

Cisco Catalyst OS 8.x and Hybrid Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2SX QA

Q. When is Cisco® Catalyst® OS 8.x and hybrid Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2SX End-of-Sale ?

A. The End-of-Life of Catalyst® OS 8.x and hybrid Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2SX is announced on July 31st, 2007 and the effective End-of-Sale date is January 29, 2008.

Q. After Cisco® Catalyst® OS 8.x, will there be any new Cisco Catalyst OS releases?

A. No. Cisco will not have any Cisco Catalyst OS development after Cisco Catalyst OS 8.x. The end of sale and end of life of Cisco Catalyst 8.x will also mean the end of sale and end of life of the entire Cisco Catalyst OS. Cisco will continue to develop and ship Cisco IOS® Software images with software modularity for Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Switches.

Q. After hybrid Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2SXF, will there be any new hybrid Cisco IOS Software release?

A. No. Cisco will not have any hybrid Cisco IOS Software development after hybrid Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2SXF. Cisco will continue to develop and ship Cisco IOS Software images with software modularity for Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Switches.

Q. What is recommended migration path for Cisco Catalyst OS 8.x?

A. The recommended migration path is Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2SX and later. Table 1 lists the recommended migration path for the different Cisco Catalyst 6500 supervisor engines and Cisco Catalyst OS configurations.

Table 1. Recommended Cisco Catalyst OS 8.x Migration Paths

Supervisor Engine and Catalyst OS Configuration	Recommended Migration Path
Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Supervisor Engine 720 with Cisco Catalyst OS 8.x or earlier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migrate to Cisco IOS Software 12.2SX release train
Cisco Catalyst 6500 Supervisor Engine 32 with Cisco Catalyst OS 8.x or earlier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migrate to Cisco IOS Software 12.2SX release train
Supervisor Engine 1 with Cisco Catalyst OS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervisor Engine 1 end of software support¹ date is March 25, 2006. Migrate to newer supervisor engines (Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Supervisor Engine 720, Cisco Catalyst 6500 Supervisor Engine 32) with Cisco IOS Software 12.2SX release train or Cisco Catalyst 6500 Supervisor Engine 32 PISA with Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2(18)ZY
Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Supervisor Engine 2 with Cisco Catalyst OS 8.x or earlier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Supervisor Engine 2 end of software support date is February 29, 2008.² Migrate to newer supervisor engines (Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Supervisor Engine 720, Cisco Catalyst 6500 Supervisor Engine 32) with Cisco IOS Software 12.2SX release train or Cisco Catalyst 6500 Supervisor Engine 32 PISA with Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2(18)ZY

¹ Supervisor Engine 1 end-of-life information
http://www.cisco.com/en/US/prod/collateral/switches/ps5718/ps708/prod_end-of-life_notice0900aecd8017a5d1.html.

² Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Supervisor Engine 2 end-of-life information
http://www.cisco.com/en/US/prod/collateral/switches/ps5718/ps708/prod_end-of-life_notice0900aecd80423d31.html.

Q. What is the recommended migration path for hybrid Cisco IOS Software?

- A.** The recommended migration path for hybrid Cisco IOS Software is Cisco IOS Software 12.2SX releases. Table 2 lists the recommended migration path for the different Cisco Catalyst 6500 supervisor engines and hybrid Cisco IOS Software configurations.

Table 2. Recommended Hybrid Cisco IOS Software Migration Paths

Supervisor Engine and Hybrid Cisco IOS Software Configuration	Recommended Migration Path
Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Supervisor Engine 720 with hybrid Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2SX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migrate to Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2SX Native images
Cisco Catalyst 6500 Supervisor Engine 32 with hybrid Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2SX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migrate to Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2SX Native images
Supervisor Engine 1 with hybrid Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2SX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervisor Engine 1 end of software support date is March 25 2006. • Migrate to newer supervisor engines (Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Supervisor Engine 720, Cisco Catalyst 6500 Supervisor Engine 32) with Cisco IOS Software 12.2SX release train or Cisco Catalyst 6500 Supervisor Engine 32 PISA with Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2(18)ZY
Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Supervisor Engine 2 with hybrid Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2SX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Supervisor Engine 2 end of software support date is February 29, 2008. • Migrate to newer supervisor engines (Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Supervisor Engine 720, Cisco Catalyst 6500 Supervisor Engine 32) with Cisco IOS Software 12.2SX release train or Cisco Catalyst 6500 Supervisor Engine 32 PISA with Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2(18)ZY

Q. What is the difference between hybrid Cisco IOS Software and native Cisco IOS Software?

- A.** The hybrid Cisco IOS Software is loaded on the multilayer switch feature card (MSFC) or route processor to provide Layer 3 routing functionality on the Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Switch. This software works only in conjunction with the Cisco Catalyst OS software loaded on the switch processor.

The native Cisco IOS Software images, including Cisco IOS Software modularity images, bundle both the switch processor and route processor software.

Q. If I am currently having Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Supervisor Engine 1A in my network, what are my support options ?

- A.** The Catalyst 6500 Series Supervisor Engine 1A reached end of software maintenance date on March 25, 2006. Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2SX does not support the Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Supervisor Engine 1A. Customers should upgrade to the more recent Cisco Catalyst 6500 Supervisor Engine 32, Cisco Catalyst 6500 Supervisor Engine 32 PISA, and Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Supervisor Engine 720 with Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2SXF and later.

Q. If I am currently having Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Supervisor Engine 2 in my network, what are my support options ?

