CISCO Connect

Modernize the Data Center for AI Without Starting Over



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September 30, 2026

About This Session

Marc Belle-Isle - DCN CSE
Cloud and AI Infrastructure



Chris Barrett – DCN AE
Cloud and AI Infrastructure

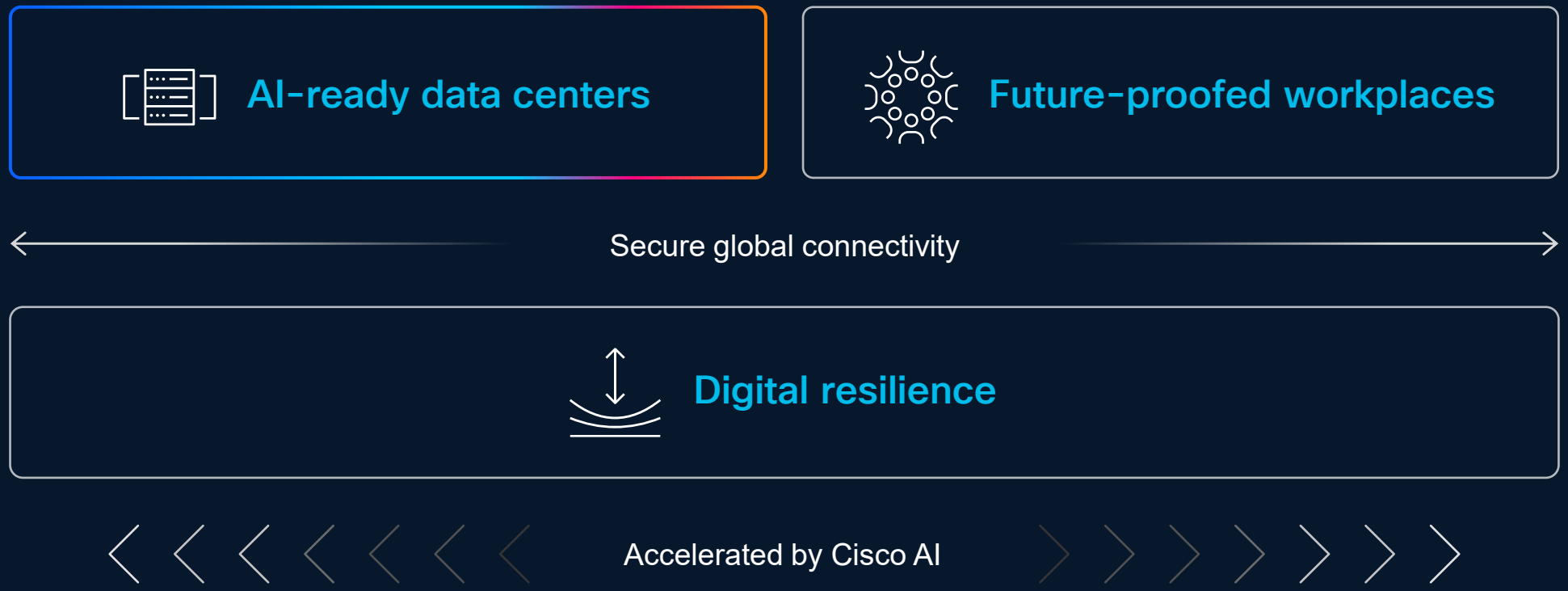


-Session Abstract-

Enterprise data centers must keep core applications running while preparing for AI and other next-generation workloads. Most organizations cannot start over, so **modernization** must happen in stages across existing infrastructure. This session lays out a practical path for **modernizing** without a disruptive rebuild. Attendees will learn how to modernize networking infrastructure (Nexus One, Silicon, Nexus platforms, and Optics), simplify management (Nexus Dashboard) from one foundation, all while building in security (Live Protect and Smart Switches).

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Cisco powers how people and technology work together across the physical and digital worlds



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The world is experiencing the **largest expansion of data centers** in history

Modernization requires two foundations

Modern Infrastructure

Upgrade the estate across compute, network, security, and workload platforms without forcing a rebuild.



Modern Operations

Manage change across every domain with shared visibility, automation, and policy.

Modernization Drivers

Business Drivers

- **Continuity** — Keep mission-critical apps running
- **Velocity** — Launch new services faster
- **AI Readiness** — Create runway for AI workloads

IT Drivers

- **Cost Pressure** — Extend investments; avoid rebuilds
- **Complexity** — Standardize VMs, containers, and ops
- **Risk Control** — Modernize without disruption

Simpler, smarter and agile with Cisco Compute

Three paths to modernize without starting over

Meet workloads where they are: stabilize today's VM estate, create platform choice, and build a runway to cloud-native and AI

Retain

Modernize in place

- Cisco UCS + Intersight

Rehost

Move without rewriting

- Nutanix and other converged infrastructure solutions

Re-platform

Build cloud-native

- Red Hat OpenShift on Cisco
- Nutanix NKP / NAI

Source: Cisco Platform Modernization Research | FY2026

Cisco Unified Computing System

Retain

Simpler, smarter, more agile



Cisco UCS Servers Managed by Cisco Intersight

Modular, sustainable, easily upgradeable solution

Fabric-based architecture with unified fabric connectivity

Cloud-based management to automate operations

Designed with sustainability and energy efficiency in mind

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Rehost

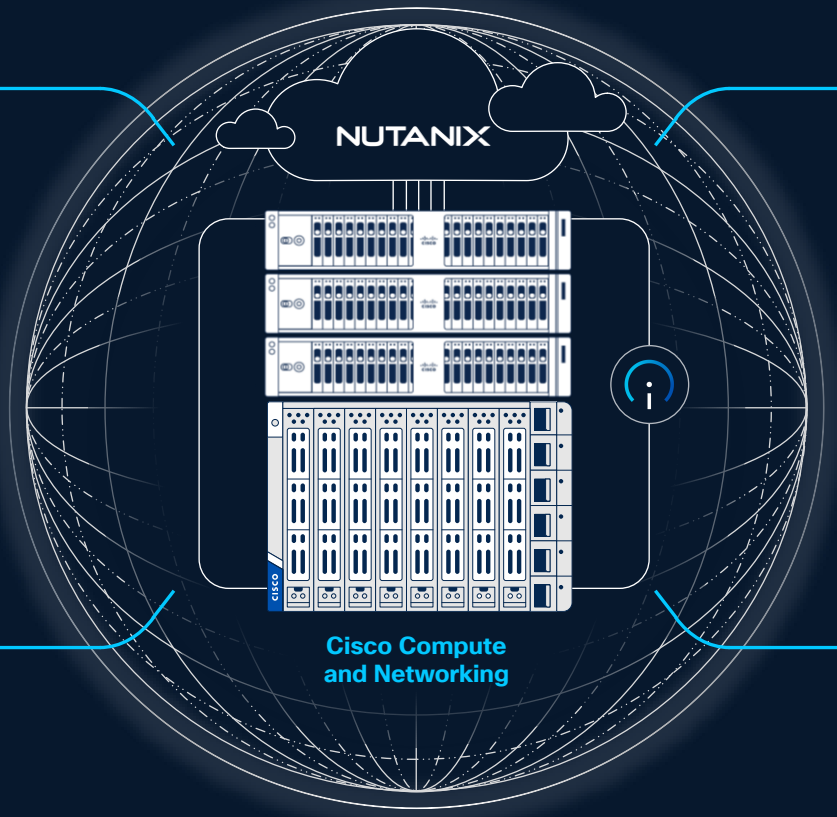
Rehost VM workloads on a validated Cisco + Nutanix platform

Platform Choice

Move beyond legacy virtualization while keeping a familiar VM operating model.

Validated Stack

Cisco compute and networking with Nutanix Cloud Platform, engineered to run together.



Simpler Path

Easier buying, deployment, and scaling across VM, edge, and AI-ready workloads.

Joint Accountability

Integrated support model across Cisco and Nutanix reduces handoff risk.

Rehost path takeaway: change the platform, not the application estate.

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Rehost

Cisco UCS Converged Infrastructure Portfolio

Offering choice and flexibility

20,000+
Customers

200+
Validated Architectures

12+
Years of Innovation



FlexPod

NetApp



FlashStack

PURESTORAGE®



Cisco and Hitachi adaptive solutions

HITACHI

Use cases

Virtual infrastructures

Hybrid cloud

Enterprise applications

AI/ML

Containers

SAP HANA

Desktop virtualization

Data protection

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Re-platform

Cisco Server Virtualization and Kubernetes with Red Hat

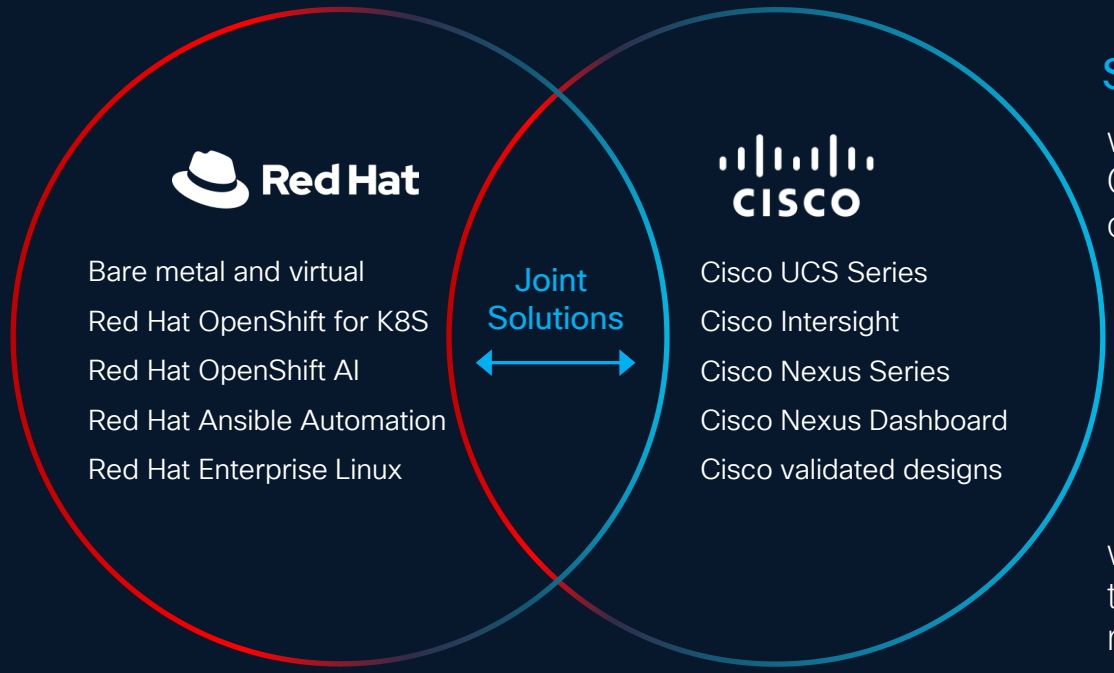
on-premise and public cloud

Open Cloud Infrastructure

platform built on open-source innovation

Accelerated Time to value

with turnkey experience and integrated automation



Simplified Operations and Support

with Cloud managed infrastructure and Cisco Solution Support across Red Hat on converged infrastructure stacks

Reduced Risk

with Cisco Validated Designs, delivering tested architectures for standardized, repeatable deployments.

