

# Rebuild Your Catalyst SD-WAN Fabric

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# Introduction

This document describes how to rebuild a Cisco SD-WAN fabric, including backing up and restoring controller configurations for various deployments.

## Prerequisites

### Requirements

Cisco recommends that you have knowledge of these topics:

- Cisco Software-Defined Wide Area Network (SD-WAN)
- Cisco Software Central
- Download the Controllers software from [software.cisco.com](https://software.cisco.com)

### Components Used

The information in this document was created from the devices in a specific lab environment. All of the devices used in this document started with a cleared (default) configuration. If your network is live, ensure that you understand the potential impact of any command.

## Prerequisites Before Rebuilding the Fabric

- New set of system-ips,site-ids must be configured for the new fabric for the controllers
- Ensure firewall rules are in place to enable communication between the controllers and the Edges
- Note the neo4j(configuration-db) username and password (it must be the same on all vManage nodes in a cluster)
- Disable port-hop on all the edges
- Increase the graceful restart timers to 7 days
- Clear alarms in 3rdparty tools before migration
- Historical stats data (Alarms, Events, Device Stats, and so on) are lost unless there is a prior setup to export stats to an external server such as vAnalytics
- If Cloud OnRamp is configured, ensure you have reachability to the c8000v deployed in the cloud prior to the start of this activity
- If you have SDAVC enabled on old fabric ensure the new fabric has it enabled (for cluster, it needs to be enabled on a single node only)
- Configuration-db restoration is supported only on the same version as the original fabric
- Confirm the persona used for the controllers. We support on COMPUTE\_DATA and DATA persona (details under each section)
- For Enterprise CA, need to use the root certificate issued by the Enterprise CA, which is used in

existing overlay, and cert is signed using the enterprise CA server and installed for all controllers via UI

## Deployment Options

### vManage Deployment

- Standalone (1 node)
- Cluster (3-node or 6-node)

### DR Options

- No DR
- Single Node DR
- Standby DR Cluster (Manual / Administer-triggered)



**Note:** For more details of type of disaster recovery refer to this [link](#)

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### Combinations:

#	vManage Setup	DR Option
1	Standalone (1 node)	No DR
2	Standalone (1 node)	Single Node DR
3	Cluster (3-node or 6-node)	No DR
4	Cluster (3-node or 6-node)	Standby DR Cluster

## Common Steps Applicable to All Combinations

These steps are common to all deployment combinations. They cover the process of bringing up VM instances and applying basic CLI configuration. Each combination section tells you how many instances to deploy and which additional steps to complete.

## Install and bring up SD-WAN Controllers (Manager, Validator, Controller)



**Note:** Cisco has rebranded certain terms, so these terms are interchangeable. Cisco vManage = Cisco Catalyst Manager, Cisco vBond = Cisco Catalyst Validator, Cisco vSmart = Cisco Catalyst Controller

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Download the OVA files for SD-WAN controllers from the Cisco Software Download page [here](#):

- Choose **vEDGE Cloud** and download the **vBond OVA** for the required software version.
- Choose **vManage** software and download the **vManage OVA** for the required software version.

- Choose **vSmart** software and download the **vSmart OVA** for the required software version.



**Note:** On the ESXi/cloud platforms, spin up vSmart, vBond and vManage Controllers using the OVA file. Refer to the linked document and make sure sufficient CPU, RAM and disks are allocated to all the controllers depending on the SD-WAN deployment type. Navigate [here](#) for additional information. Make sure to assign secondary disk to vManage node as mentioned in the column Storage Size\* in the linked compute guide.

## Bring up a Cisco Manager node

- Once the Cisco Manager or vManage VM is deployed and console of the manager is accessible, wait for the boot up to complete. One indication is we see a message **system is ready** and prompts for the username and password.
- Enter the **default user credentials username as admin and password as admin**. Post that it prompts the user to change the password, set the password that is needed for user admin as per your choice.
- It then prompts the user to **select the persona**. This is a critical step if the intention is to have a vManage cluster. Please choose the persona as per shown here scenarios:

For a standalone vManage, choose the persona as COMPUTE\_AND\_DATA.

