



**What are Cisco® Validated Designs?** Cisco Validated Designs are recommended, validated, end-to-end designs for next-generation networks. The validated designs incorporate products and technologies into a broad portfolio of Enterprise, Service Provider, and Commercial systems that are designed, tested, and fully documented to help ensure faster, more reliable, and more predictable customer deployments.

Cisco Validated Designs enable customers to:

1. Deliver network agility by lowering the risk of deploying technology solutions
2. Increase the speed of technology solution deployment
3. Deploy a scalable, reliable, predictable foundation on which to build business value and lower the total cost of ownership
4. Ease technology solution integration in the Campus, Branch, and Data Center with higher and consistent quality assurance of product and solution
5. Improve ease and success of deploying business-critical applications when enabled by Cisco network architectures
6. Utilize Cisco Advanced Services to customize a CVD to meet their specific business requirement

There are three types of Cisco Validated Designs: Design Guides, Application Deployment Guides, and System Assurance Guides.

**Design Guides** are comprehensive, design and/or implementation guides. The systems or solutions validated have undergone thorough architectural design development and lab testing and are focused on providing guidance for the introduction of new technologies, emerging architectures, or the enhancement of a customer's network.

Cisco Validated Design Guides ensure:

- Products that are incorporated in the design are generally available.
- Deployment, operation, and management of components within the system can be accomplished repeatedly.
- The design has been validated through system-level testing. This level of testing:
  - Validates a specific design or architectural practice on a limited scale and duration
  - Is generally focused on key technology or products integrated as a system

- Ensures the viability of theoretical designs or concepts
- Detailed system design and/or implementation guidance are available to provide:
  - Customer use examples that define the problems solved by the design
  - A list of products that were validated as part of the design testing
  - Software that was used for each component of the design
  - Configurations used to support the design tests
  - Design limitations that were uncovered during the testing

**Application Deployment Guides** detail how specific third-party applications interoperate within a Cisco network environment. Applications detailed have undergone interoperability testing with the existing recommendations of reference Cisco Validated Design Guides.

Application Deployment Guides ensure:

- Products that are incorporated in the design are generally available.
- Deployment, operation, and management of components within the system can be accomplished repeatedly.
- The design has been validated through system-level testing. This level of testing:
  - Validates the interoperability of the application within a specific Cisco network deployment scenario
  - Is generally focused on key technology or products integrated as a system
  - Ensures the viability of theoretical designs or concepts
- A detailed application deployment guide is available that provides:
  - Customer use examples that define the problems solved by the design
  - A list of products that were validated as part of the application design testing
  - Software that was used for each component of the design
  - Configurations used to support the design tests
  - Design limitations that were uncovered during the testing

**System Assurance Guides** deliver the results and findings of intensive, ongoing system assurance test programs targeted at major network architectures or technologies. The System Assurance Guides define system or solution baseline\* recommendations for general customer use. They are supported with forward-looking designs and associated assurance test roadmaps and promote new technology or design adoption for major network deployments or enhancements.

System Assurance Guide benefits:

- Assurance Guides are generally aimed at a particular network architecture or technology and utilize the guidance from multiple design guides, deployment best practices, and key customer deployments
- The recommendations have been reviewed and updated for general deployment
- Evidence that solution requirements have been successfully tested in a scaled, customer representative environment
- Confirm that there are no observable operationally impacting defects within the scope of the recommendations
- Software release recommendations and associated platform and network role
- A record of the tests undertaken that provides documents the associated test activity and observed results (supplemented by Traffic profiles, memory, and CPU profiling as necessary)
- Key configuration guidance and examples

\*A baseline defines key functional and architectural aspects of a design that have been thoroughly tested end-to-end or within a given product family. The baseline includes common customer design and configuration examples and should serve as a foundational starting point for new deployments or technological upgrades

### Advanced Services Support

Where the customer network requirements extend beyond the scope of a Cisco Validated Design, Cisco Advanced Services can provide additional services in support of your specific requirements. (Refer to [www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps6887/serv\\_category\\_home.html](http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps6887/serv_category_home.html))

### Additional Resources

For more information on available Cisco Validated Designs, refer to [www.cisco.com/go/cvd](http://www.cisco.com/go/cvd) or contact your Account Team.