

Software Lifecycle Support Statement - IOS XE

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What you will learn

This software lifecycle support statement describes the support timeline and End-of-Life (EoL) guidelines for Cisco IOS XE Software. The statement is also applicable for Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN releases which also follow the same timeline as IOS XE release.

Note: IOS-XE based SDWAN release started from 16.9 release timeline.

Cisco IOS XE/IOS XE Catalyst SD-WAN Software release model

The Cisco IOS XE software releases are time-based, each with a fixed release date. Starting with 26.1.1, the schedule specifies 2 individual software releases per year at approximately 6-month intervals.

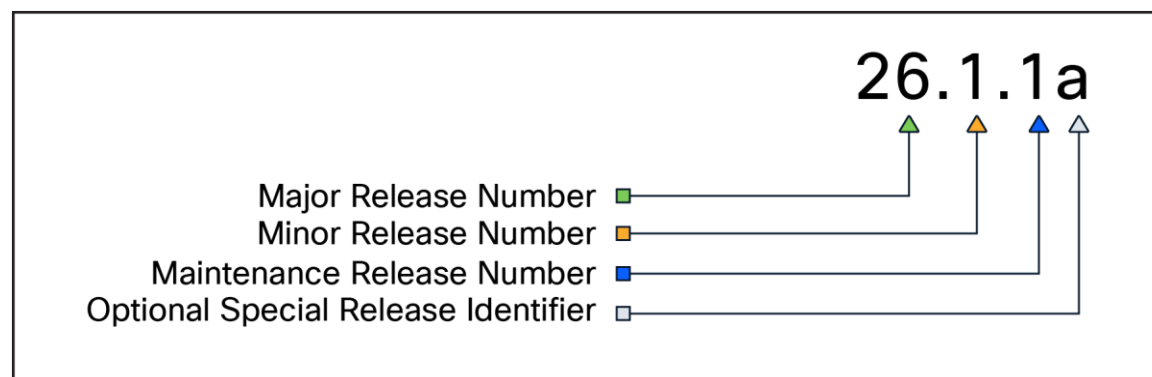


Figure 1.
Cisco IOS XE Software Release Versioning

Types of software releases

The Cisco IOS XE Release examples in this document follow the Release Naming Convention (Figure 1)

Cisco IOS-XE Software Release Type	Description
Major Release / Year Indicator	Indicates the Calendar year of release – for example, 26 for Calendar Year 2026
Minor Release	Increases by an increment of 1 for each release that introduces significant changes to the software, support for new hardware platforms, enhancements and bug fixes for existing features and functions. For example, the Feb 2026 release is Release 26.1.1, the Aug 2026 release is Release 26.2.1, and the Feb 2027 release is Release 27.1.1
Maintenance Release Number	Increases by an increment of 1 for each release that integrates fixes for critical issues that exist in an individual release and should be addressed on a scheduled rebuild. The numbering starts with 1. For example, Release 26.1.1 is the first release from the 26.1.1 release train, and the first rebuild of Release 26.1.1 is Release 26.1.2
Optional Special Release Identifier	This is an optional identifier and, if present, indicates that this is a special release that provides support for a specific hardware platform or integrates fixes for a select set of critical defects. This is identified by lowercase, English alphabetical letter(s) for each special release. A special release typically provides support for a hardware platform that was not available when the applicable release version was released, or it integrates fixes for critical defects or security vulnerabilities that should be addressed on an accelerated schedule.

Cisco IOS XE Software Support

Starting with 26.1.1, all software releases will be Extended Support release, with sustaining support lifetime of 48 months from GA (General Availability), unless otherwise noted.

- **Extended-Support release Details**

- A sustaining support lifetime of 48 months from General Availability (GA) with scheduled rebuilds.

Cisco makes no commitment to introduce software fixes to the affected IOS XE Software release after the final planned rebuild release.

Optional rebuilds

Software problems found after the final scheduled rebuild release will be fixed in a subsequent major Cisco IOS XE software release. An exception may arise to address mission-critical, high-severity software fixes and security vulnerabilities, possibly resulting in an additional rebuild release, after the final scheduled rebuild date (but before the End-of-Software Maintenance milestone), on an as-needed basis at the discretion of Cisco. No software fixes will be introduced to the affected Cisco IOS XE software release after the End of Vulnerability and Security Support (EoVS) (PSIRT fixes) milestone.