Operate across hybrid multicloud	More choice and flexibility	20+ Cisco Validated Designs	Consistent app dev experience	Increased sustainability

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Connect and scale with Cisco Networking

Nexus One Architecture – Let's be Clear!

WHAT IT ISN'T

- ORDERABLE SKU
- NEW PRODUCT
- REPLACEMENT OF AN EXISTING ARCHITECTURE



WHAT IT IS

OPEN ARCHITECTURE

Open standards–for any use case.

ONE PLACE TO OPERATE

Deploy, monitor, secure and interconnect any fabric.

OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE

A consistent, unified operational experience leverage Agentic Operations

CUSTOMER CHOICE, BY DESIGN

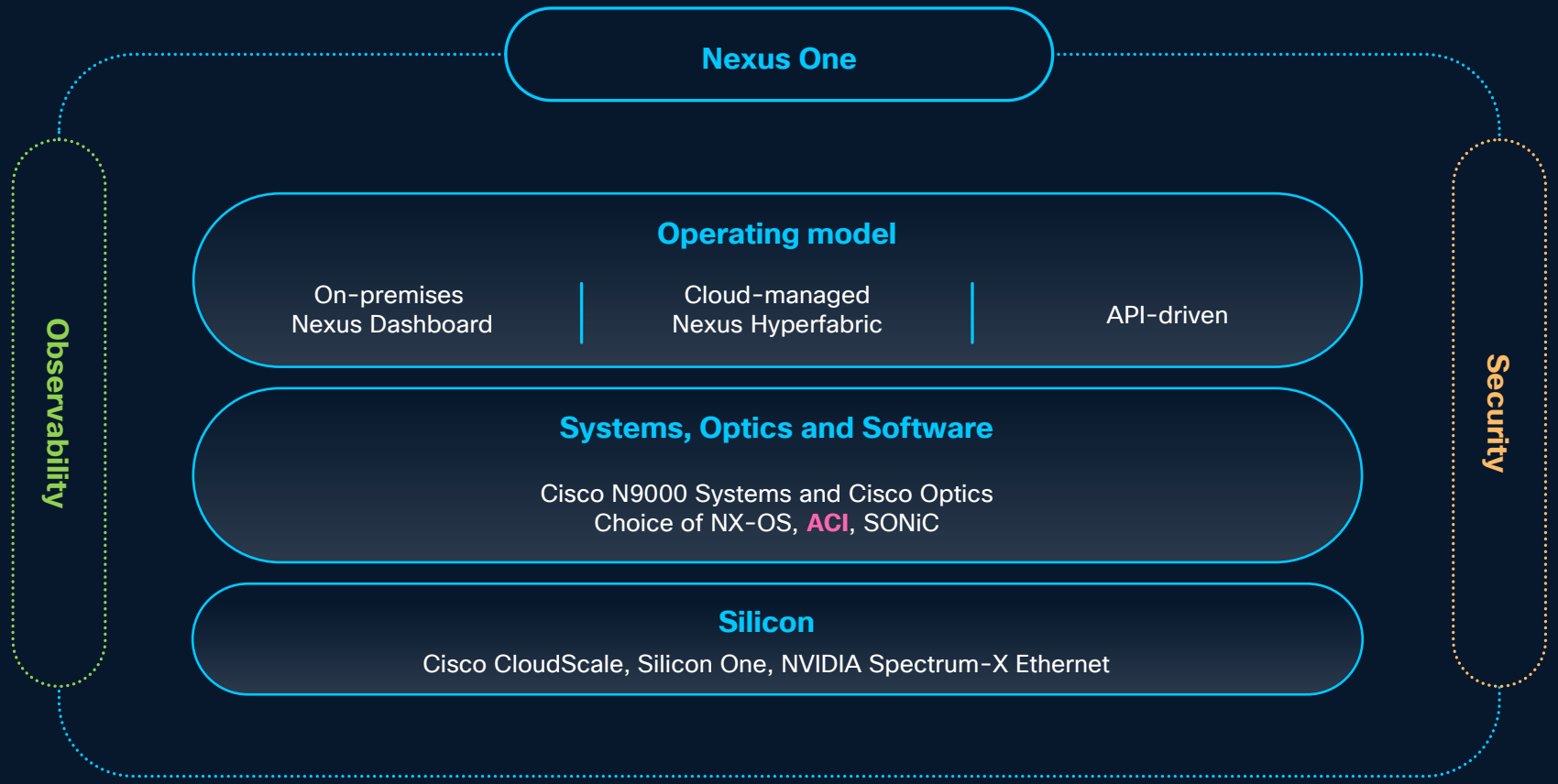
Standards-based Nexus "Open NEtworking."

One architecture. One experience. Customer choice.

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Cisco Nexus One delivers Intelligent AI Networking

Network Intelligence that propels AI to deliver secure, power-efficient, scale-out & scale-across fabrics with assured performance



Open Choice. No Compromises.

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Modernize Data Center Networks with Cisco Nexus One

Nexus Dashboard

On premises Managed

Nexus Hyperfabric

Cloud management

MODERNIZE DATA CENTER NETWORKS

Modular Switches



High capacity high-radix

New Silicon One Line cards

Fixed Switches



- Feature rich fixed spine and leaf options (1/10/25/100/400/800G/1.6T)

Silicon One E-Series | Cloud Scale FX3/H/CS100

Ultra Low Latency Switches



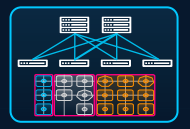
L100 (Nano-sec precision)

FUSE SECURITY IN NETWORKS



Silicon One E-100 ASICs | AMD DPUs

Smart Switches with Hypershield



Distributed Segmentation

OPTICS, SECURITY AND OBSERVABILITY

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Modernize Data Center Networks with Cisco Nexus One



Cisco Nexus Hyperfabric

Cisco cloud-managed, fully integrated

Easily design, order, deploy, monitor and upgrade fabrics

Purpose built vertical stack

Cisco 6000 series switches

2H'26 Cisco Nexus 9000 series switches



Cisco Nexus (Dashboard)

Private cloud managed, flexible solution

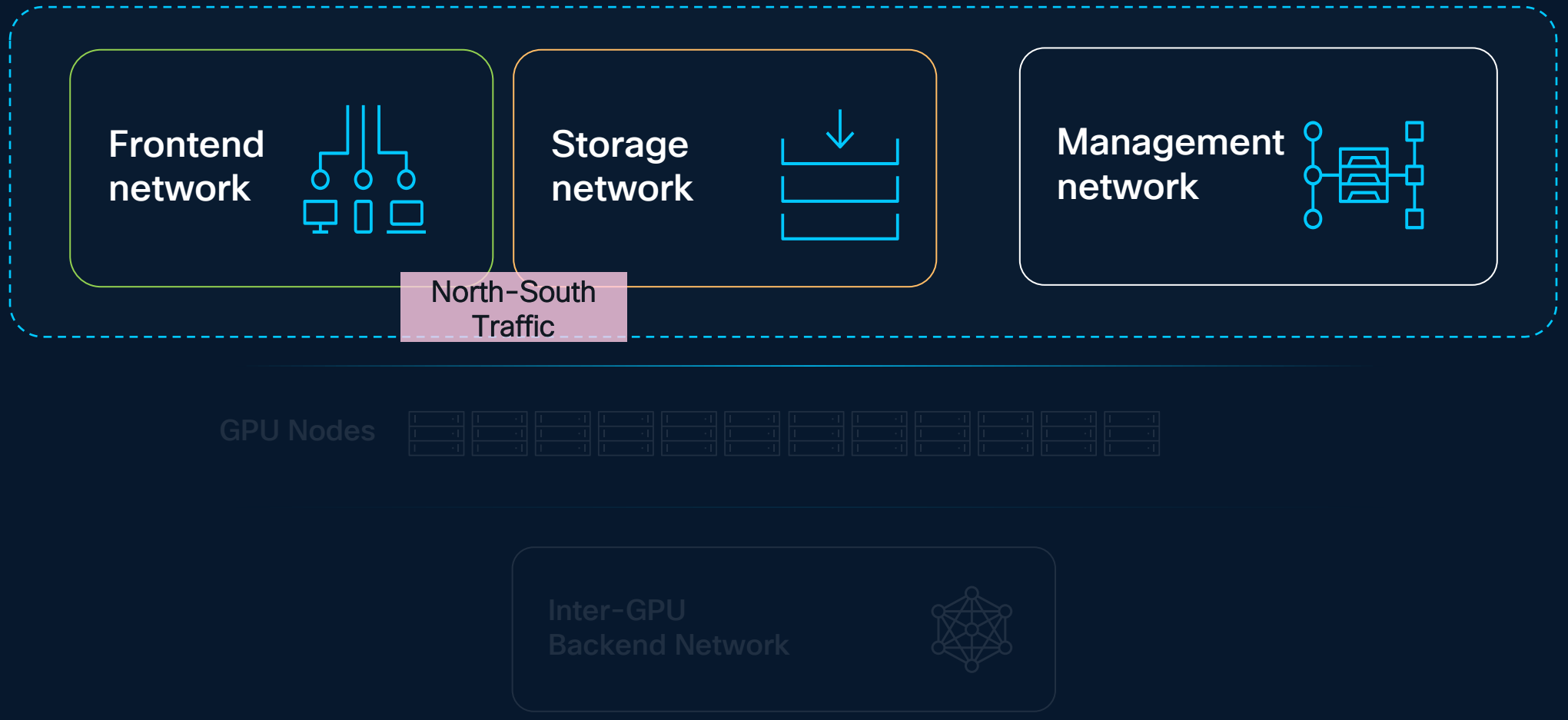
Versatile data center solution

Nexus Dashboard for simplified ops

Nexus 9000 series switches

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Cisco Nexus: Network Fabric for the AI Era



