Cisco Intersight

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Contents

Product overview	3
Features and benefits	3
Unified, holistic management across your entire IT estate	6
Licensing	6
Cisco Enterprise Agreement (EA) licensing	8
Supported software and system requirements	8
Virtual appliance system requirements	9
Ordering information	9
Product sustainability	10
Cisco and partner services	10
Cisco Capital	10
Ready to get started?	11

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Cisco Intersight® simplifies IT operations for the AI era, providing unified, intelligent management of all Cisco UCS® compute infrastructure from core to edge.

Product overview

Cisco Intersight shifts IT operations from reactive to proactive, addressing the significant challenges faced by IT operations teams and server administrators who struggle with increasing complexity, distributed environments, and the demands of both traditional and emerging AI workloads. Intersight works by leveraging a cloud-native, API-first architecture to deliver policy-based lifecycle management, automation, and unparalleled visibility across data centers, colocation facilities, and distributed edge locations.

As the compute foundation for Cisco Cloud Control, Intersight further transforms your operational model by enabling governed, agentic operations. By integrating with Cisco AI Assistant and AI Canvas, Intersight extends compute management into a unified operational platform. This allows teams to move beyond passive visibility into cross-domain investigation and resolution—where human operators and AI agents collaborate in a shared, live workspace to investigate, correlate, and resolve complex issues in real time.

Customers, particularly enterprises and organizations with extensive and geographically dispersed IT infrastructure, use Intersight to simplify management at scale. It consolidates disparate tools; automates complex tasks like provisioning, OS installation, firmware updates, and VLAN changes; and integrates seamlessly with Cisco® networking and security solutions for a holistic view. The primary business benefits include accelerating the deployment of new AI workloads while continuing to support essential traditional infrastructure, strengthening security and compliance, and significantly improving operational efficiency and agility, thereby freeing up valuable IT resources to drive strategic business value.

Features and benefits

Cisco Intersight offers a comprehensive suite of features and benefits, built upon three core pillars. It provides unparalleled management at scale for Cisco compute, leverages assisted operations for intelligent insights and proactive issue resolution, and ensures seamless ecosystem integration to maximize existing technology investments and automate workflows.

Table 1. Features and benefits of management at scale

Feature	Benefit
Unified compute management: provision, deploy, and monitor all Cisco UCS servers and compute solutions (traditional and AI, data center to edge) from a single interface	Streamlines operations and ensures consistent management across diverse environments
Policy-based configuration and automation: rapidly apply "golden configurations" using policies, profiles, and templates; automate day-0/day-1 operations and firmware updates and VLAN changes, including power policies and dynamic power rebalancing	Accelerates deployments, reduces manual effort, and ensures configuration consistency, compliance, and energy efficiency

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Feature	Benefit
Real-time visibility and monitoring: gain instant and historical health status and performance insights across all data-center and edge infrastructure using customizable dashboards, including geolocation maps, with deep visibility into server power consumption and environmental metrics	Enables proactive issue identification and optimizes operational performance and energy usage
Secure, centralized control: implement granular user privileges, Role-Based Access Control (RBAC), Multifactor Authentication (MFA), and audit capabilities for secure, governed access and continuous compliance	Enhances security posture and ensures regulatory adherence across distributed infrastructure
Claim targets for Cisco Unified Edge deployments using the Intersight mobile app: obtain NFC-based claim of targets by authorized nontechnical staff	Reduces truck rolls by eliminating the need to onboard systems centrally
Flexible deployment options: available as SaaS, a connected virtual appliance, or a private (air-gapped) virtual appliance	Provides choice for ease of deployment and control over data sovereignty

