

Cisco Smart Software Manager satellite (Enhanced Edition)

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Overview

[Cisco® Smart Software Manager satellite](#) is a component of Cisco Smart Licensing. It works in conjunction with [Cisco Smart Software Manager](#) to intelligently manage customer product licenses, providing near-real-time visibility and reporting of Cisco licenses customers purchase and consume.

In a typical scenario, customers are able to view their installed base from the cloud-based Cisco Smart Software Manager using a highly secure Internet connection, protected by various levels of user authorization and encrypted passwords. However, for security-sensitive customers who do not want to manage their installed base with a direct Internet connection, Smart Licensing provides Smart Software Manager satellite software, which resides on customer premises. Devices or software products self-register and report license consumption to the Smart Software Manager satellite as though it were a replicate of the Cisco Smart Software Manager.

Smart Software Manager satellite has two deployment models:

Smart Software Manager satellite Classic:

- Targeted for small enterprises
- Supports a single Smart Account at CSSM (single tenant)
- Scales to 10,000 product instances
- Online or offline connectivity to Cisco

Smart Software Manager satellite Enhanced Edition:

- New architecture and infrastructure with higher scalability and usability
- Targeted for service providers and/or partners who need to manage their customer accounts
- Supports multiple accounts (multi-tenant)
- Scales to 10,000 product instances
- Online or offline connectivity to Cisco
- Allows downstream satellite to register to it, enabling a hierarchical satellite structure (future)

Smart Software Manager satellite Enhanced Edition is designed to mirror Cisco SSM's experience through a common user interface and similar features. It is targeted for Service Providers and Cisco Partners who need to

manage multiple customer accounts through a single management portal instead of individual customers managing their own accounts.

The satellite must communicate with Cisco Smart Software Manager periodically to operate. Customers need to synchronize their local databases with the Cisco portal to make sure that the most recent purchases are reflected in their local copies. This can be automatically or manually initiated. The automatically scheduled synchronizations can be daily, weekly, or monthly, and, depending on the frequency, the data on the satellite can be as current as the portal on a daily basis. On the other hand, the manual synchronization involves a file transfer at least once a year and represents an air gap for high-security service providers and partners. Figure 1 depicts the Smart Software Manager satellite deployment. While manual synchronization is supported, it is not recommended due to the sheer numbers of accounts that are expected to be managed on satellite Enhanced Edition.

Smart Software Manager satellite Enhanced Edition is packaged as an ISO with CentOS 7 and requires the following configuration:

Minimum	Recommended
200 GB Hard disk	200 GB Hard disk
8GB Memory	8GB Memory
2 vCPUs	4 vCPUs

Figure 1. *Smart Software Manager satellite (Enhanced Edition) Deployment*

Once satellite Enhanced Edition is installed, the system needs to be configured in order to login to its user interface. In addition, each satellite account, representing a customer, needs to register with Cisco Smart Manager in order to manage licenses in it. Periodic synchronizations with Cisco Smart Software Manager, enables Smart Software Manager satellite Enhance Edition to reflect the most recent license entitlement and usage. Smart Software Manager satellite Enhanced Edition is supported with Chrome 32.0 and later versions, Firefox 25.0 and later versions, and Safari 6.0.5 and later versions.

Smart Licensing requires products to be associated with [Smart Accounts](#), which can be created on [Cisco Software Central](#). A Smart Account is associated with a unique company ID and is like an online banking account containing Cisco entitlements and devices for that customer. From the Cisco Smart Software Manager, subaccounts (also called **virtual accounts**) can be created to represent various subdivisions or buying centers of the company.

Benefits

- Highly secure, highly available, on-premises, single source of truth of license consumption
- Near-real-time license entitlement based on synchronization schedules with the Smart Software Manager installed base
- Management of multiple customers on a single portal

Smart Licensing benefits:

- Licenses are not node-locked to devices, which can enable licenses to be on compatible devices without rehosting product activation keys (PAKs).
- Licenses can be pooled within the entire company, allowing them to be reused across organizational boundaries.
- Money can be saved by knowing what is being used compared to entitlement.

- Time can be saved since licenses can be transferred across the company without opening support cases, therefore simplifying the return merchandise approval (RMA) process.