Customizable and turnkey ready solutions

High performance 400G / 800G N9000 platforms

Managed with Nexus Dashboard and Nexus Hyperfabric

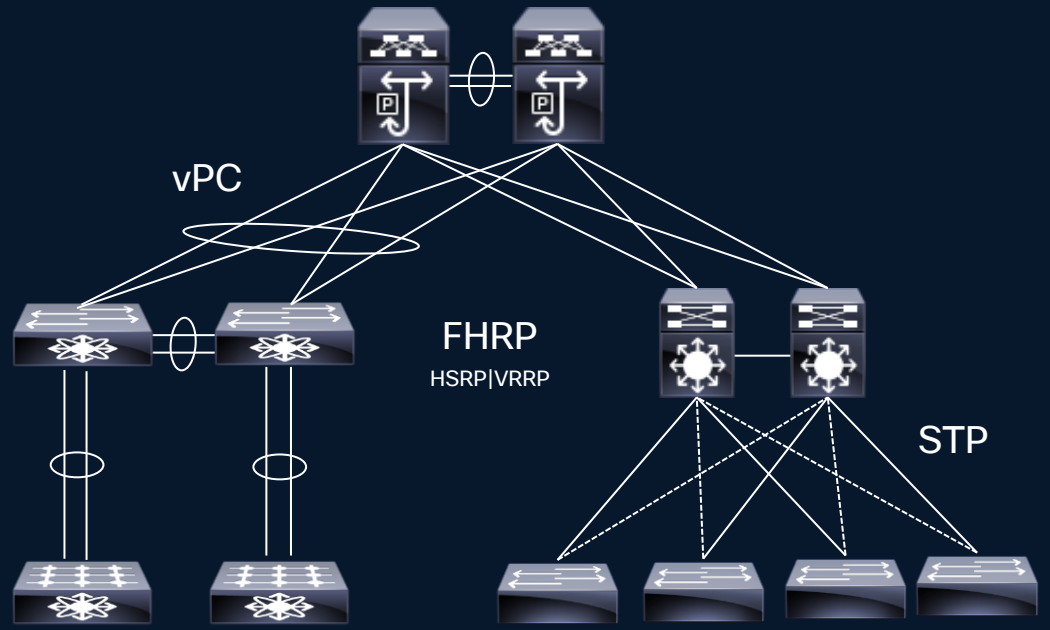
Deployed in Enterprise AI, Sovereign AI and Neo Clouds

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Network Topology Design

Three-Tier Hierarchical

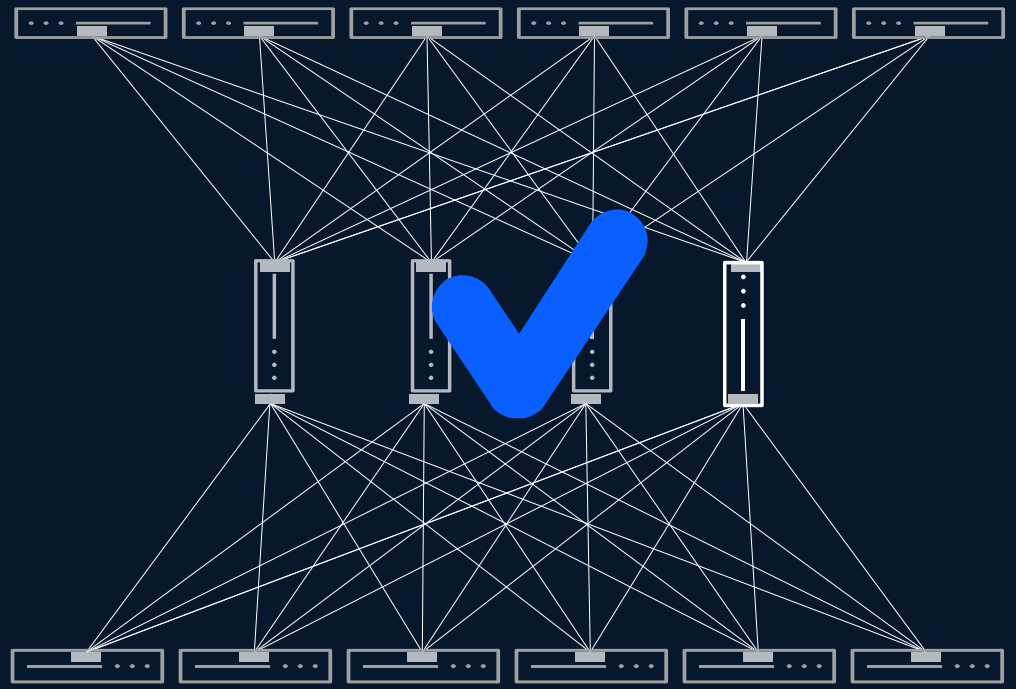
Inherent scale up topology building blocks
Requires multiple independent protocols configured in concert to be able to use all network links



"I always thought Ethernet forwarding with STP was a kludge, and the right solution was to do layer 3 forwarding..."
~Radia Perlman

Clos Fabric

Fully Interconnected 'fabric' with multiple design variations
Inherent modular scale out design (intra and inter-fabric)



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Oversubscription and Non-Blocking

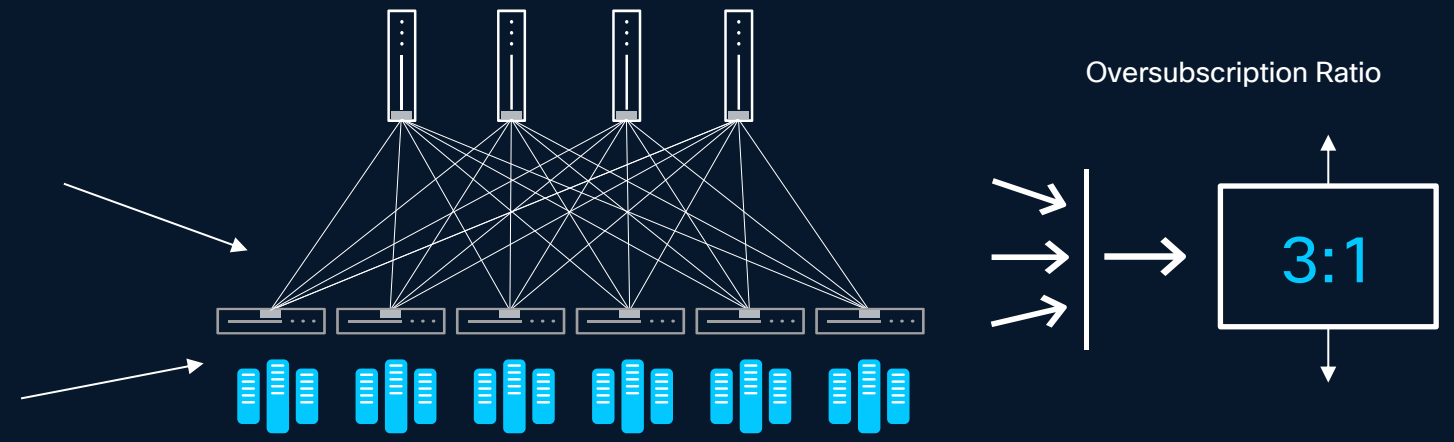
Oversubscription happens when an intermediate network device (switch) or link doesn't have enough capacity (bandwidth) to allow line rate communication between the two devices

Oversubscription Ratio

[Number of Downlink Ports * Speed] ÷ [Number of Uplink to Spine * Speed] : 1

Uplink Ports
4x100Gbps = 400 Gbps

Downlink Ports
48x25Gbps = 1.2Tbps



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-Modernize In Place-

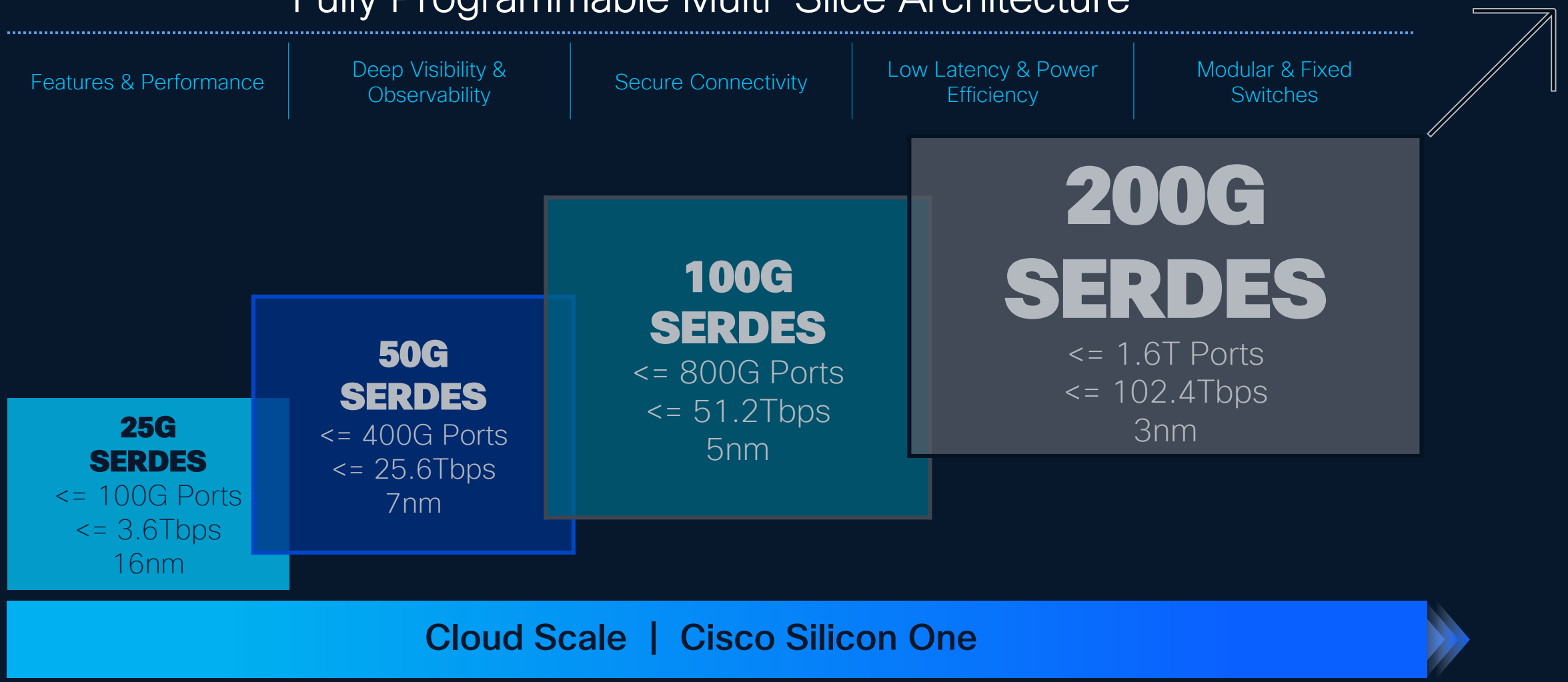
Cisco Silicon | Nexus 9K | Optics

Cisco ASIC Innovations – Nexus 9000 Series

Ultra Ethernet Consortium READY

Fully Programmable Multi-Slice Architecture

Features & Performance | Deep Visibility & Observability | Secure Connectivity | Low Latency & Power Efficiency | Modular & Fixed Switches



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Cisco Nexus 9000 ASICs



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Cisco Nexus 9000 Series Switches Evolution

Shipping | *New*

Nexus Fixed

- Cisco N9300
  48p 25G + 6p 100G
  36p & 64p 100G
- Cisco N9300
  48p 50G + 4p 400G
  32p & 64p 400G
- Cisco N9300 Smart Switch
  24p 100G &
  48p 25G + 2p 100G + 6p 400G
- Cisco N9300 SG2
  64p 800G (QDD & OSFP)
- Cisco N9100 Spectrum-4
  64p 800G (QDD & OSFP)
- Cisco N9300 SG2X
  64p 800G (QDD & OSFP/QSFP)
- Cisco N9300 SP2R
  64p 800G (QDD & OSFP)