Table 2. Features and benefits of assisted operations

Feature	Benefit
Intelligent insights and predictive analytics: leverage resource utilization trends, GPU performance visibility, and power consumption forecasting to predict degradation and performance risks	Accelerates decision-making, optimizes capacity planning for AI/GPU workloads, improves energy efficiency, and prevents issues
Proactive threat detection and remediation: continuously identify hardware compatibility issues (HCL), receive contextual security advisories, and perform automated bulk remediation	Strengthens security posture, reduces operational risk, and ensures continuous compliance with industry certifications
Proactive, assisted support: integrate with Cisco Technical Assistance Center (Cisco TAC), automate log collection and field notice advisories, and initiate proactive RMAs	Resolves issues faster, minimizes downtime, and improves operational efficiency
Advanced monitoring and performance optimization: utilize topology views and Intersight Metrics Explorer for deep visibility into connectivity, network traffic, device health, and power metrics, including AI accelerators	Quickly pinpoints cabling issues and performance bottlenecks, identifies opportunities for energy savings, and optimizes overall environment performance
Automated workflows: design and execute complex workflows using a drag-and-drop designer or generate Python/PowerShell code from UI actions	Automates issue resolution and management across compute, networking, storage, and virtualization
Automated operating system (OS) installation: streamline new server deployments with automated, policy-driven OS installation	Reduces manual effort and human error, accelerating server provisioning and ensuring consistent, compliant operating system deployments across your fleet

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Table 3. Features and benefits of ecosystem integration

Feature	Benefit
Broad platform support: support for leading operating systems, storage providers (such as NetApp, Pure Storage, Hitachi), hypervisors (including VMware, Nutanix, Red Hat), and IT service management (ITSM) / security information and event management (SIEM) tools (ServiceNow, Splunk®)	Maximizes existing technology investments and provides a unified view across diverse IT environments
Open API and SDKs, including Certified Content Collection for Ansible: full access to the Intersight API with pre-packaged clients and SDKs (Ansible, Terraform, PowerShell, Python). Our Certified Content Collection for Ansible provides over 100 modules.	Enables infrastructure as code (IaC), CI/CD integration, and seamless orchestration with other Cisco and third-party tools
Advanced third-party storage management: comprehensive support for inventory, alarms, and automated operations for NetApp, Everpure, and Hitachi	Simplifies storage management and orchestration directly within the Intersight platform
Splunk and ServiceNow integration: integrate with Splunk for comprehensive infrastructure monitoring and security; connect with ServiceNow for inventory visibility and automated incident management	Accelerates issue identification, resolution, and enhances security posture with unified data and analytics
Operational simplicity for hyperconverged and compute-only platforms**: Simplify infrastructure with automated deployment and full lifecycle management for Nutanix and VMware vCenter/ESXi clusters. The solution provides zero-touch provisioning, real-time infrastructure visibility, and connected joint support for simpler troubleshooting, enabling scalable operations across data-center and edge environments	• Delivers a fully integrated experience with centralized management across environments, automating upgrades and streamlining operations • The integration of Cisco Intersight and Nutanix Prism Central offers: ◦ Detailed insights into clusters, nodes, hardware, and VMs with enhanced management through alarm aggregation and license tracking ◦ Nutanix Cluster Check (NCC) to perform cluster health diagnostics, helping detect issues proactively ◦ Comprehensive information on storage containers, external storage (Everpure) usage, VM disk associations, and storage inventory For more information, please visit Intersight documentation.

** Compute-only nodes support Nutanix AHV hypervisor only

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Unified, holistic management across your entire IT estate

Cisco Intersight uniquely delivers a single, consistent experience for managing compute infrastructure, supporting both traditional and emerging AI workloads. The unified platform spans data centers, colocation facilities, and dispersed edge environments, providing comprehensive visibility and control from one centralized location. Unlike other vendors that often require multiple tools or offer limited functionality, Intersight manages the broadest range of Cisco UCS server form factors and generations. This holistic approach seamlessly integrates with Cisco networking and security solutions, offering a complete view and control over your entire IT estate.

Intersight stands apart with its unparalleled deployment flexibility—available as SaaS, a connected virtual appliance, or a private air-gapped option—and its API-first architecture. This design simplifies operations, accelerates automation initiatives, and ensures consistent policy enforcement and control across your entire server fleet, empowering IT teams to drive strategic business value rather than “firefighting.”

Licensing

Intersight is licensed on a subscription basis with a choice of license editions. Capabilities increase with the different license tiers. Customers can purchase a subscription duration between one and five years and choose the Cisco UCS server volume tier they need for the selected subscription duration.

Starting from the M7 server generation, an Intersight Essentials or above license is required. For earlier server generations, an Intersight license is highly recommended, but not required.

Customers can purchase an Essentials or above license when they purchase the server using the Cisco ordering tool. See Table 4 for ordering PIDs.

