

CSPP Experiment 10

10.1 Aim:

To explore and analyze the Cisco AI Assistant (BETA) integrated within Cisco Catalyst SD WAN Manager for simplifying network configuration, troubleshooting, and monitoring through natural-language interaction.

10.2 Course Outcome:

Demonstrate the ability to utilize AI-driven tools to automate and optimize network operations, improving visibility, agility, and operational efficiency in SD-WAN environments.

10.3 Lab Objective:

To access and use the Cisco AI Assistant interface to perform configuration queries, monitor device health, and interpret real-time analytics using natural-language prompts.

10.4 Requirements:

- Platform / Tool: Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Manager (vManage)
- Network Devices: Cisco cEdge or vEdge routers (physical / virtual — e.g., C8000v)
- Software Version: Cisco SD-WAN Release with AI Assistant (BETA) feature enabled
- Browser: Chrome / Edge (latest version)
- User Access: Network Admin login credentials with monitor privileges

10.5 Theory:

The Cisco AI Assistant is a large-language-model (LLM) based component of Cisco's AgenticOps initiative, which merges AI + automation + telemetry + visualization to simplify network operations.

By integrating directly into Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Manager, it allows administrators to query the system using everyday language.

Key features include:

- Natural-Language Processing (NLP): Enables human-like interaction for configuration and diagnostics.
- Automation: Reduces manual command entry and accelerates repetitive workflows.

- Telemetry-Driven Insights: Uses analytics from SD-WAN fabric to deliver health and performance data.
- AIOps Alignment: Supports intent-based networking for agility, reliability, and cost efficiency.

Through this integration, even less-experienced personnel can perform complex tasks such as tunnel health verification, cloud OnRamp configuration, or ThousandEyes Agent setup with minimal effort.

10.6 Tasks / Procedure:

Step 1: Log in to the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Manager portal.

Step 2: Navigate to Monitor → Overview.

Step 3: Click the AI Assistant icon (highlighted symbol) to open the AI Assistance

window. Step 4: Explore default natural-language prompts:

1. “What’s New?” – Displays links to new features and documentation.
2. “How to configure ThousandEyes Agent?” – Provides step-by-step configuration guidance.
3. “How is the Application health?” – Summarizes top application performance.
4. “How are tunnels doing?” – Reports tunnel performance and status.
5. “How to configure Cloud OnRamp for SaaS?” – Lists steps to enable Cloud OnRamp.
6. “Show Device Health” – Displays current health of SD-WAN devices.