Nexus Modular

- Cisco N9500
  Up to 576
  100G ports
- Cisco N9400
  64p 400G (or)
  128p 200G
- Cisco N9800
  Up to 288
  400G ports
- Cisco N9800 SP2R
  36x800G OSFP LC

Port Speed

100G → 400G → 800G

ASICs

<= 3.6T
25G Serdes → 4.8 – 25.6T
50G Serdes → >= 51.2T
100G Serdes

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Data Center Network Modernization – Nexus 9K Platform

Available on ALL Recommended N9K Models

Upgrade Complexity

- Enhanced ISSU
- Live Protect
- Fabric Availability Zones

Visibility

- ND Federation
- HW Telemetry
- Predictive Ops

Automation

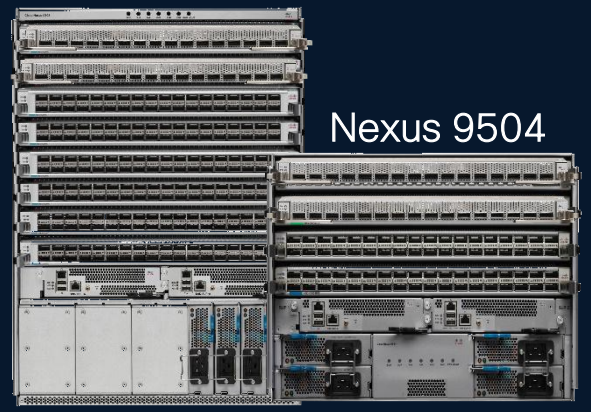
- Day 0 & 1 Device & Fabric Automation
- Change Window Prestaging
- Network as Code

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Modernized DCN Building Blocks - Spines

Modular Spines

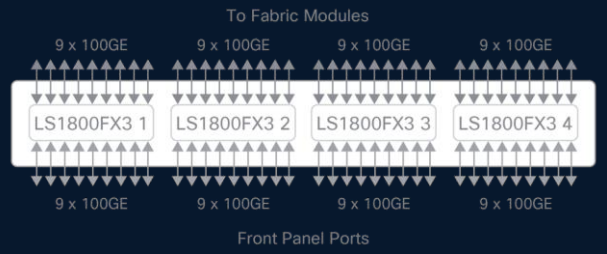
Nexus 9508



Nexus 9504

100G Line Cards - x9736C-FX

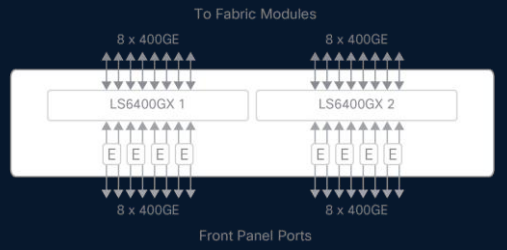




400G Line Cards - x9716D-GX



Breakout (ex. 4x 100G) Supported on All ports



Supervisors - SupB+



Fabric Modules - FM-G



Fixed 64 Port Spines

Nexus 9364C-H1



64p 40/100G

Nexus 9364D-GX2A



Breakout (ex. 4x 100G) Supported on All ports

64p 40/100/400G

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Nexus 9500 Dual Input 3150W HV AC/DC PSU

Nexus 9508

PSU Capacity = 3150W

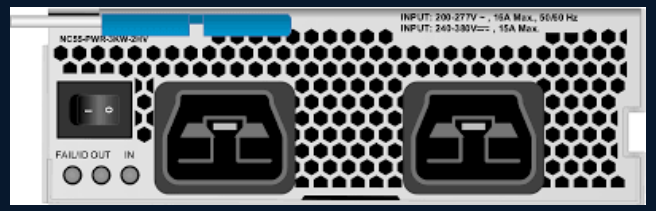
Max PSUs per Chassis = 8

Total Max Available Watt = 25,200

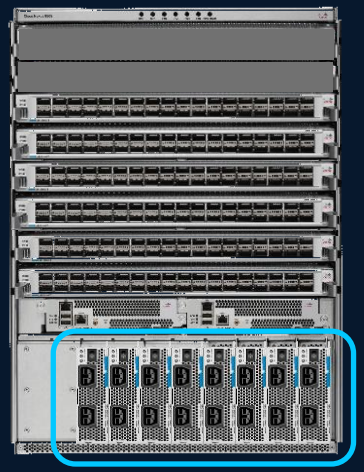
Inputs per PSU = 2 (Grid Redundancy Input)

Cisco Nexus 9500 3150W HV AC/DC Power Supply

3150W | 200V to 277V | 2 inputs *(3150 each)* | Frequency 47Hz to 63Hz

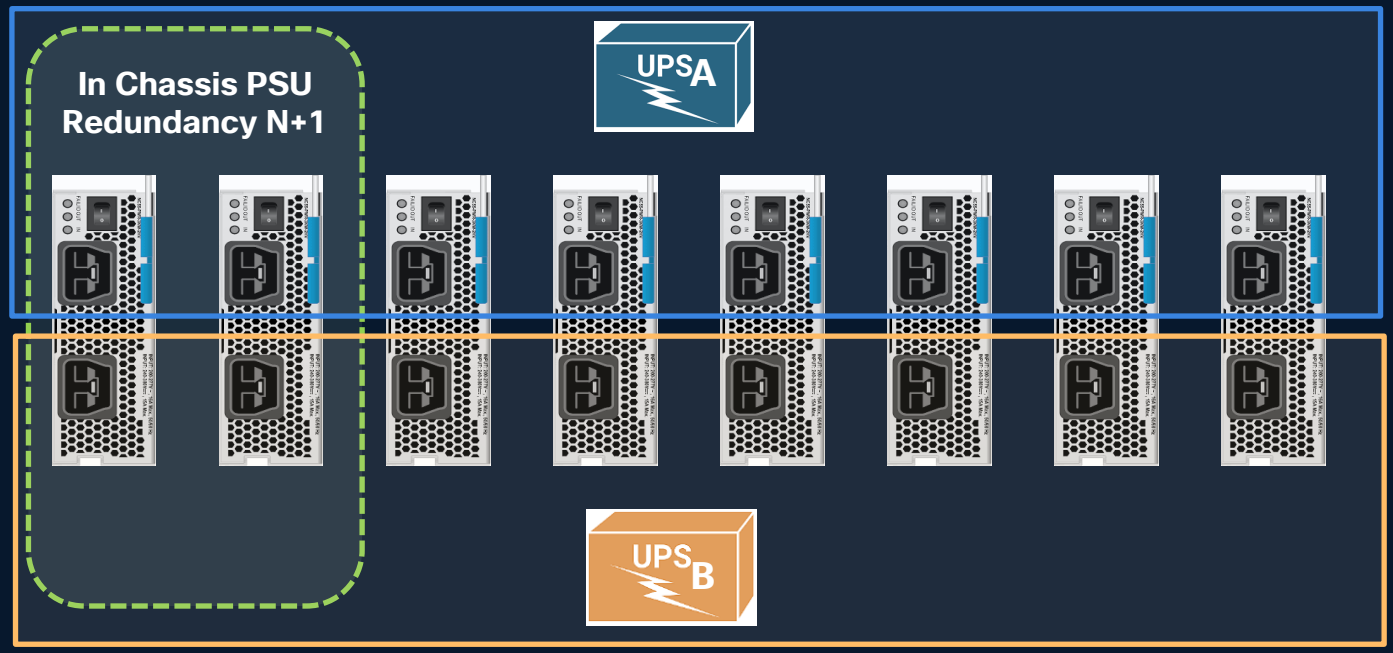






Link -> 9508 PSU Specs

Infrastructure Grid Redundancy [A || B] Per PSU



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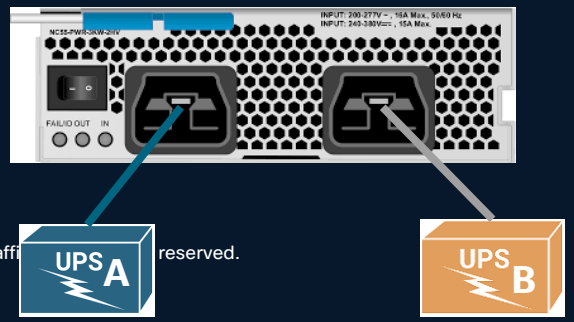
Power Redundancy, Resiliency and Requirements

Power Mode Combined (with Dual Input PSUs)

- Allows for maximum power availability
- **Redundancy handled by A and B DC Infra UPS**
- **Dual input PSUs continue to operate at full capacity in the event of a UPS infra (A or B) failure**
- Combined power mode does not reserve PSU power and as such we do not require as many PSUs

Power Mode N+1 (with Dual Input PSUs)

- Additional power capacity protection when coupled with external grid redundancy
- **Per PSU redundancy handled by A and B DC Infra UPS**
- **Dual input PSUs continue to operate at full capacity in the event of a UPS infra (A or B) failure**
- N+1 power mode does reserve PSU power, however current and future power requirements will not exceed total of 18KW (6 PSUs) leaving +2 for standby



Power Consumption Terms from Worksheet

Typical Power

Cisco data driven power usage measured with a combination of low powered optics + passive cables, 50% traffic, and at 27C ambient

Max Power

Upper limit / Maximum power a given component is able to draw

Custom percentage of Max

Variable power consumption numbers based of a percentage of the max power number – ex. 85% would provide the power usage for a given component at 85% of it's maximum (higher than 'typical' and lower than max)

9504-9508 Power Calc Worksheet

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Modernized DCN Building Blocks - Spines

Modular Spines

Nexus 9508

Nexus 9504

100G Line Cards - x9736C-FX

400G Line Cards - x9716D-GX

Breakout (ex. 4x 100G) Supported on All ports

Fabric Modules - FM-G

Fixed 64 Port Spines

Nexus 9364C-H1



64p 40/100G

Nexus 9364D-GX2A



Breakout (ex. 4x 100G) Supported on All ports

64p 40/100/400G

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Cisco High-Density Fiber Patch Panel

-> Data Sheet

Structured cabling and breakout cassettes

Key features:
Back of the Panel

2RU Panel has 36 Rear MPO12 Ports which enables
1:1 mapping to Cisco's 36 port line cards

