

Cisco IOS Software Release 12.3T

General

Q. What type of release is Cisco IOS Software Release 12.3T?

A. Cisco IOS® Software Release 12.3T is a new technology introduction, which incorporates the functionality of [Major Release 12.3](#), new features, platform support, and special BU (“X”) releases ([Table 1](#)).

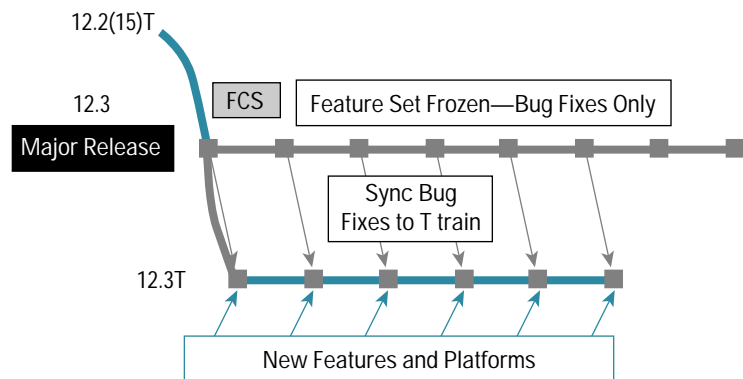
Q. What is the relationship between a major release and a new technology introduction?

A. Major releases consolidate the new technology introductions from the previous release family. For example, Cisco IOS Software Major Release 12.3 is a

consolidation of all features and platform support in the Release 12.2T family. Major releases receive software fixes on regular basis, but new features and platform support are not integrated after they are formed.

New technology introductions are derived from the major release that shares the same number. For example, Cisco IOS Software Release 12.3T is derived from Major Release 12.3. New features, platform support, and quality improvements were added to Major Release 12.3 to form Release 12.3T (Figure 1).

Figure 1
 Major Release and New Technology Introduction Relationship





Q. What is the relationship between Cisco IOS Software Release 12.3T and Release 12.3(n)T?

A. The numbering scheme with a T suffix, 12.3T, is applied to a family of new technology introductions. The formal numbering scheme is 12.3(n)T, where 'n' represents the release number—12.3(2)T, for example. New features, software improvements, and other enhancements are rolled out via the next new technology introduction at approximately sixteen week intervals.

Q. How do Release 12.3(n)T releases differ from each other?

A. Each Cisco IOS Software new technology introduction is built upon the previous release. It adds new software features and hardware support, in addition software fixes for defects found in previous major releases and new technology introductions.

Deployment Recommendations

Q. What type of customer will be interested in deploying Release 12.3T?

A. Cisco recommends Release 12.3T for Enterprise, Access and Service Provider Aggregation customers who need to:

- Drive business productivity with increased security, improved voice quality and functionality to the branch office, cost effective wireless, and enhanced Quality of Service
- Implement or upgrade IPv6, Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS), NetFlow, and associated management features

Additional candidates for Release 12.3T include:

- Enterprise small remote offices and teleworkers who depend on secure Internet access and corporate network connectivity
- Small and Medium business customers who need to implement new content delivery features, network voice enhancements, improved Security and valuable management and deployment tools
- Customers using the “X” release listed in [Table 1](#).

Q. Why will customers be interested in deploying Release 12.3T?

A. Cisco IOS Software Release 12.3T offers many new features in the areas of Security, Voice, Wireless, and QoS. Customers who are interested in implementing new services based on the new features of Release 12.3T are good candidates to deploy it.

Customers currently using the “X” releases listed in [Table 1](#) will benefit from the feature enhancements and quality improvements in Release 12.3T, because “X” releases are short-lived, time-to-market release vehicles. Cisco Business Units typically create them in order to support the most advanced features for a specific platform. New technology introductions, such as Release 12.3T, eventually consolidate the special releases.

Q. Are there any special hardware requirements related to the deployment of Release 12.3T?

A. Prior to installing 12.3T, the [Cisco IOS Software Planner](#) should be consulted for memory requirements, as they may vary depending upon platform and image feature set selections.



Q. Should my customers deploy a new technology introduction to qualify Cisco IOS Software in their network?

A. No. New technology introductions have a limited lifecycle; as such, customers should continue to use them in a limited fashion, and qualify and deploy the next major release when it becomes available.

For instance, a customer requiring a new feature that is available in Release 12.3(2)T may continue to run this release or deploy a subsequent instance of Release 12.3T as necessary. When Major Release 12.4 becomes available, the customer should begin final qualification and deployment.

Release 12.3(2)T

Q. What is Cisco IOS Software Release 12.3(2)T?

A. Release 12.3(2)T is the first of the 12.3T releases, and it enhances customer productivity with nearly one hundred new features across more than thirty Cisco platforms. Highlights of Release 12.3(2)T include the Cisco 830 Series Router and Cisco Security Device Manager.

Q. What new features and platform support are delivered in Release 12.3(2)T?

A. Cisco 830 Series Access Router—Manageable, Scalable, and Reliable Access

The [Cisco 830 Series Router](#) combines for the first time the power of an integrated router and a security appliance—a capability unmatched in the industry. The Cisco 830 Series Router uses the valuable management and deployment tools within Release 12.3(2)T to deliver the industry's lowest total cost of ownership for small remote offices and teleworkers who depend on secure Internet and corporate network access.

