

# Cisco ASA Software Release and Support Timeline

PB738209

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**Note:** This product bulletin describes the new support timeline for Cisco ASA releases starting from Cisco ASA 9.5(1) and onwards. For the support timeline of previous ASA releases, please refer to this page

<http://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/products/security/asa-5500-series-next-generation-firewalls/eos-eol-notice-listing.html>.

## Introduction

This product bulletin describes the release and support timeline and end-of-life (EoL) guidelines for Cisco ASA Software on the Cisco® ASA 55XX-X Series Security Appliances.

Cisco ASA Software is a time-based release as opposed to a feature-based release. This approach provides for frequent delivery of individual releases, enabling Cisco to introduce a greater number of stable ASA Software releases with fewer new features in each release. As a result, the customer release qualification time of each release may be reduced.

Consequently, these end-of-sale and EoL guidelines of the Cisco ASA Software may differ from the guidelines of other traditional Cisco Software releases. This product bulletin describes these milestones and any difference to the standard end-of-sale and EoL milestones.

## Cisco ASA Software Release Delivery

Cisco is introducing a new software release delivery model and specific EoL guidelines with the ASA Software release 9.5(1).

The Cisco ASA Software Release Train model provides two distinct release vehicles combining to deliver new features 3 times a year with regular rebuilds for fixes. The schedule specifies three individual software releases at 4-month intervals within a 12-month cycle. This cadence is repeated every year.

The Spring Release, which usually ships in March is an Extended Maintenance Release and it is designated by an even number in the second digit of the series x.even(n), where x = major series, "even" represents a yearly increment for that series and "n" is the number of rebuilds in that particular release. This is represented in Figure 1.

The Summer Release, which usually ships in July is a Standard Maintenance Release and thus is designated an odd number in the second digit of the series x.odd(n). This Release also introduces new features in its first rebuild in the fall to provide increased feature velocity to meet the customer and market demands. The fall rebuild usually ships in November.

**Table 1.** Release Version Scheme and Cadence

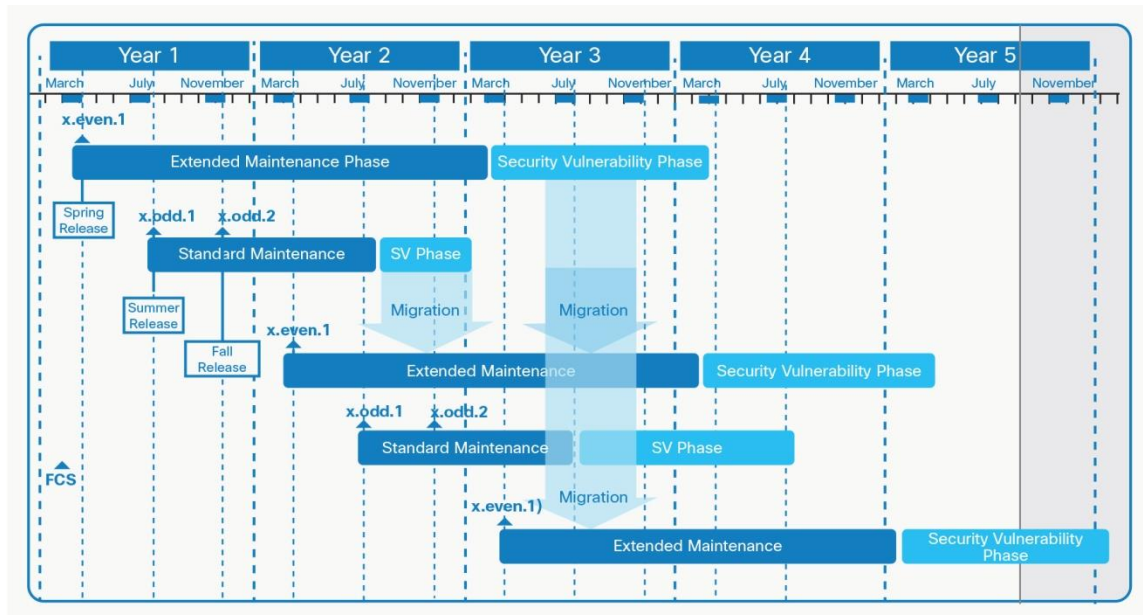
	Version Scheme	Cadence
<b>Extended Maintenance Release</b>	x.even.1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9.6.1</li> <li>• 9.8.1</li> </ul>	Every spring (12 months)
<b>Standard Maintenance Release</b>	x.odd.{1, 2,..., n} <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9.5.2</li> <li>• 9.7.1</li> </ul>	Every summer and winter (4, 8 months after Extended Maintenance Release respectively)

In 2016, the release cadence and numbering scheme were off cycle to address special situation. They are listed below.

