) Infrastructure

b) Application

c) REST

d) Control

Quiz 3

Which of the following is a characteristic of an optimal SD-Access underlay network as configured by DNA-Center?

a) All switch are Layer 3 and use OSPF as their routing protocol.

b) All links between switches are Layer 3.

c) An FHRP is used to provide a redundant default gateway for end hosts.

d) All links between switches run Cisco proprietary Rapid-PVST+.

Quiz 4

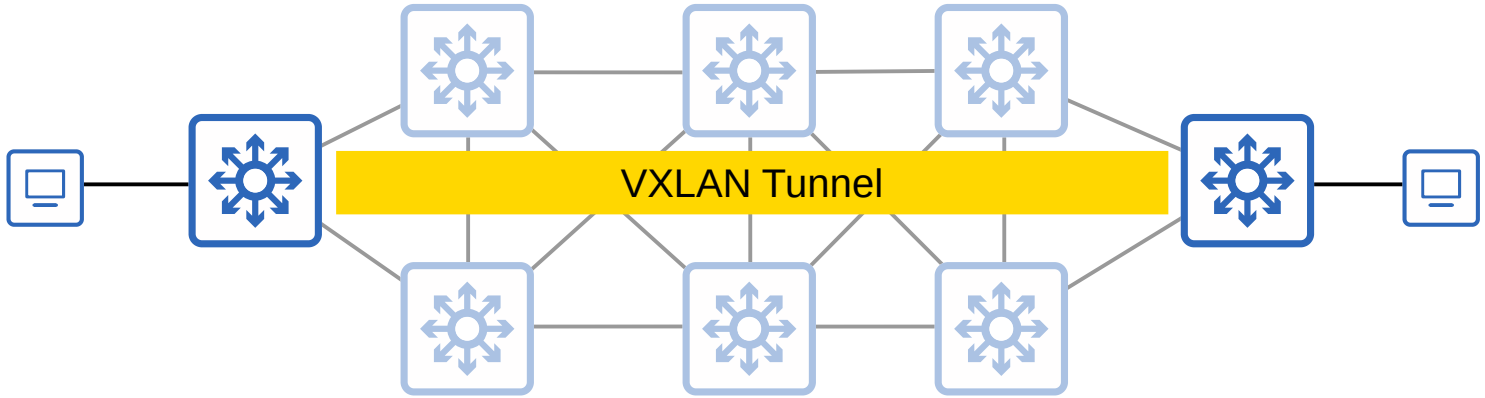
Which protocol is used to create virtual tunnels in the SD-Access overlay?

a) LISP

b) IPsec

c) GRE

d) VXLAN



Quiz 5

Which of the following are valid switch roles in Cisco SD-Access? (select three)

a) Control node

b) Management node

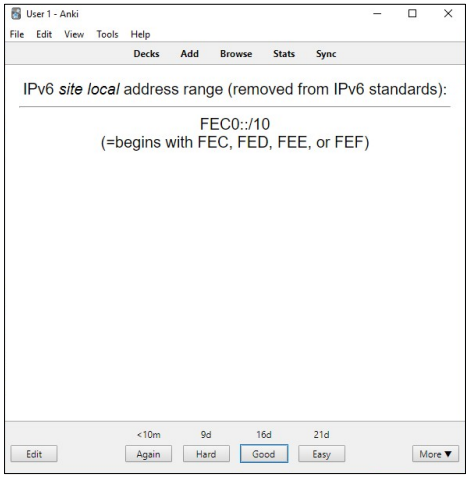
c) Border node

d) Edge node

Supplementary Materials

- Review flash cards

  (link in the description)



JCNP-Level Channel Members

- Bold1c1u
- Marko Barbaric
- Thabo Cele
- Nemo
- tanvir Khan
- Amiens H
- Gina Lindley
- Valeri Elenkov
- Vitaos194
- Benjie Balolong
- Mason Anderson
- meir salmon
- pietrocious
- Dragos Hirnea
- Gerrard Baker
- Tom Oakes
- Tebogo Kgoloane
- Павел М
- Abraham Yeiah
- Suki Ghuman
- Kenneth Williams
- Seamus Mooney
- Marcel Lord
- Echo Slam
- Gustavo BR
- Prakaash Rajan
- Nasir Chowdhury
- john goff
- funnydart
- velvijaykum
- Boson Software
- Devin Sukhu
- Yonatan Makara
- Vance Simmons

*as of December 6th 2021