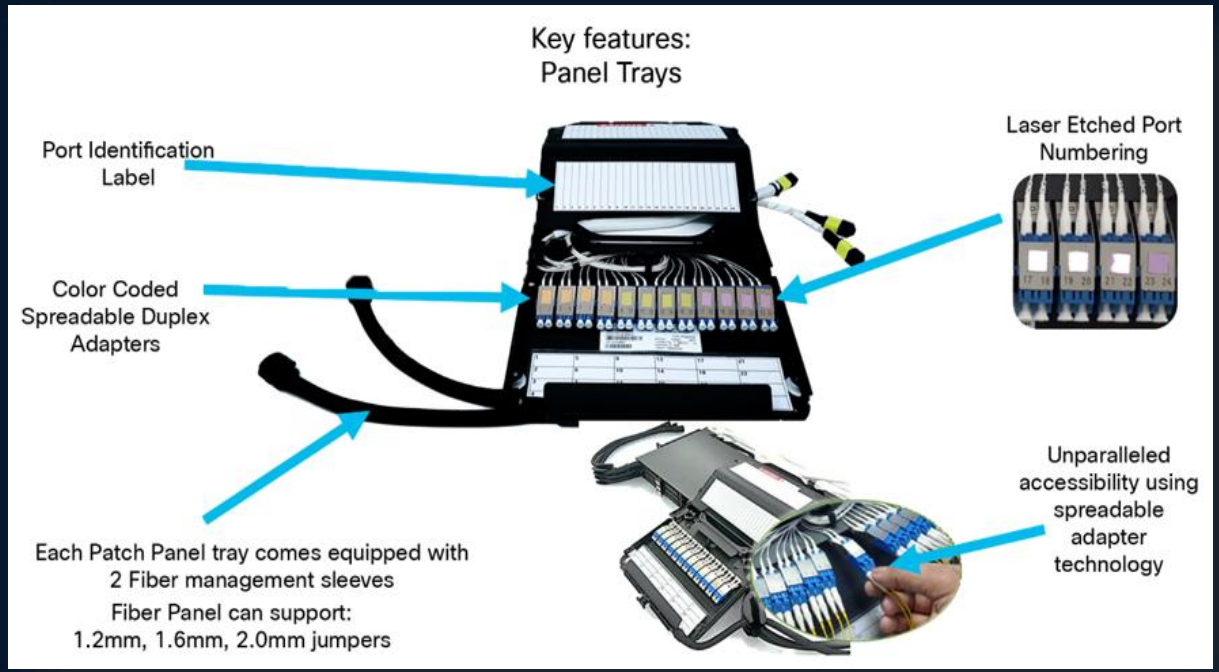


Color Coded
Fiber Mapping Diagram: MPO to LC

3 X 8F MPO per Cassette - Angled ports
to reduce bend stress

Rear Access
Door latch

Key features:
Panel Trays



1RU == 72 LC Ports (18 MPO)

2RU == 144 LC Ports (36 MPO)

3RU == 216 LC Ports (54 MPO)



64p 400G + Dedicated 2RU Patch Panel

144p 100G LC MMF + 28 400G MPO-12 MMF

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Modernized DCN Building Blocks – 1RU Leafs

Link to 2RU Cloudscale (FX2) Leafs

Link to 2RU Silicon One (S1 E100) Leafs

Server Access and Border Leaf

Nexus 93180YC-FX3

48p 10/25G SFP + 6p 40/100G QSFP28



48 10/25G and 6 40/100G Ports

Server Access Leaf

Nexus 93108TC-FX3

48p 1/10G Base-T + 6p 40/100G QSFP28



48 1/10G Base-T and 6 40/100G Ports

Network ready for 50G Access ToR

400G Server Access Leaf

Nexus 93400LD-H1

48p 10/25/50G SFP + 4p 40/100/400G QSFP-DD



48 10/25/50G and 4 40/100/400G Ports

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Modernized DCN Building Blocks – High-Performance Leafs

1RU High-Capacity Access Leaf

Nexus 93600CD-GX

28p 40/100G QSFP | 8p 100/400G QSFP-DD



2RU High-Capacity Access Leaf

Nexus 9364C-H1

64p 40/100G QSFP



Nexus 9364D-GX2A

64p 40/100/400G QSFP-DD



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Modernized DCN Building Blocks – Edge Connectivity

QSFP Heavy Edge

Nexus 93600CD-GX

28p 40/100G QSFP | 8p 100/400G QSFP-DD



28 40/100G and 8 100/400G Ports

SFP Heavy Edge

Nexus 93400LD-H1

48p 10/25/50G SFP + 4p 40/100/400G QSFP-DD



48 10/25/50G and 4 40/100/400G Ports

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Modernized DCN Building Blocks – Out of Band Network

General Sizing Rule

Quantity of OOB Access Switches -> ~~Total Platforms / 2

OOB Aggregation

Nexus 93180YC-FX3

48p 10/25G SFP + 6p 40/100G QSFP28



48 10/25G and 6 40/100G Ports

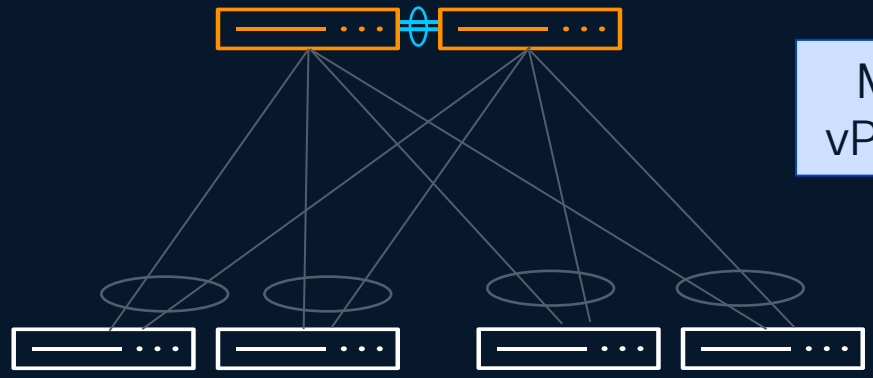
OOB Access (L2)

Nexus 92348GC-X

48p 1G Base-T + 4p 10/25G + 2p 40/100G QSFP28



48 1G Base-T, 4 10/25G and 2 40/100G Ports



-Optional-

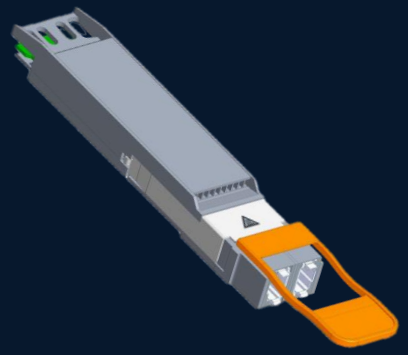
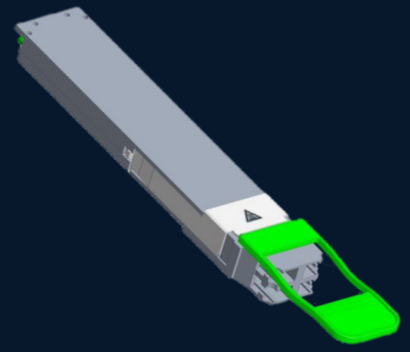
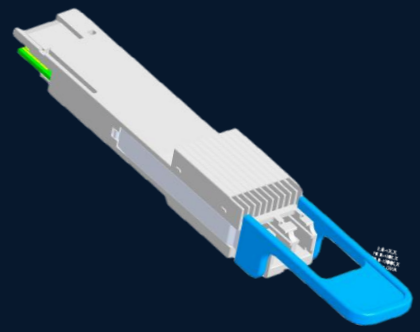
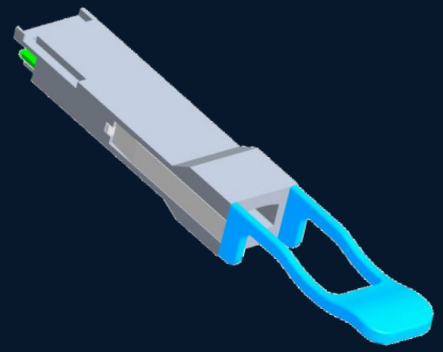
BGW

Multi-Site OOB with vPC BGW Aggregation

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Pluggable Optical Modules Options

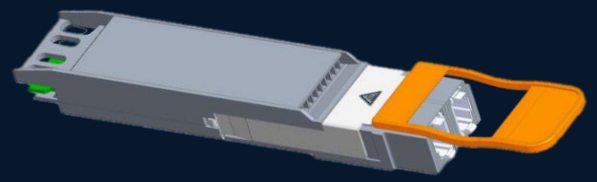
	OSFP	OSFP-RHS	QSFP-DD	QSFP
Host high-speed pins	8	8	8	4
Module capacity (Gbit)	400, 800, 1600	400, 800, 1600	400, 800	40, 100, 200, 400
Cooling	Integrated heatsink	Riding heatsink	Riding heatsink	Riding heatsink
High-speed IO Compatibility (Gbps)	50-100-200	50-100-200	50-100-200	1—25-50-100
Port compatibility	OSFP	OSFP-RHS	QSFP-DD & QSFP	
Management	CMIS			

System and ASIC design dictate which modules are supported and speed backwards compatibility

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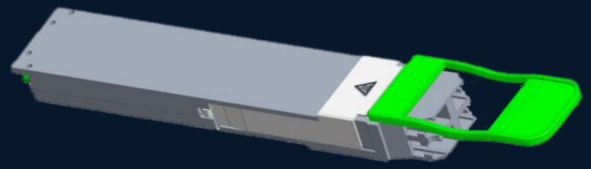
Pluggable Form Factors – a Wealth of Options

OSFP



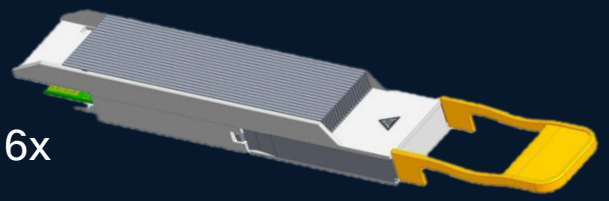
400G/800G/1.6T

OSFP-RHS



400G/800G/1.6T

OSFP-XD



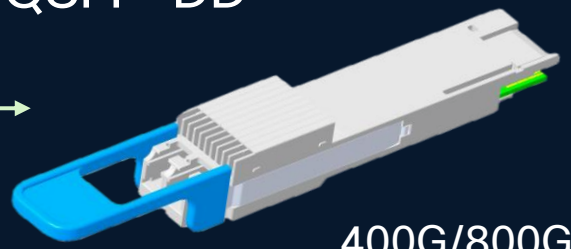
16x

1.6T

Switches

Compute NICs

QSFP-DD



400G/800G

QSFP



100G/200G/400G
QSFP28, QSFP56, QSFP112

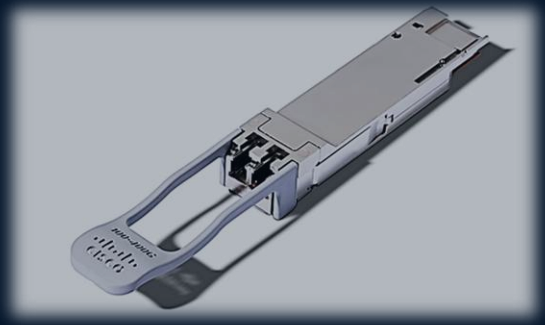
Port Compatibility

Everything within a square is compatible with each other

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QSFP-DD – 400G BiDi Pluggable Optic

400G BiDi Pluggable Optic



400G BiDi is the Third Generation of BiDi Optics

A breakthrough optical technology enabling 400 Gigabit link data rates over duplex multimode fiber (MMF).