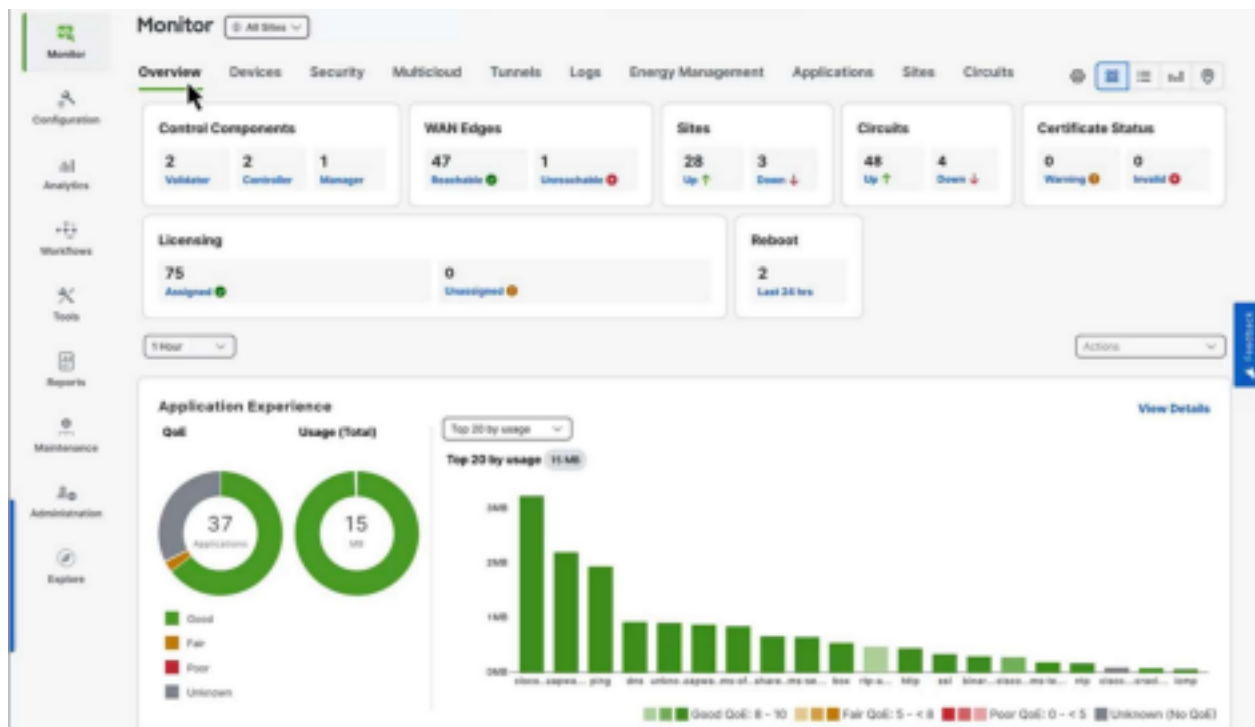
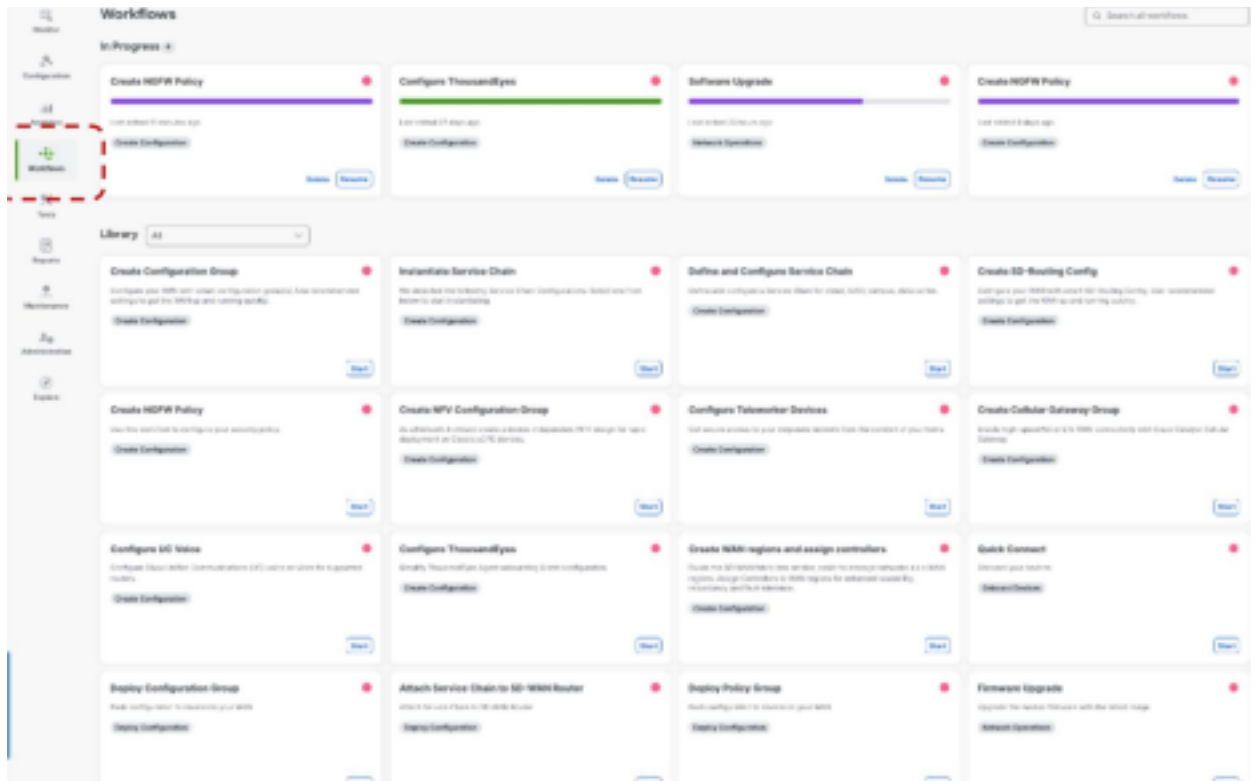
Step 5: Interact further with the “Show Device Health” response:

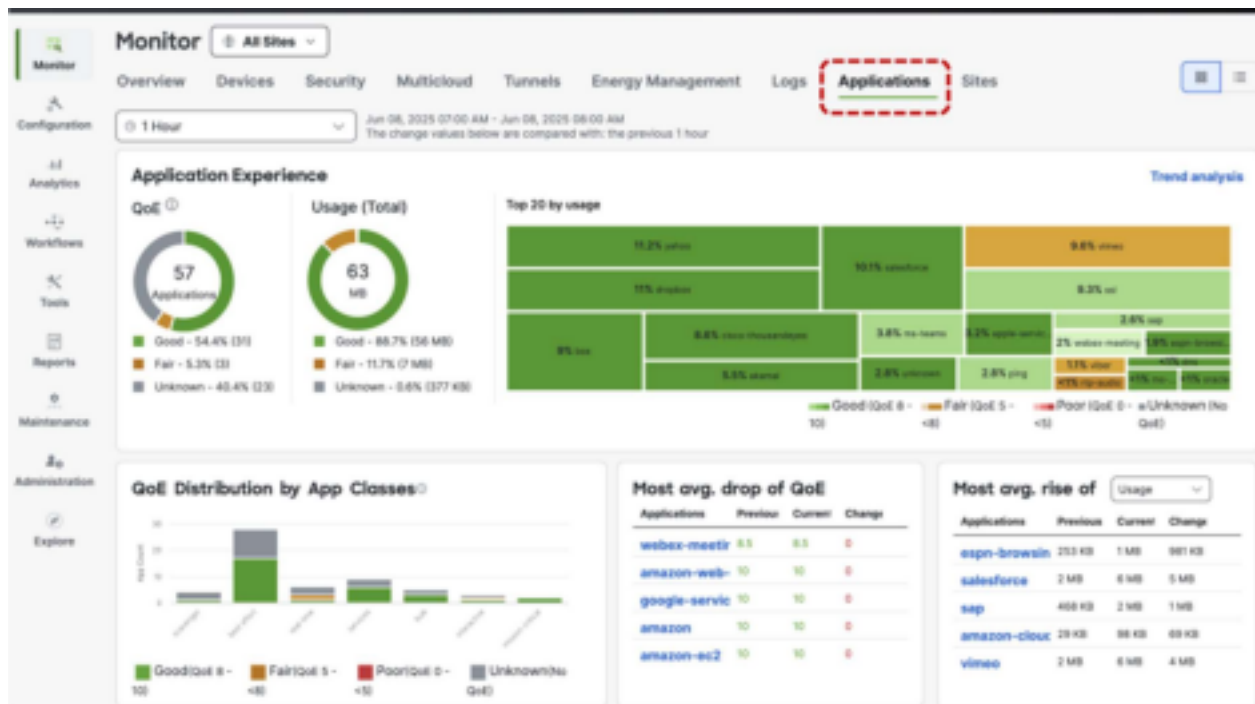
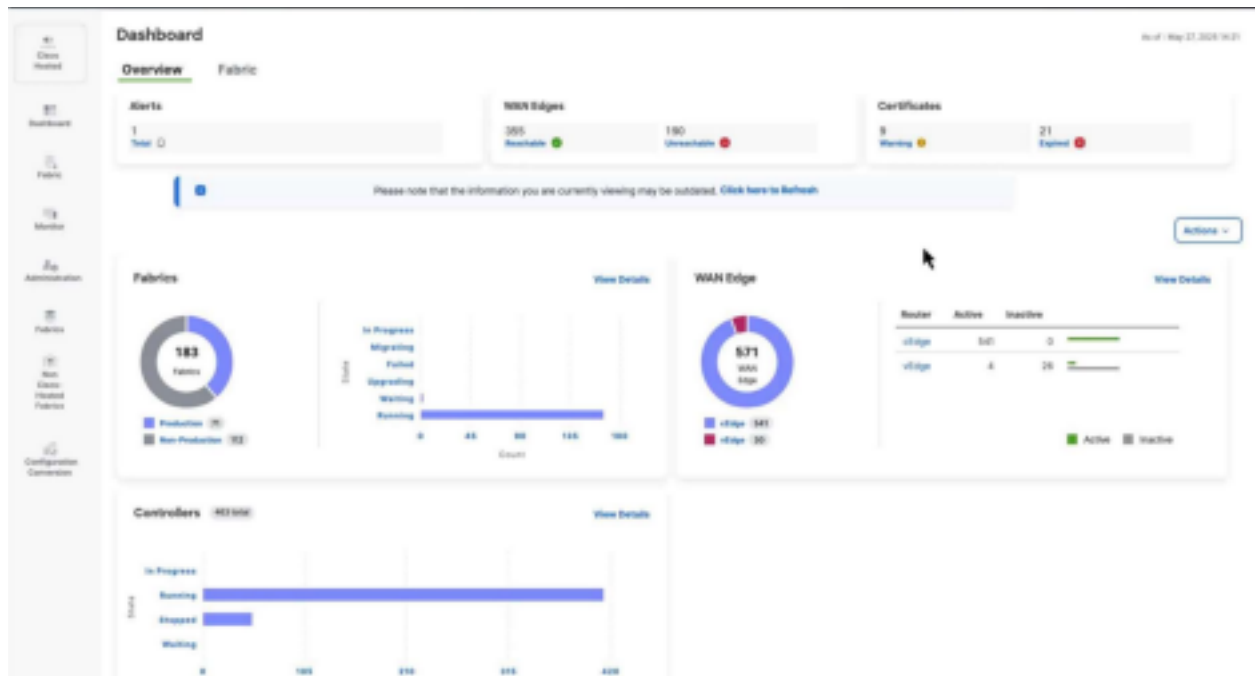
- Type Good → Lists sites with Good status.
- Type Fair → Lists sites with Fair status.
- Type Poor → Lists sites with Poor status.