For a 3 node cluster, on 3 vManage nodes, the persona is set to COMPUTE\_AND\_DATA.

For a 6 node cluster, on 3 vManage nodes the persona is COMPUTE\_AND\_DATA and on rest 3 vManage nodes per

Example: Choose 1 for COMPUTE\_AND\_DATA

```
booted via startup_32()
Physical KASLR using RDRAND RDTSC...
Virtual KASLR using RDRAND RDTSC...

Decompressing Linux... Parsing ELF... Performing relocations... done.
Booting the kernel.
viptela 20.12.5.1

vManage login:
viptela 20.12.5.1

vManage login: admin
Password:
Welcome to Viptela CLI
admin connected from 127.0.0.1 using console on vmanage
You must set an initial admin password different from default password.
Password:
Re-enter password:
1) COMPUTE_AND_DATA
2) DATA
3) COMPUTE
Select persona for vManage [1,2 or 3]: 1
You chose persona COMPUTE_AND_DATA (1)
Are you sure? [y/n] _
```

Choose the secondary disk as shown:

```

2) DATA
3) COMPUTE
Select persona for vManage [1,2 or 3]: 1
You chose persona COMPUTE_AND_DATA (1)
Are you sure? [y/n] y
Available storage devices:
sdb      100GB
1) sdb
Select storage device to use: 1
Would you like to format sdb? (y/n): y
mount: /dev/sdb: not mounted.
mke2fs 1.45.7 (28-Jan-2021)
Discarding device blocks: done
Creating filesystem with 26214400 4k blocks and 6553600 inodes
Filesystem UUID: 5a94db1f-71c4-4e25-a6d1-8ef2495c1de2
Superblock backups stored on blocks:
    32768, 98304, 163840, 229376, 294912, 819200, 884736, 1605632, 2654208,
    4096000, 7962624, 11239424, 20480000, 23887872

Allocating group tables: done
Writing inode tables: done
Creating journal (131072 blocks): done
Writing superblocks and filesystem accounting information: done

```

- Choose the secondary disk and type Y to confirm.
- Cisco Manager reloads. Once it boots up, enter the username and password with the new password that was newly configured.

```

early console in extract_kernel
input_data: 0x00000000021753b4
input_len: 0x000000000121c7f3
output: 0x0000000001000000
output_len: 0x000000000237ea6c
kernel_total_size: 0x0000000001fb0000
booted via startup_32()
Physical KASLR using RDRAND RDTSC...
Virtual KASLR using RDRAND RDTSC...

Decompressing Linux... Parsing ELF... Performing relocations... done.
Booting the kernel.

viptela 20.12.5.1

vmanage login:
viptela 20.12.5.1

vmanage login: admin
Password:
Last login: Wed Feb 18 10:52:47 UTC 2026 on tty0
Welcome to Viptela CLI
admin connected from 127.0.0.1 using console on vmanage
vmanage#

```

- You can configure VPN 512 **management interface** to enable out of band management access to the controller.
- Use the command *show interface / tab* to check the VPN's to which interfaces are currently mapped to.
- configure the interfaces accordingly.

## Example

VPN	INTERFACE	TYPE	IP ADDRESS	SPEED	MSS	STATUS	STATUS	RX	TX
	MTU	HWADDR		MBPS	DUPLEX	ADJUST	UPTIME	PACKETS	PACKETS
0	eth0	ipv4	192.168.45.218/24	1000	full	Up	Up	-	null
ce	-	00:50:56:bd:36:6b				-	0:00:38:49	12116	281
0	eth1	ipv4	-	1000	full	Down	Down	-	-
-	-	00:50:56:bd:7a:c6				-	-	-	-
0	eth2	ipv4	-	1000	full	Down	Down	-	-
-	-	00:50:56:bd:be:90				-	-	-	-
0	docker0	ipv4	-	1000	full	Down	Down	-	-
-	-	02:42:6d:57:e5:4e				-	-	-	-
0	cbr-vmanage	ipv4	-	1000	full	Down	Up	-	-
-	-	02:42:22:37:90:ef				-	-	-	-

vmanage#



**Note:** You can refer to the configuration from the existing vManage and configure the same IP address scheme here.

## Management Interface (VPN 512) configurations

- If an interface needs to be moved from VPN 0 to VPN 512, use these commands and then configure the IP address on the interface

```
Conf t
vpn 0
no interface eth0
vpn 512
interface eth0
ip address <IP-address/mask>
no shutdown
!
ip route 0.0.0.0/0 <default-gateway IP>
!
```

## Bring up the Validator

- On the hypervisor, configure the required compute(CPU, RAM and disk) for the vBond node and power it on.
- Once the console is accessible, wait for the vBond to boot up fully. Wait for the message System

Ready.