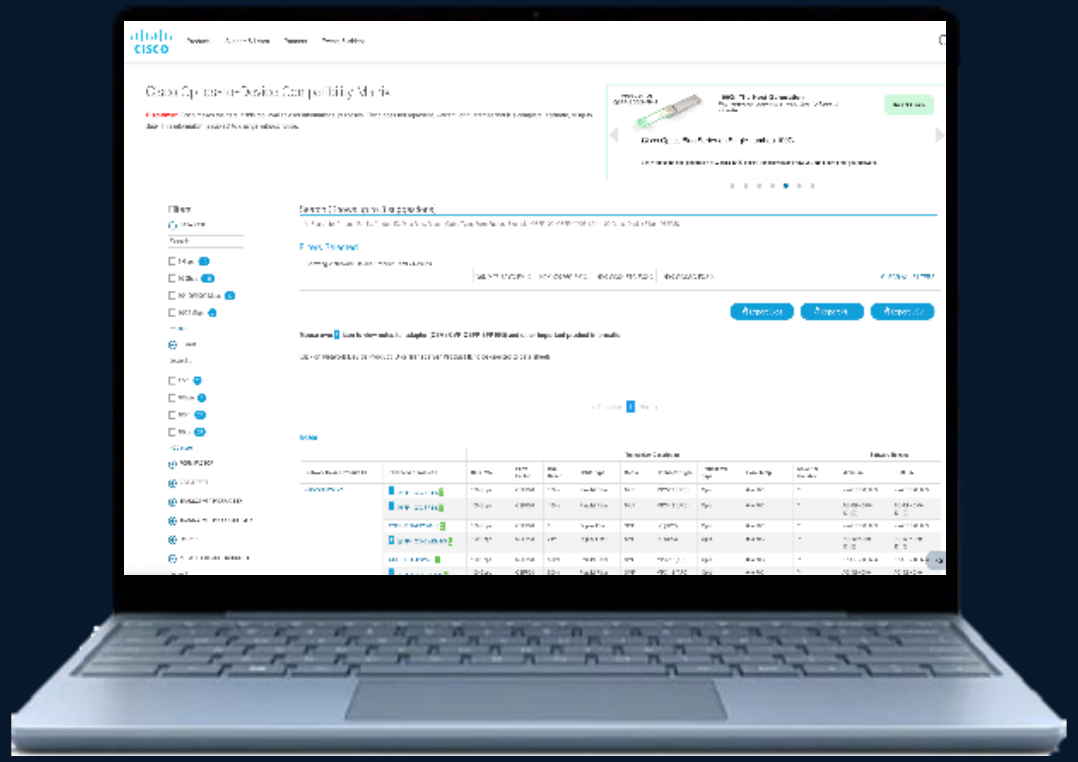
It's the next generation of the popular 40G and 100G BiDi optics deployed widely in data centers.

First 400G BiDi in the market (no other vendor offers 400G Duplex MMF solution)

BiDi value to customers: "Fiber re-use" from 10G to 40G to 100G to 400G

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TMG Matrix – Authoritative Optics Compatibility



https://tmgmatrix.cisco.com/

- Comprehensive list of Cisco hardware
- Cisco validated compatibility
  - Optics <-> Platform <-> SW release
- Responsive support team
- Continuously maintained to ensure up to date information
- Search by HW platform and/or Optic name
  - Cisco tested and validated Optic compatibility
  - Optics specs & platform software release mapping
  - 1-click to datasheet

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-Looking Forward-

800G | 1.6T

Cisco Nexus 64-port 800G Portfolio

Built for Ethernet-Based AI Clusters That Scale

Silicon Diversity | **NX-OS or SONiC** | **Common Operating Model**



Shipping

Cisco Silicon One G200 (N9364E-SG2)

64 800G ports | 256MB packet buffer

Cisco Cloud Reference Architecture (CRA)

NVIDIA Spectrum-X Technology Enabled

AI Frontend and Backend



Shipping

Cisco NVIDIA Spectrum 4 (N9164E-NS4)

64 800G ports | 160MB packet buffer

NVIDIA Cloud Partner (NCP) Reference Architecture

NVIDIA Spectrum-X Technology Built-In

AI Backend

Cisco N9K 102.4T Liquid Cooled System

Unleashing 102.4T to Accelerate AI at Massive Scale

Powered by Cisco Silicon One G300

Future

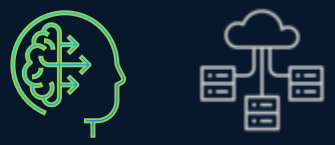


64p 1.6T OSFP ports

N9364F-SG3-L	**Delivering lossless, low-latency switching for AI fabrics** Scale-Out networking for next-generation AI/ML 100% liquid cooled switch High performance in a compact 2OU switch Supports ORv3 rack Choice of network operating systems (NX-OS and SONiC) Liquid cooling delivers lower power, higher efficiency for AI networks

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Modernize Data Center Networks with Cisco Nexus One



Cisco Nexus Hyperfabric

Cisco cloud-managed, fully integrated

Easily design, order, deploy, monitor and upgrade fabrics

Purpose built vertical stack

Cisco 6000 series switches

2H'26 Cisco Nexus 9000 series switches



Cisco Nexus (Dashboard)

Private cloud managed, flexible solution

Versatile data center solution

Nexus Dashboard for simplified ops

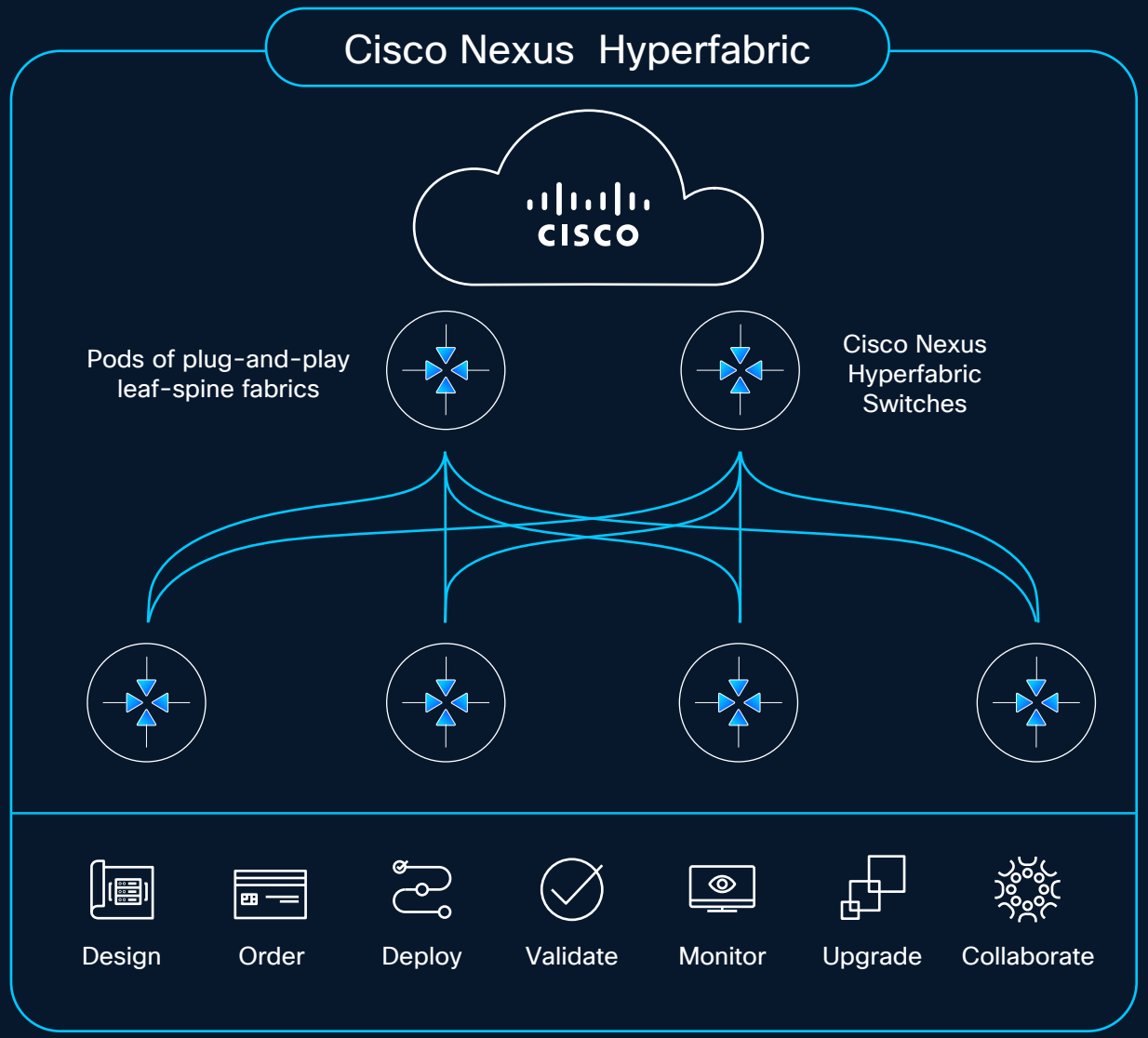
Nexus 9000 series switches

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Available Now

Cisco Nexus Hyperfabric

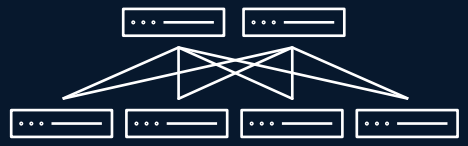
- Design, deploy, and operate on-premises fabrics located anywhere
- Streamlined operations for IT generalists, application, and DevOps teams
- Outcome driven using purpose-built vertical stack



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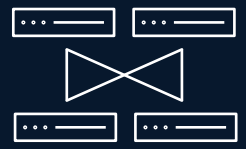
Use cases

Single global GUI/API endpoint for all owned fabrics



Data center modernization

- Simplified operations, less complexity
- Scalability and flexibility
- Cost efficient, rapid time to value



Edge data centers

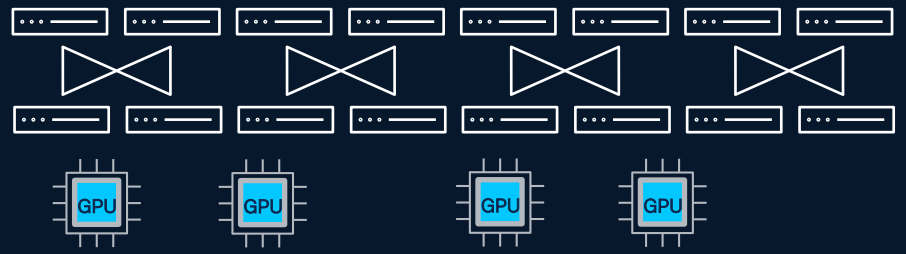
- Zero-touch provisioning
- Scales from small mesh to large spine/leaf
- Built-in security and high availability
- Traditional services and BYO AI inference

