

Cisco ISE Express – Launch Guide



Cisco ISE Express is new licensing available as of May 2015 that offers the same dynamic Guest features of the market-leading Cisco ISE in an entry-level bundle, priced aggressively at 70-80% less than the competition.

Enterprise Guest for Less

Guest access has become an essential – almost required – service for practically every business, and, as technology has advanced, their guests expect easy access and a fast connection. Often times, such services present a pricey proposition to many smaller organizations and cost-conscious institutions. In response to this, the Cisco ISE team created ISE Express, a comprehensive bundle that offers Enterprise-level guest services – including hotspot, sponsored and self-registration portals – and RADIUS/AAA for access control for 150 endpoints at an aggressive, entry-level price.

The bundle includes Cisco Identity Services Engine (ISE) Base licensing for 150 endpoints, an ISE virtual machine, unlimited access to the ISE Portal Builder, a web-based portal customization tool, and a [quick installation guide](#). This bundle offers an appealing entry point for customers to deploy Cisco ISE in a network with the opportunity to not only purchase additional guest licenses (up to 5,000 total) but also further expand ISE services at a later date – e.g., add licensing for bring your own device (BYOD) or advanced policy use cases.

Cisco ISE includes native design capabilities that allow you to quickly design a portal by adding images (e.g., logos and banners) and selecting a color theme to match a corporate brand. Included with ISE Express is unlimited use of the ISE Portal Builder, a web-based tool that allows users to create highly customized portals in 17 different languages with a suite of 10 designer templates that are easily customizable and easily exportable to Cisco ISE.

Cisco ISE Express is restricted to a single instance and cannot be run as a distributed solution or in a high-availability configuration. Nevertheless, it offers an easy introduction to Cisco ISE, which can be sold by non-ATP partners, and can scale to support up to 5,000 endpoints on the included VM server. IT administrators will discover that deploying and configuring Cisco ISE Express is a simple and streamlined process. The [ISE Express Installation Guide](#) can be found on Cisco.com.

For more details on ISE go to <http://cisco.com/go/ise>. For more details on ISE Express, contact your certified Cisco reseller.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is Cisco ISE Express?

A. Cisco ISE Express is an affordable, easy-to-install Guest Access licensing bundle targeting small to mid-sized companies that can be sold by all Cisco partners, with or without Authorized Technology Provider (ATP) certification.

Q. What is included with the bundle?

A. ISE Express includes an ISE virtual machine (ESX-compliant), licenses for 150 guest endpoints, customizable guest portals, RADIUS/AAA, a quick-start guide and free unlimited use of the ISE Portal Builder.

Q. How much does the bundle cost?

A. Cisco ISE Express has a list price of \$2,500 US.

Q. What guest services does it offer?

A. Sponsored, self-registered, and hotspot.

Q. Can I add more guests?

A. Yes, you can sell additional license packages and add them to the license.

Q. Are there any restrictions with the ISE Express license?

A. The following restrictions are in place for the ISE Express license:

- Limited to a maximum of 5000 active endpoints;
- Unable to function in a High-Availability deployment alongside other ISE appliances;
- Cannot participate in a distributed ISE deployment alongside other ISE appliances where different ISE personas are in use.

Q. How many guests or endpoints can this support?

A. This license will allow you to scale up to 5,000 endpoints. Licensing for additional endpoints beyond the included 150 licenses will require a partner to either have ATP certification or partner with an ATP-services partner (either Cisco Advanced Services (AS) or a BU-sponsored services ONLY partner).

Q. Will this support wired networks?

A. Yes. This license will support both wired and wireless guest access and RADIUS services

Q. Can I add services like BYOD and posture?

A. Yes. Adding additional services requires the purchase of premium licenses (ISE Plus and ISE Apex) to support those services. Upsells for these starter licenses will require an ATP-certified partner.

Q. Q: What customers are appropriate for ISE Express?

A. Typically, commercial and small enterprises with a single and relatively small site.

Q. Will ISE Express work in a distributed ISE environment?

A. No. This product is licensed for a single instance. ISE Express is not licensed to support distributed ISE operation.

Q. What types of customers are NOT appropriate for ISE Express?

A. If a customer will require distributed operation (multiple virtual machines or servers working collectively), high-availability, or scale beyond the 150 endpoints included with the license it is recommended that you sell the standard ISE solution – whether ISE Base (ATP Required) or ISE Mobility (ATP NOT Required).

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- Q.** Can I add High Availability (HA) to ISE Express?
- A.** No. This product is licensed for a single instance only; ISE Express is not licensed to support HA.
- Q.** If my customer decides to move to a high-availability deployment, can they repurpose licenses from the ISE Express VM to their new ISE VMs?
- A.** Yes. ISE licenses can be re-hosted.
- Q.** What if my customer will eventually need more than 5,000 endpoints?
- A.** For such a deployment, ISE Express may not be the correct solution. Generally, customers with numerous endpoints require distributed operation and high availability. ISE Express does not support either.
- Q.** Q: How long will it take to install?
- A.** Installation takes anywhere from ninety minutes to three hours, depending on what the customer requires for services during setup. Find the [ISE Express Installation Guide](#) on Cisco.com.
- Q.** Can I customize the guest portals?
- A.** Yes. Cisco ISE offers native features that allow you to customize the guest portals with your own corporate logos and banners, various color themes, and support for seventeen languages.
- Q.** What if my customer requires a more advanced custom portal?
- A.** Cisco ISE Express includes access to a web-based tool called the [ISE Portal Builder](#), where you or your customer can create an unlimited number of dynamic guest portals, free of charge.
- Q.** How can I purchase the ISE Express bundle?
- A.** Go to Cisco Commerce Workspace (CCW); the SKU is R-ISE-GST-BUN-K9= with a list price of \$2500.
- Q.** Can you compare the ISE Express bundle to the ISE-100 License SKU?
- A.** ISE Express includes an ISE VM (ESX-compliant) and a bundle of 150 endpoint licenses and lists for \$2500. The ISE-100 license SKU does not include the ESX virtual machine and lists for \$6,500.
- Q.** Do I have to be an Authorized Technology Provider (ATP) partner to sell ISE Express?
- A.** No. Cisco ISE Express is open to ALL Cisco partners to sell.
- Q.** Do I have to be an ATP partner to sell upgrades for ISE Express?
- A.** Selling upgrades for ISE Express starter licenses, in general, will require an ATP-certified partner. However, non-ATP partners have multiple options available to them:
- Selling ISE Mobility licenses do not require ATP certification. Please keep in mind that general ISE license restrictions still apply – i.e., it is not possible to “add” Mobility licenses to an ISE Base or ISE Express installation. ISE Express policy and configuration will need to be migrated.
 - Non-ATP partners can simply partner with an ATP-services partner (either Cisco Advanced Services (AS) or a BU-sponsored services ONLY partner) to avoid ATP requirements and sell ALL ISE licenses.
 - Non-ATP partners can now more easily obtain ATP certification. Cisco now offers two classes for our partner engineers: a two-day pre-sales ISE ATP training class and a post-sales five-day class. Pass either exam for the appropriate class, and you’ll qualify to sell any ISE license for the respective pre- or post-sales effort.



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