- The system then prompts for username and password. Enter the **default user credentials username as admin and password as admin**. After that it prompts the user to change the password, set the password that is needed for user admin as per your choice.
- You can configure VPN 512 management interface to enable out of band management access to the controller.
- Use the command *show interface / tab* to check the VPN's to which interfaces are currently mapped to.
- Configure the interfaces accordingly.

Example:

```
admin connected from 127.0.0.1 using console on vbond-01
vbond-01# sh int ; tab
```

VPN	INTERFACE	AF	IP ADDRESS	SPEED	IF	TCP	IF	IF	ENCAP	TX
E	MTU	HWADDR	TYPE	MBPS	DUPLEX	ADMIN	OPER	TRACKER	RX	PORT
						STATUS	STATUS	STATUS	PACKETS	PACKETS
						ADJUST	UPTIME			
0	ge0/0	ipv4	10.106.51.184/24	1000	full	Up	Up	-	null	transport
t	-	00:50:56:bd:be:68	-	1000	full	-	0:04:39:15	1838	1843	
0	ge0/1	ipv4	-	1000	full	Down	Down	-	-	-
-	-	00:50:56:bd:04:8e	-	1000	full	-	-	-	-	-
0	ge0/2	ipv4	-	1000	full	Down	Down	-	-	-
-	-	00:50:56:bd:f1:d5	-	1000	full	-	-	-	-	-
0	system	ipv4	1.1.1.4/32	1000	full	Up	Up	-	null	loopback
-	-	-	-	1000	full	-	0:04:40:46	0	0	0
0	loopback1	ipv4	192.168.51.15/32	1000	full	Up	Up	-	null	loopback
-	-	-	-	1000	full	-	0:04:39:18	0	0	0
512	eth0	ipv4	10.106.51.169/24	1000	full	Up	Up	-	null	mgmt
-	-	00:50:56:bd:3c:9b	-	1000	full	-	0:04:39:18	1839	1839	

```
vbond-01#
```



**Note:** You can refer to the configuration from the existing vBond and configure the same configurations here.

### Management Interface (VPN 512) configurations

- If an interface needs to be moved from VPN 0 to VPN 512, use these commands and then configure the IP address on the interface.

```
Conf t
vpn 0
no interface eth0
vpn 512
interface eth0
ip address <IP-address/mask>
no shutdown
!
ip route 0.0.0.0/0 <default-gateway IP>
```

```
!  
commit
```

## Bring up a Controller (vSmart) Node

- Perform the same steps as the Validator to bring up the vSmart node.
- Once VPN 512 IP address is configured on all the SD-WAN controllers, you can access them using SSH on the VPN 512 IP address.

## Basic CLI Configuration on All Controllers

Once you have SSH access to all the controllers, configure these CLI configurations on each controller.

### System Configuration

```
config t  
system  
  host-name          <hostname>  
  system-ip         <unique system-IP>  
  site-id           <site-id>  
  organization-name <organization name>  
  vbond <IP address/URL of vBond>  
commit
```



**Note:** If we are using URL as vBond address, make sure to configure DNS server IP addresses in VPN 0 configuration or ensure they can be resolved.

---

## Transport Interface (VPN 0) Configuration

These configurations are needed on all the controllers to enable the transport interface used to establish control connections with the routers and the rest of the controllers.

```
config t  
vpn 0  
  dns <IP-address> primary  
  dns <IP-address> secondary  
  interface eth1  
    ip address <IP-address/mask>  
  tunnel-interface  
    allow-service all  
    allow-service dhcp  
    allow-service dns  
    allow-service icmp  
    no allow-service sshd  
    no allow-service netconf  
    no allow-service ntp  
    no allow-service stun
```

```
    allow-service https
    !
    no shutdown
    !
    ip route 0.0.0.0/0 <default-gateway IP>
commit
```



**Note:** You can refer to the configurations of your existing controller and if the config is present then you can add this configuration to the new controllers.