Nexus Hyperfabric





New



Nexus Hyperfabric for AI/ML/HPC clusters

- Full stack AI Infrastructure: NVIDIA GPUs, Cisco UCS® and switches, optional VAST storage
- Compliant with NVIDIA Enterprise Reference Architecture
- High bandwidth, low latency
- Low operational overhead



Manage multiple customer data centers

- Rapid and predictable service delivery
- Flexibility to scale up or down easily
- Operational support system–friendly integration

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Nexus Hyperfabric Customer Value

Hyperfabric Network



Full lifecycle management: design, order, deploy, operate, scale

Cloud-controlled, with fabrics anywhere

Scales down to one switch

Designed for automation

Hyperfabric + BYO AI



Hyperfabric supporting AI Applications

Inference use cases

Bring any GPUs, servers, and storage

Hyperfabric full stack AI infrastructure



NVIDIA compliant

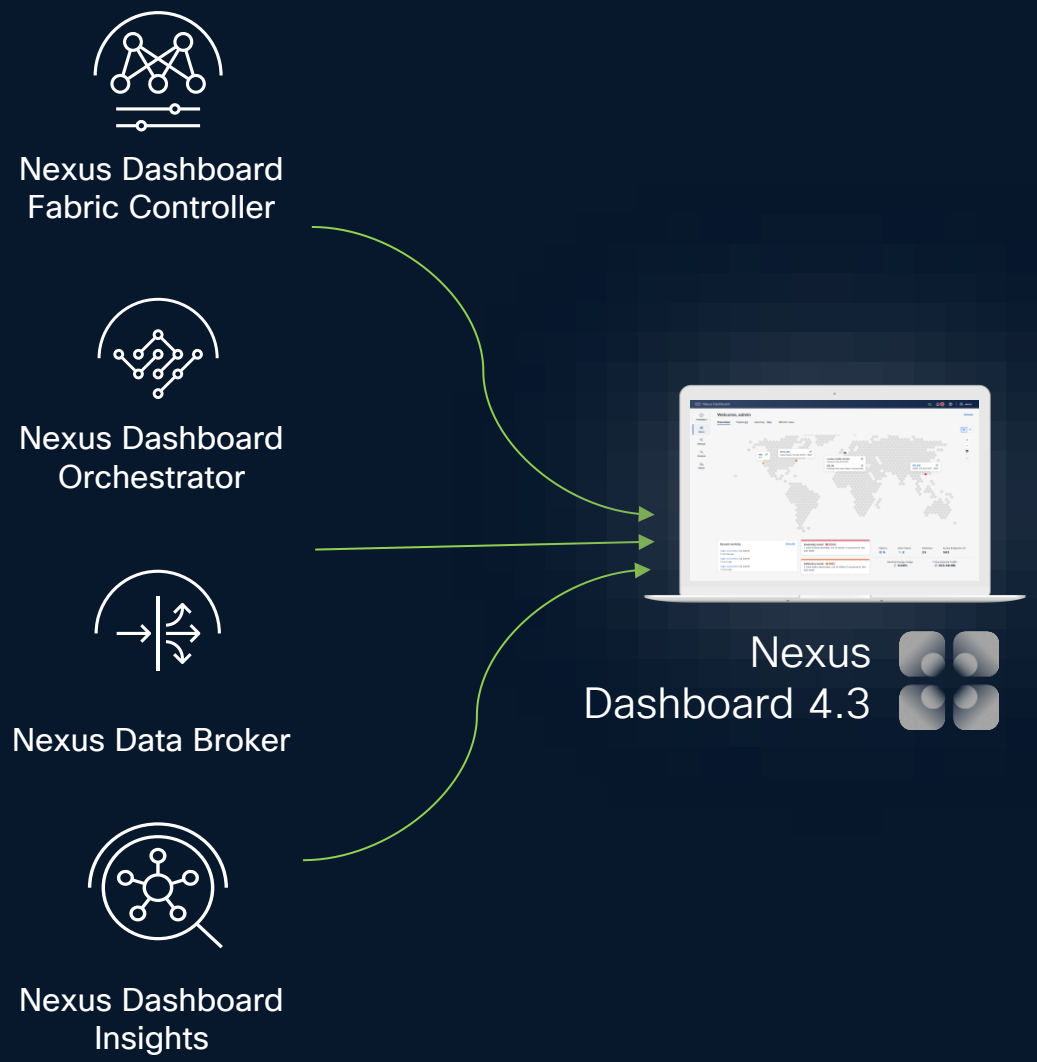
Prescriptive and simplified design to deploy process

Monitoring from switch to server NICs

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Simplify Management with Nexus Dashboard

Simplification Via Unification



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Unified Domains, Architectures and User Experiences



Provision

Once, deploy anywhere



Secure

One source of truth



Manage

One logical network



Analyze

Identify, troubleshoot, and fix faster

Nexus Dashboard Physical or Virtual Cluster

MDS



SAN

Nexus



Classic Ethernet

VXLAN

ACI

IP Media Fabrics

AI Fabrics

Hypershield

Extensible to other networks





Campus

WAN/Transport

Catalyst 8000

CSR 1000v

Virtual, Kubernetes & 3rd party Networks

Consistent and open operating experience across architectures

©

AI-assisted operations for modern data center networks

Find root cause faster

"Why is my app slow?"

Correlate app, fabric, and server signals.

Nexus One + Intersight

Keep the fabric healthy

“Is my fabric at risk?”

Detect drift, capacity, and connectivity issues before impact.

Nexus One

Protect AI job performance

"Is the network holding back my AI workloads?"

Connect network behavior to AI job completion time.

Nexus One

SKILLS POWERED BY DEEP NETWORK MODEL

Nexus One: Fabric Discovery & Topology · Health & Connectivity · Anomalies & advisories · AI Workload Observability · Network Analytics

Intersight: Compute, networking & storage Inventory · **Change Correlation** (audit-record)

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MCP Server Integration in Nexus Dashboard

Enables seamless integration with customer-managed AI/LLM environments – bringing internal models into operational workflows.

Internal AI Models

Leverage org-owned LLMs without external dependencies

Operational Control

Maintain data sovereignty with customer-managed infrastructure

Insights

Surface AI-driven analytics within Nexus natively

Automation

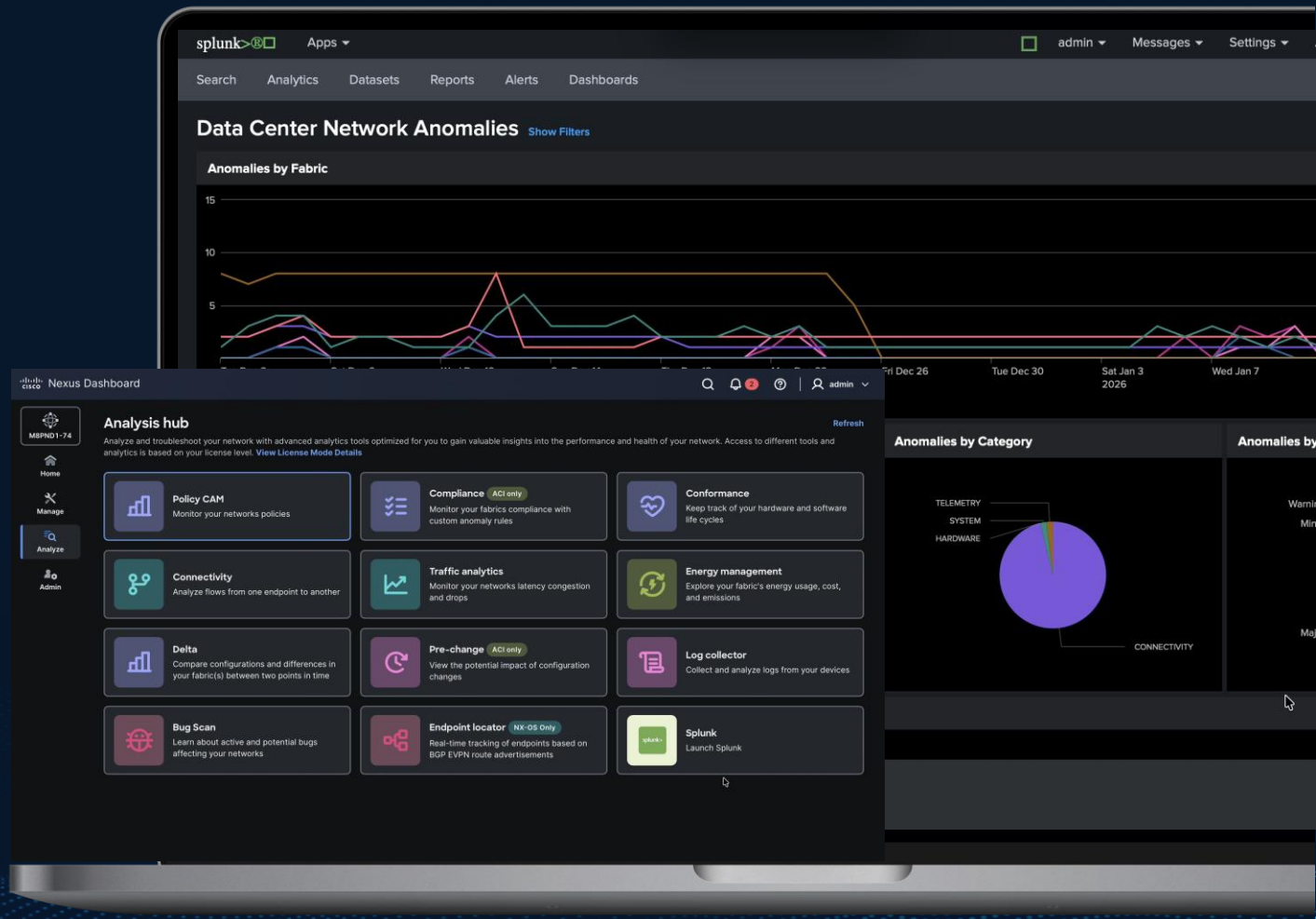
Trigger alerts, tickets, reports based on data from the dashboard

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Unlock Network Intelligence Without Moving Data

