License Configuration, Activation & Deployment

Activate

Once licenses are purchased, proceed to activate Smart Licensing on your devices.

1. Enable Smart licensing on the device ([on device](#)).

2. Configure communication with Cisco SSM based on deployment option (on device).

3. Generate token in Cisco SSM and apply to device.

4. Licenses are automatically assigned to the device from the license pool in your Smart Account. This ensures that the device is entitled to use the purchased features and services.

Smart Licensing Deployment Options

Smart Licensing deployment options determine how devices communicate with Cisco's licensing systems to activate, manage, and track usage of licenses. These options are designed to accommodate different customer needs, such as security requirements, internet connectivity, and operational preferences. Cisco offers 5 deployment options from which to choose.

Connected

Direct Cloud Access	Direct Cloud Access via HTTPS Proxy	On-Premises License Management (Connected Mode)
• Devices communicate directly with Cisco Smart Software Manager (SSM) and Cisco License Central over the internet. • The simplest and most widely used method requires no added infrastructure. • Suitable for organizations with open internet access.	• Devices communicate with Cisco SSM and Cisco License Central through an HTTPS proxy, such as Cisco's next generation connectivity client, Smart Transport • Adds a layer of security by masking the network behind a single IP address.	• Devices send usage information to a locally installed Cisco SSM On- Prem server. • The On-Prem server periodically synchronizes with Cisco SSM over the internet. • Ideal for organizations with strict security policies but some internet connectivity.

Disconnected

On-Premises License Management (Disconnected Mode)	Specific License Reservation (SLR)
• Like the connected mode but operates in an air-gapped environment. • Synchronization is done manually via file transfers. • Suitable for highly secure environments with no internet access.	• Fully offline method where licenses are manually reserved and activated using copy-paste operations. • No ongoing communication with SSM or Cisco License Central is required. • Designed for highly secure environments like government or military organizations.

Access the **Cisco Licensing support** page for seamless access to license activation and delivery information.