	Version Scheme	Release Time Frame
<b>Extended Maintenance Release</b>	9.6.2	FCS'ed in August 2016
<b>Standard Maintenance Release</b>	9.7.1	Winter 2016

The Extended Maintenance Release's 36 months of engineering support provides ample time for customers to enjoy a stable platform with yearly opportunities to migrate to the next Extended Maintenance Release every spring. Those customers seeking the latest features can do so every summer and fall by migrating to the Standard Maintenance Release, which is supported by engineering for 18 months. The natural migration path is to the next Extended Maintenance Release the following spring as shows in Figure 1.

**Figure 1.** Cisco ASA Software Release Train Delivery



### Customer Notifications

Cisco will issue individual EoL bulletins for each software release affected by an EoL plan. Standard Maintenance Releases will have an EoL announcement published around the First-Customer-Ship (FCS) timeframe. Extended Maintenance Releases will have an EoL announcement published approximately 12 months after FCS.

## Cisco ASA Software Support

Each Cisco ASA software release is classified as either a Standard Maintenance or Extended Maintenance release. A Standard Maintenance release has a sustaining support lifetime of eighteen (18) months with a minimum of four (4) rebuilds. The Extended Maintenance Release provides a sustaining support lifetime of thirty-six (36) months with a minimum of ten (10) rebuilds.

After the EoVS milestone, the Cisco Technical Assistance Center (TAC) will provide customer support on the affected ASA Software release within the guidelines set by existing Cisco EoL policies.

## Cisco ASA Software Release Schedule

The Cisco ASA 9.5(1) Release is the first Standard Maintenance Release that will adhere to the timelines presented here. Prior Extended Maintenance Release 9.4 and future Extended Maintenance Releases will also adhere to the guidelines presented here. Table 2 defines the support models used by each of the Cisco ASA Software releases.

**Table 2.** Cisco ASA Software Release Support

Support Model	ASA Release
Standard-Support	9.5
Extended-Support	9.4, 9.6, etc.

## End-of-Sale and End-of-Life Guideline Definition

The Cisco ASA Software's end-of-sale and EoL guidelines have pre-set time intervals for each of the EoL milestones. These time intervals are based on the support model of the affected Cisco ASA Software version. Table 3 summarizes the end-of-sale and EoL milestones for Cisco ASA Software releases.

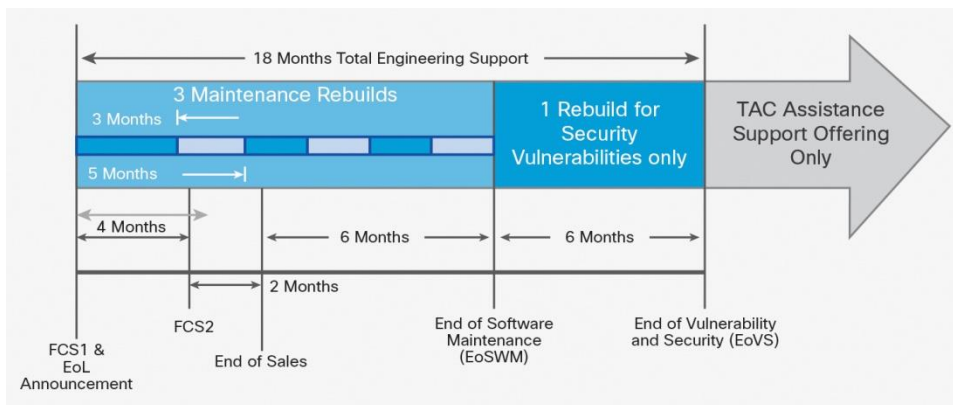
**Table 3.** Cisco ASA Software End-of-Sale and End-of-Life Milestones by Release

