

Cisco ASR 1000 Series Route Processors



What are the Cisco® ASR 1000 Series Route Processors?



They are the route processors for the Cisco ASR 1000 Series Aggregated Services Routers. Two route processors are offered at this time for the Cisco ASR 1000 Series: ASR1000-RP2 (RP2), and ASR1000-RP3 (RP3). Details are available in the Cisco ASR 1000 Series Route Processors data sheet at https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/products/collateral/routers/asr-1000-series-aggregation-services-routers/data_sheet_c78-441072.html.



What are the major functions of the Cisco ASR 1000 Series route processors?



The Cisco ASR 1000 Series route processors are responsible for the following:

- Building and distributing forwarding information to the Cisco ASR 1000 Series Embedded Services Processor (ESP)
- Offering a portal for stateful firewall policy configuration and distribution to the ESP
- Negotiating and maintaining IP Security (IPsec) authentication, encryption methods, and encryption keys (Internet Key Exchange [IKE])

- Loading the operating system software system images to all installed line cards upon powering up or through operator commands
- Synchronizing the dynamic state conditions for the redundant Cisco IOS® XE Software, the route processor, and ESP components
- Performing high-availability failover for redundant solutions
- Providing out-of-band system console and auxiliary ports, USB, and an Ethernet port for router configuration and maintenance
- Allowing direct system access through the operating system kernel if catastrophic Cisco IOS Software fails
- Monitoring and managing the power and temperature of system components such as line cards, power supplies, and fans



What are the unique physical attributes of the Cisco ASR 1000 Series route processors?



The route processor has a field-replaceable hard disk drive (or solid state drive in the RP3), built-in Building Integrated Timing Source (BITS) timing, a Universal Serial Bus (USB), and a dedicated (10/100/1000BASE-T) management port. In addition, it has LED indicator lights to provide ongoing operational information.



What functional LEDs are on the Cisco ASR 1000 Series route processors, and what do the different colors represent?

Table 1 lists the route processor LEDs.

Table 1. Cisco ASR 1000 Series RP2 and RP3 LEDs

LED Function LABEL	Color or State	Meaning (Default = Off)
Power PWR	Green	Green if all power rails are within specification
Status STAT	Green	Green when Cisco IOS® Software has booted
	Yellow	Yellow when BootRom has successfully loaded
	Red	Red indicates system failure On @ power up; turned off by software
Active ACTV	Green	Lit when this is the active route processor
Standby STBY	Yellow	Lit when this is the standby route processor
Critical CRIT	Red	Critical alarm indicator On @ power up; turned off by software
Major MAJ	Red	Major alarm indicator
Minor MIN	Amber	Minor alarm indicator
10/100/1000 RJ-45 interface LINK	Solid green	Link with no activity
	Flashing green	Link with activity
	Off	No link
Internal Compact Flash (BootFlash) BF	Flashing green	Activity indicator
	Off	No activity
External USB Compact Flash USB	Flashing green	Activity indicator
	Off	No activity
Internal hard drive HD	Flashing green	Activity indicator
	Off	No activity
BITS interface CARRIER	Off	Out of service or not configured
	Green	In frame or working properly
	Amber	Fault or loop condition

Q Are routing protocols supported on the 10/100/1000BASE-T management interface?

A Yes, routing protocols are supported on the management interface. However, the management interface is strictly for management purposes only, with limited packet forwarding.

Q What timing sources does the Cisco ASR 1000 Series route processors support?

A It can receive timing information through its BITS interface or through a Time-Division Multiplexing (TDM)-based Cisco ASR 1000 Series Shared Port Adapter (SPA).

Memory and storage

Q What are the DRAM memory options for the Cisco ASR 1000 Series RP2?

A It uses four 2- or 4-GB Synchronous Dynamic RAM (SDRAM) for a combined total of 8 or 16 GB. The part number to order the 16-GB DRAM as a field-upgradable spare is M-ASR1K-RP2-16GB=.

Q What are the DRAM memory options for the Cisco ASR 1000 Series RP3?

A It uses two 4-GB DIMMs for 8 GB, two 8-GB DIMMs for 16 GB, four 8-GB DIMMs for 32 GB, or four 16-GB DIMMs for 64 GB. The part numbers to order the field-upgradable 16-, 32- and 64-GB DRAM spares are M-ASR1K-RP3-16GB=, M-ASR1K-RP3-32GB=, and M-ASR1K-RP3-64GB=, respectively.

Q What are the hard drive options for the Cisco ASR 1000 Series Route Processors?

A The RP2 uses a 80 GB hard disk drive for storage. The RP3 uses a 100-, 200-, or 400-GB Solid State Drive (SSD) for storage. The part numbers to order the field-upgradable 200- and 400-GB SSDs are M-ASR1K-SSD-200GB= and M-ASR1K-SSD-400GB=, respectively.

Software support

Q What Cisco IOS Software releases does the Cisco ASR 1000 Series Route Processor support?

A It runs the Cisco IOS XE Software.

Q Are the Command-Line Interface (CLI) commands for Cisco IOS XE Software the same as those for other Cisco IOS Software releases?

A Yes, Cisco IOS XE Software has the same user interface as standard Cisco IOS Software.

Q What is the first Cisco IOS XE Software release for the RP2?

A Cisco IOS XE Software Release 2.3.0 is the first software release for the RP2.

Q What is the first Cisco IOS XE Software release for the RP3?

A Cisco IOS XE Software Release 16.3.1 is the first software release for the RP3.

Q What is the release schedule for the Cisco IOS XE Software?

A New release versions that will include new features will occur every 4 months. Each release version will have two rebuilds that will address quality concerns and will contain no new features. The first rebuild release will be made available 2 months after shipment of a release version. The second rebuild release will be made available 4 months after shipment of the same release version. Rebuilds to correct critical problems (such as those identified by the Cisco Product Security Incident Response Team [PSIRT]) will be introduced as needed.

