

Cisco Customer Experience

A horizontal bar with a gradient from blue to purple to pink to orange.

Cisco IQ On-Prem Virtual Appliance Overview

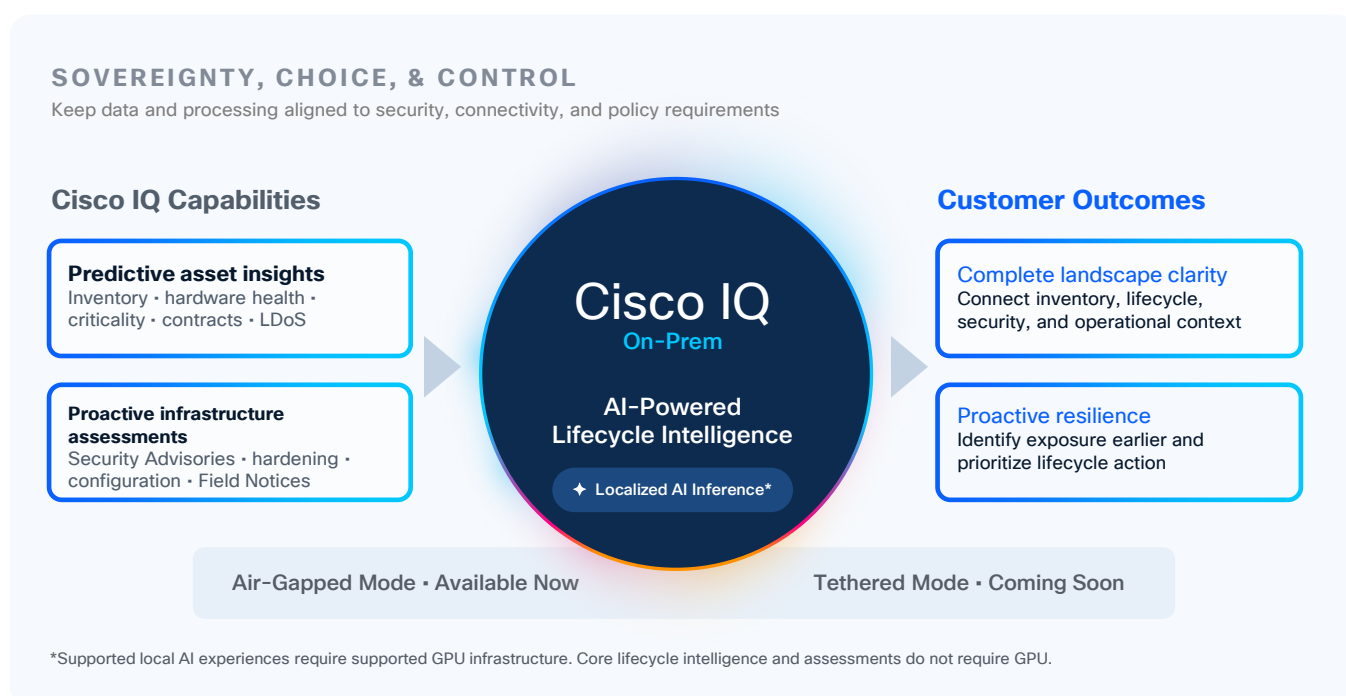
August 2026

Cisco IQ On-Prem Virtual Appliance

AI-powered lifecycle intelligence – engineered for sovereignty

Cisco IQ On-Prem Virtual Appliance brings Cisco IQ capabilities into your on-premises environment, helping you gain lifecycle intelligence and infrastructure insights while maintaining the data sovereignty, security, and operational control your environment requires.

For highly regulated and highly controlled environments, this means bringing intelligence to where your data lives, including environments that require complete isolation from external services.



The intelligence imperative in highly controlled environments

For highly regulated environments, sovereignty is an operating requirement, not a preference. Your infrastructure continues to change even when your environment is highly controlled or disconnected. Assets age, configurations change, vulnerabilities emerge, support milestones approach, and security guidance continues to evolve.

