

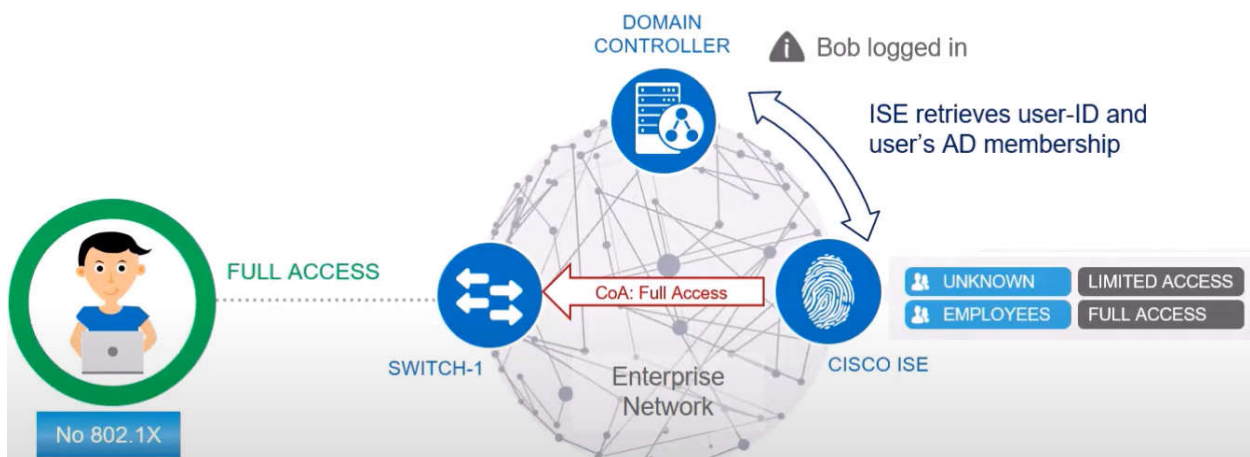
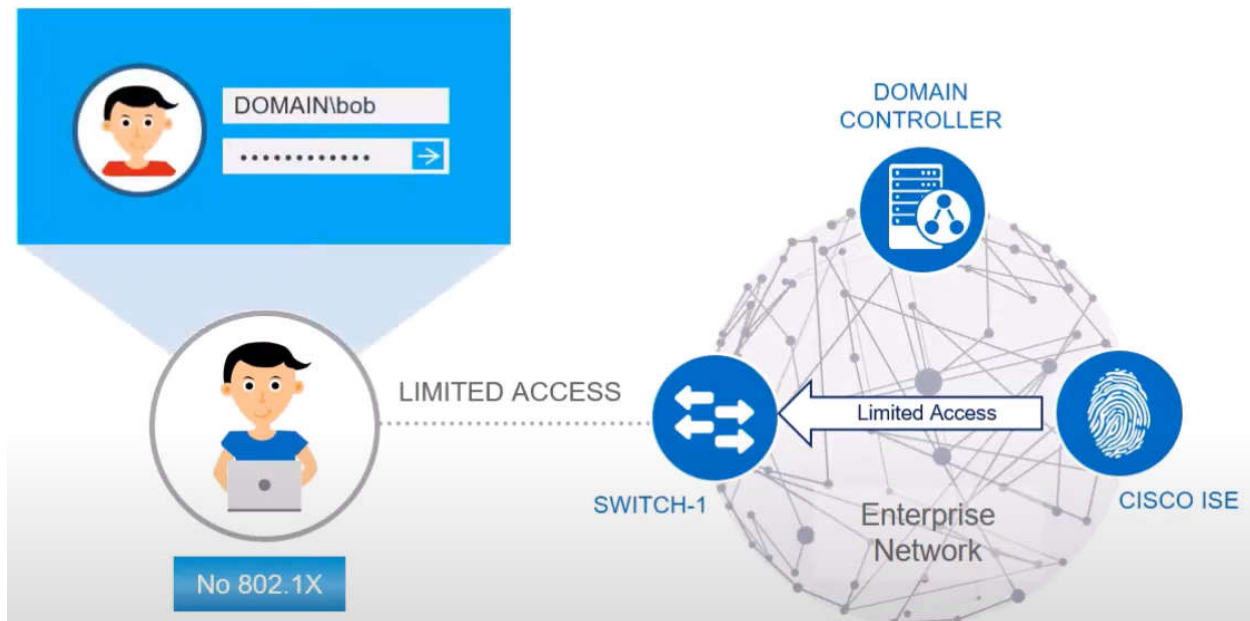
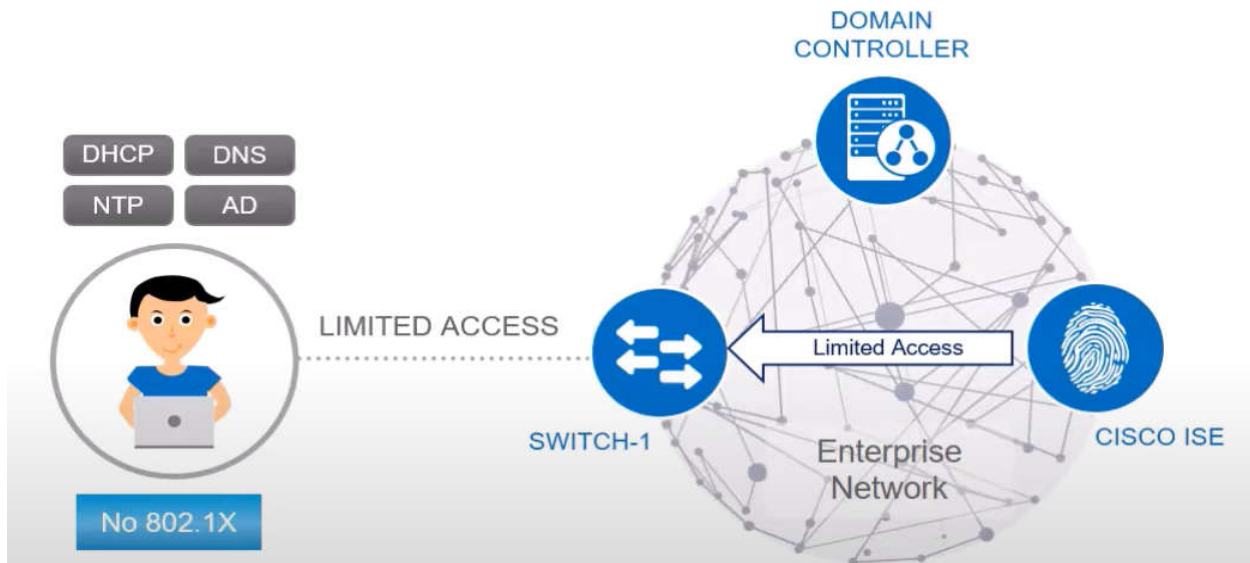
It provides port-based authentication similar to 802.1X, but easier to implement. It learns about the authentication from Active Directory and provides session-tracking for active network sessions. No 802.1X supplicant required for user authentication. No Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) required for trusted credential transport. Easy Connect uses a process called Passive Identity to learn of successful authentications directly from Active Directory and apply network policy based on the outcome. During the initial connection, ISE will grant access to login to AD. ISE will obtain the status of the authentication from AD, & potentially send a CoA for additional “authenticated” access.