Milestone	Definition	Timing
<b>First-Customer-Ship (FCS)</b>	The date at which the affected Cisco ASA Software release is made available to Cisco customers.	Begins ASA Software Release lifetime.
<b>End-of-Life (EoL) Announcement Date</b>	The date the document that announces the end of sale and end of life of a product is distributed to the general public.	At FCS1 for Standard Maintenance Releases. Twelve (12) months after FCS for Extended Maintenance Releases.
<b>End-of-Sale (EoS) Date</b>	The last date to order the product through Cisco point-of-sale mechanisms. The product is no longer for sale after this date.	Six (6) months from End-of-Life (EoL) Announcement date
<b>End of Planned OS SW Maintenance (EoSWM) Release Date</b>	The last date that Cisco Engineering may release any final software maintenance releases or bug fixes. After this date, Cisco Engineering will no longer develop, repair, maintain, or test the product software. <b>Note:</b> After this date, Cisco Engineering will only provide fixes for Security Vulnerabilities as per the EoVS milestone timeframe.	Six (6) months after EoS date for both Standard Maintenance and Releases.
<b>End of OS SW Vulnerability/Security Support (EoVS) Date</b>	The last date that Cisco will provide support for security vulnerabilities, defined as network-impacting security vulnerabilities that have been identified by the Customer to Cisco TAC and subsequently qualified via Cisco's normal evaluation process. <b>Note:</b> After this date, Cisco Engineering will no longer develop, repair, maintain, or test the product software.	Twelve (12) months after EoS date for Standard Maintenance Releases Eighteen (18) months after EoS date for Extended Maintenance Releases
<b>Last Date of Support</b>	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.	Five (5) years after End-of-Sale date for either Standard Maintenance or Extended Maintenance Releases.

## Cisco ASA Software Standard-Support

Cisco ASA Software Standard Maintenance Releases will be supported for 18 months with a minimum of 4 rebuilds. Features will be delivered twice, at initial FCS1 and at the first rebuild denoted by FCS2. The timing of FCS2 is usually 4 months after FCS1. The remaining rebuilds will be on a 3 to 5 month interval. Following the 3rd rebuild will be a 6-month Security Vulnerabilities phase (PSIRT) at which end a final (4th) rebuild will be provided. During the S&V phase, if deemed necessary and at Cisco's discretion, an additional rebuild may be provided to address critical security vulnerabilities that may arise.

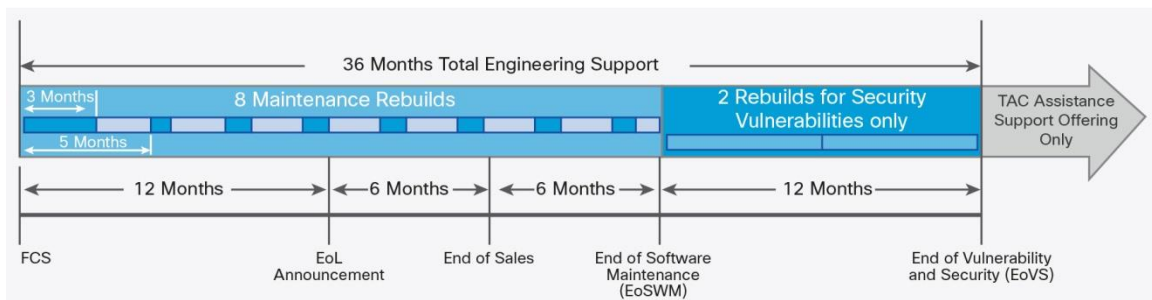
**Figure 2.** Cisco ASA SW Standard Maintenance Timeline



## Cisco ASA Software Extended-Support

Cisco ASA Software Extended Maintenance Releases will be supported for 36 months with a minimum of 10 rebuilds. The timing of the rebuilds will be 3 to 5 month intervals. Following the eighth (8th) rebuild will be a 12-month Security Vulnerabilities phase (PSIRT). During this phase rebuilds will take place at six month intervals to address security vulnerability issues. If deemed necessary and at Cisco's discretion, an additional rebuild will be provided to address critical security vulnerabilities that may arise.

**Figure 3.** Cisco ASA SW Extended Maintenance Timeline



## Upgrade Paths

Customers are encouraged to migrate to one of the Extended Maintenance Releases (designated by an even second digit such as 9.4, 9.6 etc.) when the release becomes available with appropriate features for the applications.

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## Cisco Services

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## For More Information

For more information about the Cisco ASA 55XX-X product line visit <http://www.in.cisco.com/stg/products/appliances/asa/index.shtml#tab=0> or contact your local Cisco account manager.

For information about Cisco service and support programs and benefits, visit: [http://www.cisco.com/public/Support\\_root.shtml](http://www.cisco.com/public/Support_root.shtml).




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