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Configure the control protocol as TLS only if there is a requirement for routers to establish secure control connections with the vManage nodes using TLS. By default, all the controllers and routers establish control connection using DTLS. This is an optional config required only on vSmart and vManage nodes depending on you requirement.

```
Conf t
security
  control
    protocol tls
Commit
```

## Combination 1: Standalone vManage + No DR

### Instances needed:

- 1 vManage (COMPUTE\_AND\_DATA)
- 1 or more vBond
- 1 or more vSmart

### Steps:

1. Bring up all instances using the Common Steps
2. Pre-Checks
3. Configure vManage UI, Certificates, and Onboard Controllers
4. Config-db backup/restore
5. Post Checks

### Step 1: Pre-Checks

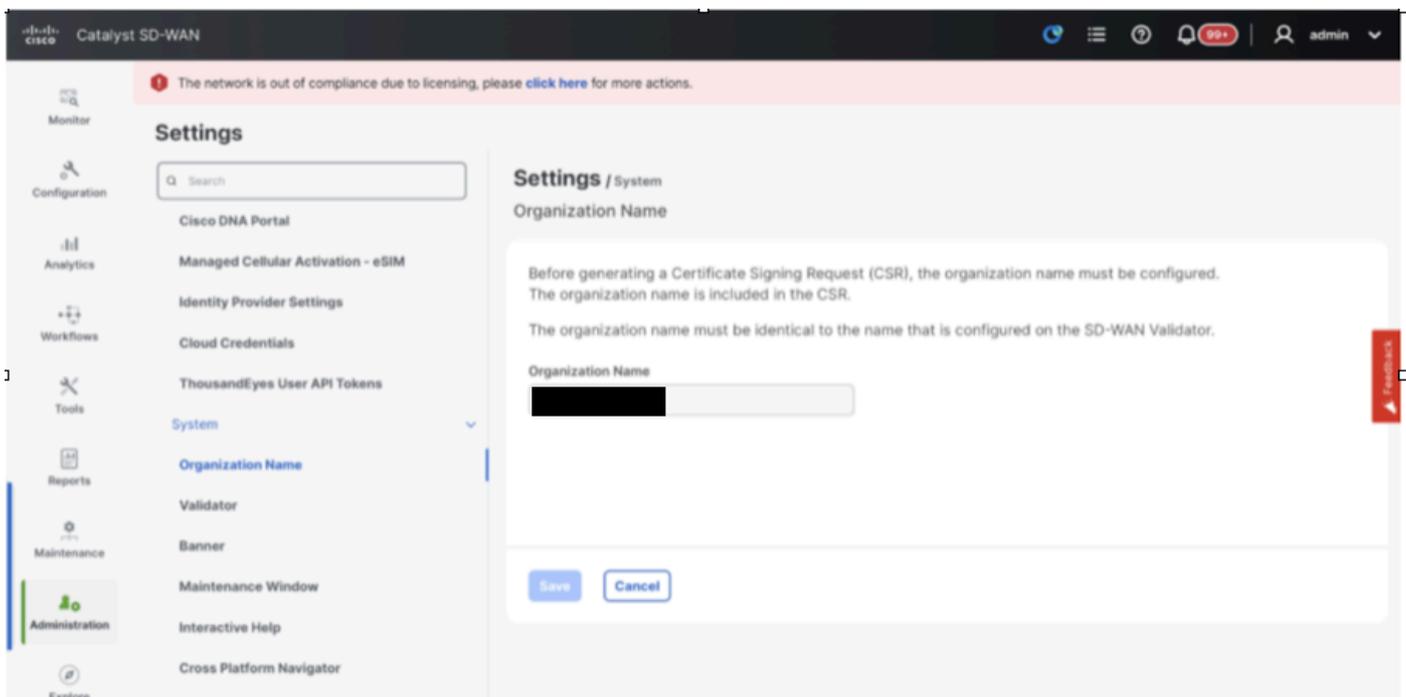
- Ensure that the number of the activeCisco SD-WAN Manager instances are identical to the number of the newly installedCisco SD-WAN Manager instances.
- Ensure that all the active and new Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances run the same software version.
- Ensure that all the active and new Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances are able to reach the management IP address of the Cisco SD-WAN Validator.