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graph LR
    ES[Endpoint (Supplicant)]
    ND[Network Device (Authenticator)]
    CIS[Cisco ISE (Authentication Server)]
    AD[Active Directory / LDAP (Identity Store)]

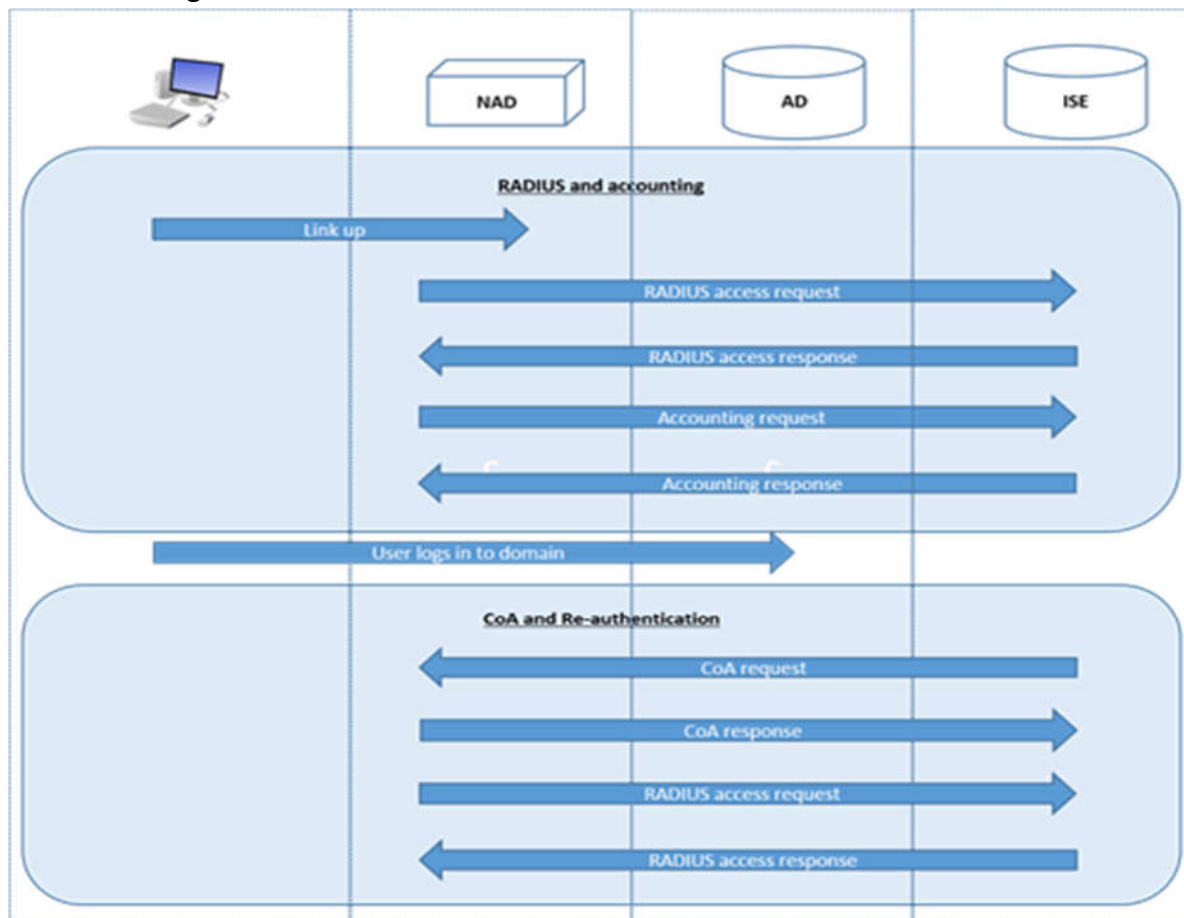
    ES -- Credentials --> ND
    ND -- Packet --> CIS
    CIS -- RADIUS --> ND
    ND -- MAB --> ES
    CIS -- WMI and others --> AD
    AD -- Domain Login --> ES
  
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EasyConnect Process Flow:

The switch is configured for MAB, which sends an Authentication request to PSN. PSN replies with limited access, which allows the user to authenticate with Active Directory. PSN authenticating the client forwards the information about MAB auth, RADIUS accounting start, an interim stop to MNT. The PSN forwards WMI Auth events to MNT. Once all the data is collected and merged in the session directory by MNT, MNT proxies' CoA request to Authenticating PSN which forwards CoA to NAD and re-evaluates the user for authorization.



PassiveID is a feature to gather user-to-IP mapping information with or without having 802.1X deployed. PassiveID gathers information from the Microsoft Active Directory environment using the Microsoft Windows Management Interface or the Active Directory agent. EasyConnect is an option for enterprises who want to authenticate users before granting access but do not want to utilize 802.1x. There are pros and cons to this approach. Pros of Easyconnect are no supplicant configuration to make it work, No PKI needed, CoA is done after user authenticates to ISE and You can configure this as a fallback to 802.1x.