Native Splunk in Nexus One



DISTRIBUTED ANALYTICS

FEDERATED SEARCH

FLEXIBLE DATA INGESTION

Faster Troubleshooting

Data Sovereignty

Reduced Cost

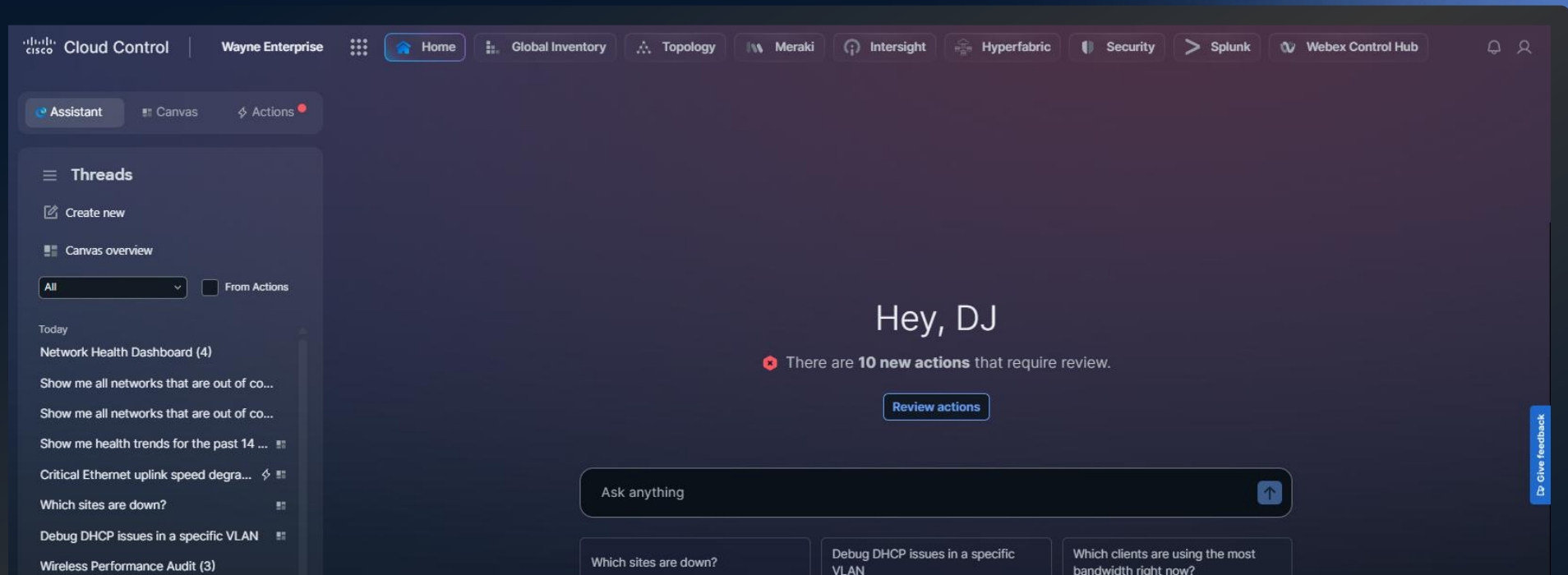
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Start your journey with Cisco Cloud Control

Cisco Cloud Control

One platform. Every domain. The foundation everything else is built on.

Meraki · ThousandEyes · Security Cloud Control · Splunk · Nexus Dashboard · Catalyst SD-WAN · Intersight · Webex · IQ · & more



End-to-end management platform: Cisco Intersight

One platform:

Unified, intelligent management of all Cisco UCS® compute infrastructure.

All locations:

Across data centers, co-location facilities, and edge locations.

Simplifies operations:

Cloud-native platform consolidates tools, automates tasks, delivers proactive insights.

Business outcomes:

Accelerate traditional deployments and new AI initiatives, strengthen security, free up IT resources.

From reactive to proactive with Cisco Intersight®



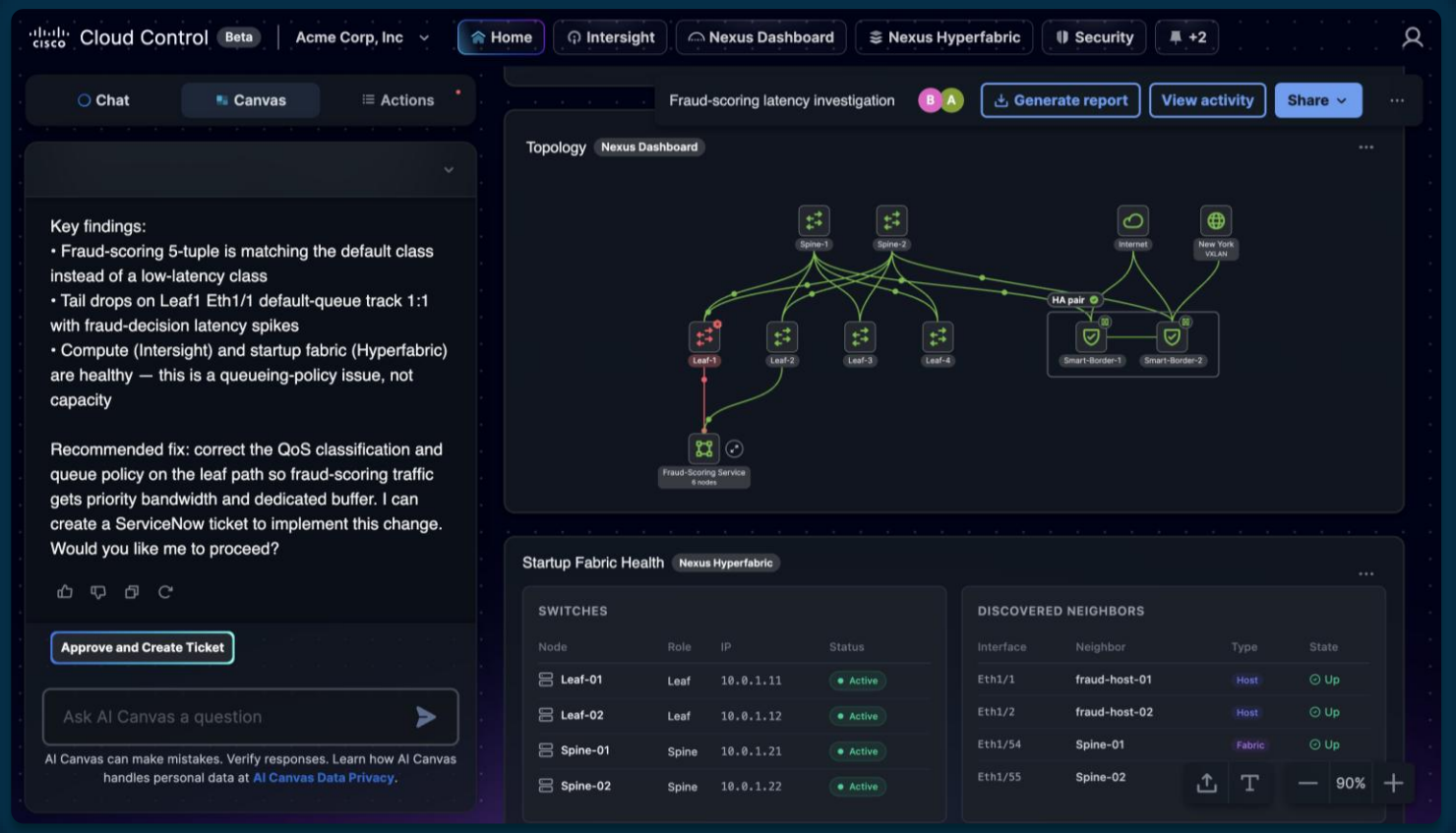
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Cisco Cloud Control

NEW Q2 CY26
Limited Availability

Support for Data Center domains

Leverage cross-domain visibility and telemetry for autonomy — from troubleshooting to continuous management.



Skills powering deep reasoning agents

Nexus One

- Fabric Discovery & Topology
- Health & Connectivity
- Anomalies & advisories
- AI Workload Observability
- Network Analytics

Intersight

- Compute, networking & storage Inventory
- Health and connectivity context
- Change Correlation (audit-record)

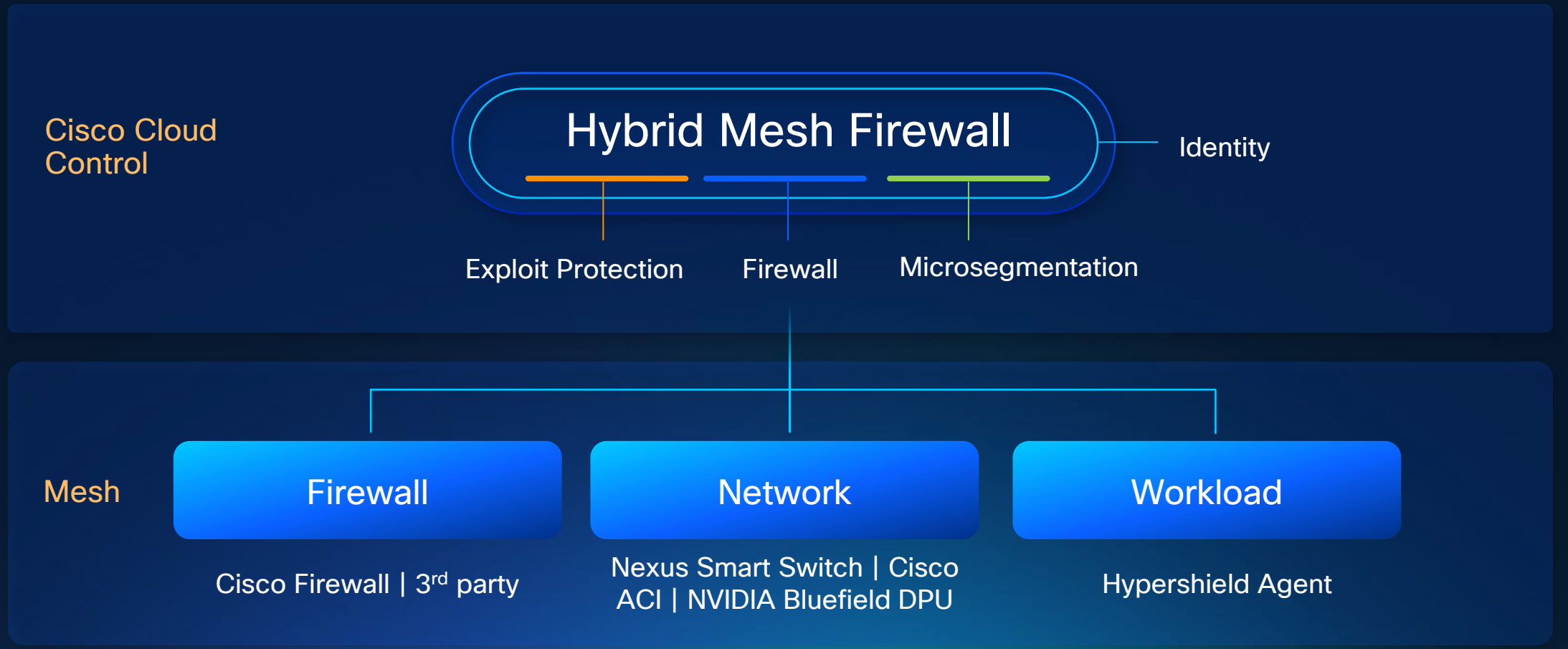
Security Cloud Control

- VPN tunnel health
- Traffic flow & routing context
- Guided remediation

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Secure every layer of the modern data center

Protecting your apps and infrastructure, including AI



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Live Protect

Vulnerability shielding for Cisco products

Stop the attack... but don't stop the network.



Apply policy to live system

Protect now;
patch in planned window

No downtime or switch reboot

Continuous re-validation

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Resources

Cisco Data Center Networking

Cisco Compute

Cisco Security

Cisco Compute with Nutanix

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Thank you


CISCO