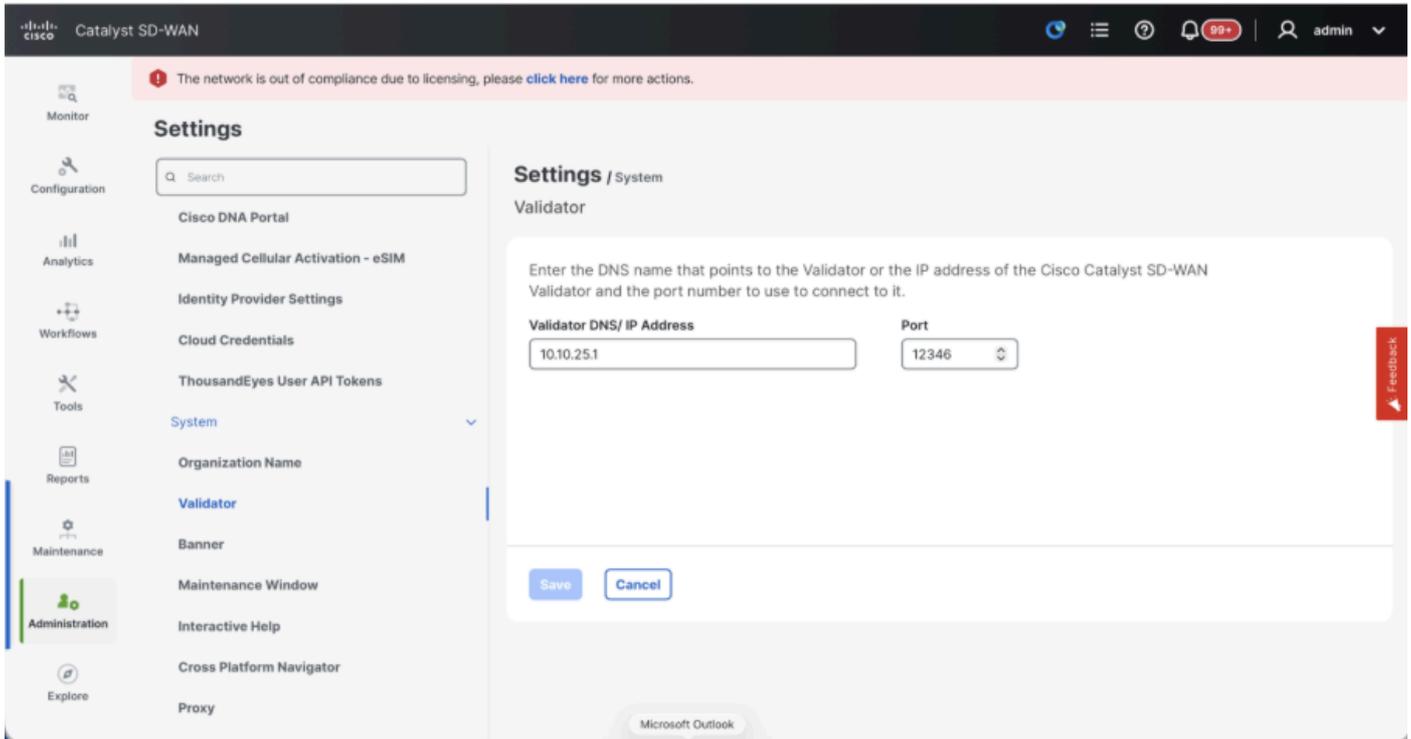
- Ensure that certificates have been installed on the newly installed Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances.
- Ensure that the clocks on all Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN devices, including the newly installed Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances, are synchronized.
- Ensure that a new set of System IPs and Site IDs is configured on the newly installed Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances, along with the same basic configuration as the active cluster.