At the same time, strict operating requirements can determine how infrastructure intelligence is delivered and consumed:

- **Data must remain local.** Network telemetry, device configurations, operational data, and assessment results may need to remain inside your network.
- **External connectivity may be prohibited.** Mission, security, or policy requirements may require complete isolation from external services.
- **AI must fit your security model.** External generative AI services may not be permitted within your environment.
- **Intelligence still must stay current.** Cisco® Security Advisories, hardening guidance, Field Notices, and assessment rules continue to evolve.

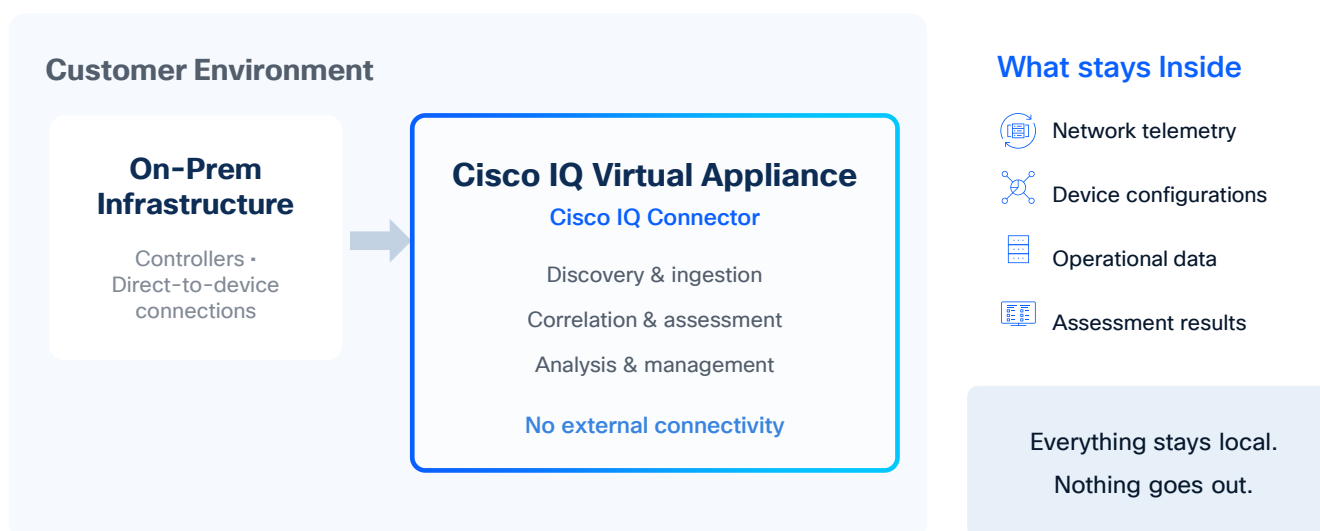
You should not have to choose between isolation and intelligence.

Intelligence, inside your operating boundary

Cisco IQ On-Prem Virtual Appliance extends Cisco IQ capabilities into environments where data, connectivity, and AI must operate within strict boundaries.

With **Air-Gapped mode generally available now**, Cisco IQ operates as a self-contained intelligence platform within your environment, with no external connectivity. You can connect the Cisco IQ Virtual Appliance to on-premises controllers or establish direct-to-device connections using secure management protocols. The Cisco IQ Connector helps provide consistent, reliable data ingestion from infrastructure sources within your secure environment.

Discovery, ingestion, correlation, assessment, analysis, and management are performed locally. Network telemetry, device configurations, operational data, and assessment results remain within your environment.



Intelligence, inside your operating boundary

Cisco IQ combines lifecycle intelligence with the deployment flexibility, local AI, security, and operational control that highly controlled environments require.



Predictive asset insights

Gain unified visibility into real-time inventory, hardware health, asset criticality, contracts, and Last Date of Support (LDoS) to help you understand lifecycle posture, identify what matters, and inform lifecycle decisions.