After EoVS, Cisco Technical Assistance Center (TAC) will provide customer support on the affected Cisco IOS XE Software release, within the guidelines set by existing Cisco's EoL policies, at the End-of-Software Maintenance milestone.

For HW products running IOS-XE software customers will receive critical vulnerability (PSIRT's) support through HW LDOS on the final extended maintenance OS release.

End-of-Sale and End-of-Life guideline definition

The Cisco IOS XE Software End-of-Sale (EoS) and End-of-Life (EoL) guidelines have preset time intervals for each of the EoL milestones. These time intervals are based on the support model of the affected Cisco IOS XE Software version. Table 2 below summarizes the End-of-Sale (EoS) and End-of-Life (EoL) milestones for Cisco IOS XE Software releases.

Table 1. Cisco IOS XE Software End-of-Sale and End-of-Life Milestones by Release

Milestone	Definition	Timing
General Availability (GA)	The date at which the affected Cisco IOS XE Software release is made available to Cisco customers.	Begins affected Cisco IOS XE Software release lifetime
End-of-Life (EoL) Announcement Date	The date the document that announces the end-of-sale and end-of-life of a product is distributed to the general public.	12 months after GA for Extended Support releases
End-of-Sale (EoS) Date	The last date to order the product through Cisco point-of-sale mechanisms. The product is no longer for sale after this date.	6 months from end-of-life announcement date for Extended Support releases

Milestone	Definition	Timing
End-of-Software Maintenance Release Date	The last date that Cisco engineering may release a software maintenance release or scheduled software remedy for critical bug fixes in an affected Cisco IOS XE Software release. After this date, maintenance rebuilds, and software-fix support will be provided only through subsequent major Cisco IOS XE Software releases.	12 months after end-of-sale date for Extended-Support releases
End-of-Vulnerability and Security Support (EoVS) Date	The last date that Cisco engineering may release a software maintenance release or scheduled software remedy for a security vulnerability concern.	30 months after end-of-sale date for Extended-Support releases
Last Date of Support	The last date to receive service and support for the product. After this date, all support services for the product are unavailable, and the product becomes obsolete.	Three years after end-of-sale date for either Standard-Support or Extended Support releases

Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Software release model

The Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Software are time-based, each with a fixed release date. Starting with 26.1.1, the schedule specifies 2 individual software releases per year at approximately 6-month intervals.

The Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Software release follows the same timeline as that of Cisco IOS XE release.

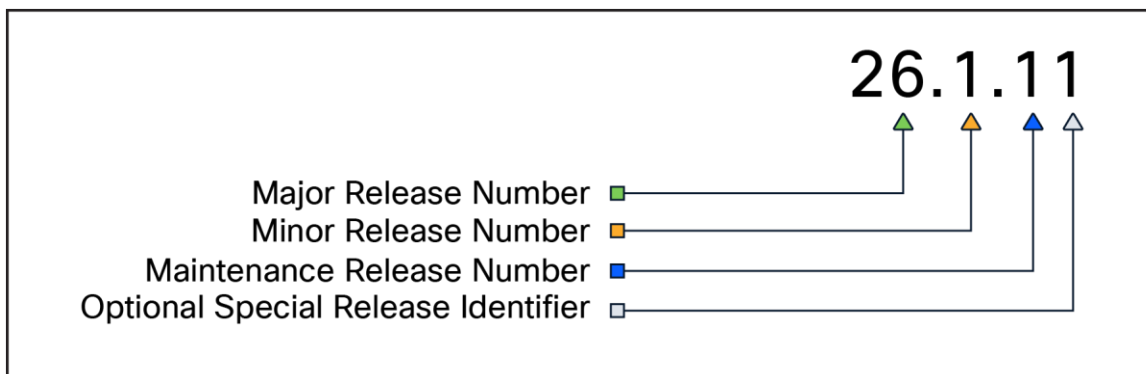


Figure 2.
Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Software release versioning

Release Naming Convention

The Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN version examples in this document follow the Release Naming Convention (Figure 2)