Q What are the Cisco IOS XE Software modules?

A Table 2 lists the modules that comprise the Cisco IOS XE Software.

Table 2. Cisco IOS XE Software Images

Image	Image name	Purpose
RPBase	ASR1000rpx86-rpbase.<ASR_RELEASE>.<IOS_VERSION>.<IOS_RELEASE>.pkg	Provides the operating system software for the route processor
RPControl	ASR1000rpx86-rpcontrol.<ASR_RELEASE>.<IOS_VERSION>.<IOS_RELEASE>.pkg	Controls the control-plane processes that interface between Cisco IOS Software and the rest of the platform
RPAccess	ASR1000rpx86-rpaccess.<ASR_RELEASE>.<IOS_VERSION>.<IOS_RELEASE>.pkg ASR1000rpx86-rpaccessk9.<ASR_RELEASE>.<IOS_VERSION>.<IOS_RELEASE>.pkg	(Software required for router access) Included (non-K9 version) only in consolidated images that do not have cryptographic support (Software required for router access) Includes (K9 version) restricted components (Secure Sockets Layer [SSL], Secure Shell [SSH] Protocol, and other security features); consolidated images are subject to export controls
RPIOS	ASR1000rpx86-rpios-universalk9.<ASR_RELEASE>.<IOS_VERSION>.<IOS_RELEASE>.pkg	Provides the Cisco IOS Software kernel, which is where Cisco IOS Software features are stored and run; each consolidated image has a different RPIOS
ESPBase	ASR1000rpx86--esppbase.<ASR_RELEASE>.<IOS_VERSION>.<IOS_RELEASE>.pkg	Provides the ESP operating system and control processes, and the ESP software
SIPSPA/ELCSPA	ASR1000rpx86-sipspa elcspa.<ASR_RELEASE>.<IOS_VERSION>.<IOS_RELEASE>.pkg	Provides the SPA driver and associated Field-Programmable Device (FPD) images
SIPBase/ELCBase	ASR1000rpx86-sipbase elcbase.<ASR_RELEASE>.<IOS_VERSION>.<IOS_RELEASE>.pkg	Controls the SIP carrier-card operating system and control processes

Q Can the router boot directly from Cisco IOS XE Software images stored in USB memory keys?

A Yes.

Q What are the limitations from a router file system standpoint for booting the Cisco IOS XE Software?

A All image files must be kept in the same directory on the Cisco ASR 1000 Series Router hard drive, Embedded (EUSB), or bootflash. Booting image files stripped across file systems and from USB memory keys is not supported.

Q What are the requirements for Software Upgrade Procedure on a single Cisco ASR 1000 Series route processor system?

A The requirements follow:

- Software Upgrade procedure is supported only ASR 1000 running in SubPackage mode. Details see the Compatibility Matrix @ <https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/td/docs/routers/asr1000/configuration/guide/chassis/asr1000-software-config-guide/issu-asr.html>.

Q When I issue the show memory command, the Cisco ASR 1000 Series route processor is reporting less than 50 percent of the installed memory. Why isn't the route processor recognizing all of the installed memory?

A On the Cisco ASR 1000 Series route processor, the show memory command is reporting only the memory that has been allocated to the RPIOS process. The Cisco IOS XE Software command show platform resources provides a memory breakdown by platform processes.

Q Why does the Cisco IOS XE Software RPIOS process consume only so much or so little memory?

A The Cisco IOS XE Software RPIOS process is preallocated a fixed amount of memory upon startup. The memory assigned to the RPIOS process never shrinks or grows, and is used to manage both the routing and forwarding tables on the router.

Q Can the router be configured to allocate more or less Cisco ASR 1000 Series route processor memory to the RPIOS process?

A No, RPIOS memory allocation is preallocated upon bootup and cannot be altered.

Q Why do the Cisco IOS XE Software RPIOS processes consume less memory when running in dual versus standalone mode?

A Amount of memory reserved for RPIOS in RP2 and RP3 depends on the amount of memory configured on the RP. When running RPIOS in dual mode, the amount of memory allocated to each IOS process will be approximately reduced by half comparing to the same system running single IOS process.

Q What are the scalability effects of running dual Cisco IOS XE Software processes?

A When running dual Cisco IOS XE Software processes, the maximum routing table supported is reduced by approximately 50 percent.

Q Is High Availability supported on the Cisco ASR 1000 Series route processors?

A The Cisco ASR 1000 Series RP2, and RP3 all support RPIOS High Availability. Full support for RP hardware and software High Availability is available on the Cisco ASR 1006, 1006-X, 1009-X, and 1013 Routers between common route processor types.

Q Is the ASR 1000 Series Cisco SD-WAN capable?

A The ASR 1000 Series will support Cisco SD-WAN beginning with the Cisco SD-WAN Software Release 18.3 and IOS XE SD-WAN Software Release 16.9.1. The following models from the ASR 1000 Series are currently supported: ASR 1001-X, ASR 1002-X, ASR 1001-HX and ASR 1002-HX. Please contact Cisco for more information, as support for Cisco SD-WAN on additional models is on the roadmap.

Cisco SD-WAN subscriptions for ASR 1000 include two subscription license options: Cisco DNA Advantage and Cisco DNA Premier. Cisco DNA Advantage provides for advanced WAN topologies, application aware policies and is supported by enhanced network security. Cisco DNA Premier provides for Cloud connectivity with unlimited segmentation, advanced application optimization and network analytics, secured by advanced threat protection. For more information on Cisco SD-WAN please refer to <https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/products/software/one-wan-subscription/index.html>.