Infrastructure assessments

Use automated health checks and security posture evaluations, including Cisco Security Advisories, security hardening, configuration assessments, and Field Notices to identify security, configuration, and lifecycle exposure.



Flexible infrastructure connectivity

Connect to on-premises controllers or establish direct connections using secure management protocols and the Cisco IQ Connector to support consistent data ingestion from infrastructure sources within your environment.



Enterprise-ready deployment

Deploy Cisco IQ on leading enterprise hypervisors within your existing virtualization environment, with multi-node scalability to support expanding infrastructure footprints.



Security & administration

Support enterprise identity, access, and administrative control with role-based access control (RBAC), enterprise authentication, certificate support, and audit logging.



Localized AI inference*

Use supported local AI experiences, including Ask AI and AI-powered analysis of inventory and risk exposure, without requiring external LLM APIs.

**Supported localized AI experiences require supported GPU infrastructure. Core lifecycle intelligence and assessments do not require GPU."*

Extending AI-powered intelligence on premises

You can deploy the core Cisco IQ Virtual Appliance using CPU-only infrastructure, accessing lifecycle intelligence, predictive asset insights, and infrastructure assessments without GPU infrastructure.

For supported GPU configurations, AI inference infrastructure can be added to the base system to enable localized AI inference. With models optimized for local deployment, supported local AI experiences, including Ask AI and AI-powered analysis of inventory and risk exposure, operate inside your environment without requiring external LLM APIs. This privacy-preserving approach brings AI closer to your data, while helping you maintain control over sensitive information within your secure perimeter. The modular architecture allows you to establish the Cisco IQ intelligence foundation without making local AI a prerequisite for the core experience.

AI-driven analysis can also help surface patterns across performance metrics and configuration drift to proactively identify potential bottlenecks and security vulnerabilities.

Disconnected doesn't mean standing still

Air-Gapped environments can remain disconnected while streamlined update paths support security patching, feature enhancements, and evolving assessment content. Software updates and assessment artifacts can be securely transferred through an approved manual process without requiring any external connectivity.

Security and control by design

Sovereignty extends beyond where your data resides. It also includes how your system is accessed, authenticated, and governed.

Cisco IQ On-Prem provides role-based access control (RBAC) and supports enterprise identity and access requirements, including SAML-based integrations with Okta, ADFS, and Microsoft Entra ID; PKI and Certificate-Based Authentication (CBA); customer-provided SSL/TLS certificate validation for UI/API; and external audit logging.

FIPS 140-3 and STIG compliance for Cisco IQ On-Prem Air-Gapped is coming soon.

Deployment choice for different operating requirements

Cisco IQ On-Prem provides two deployment modes so you can align deployment with your environment's security, data, and connectivity requirements.

Air-Gapped | Available now

Designed for environments requiring complete isolation:

- No external connectivity.
- Discovery, assessment, and analysis performed locally.
- Updates and assessment artifacts transferred through an approved manual process.
- Your data remains inside your environment.

Tethered | Coming soon

Designed for on-prem intelligence with secure update connectivity:

- Secure, outbound-only connectivity.
- Automated software updates and assessment artifact delivery.
- Only limited structured Virtual Appliance identity and health information transmitted.
- Your network data, device configurations, and assessment findings remain on premises.

From isolated infrastructure to sovereign intelligence

Cisco IQ On-Prem turns infrastructure context into actionable lifecycle intelligence within the boundaries your environment requires, helping you move toward complete landscape clarity and proactive resilience.

You can gain a clearer view of your infrastructure across inventory, lifecycle, and security context; understand what matters based on criticality, exposure, and lifecycle milestones; prioritize remediation, refresh, and modernization actions; and make more informed decisions using Cisco guidance and local context.

The result is **AI-powered lifecycle intelligence, engineered for sovereignty**, helping you identify exposure earlier, strengthen resilience, focus on what matters, and act with greater confidence.

 **Get started**

Explore Cisco IQ On-Prem Virtual Appliance and discover the deployment model that best aligns with your security, data, and connectivity requirements. Learn more: [Cisco IQ Documentation](#)