Cisco SD-WAN Software Release Type	Description
Major Release / Year Indicator	Indicates the Calendar year of release – for example, 26 for Calendar Year 2026
Minor Release	Increases by an increment of 1 for each release that introduces significant changes to the software, support for new hardware platforms, enhancements and bug fixes for existing features and functions. For example, the Feb 2026 release is Release 26.1.1, the Aug 2026 release is Release 26.2.1, and the Feb 2027 release is Release 27.1.1
Maintenance Release Number	Increases by an increment of 1 for each release that integrates fixes for critical issues that exist in an individual release and should be addressed on a scheduled rebuild. The numbering starts with 1. For example, Release 26.1.1 is the first release from the 26.1.1 release train, and the first rebuild of Release 26.1.1 is Release 26.1.2
Optional Special Release Identifier	Indicates whether the release is a special release that integrates fixes for a select set of critical defects and, if present, which special release it is. This value increases by an increment of 1. A special release typically integrates fixes for critical defects or security vulnerabilities that should be addressed on an accelerated schedule. All optional rebuilds will use four numbers separated by periods. The fourth number represents the optional rebuild. major.minor.maintenance[optional_rebuild]

Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Software Support

Starting with 26.1.1, all software releases will be Extended Support release, with sustaining support lifetime of 48 months from GA (General Availability), unless otherwise noted.

- **Extended-Support Release Details**

- A sustaining support lifetime of 48 months from General Availability (GA) with scheduled rebuilds.

Cisco makes no commitment to introduce software fixes to the affected Software release after the final planned rebuild release.

Optional rebuilds

Software problems found after the final scheduled rebuild release will be fixed in a subsequent major software release. An exception may arise to address mission-critical, high-severity software fixes and security vulnerabilities, possibly resulting in an additional rebuild release, after the final scheduled rebuild date (but before the End-of-Software Maintenance milestone), on an as-needed basis at the discretion of Cisco. No software fixes will be introduced to the affected Software release after the End of Vulnerability and Security Support (EoVS) (PSIRT fixes) milestone.

After EoVS, Cisco Technical Assistance Center (TAC) will provide customer support on the affected Cisco Software release, within the guidelines set by existing Cisco’s EoL policies, at the End-of-Software Maintenance milestone.

For HW products running IOS-XE software, customers will receive critical vulnerability (PSIRTs) support through HW EoVS on the final extended maintenance OS release.

End-of-Sale and End-of-Life guideline definition

The Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Software End-of-Sale (EoS) and End-of-Life (EoL) guidelines have preset time intervals for each of the EoL milestones. These time intervals are based on the support model of the affected Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Software version. Table 3 below summarizes the End-of-Sale (EoS) and End-of-Life (EoL) milestones.

Table 2. Cisco Catalyst SDWAN Software End-of-Sale and End-of-Life milestones by release

Milestone	Definition	Timing
General Availability (GA)	The date at which the affected Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Software release is made available to Cisco customers.	Begins affected Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Software release lifetime
End-of-Life (EoL) Announcement Date	The date the document that announces the end-of-sale and end-of-life of a product is distributed to the general public.	12 months after GA for Extended Support releases
End-of-Sale (EoS) Date	The last date to order the product through Cisco point-of-sale mechanisms. The product is no longer for sale after this date.	6 months from end-of-life announcement date for Extended Support releases
End-of-Software Maintenance Release Date	The last date that Cisco engineering may release a software maintenance release or scheduled software remedy for critical bug fixes in an affected Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Software release. After this date, maintenance rebuilds, and software-fix support will be provided only through subsequent major Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Software releases.	12 months after end-of-sale date for Extended-Support releases

Milestone	Definition	Timing
End of Vulnerability and Security Support (EoVS) Date	The last date that Cisco engineering may release a software maintenance release or scheduled software remedy for a security vulnerability concern.	30 months after end-of-sale date for Extended-Support releases
Last Date of Support	The last date to receive service and support for the product. After this date, all support services for the product are unavailable, and the product becomes obsolete.	Three years after end-of-sale date for either Standard-Support or Extended Support releases

Upgrade paths

Customers are encouraged to migrate to one of the Extended Maintenance releases when the release becomes available with appropriate features for the applications.

Customer notifications

Cisco will issue individual EoL bulletins for each software release affected by an EoL plan. Standard Maintenance releases will have an EoS announcement published 3 months after GA. Extended-Support releases will have an EoS announcement published 12 months after GA.

For more information

Cisco will issue individual EoL bulletins for each software release affected by an EoL plan. Extended-Support releases will have an EoS announcement published 12 months after GA.

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