- A.** For the Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Supervisor Engine 2, customers can migrate to Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2SX now and later migrate to the latest supervisor engines according to Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Supervisor Engine 2 end-of-life dates. Customers can also upgrade to the latest Cisco Catalyst OS 8.x to receive regular maintenance releases and bug fixes before the end of software maintenance date while they plan for the migration.

- Q. What if I am not ready to migrate my Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Supervisor Engine 1A and Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Supervisor Engine 2?**
- A.** Continue to stay on the latest Cisco Catalyst OS 8.x while you plan for hardware migration. Cisco will provide bug fixes for the Cisco Catalyst OS only on the latest Cisco Catalyst OS 8.x and end it according to the standard end-of-life policy.
- Q. I am not running the latest Cisco Catalyst OS, what Cisco Catalyst OS release should I stay to receive bug fixes before I migrate to Cisco IOS software releases ?**
- A.** Customer should upgrade to the latest Cisco Catalyst OS 8.x to receive regular maintenance releases and bug fixes before the Cisco Catalyst OS 8.x end of software maintenance date.
- Q. There are different Cisco IOS Software images with different feature sets. How do I select the right image for my migration?**
- A.** Cisco Catalyst 6500 Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2SX follows standard Cisco IOS Software packaging to help customers pick an image based on their deployment scenarios (wiring closet, distribution and core, enterprise WAN, service provider, and carrier Ethernet) and feature requirements. For Cisco IOS Software packaging information, refer to http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/hw/switches/ps708/prod_bulletin0900aecd80281b17.html.
- Q. What is the standard release strategy for Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2SX?**
- A.** To allow customers to qualify, deploy, and remain on a new technology release for more than 6 to 12 months with active bug-fix maintenance plans, Cisco will now designate new technology releases on Cisco IOS Software major Release 12.2SX as either a standard maintenance release or an extended maintenance release. A standard maintenance release will offer regular bug-fix maintenance rebuilds for 12 months, and an extended maintenance release will offer bug-fix maintenance rebuilds for 24 months. For more details, refer to http://www.cisco.com/en/US/prod/collateral/switches/ps5718/ps708/prod_bulletin0900aecd804f0694.html
- Q. How do I select Cisco IOS Software images that have long-term maintenance support?**
- A.** Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2SX images with an extended maintenance release category have longer maintenance support and will go through safe harbor testing and certification. Check the safe harbor program details at http://www.cisco.com/en/US/netsol/ns504/networking_solutions_program_category_home.html and work with your local Cisco account representatives to pick a stable release image for your deployment scenario.
- Q. I see two types of Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2SX images, one marked “modular Cisco IOS Software.” What are the differences between the modular Cisco IOS Software and nonmodular Cisco IOS Software?**
- A.** Cisco Catalyst 6500 Cisco IOS Software Release 12.2SX offer two modes: modular Cisco IOS Software with software modularity and native Cisco IOS Software. Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series with Cisco IOS Software modularity boosts operational efficiency and minimizes downtime through evolutionary software infrastructure advancements. By enabling modular Cisco IOS Software subsystems to run in independent processes, this innovation minimizes unplanned downtime through self-healing processes, simplifies software changes through subsystem In-Service Software Upgrades (ISSU), and enables process-level automated policy control by integrating Embedded Event Manager (EEM). For details about software modularity, refer to

http://www.cisco.com/en/US/prod/collateral/switches/ps5718/ps708/prod_gas0900aecd80313e1f.shtml.

- Q. Is there a tool to help me to convert my Cisco Catalyst OS configuration to a Cisco IOS Software configuration?**
- A.** Yes. The Cisco EDI Catalyst OS to Cisco IOS Software Configuration Conversion Tool enables you to translate Cisco Catalyst OS configurations to equivalent supported Cisco IOS Software configurations. For more details about this tool, refer to http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/hw/switches/ps708/products_tech_note09186a0080816fbc.shtml.
- Q. What are the DRAM, flash, and ROMmon considerations when I migrate from the Cisco Catalyst OS to Cisco IOS Software?**
- A.** The image files for Cisco IOS Software are larger than Cisco Catalyst OS image files and might require the use of the removable media slots, such as the PC card or compact flash slot, to store the images. Refer to the System Software Conversion from Catalyst OS to Cisco IOS Software for Cisco Catalyst 6500/6000 Switches document for memory, flash, and ROMmon requirements and conversion steps.
- Q. I would like learn more about the difference between the Cisco Catalyst OS and Cisco IOS Software. Where can I find this information?**
- A.** Refer to the Comparison of the Cisco Catalyst and Cisco IOS Software Operating Systems for the Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Switch document for a Cisco Catalyst OS and Cisco IOS Software comparison.
- Q. How do I upgrade or purchase the latest Cisco IOS Software release?**
- A.** To upgrade a switch that was running the Cisco Catalyst OS to Cisco IOS Software, you need to order the "6500-SW-SPARECD" product number from the Dynamic Configuration Tool at <https://tools.cisco.com/qtc/config/jsp/configureHome.jsp>.



Americas Headquarters
Cisco Systems, Inc.
170 West Tasman Drive
San Jose, CA 95134-1706
USA
www.cisco.com
Tel: 408 526-4000
800 353-NETS (6387)
Fax: 408 527-0889

Asia Pacific Headquarters
Cisco Systems, Inc.
155 Robinson Road
#29-01 Capital Tower
Singapore 068912
www.cisco.com
Tel: +65 6317 7777
Fax: +65 6317 7799

Europe Headquarters
Cisco Systems International BV
Hearstbergpark
Hearstbergweg 13-18
1101 CH Amsterdam
The Netherlands
www.europe.cisco.com
Tel: +31 0 20 620 6191
Fax: +31 0 20 657 1100

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