Table 4. Cisco Intersight licensing tiers

License tier	Description
Essentials	Includes functionality for server lifecycle management, for example: • Platform-level settings for user and SDK/API access, permissions, licensing, and audit. Support for health monitoring, tagging and search, basic data inventory, and multifactor authentication. • Support for Cisco UCS basic inventory, firmware, and dashboard management • Simplification of compute infrastructure management with policy-based configurations using server profiles for Cisco UCS, converged, and hyperconverged infrastructure • Automate compute infrastructure operations using full API and SDK support, including compatibility with Ansible and Terraform. Use the Cisco Intersight Code Generator to capture UI actions and generate equivalent Python and PowerShell scripts. • Monitor and track telemetry information (data collection every 10 minutes and 90 days of historical data) • Custom explorations with Intersight Metrics Explorer • Cisco Intersight Add-on for Splunk: monitor your entire Intersight-managed (all form factors and availability zones) Cisco UCS infrastructure from Splunk • Topology views to swiftly identify, diagnose, and resolve physical cabling issues across your Cisco UCS domain • Power policy management for servers, BIOS, and OS as well as dynamic power rebalancing

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License tier	Description
	• Support for Cisco Compute Hyperconverged with Nutanix • Receiving alerts about endpoint devices that are impacted by supported security advisories and field notices along with recommended remediation • Acceleration of troubleshooting with hardware compatibility alerts, proactive RMAs, and automated gathering and uploading of log files for Cisco Intersight–connected devices through the Cisco Technical Assistance Center (Cisco TAC) **Note:** Detailed feature list can be found here: Intersight.com Licensing Page.
Advantage	Offers all the functionality of Essentials, plus additional features for automation, orchestration, and advanced server management, monitoring, and metrics. For example: • Create and execute complex workflows with a drag-and-drop designer and extend automation beyond Intersight to integrate and orchestrate operations across your broader IT ecosystem • Simplify the cloud experience with visibility of virtualization infrastructure and normalization of operations across multiple clouds • Monitor and track telemetry information with enriched topology views that provide error and environmental metrics and network bandwidth/utilization along with data collection every minute and two years of historical data • Diagnose device-level issues using error metrics and view detailed information for physical connection links • Use FlexPod converged infrastructure inventory, including servers, networking, storage, virtualization, and Cisco fabric interconnects • Use third-party storage support: view inventory and alarms of storage arrays and automate day-to-day operations using supported storage tasks • Resolve issues faster by ingesting data from Cisco Intersight–connected servers, storage, data-center networking, and virtual machines into the ServiceNow IT operations management platform using the ServiceNow Service Graph Connector for Cisco Intersight plugin and by raising incidents in ServiceNow for alarms and advisories from Cisco Intersight using the Cisco Intersight Incident Management Integration plugin, available on the ServiceNow store • Manage Cisco Unified Edge as a fleet (a logical grouping of resources) for simplified, scalable administration. Workloads, leveraging blueprints curated by Cisco and user-defined parameters, apply “golden configurations” fleet-wide, enabling centralized automation and consistent configuration across all resources. **Note:** A detailed feature list can be found here: Intersight.com Licensing Page.

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Cisco Enterprise Agreement (EA) licensing

Cisco Intersight is also available under the Cisco Enterprise Agreement (EA) 3.0 framework within the Applications Infrastructure portfolio. The EA allows customers to consolidate Intersight licensing alongside other Cisco software under a single, scalable agreement with a term length of three or five years. All three Intersight license tiers – Essentials, Advantage, and Premier – are available under the EA, consistent with the standard subscription model.

Purchasing Intersight through an EA offers several key advantages over standard subscription purchasing, including:

- True Forward consumption: Customers are never penalized for growth during the term, with usage reconciled at each anniversary
- License pooling: Licenses can be shared and allocated flexibly across the organization
- Simplified license management: Licenses are managed through the EA workspace and Cisco Smart Accounts for centralized visibility and control.
- Volume discounts: UCS server volume tiers are handled similarly to standard subscriptions, with additional pricing advantages at scale.

To qualify for a Cisco Enterprise Agreement, customers typically must meet a minimum total contract value of $100,000 for a full commit suite. Licensing is ordered and managed through authorized Cisco partners using EA-specific SKUs.