Features

- **Multi-tenancy** - manage multiple customer accounts in a single management portal
- Multiple satellites can connect to the Smart Software Manager, each satellite account can **scale up to 10,000 product instances**.
- **ISO Packaging** - satellite is packaged as a universal ISO which allows it to be exported to various image types as shown below. It is the customer's responsibility to do the image type conversion.
 - **OVA image.** An Open Virtualization Archive that contains a compressed, "installable" version of a virtual machine.
 - **Hyper-V image.** Allows customers to install on a Hyper-V virtualized host of Microsoft Windows Server 2012.
 - **KVM (Kernel-based Virtual Machine) image.** Allows customers to install on a virtualized Linux environment supporting Ubuntu and CentOS.
- **System Security Enhancements**
 - CentOS 7 security harden kernel
 - Nessus scans with Critical and Major (CVE) issues addressed
- **User Authentication Control (LDAP & OAuth2)** - A *System Administrator* can set the authentication method to be LDAP and OAuth2. If not specified, it will be using local authentication.
- **Configurable Banners and Login Information** - Headers and footers and user login page on the satellite portal are configurable enabling them to be customized with meaningful classifications and information.
- **Account Administration and Licensing Management** - Combined account administration and licensing management in a single portal with the same look-and-feel as Cisco SSM and Smart Account Administration.
- **Multiple Network Interfaces** - Allow users to configure two (2) interfaces for traffic separation between management and product instance registrations.
- **Syslog support** - Account events can be configured to be sent to a syslog server.
- **Satellite Proxy support** - Allow for satellite to have a proxy between itself and Cisco Smart Software Manager for traffic separation.
- **Application Redundancy support** - For application redundancy enabled products, to prevent double counting of licenses on a active/active or active/standby or fail- over scenarios.
- **Export Control support** - Allow customers located outside EULF/ENC to which US Export restriction apply to request specific export control licenses and associated quantity.
- **API Toolkit** – Allow applications to call satellite APIs for virtual account, token, license, product instance, reporting, and alert operations.
- **User Groups** - Group users so operations such as role assignment can be applied to multiple users within the group instead of individual users.
- **LDAP Groups** – Group LDAP users so operations such as role assignment can be applied to multiple LDAP users within the group.

- **Custom Virtual Account Tagging** – Allow local Virtual Accounts to be tagged for easy virtual account classification, grouping, locating and/or role assignment.
- **License Tagging** - User-defined tags that can be created and tagged to licenses. They are useful for classifying, locating, and grouping licenses.
- **Virtual Account Search** – Search local Virtual Accounts by Name or by Tag
- **Advanced License Search** – Search Licenses based on detailed information such as SKU, Product Family, Expiration Date, or PAK (PAK # of a classic license that has been converted to Smart)
- **Bulk Operations** – Enable transfer of multiple licenses between local virtual accounts

Satellite Enhanced Edition also has an Administration portal that provides functions to administer the system as follows:

- **Users** - manage users such as creating system users with sysadmin, sysops, or user roles.
- **Accounts** - approve satellite account requests or create new satellite accounts
- **Network** - configure or change network IP, NTP, DNS server, default gateway addresses, satellite proxy parameters, syslog configuration
- **API Toolkit** – enable creation of client and resource authentication credentials for accessing satellite API
- **Access Management** – configure authentication method and LDAP groups
- **Settings** – configure banner text, messages, and syslog parameters
- **Software Download** – allow users to download software they are entitled to directly from satellite
- **Synchronization** – synchronize with Cisco SSM

Customers can [download the Smart Software Manager satellite Enhanced Edition](#) at no charge to manage their assets and licenses locally in their enterprises. For more information, see the [Smart Software Manager satellite Enhanced Edition Installation Guide](#) and [Smart Software Manager satellite Enhanced Edition User Guide](#).

For More Information

For Smart Licensing, visit www.cisco.com/c/en/us/products/abt_sw.html.

For Smart Software Manager, visit www.cisco.com/web/ordering/smart-software-manager/index.html.

For Smart Accounts, visit www.cisco.com/web/ordering/smart-software-manager/smart-accounts.html.

For Cisco Software Central, visit <https://software.cisco.com/swcentral/home.html>.



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