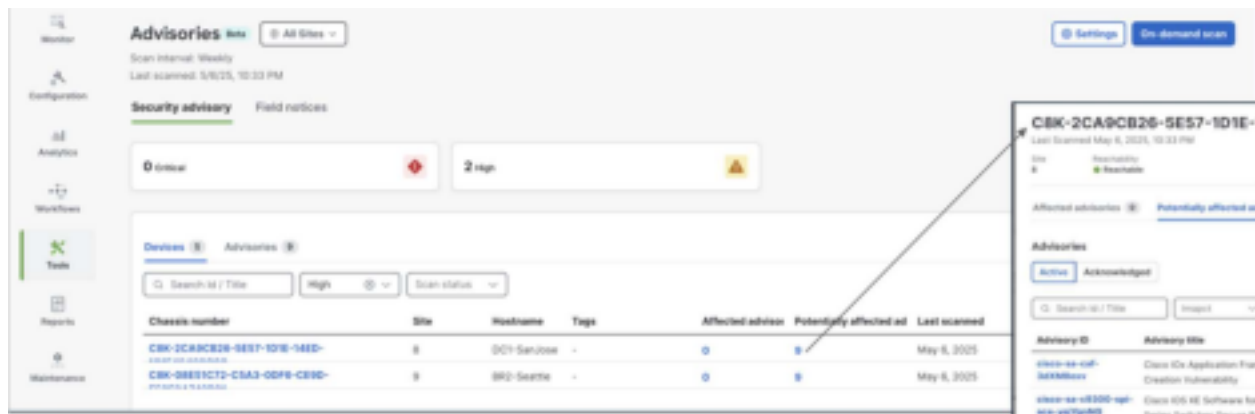
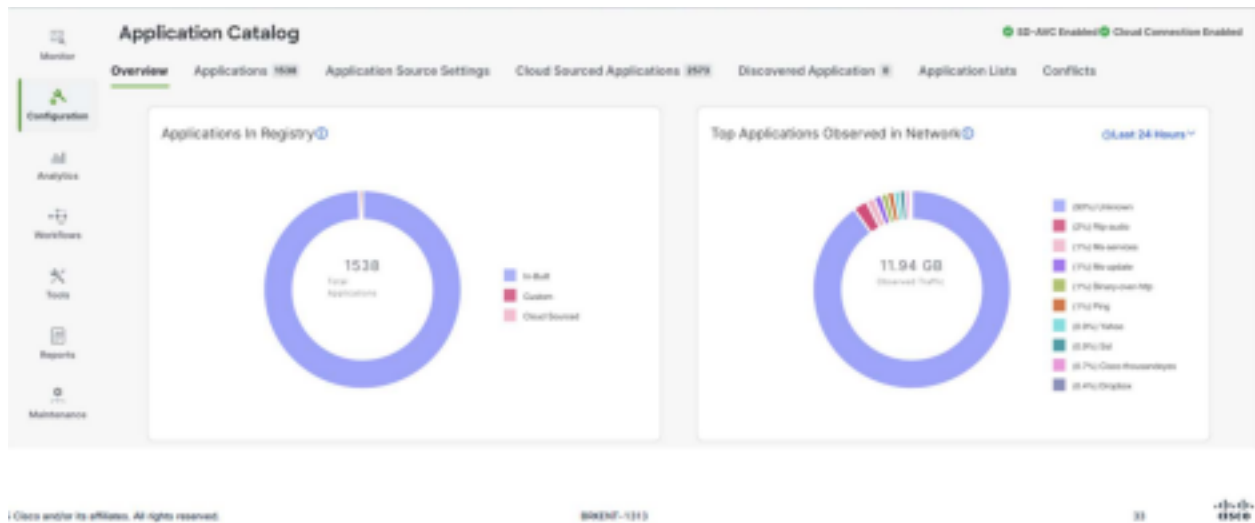
Step 6: Observe how the AI Assistant pulls telemetry data to provide contextual insights and recommendations.

Step 7: Record screenshots of each query and its output.

10.7 Output Screenshots:







10.8 Conclusion:

The Cisco AI Assistant (BETA) within Catalyst SD-WAN Manager effectively translates natural language queries into actionable configuration guidance and real-time analytics. tangible benefits of combining AI-driven natural-language processing with SD-WAN orchestration, lowering the skills barrier and improving network agility. Continuous telemetry coupling ensures that recommendations remain contextually relevant, reinforcing Cisco's AgenticOps vision for intent based, automated network operations.