For more information on purchasing Cisco Intersight through Cisco Enterprise Agreement 3.0, refer to the following resources:

- Cisco Enterprise Agreement 3.0 FAQ
- Cisco Enterprise Agreement 3.0 Program Guide

Supported software and system requirements

Cisco Intersight supports Cisco UCS and hyperconverged infrastructure with the software versions listed in Table 5.

Table 5. Supported software

Platform	Versions supported
Cisco UCS Manager	See Intersight product documentation for a detailed list of supported software, versions, and caveats.
Cisco IMC software	
Cisco HyperFlex®	
Cisco UCS Director	
Nutanix AOS*	
Everpure (Pure Storage) FlashArray and FlashBlade - Purity	
NetApp ONTAP, NetApp Active IQ Unified Manager	

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Platform	Versions supported
Hitachi Virtual Storage Platform software	
VMware vCenter	

* Cisco Intersight Virtual Appliance only supports Acropolis Operating System (AOS) versions that are currently being actively supported and maintained by Nutanix. For more information, see Nutanix End-of-Life Information.

Virtual appliance system requirements

See the Intersight Installation Guides and System Requirements for details.

Ordering information

Intersight subscriptions can be ordered for periods ranging from one to five years, with any increments in between. In addition, discounts are available for longer terms, and volume discounts are available for customers ordering more than 200 device (server) subscriptions at the same time. Separate license options are detailed in Table 4 for the SaaS version on Intersight.com and the virtual appliance.

Cisco Smart Accounts and Smart Licensing are mandatory for Intersight. In addition, a Cisco user account is mandatory to use the Intersight user interface.

Note: The Intersight SaaS license allows the customer to select SaaS or CVA (connected virtual appliance) deployment options.

Table 6. Ordering information

Part number	Description
DC-MGT-SAAS	Product family – Cisco Intersight
DC-MGT-IS-SAAS-ES	Cisco Intersight Infrastructure Services SaaS - Essentials for SaaS and Connected Virtual Appliance
DC-MGT-IS-SAAS-AD	Cisco Intersight Infrastructure Services SaaS - Advantage
DC-MGT-IS-PVAPP-ES	Cisco Intersight Infrastructure Services Private Virtual Appliance – Essentials
DC-MGT-IS-PVAPP-AD	Cisco Intersight Infrastructure Services Private Virtual Appliance - Advantage

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Product sustainability

Information about Cisco's environmental, social and governance (ESG) initiatives and performance is provided in Cisco's CSR and sustainability reporting.

Table 7. Cisco environmental sustainability information

Sustainability topic		Reference
General	Information on product-material-content laws and regulations	Materials
	Information on electronic waste laws and regulations, including our products, batteries, and packaging	WEEE Compliance
	Information on product takeback and reuse program	Cisco Takeback and Reuse Program
	Sustainability inquiries	Contact: csr_inquiries@cisco.com
Power	Server power-management, monitoring, and forecasting	See features and benefits above

Cisco and partner services

Cisco and our certified partners offer comprehensive services to support your Cisco Intersight journey. From strategic planning and design to expert deployment and ongoing optimization, these services ensure you maximize Intersight's value. We help accelerate your AI initiatives, strengthen security, and achieve operational efficiency across your compute infrastructure. Leverage our deep expertise to streamline adoption, ensure seamless integration, and continuously optimize your Intersight environment for sustained business value.

For more information, please visit http://www.cisco.com/go/services.

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Stay current with Intersight

For the most current information regarding feature releases, software compatibility, and detailed release notes, please refer to the official documentation:

- Cisco Intersight SaaS: Visit the Cisco Intersight Help Center for the latest updates and feature announcements.
- Cisco Intersight Virtual Appliance: Consult the Cisco Intersight Virtual Appliance Help Center for specific release notes and system requirements.

Ready to get started?

Does your business have the ability to proactively manage your entire server fleet running traditional and AI workloads, wherever they may be, from a single dashboard?

Start simplifying IT operations for the AI era with Cisco Intersight. Learn more or schedule a personalized demo.

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Cisco Systems, Inc.
San Jose, CA

Asia Pacific Headquarters
Cisco Systems (USA) Pte. Ltd.
Singapore

Europe Headquarters
Cisco Systems International BV Amsterdam,
The Netherlands

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