Cisco Container Platform Software Subscription
Release Model and Release Support Timeline

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Introduction

This product bulletin describes the release and support guidelines for Cisco Container Platform.

Cisco Container Platform (CCP) software follows a continuous delivery Release model that delivers features and maintenance releases. This approach enables Cisco to introduce stable and feature rich software releases in a reliable and frequent manner that aligns with Kubernetes supported releases.

- The CCP team supports releases from N-1 versions of Kubernetes. The team will not fully support/make available CCP versions older than N-1.

- CCP follows a fix forward model that requires Release upgrades to fix issues. Release patches are not necessary with this model.

Cisco Container Platform Software Release Delivery

The CCP subscription includes periodic upgrades to enable Customer to benefit from new releases of the Kubernetes code base. Cisco will support only N-1 versions of Kubernetes, after which Cisco will not be liable for support of CCP releases that feature the older versions. Accordingly, Customers must upgrade their CCP software while the underlying Kubernetes version is still supported, and Cisco will offer reasonable assistance to Customer needing help with implementing an upgrade. For your reference, the support matrix below summarizes the existing release and support schedules.

The CCP upgrade policy above mirrors upstream Kubernetes supported releases and upgrade guidelines described here https://github.com/kubernetes/community/blob/master/contributors/design-proposals/release/versioning.md#supported-releases-and-component-skew.

Types of Software Releases

The Cisco Container Platform Software model has three types of software releases. Each release type has its own content and scope. All the releases follow a Major release, Minor releases, Minor-minor release versioning convention.

- Major: Introduces a new version of Kubernetes. For example, release 8.0.0 introduces Kubernetes 1.18 upgrade in addition to Kubernetes 1.17.

- Minor: Includes new functions, features and/or security updates to various components in the platform: For example: release 6.1.1.

- Patch: Includes minor functions changes, features changes and/or security updates.

CCP / Kubernetes Version and Support Mapping

The following is an **example** of the release model and release support mapping. **It is recommended to always use the latest available release.**

	8.0.0	7.0.0	6.1.1	6.1.0	6.0.0
Control Plane Kubernetes Version	1.18	1.17	1.16	1.16	1.16
Tenant Cluster Kubernetes Version(s)	1.18 / 1.17	1.17 / 1.16	1.16/ 1.15	1.16 / 1.15	1.16 / 1.15
TAC support (Control Plane and Tenant Cluster)	Full support	Full support	Upgrade support, best effort troubleshooting	Upgrade support, best effort troubleshooting	Upgrade support, best effort troubleshooting
Ongoing Security CVE Scans	Yes	Yes	No scans	No scans	No scans

"Best effort" support includes issue evaluation and upgrade support. The recommendation is to use the latest available release.

End-of-Life Guideline Definition

The Cisco Container Platform software adheres to the following guidelines:

• Customers with active subscription contracts will continue to receive support from the Cisco Technical Assistance Center (TAC) for latest two CCP Releases as per the terms of the contract and the guidelines defined in this document.

• EOL announcements are not applicable due to the subscription nature of Cisco Container Platform.

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