When IP phones are connected at a remote site, a Cisco 830 Series Router can queue and prioritize the voice traffic to ensure a high-quality, secure voice connection from the remote or home office back to the corporate network.

Cisco 830 Series Routers provide a wide range of integrated security services, as well as advanced Quality of Service features for high-quality data, voice, and video applications, and offer easy deployment and remote management features with Cisco IOS Software.

- Cisco Security Device Manager—Simplified Router Deployment

[Cisco Security Device Manager](#) (SDM) is an intuitive, web-based device management tool embedded in Cisco access routers. Cisco SDM simplifies router and security configuration through intelligent agents, enabling customers to quickly and easily deploy, configure, and monitor the security features of a Cisco access router without requiring knowledge of the Cisco IOS Software command line interface.

Cisco SDM helps to lower network management costs for enterprise branch offices and small/medium-sized businesses. It allows these businesses to implement router security configurations on a device-by-device basis and in a timely manner—without purchasing new network management software. For businesses with larger networks, Cisco SDM enables easy deployment of individual routers, by non-expert administrators, at branch offices. These devices can then be managed from corporate headquarters through central management tools, providing cost savings in terms of time and IT support expenses at the branch office.



- For a complete list of all new features and platform support in Release 12.3(2)T, review the release notes: <http://www.cisco.com/univercd/cc/td/doc/product/software/ios123/123relnt/xprn123t/index.htm>
- For specific customer information, please review the Release 12.3(2)T Customer Presentation: <http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/732/releases/release123/docs/customer123t.ppt>

Q. What new “X” releases have been incorporated in Release 12.3(2)T?

Table 1 “X” Releases Incorporated in Release 12.3(2)T

Special Release	Hardware Support
Release 12.2(8)YY	GSM Mobile Wireless Operators using the Cisco 7200 Series
Release 12.2(15)ZN	Cisco 1710,1721,1751,1760, and 7401 Routers

Q. Are there any platforms not supported (ie: deferred) in Release 12.3(2)T?

A. Please refer to the [Release 12.3 deferral Advisory](#) for further information.

Numbering

Q. Why has this release been named Release 12.3(2)T?

A. If a major release and a new technology introduction have the same maintenance number (the number in the parenthesis), this means that they are “fix for fix” equivalent, or they have incorporated the same software fixes.

Release 12.3(2)T is the first release of the Release 12.3T family; however, it contains software fixes that were not incorporated in Major Release 12.3(1), which became available to customers on 5/19/03. Since these releases are not software “fix for fix” equivalent, it would be misleading to number this first release as 12.3(1)T.

Q. How will this affect the numbering of subsequent instances of Release 12.3T and Major Release 12.3?

A. Major Release 12.3 and Release 12.3T will share the same release number if they ship with software “fix for fix” compatibility. However, if the next maintenance of Release 12.3T contains additional fixes beyond those contained in the prior major release, the release numbers will differ.

Q. How will the renumbering affect my ability to identify which release will deliver a specific software defect repair?

A. In order to learn how release numbering impacts matching releases to software defect repairs, please contact Dave Parsons or Julie Larson, Release Operations.

Cisco IOS Software Release

Q. Where can customers download Cisco IOS Software Release 12.3T?

A. Visit the Software Center on Cisco.com to download any release product. To download Cisco IOS Software Release 12.3(2)T, please visit: <http://www.cisco.com/kobayashi/library/12.3/index.shtml>

Please ensure that your customer is entitled to access and download the release through an active SMARTnet contract or purchased feature license.

This site also provides valuable Cisco IOS Software information, including hardware/software compatibility, product bulletins, and ordering procedures.



Q. What are release notes?

A. Release notes describe memory requirements, hardware support, software image deferrals, caveats, and changes to the microcode or modem code, and related information. It is highly recommended that customers read the release notes prior to deploying a new Cisco IOS Software release.

Release notes include a list of software image deferrals, which refer to those Cisco IOS Software images not available to customers due to existing software or hardware issues.

Release 12.3T release notes are available at:

<http://www.cisco.com/univercd/cc/td/doc/product/software/ios123/123relnt/xprn123t/index.htm>

Q. What are caveats?

A. Caveats describe unexpected behavior (ie: a software defect) in Cisco IOS Software releases. Release notes include a list of resolved caveats from the most recent maintenance release, as well as a list of open caveats and any existing workaround.

Release 12.3 caveats are available at:

<http://www.cisco.com/univercd/cc/td/doc/product/software/ios123/123cavs/index.htm>

Additional Information

Q. Where are detailed descriptions of the Release 12.3T features and platform support available?

A. The release notes include in-depth information about features and platform support:

<http://www.cisco.com/univercd/cc/td/doc/product/software/ios123/123relnt/xprn123t/index.htm>

Q. Where can I find additional information and collateral about Release 12.3T?

A. <http://www.cisco.com/go/release123t/>

Q. Who in Cisco Internet Technologies Division can I contact for additional information?

A. General Cisco IOS Software release information ios-release-pm@cisco.com

Release policy and Release 12.3 numbering: Dave Parsons, Engineering Release Manager (dparsons@cisco.com)



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