Network Infrastructure Software Analysis

Network Infrastructure Software Analysis delivers expert analyses and proactive, consultative support to help you select the best software for your unique networking environment.

SERVICE OVERVIEW

A reliable, highly functional network infrastructure is the result of careful planning, design, and implementation; but the work does not stop once the network is operational. Networks are dynamic—applications become outdated, needs change, new features are required—which means that operating system (OS) software changes are not only inevitable; they are a necessity.

Because OS software is the lifeblood of your network, you must ensure that it operates effectively with your infrastructure hardware and delivers the necessary features to help you meet your business goals. But given the sheer number of software releases, revisions, and patches that may occur during a calendar year, it can be difficult to decide which ones are most appropriate for your environment at any given time. In some cases, the best software for the job may be the software that you did not even know existed.

Cisco Advanced Services engineers can help by analyzing your network requirements and recommending software solutions to meet those requirements. This level of support during the optimization phase of your network lifecycle can reduce operating expenses, improve network infrastructure performance, and help you realize a greater return on your Cisco investment.

NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE SOFTWARE ANALYSIS

Your Cisco Advanced Services team begins the Network Infrastructure Software Analysis service by assessing the current status of Cisco IOS and Cisco Cat OS software within your network. With the help of a Cisco data collection tool—and leveraging their own experience, expertise, and Cisco leading practices guidelines—the Cisco Advanced Services engineers are able to examine and report on critical issues such as software advisories, deferrals, conformance, and end of life or end of sales releases.

Using the information gained through this assessment, your Cisco Advanced Services team reviews new software features to isolate the individual releases, or “software tracks,” that will operate effectively with your infrastructure hardware and address your upcoming needs and goals. The team also analyzes potential risks and suggests a contingency plan for the safe transition of new releases, revisions, or patches into your networking environment. These proactive efforts help you avoid possible compatibility issues that may jeopardize network stability and allow you to achieve optimum results from your software changes.
RECOMMENDATIONS REVIEW

At the end of the Network Infrastructure Software Analysis service, your Cisco Advanced Services team will present a summary of all recommendations and respond to any questions or concerns that you may have. This information and support is invaluable as you move forward with your network infrastructure software modifications.

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<th>Activities and Deliverables</th>
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| **Software Analysis**       | • Provides a baseline of software that is currently deployed, which facilitates better software management and improves your ability to make future changes  
• Helps ensure product interoperability, reducing the chance of upgrading to incompatible releases  
• Helps minimize operational costs and lower total cost of ownership  
• Helps you avoid software inconsistencies that may jeopardize network infrastructure stability  
• Delivers proactive, consultative support from Cisco experts that helps you realize the best possible results from your software changes  
• Reduces problems during software migrations by leveraging Cisco leading practices  
• Maximizes the return on your infrastructure investment by enabling you to run the feature sets that address your business needs |
| Assess the status of Cisco IOS and Cisco Cat OS software in your network using a Cisco data collection tool; deliver a software analysis report that typically includes:  
• Overall review of the hardware/software inventory in your environment  
• High-level analysis of major issues such as end of life or end of sale releases, software advisories, and software deferrals per identified software track  
• Overall assessment of conformance to the identified software version for each identified software track, if available |  |
| **Proactive Software Track Recommendations** |  
Review new feature releases and deliver a proactive recommendation report for a single software track; software track recommendation report may include:  
• Review of new Cisco IOS and Cisco CAT OS software feature releases for that specific network area  
• Identification of a software referral version and risk analysis of that version  
• Recommendation to either incorporate the software into your testing/upgrade process or wait for a future maintenance release  
• Contingency plan for transitioning software in your networking environment |  |
| **Summary of Recommendations** |  
Present a summary of recommendations, typically within 30 days of delivering the proactive software track recommendation report |
AVAILABILITY
Network Infrastructure Software Analysis is available globally. Contact your Cisco Service Account Manager for more details.

SUMMARY
The Network Infrastructure Software Analysis service delivers proactive, consultative support and analyses to help you achieve optimum results from your Cisco IOS and Cat OS software changes. It is an a la carte offering of Network Optimization Support, which bridges technology and expertise gaps to help you attain the highest return on your Cisco investment.

Network Optimization Support and its Network Infrastructure Software Analysis service are both part of Cisco Advanced Services. Cisco Advanced Services helps speed the migration of advanced technologies into your network and offers support throughout the network lifecycle.

ORDERING
Network Infrastructure Software Analysis may be ordered without a subscription to Network Optimization Support, though additional network optimization services may complement its activities and deliverables and enhance its benefits.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
For more information about Cisco Advanced Services or Network Infrastructure Software Analysis, contact your Cisco representative.
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