## Step 2: Configure vManage UI, Certificates, and Onboard Controllers

### Update the configurations on vManage UI

- Once the configurations in Step 1 are added on the CLI of all the controllers, we can access the webUI of vManage, using the URL **https://<vmanage-ip>** in your browser. Use the **VPN 512 IP address** of respective vManage nodes. You can log in with the admin username and password.
- Navigate to **Administration > Settings** and complete these steps.
- Configure **Organization name** and **Validator/vBond URL/IP address**. Configure the same value as in the CLI of the vManage node.
- In the vManage 20.15/20.18 these configurations are available under section System.

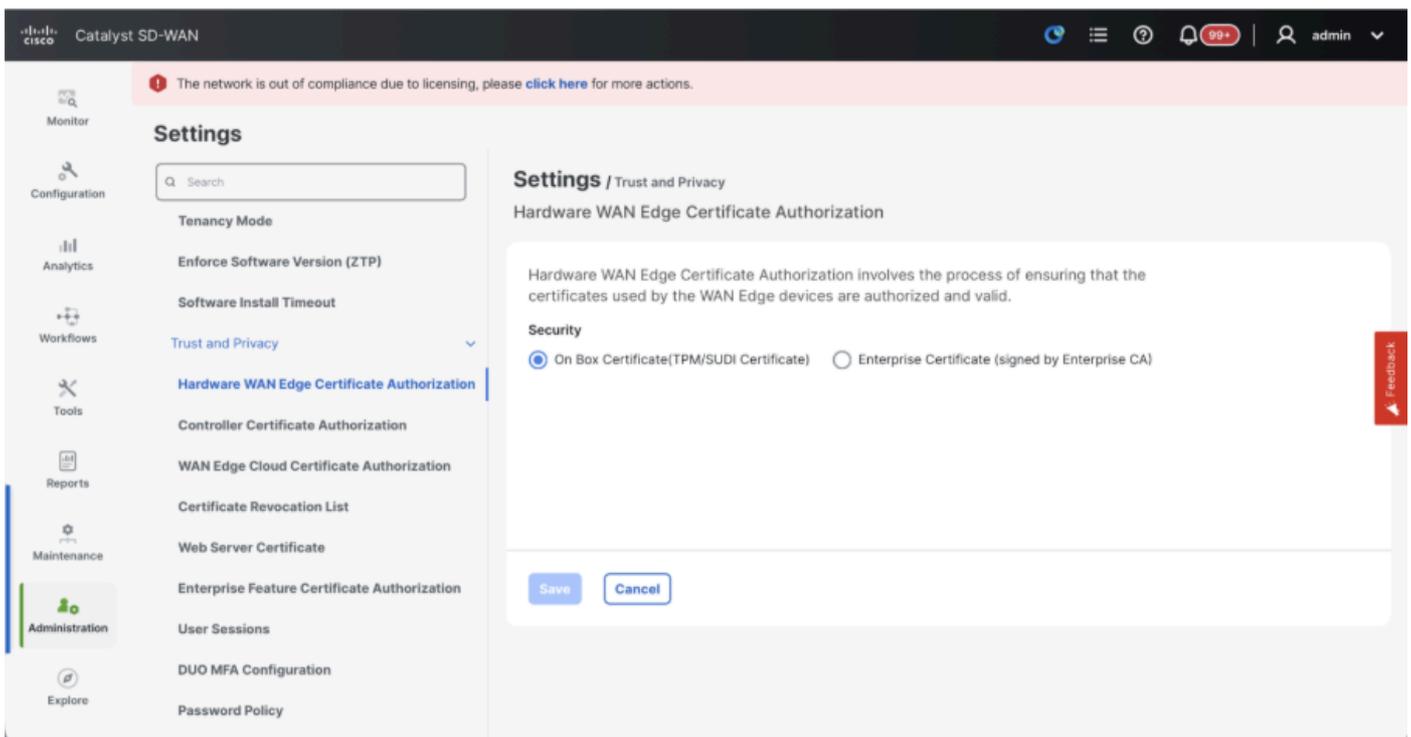




- Verify the configurations for Certificate Authorization(CA), which decides the Certificate Authority used for signing the certificates. We can see 3 options there:

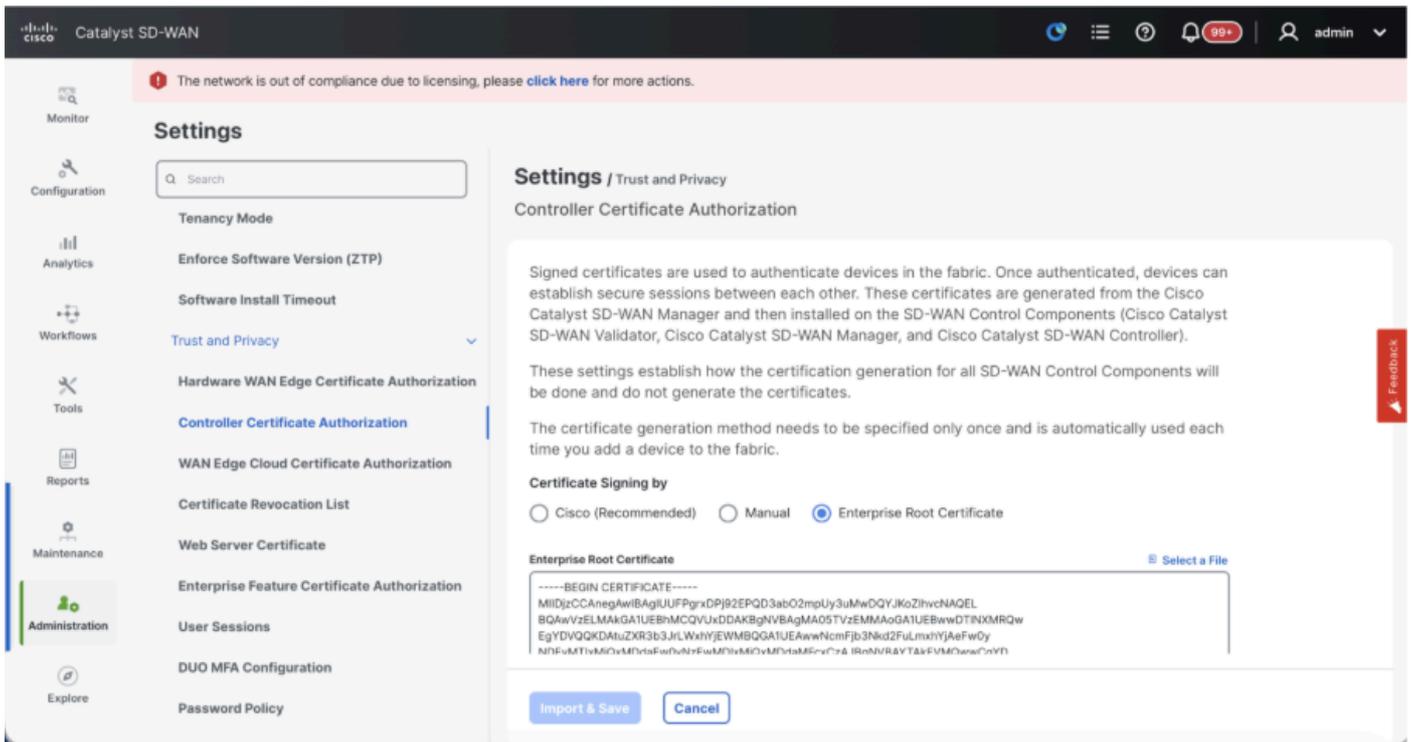
### 1. **Hardware WAN Edge Certificate Authorization** - Decides the CA for hardware SD-WAN Edge routers.

- On Box Certificate (TPM/SUDI Certificate) - With this option, the preinstalled certificate on the router hardware is used to establish the Control connections (TLS/DTLS connections)
- Enterprise Certificate (signed by Enterprise CA) - With this option, the routers use certificates signed by Enterprise certificate authority of your organization. While choosing this option, the root certificate of Enterprise CA must be updated here.



## 2. Controller Certificate Authorization - Decides the CA for SD-WAN controllers.

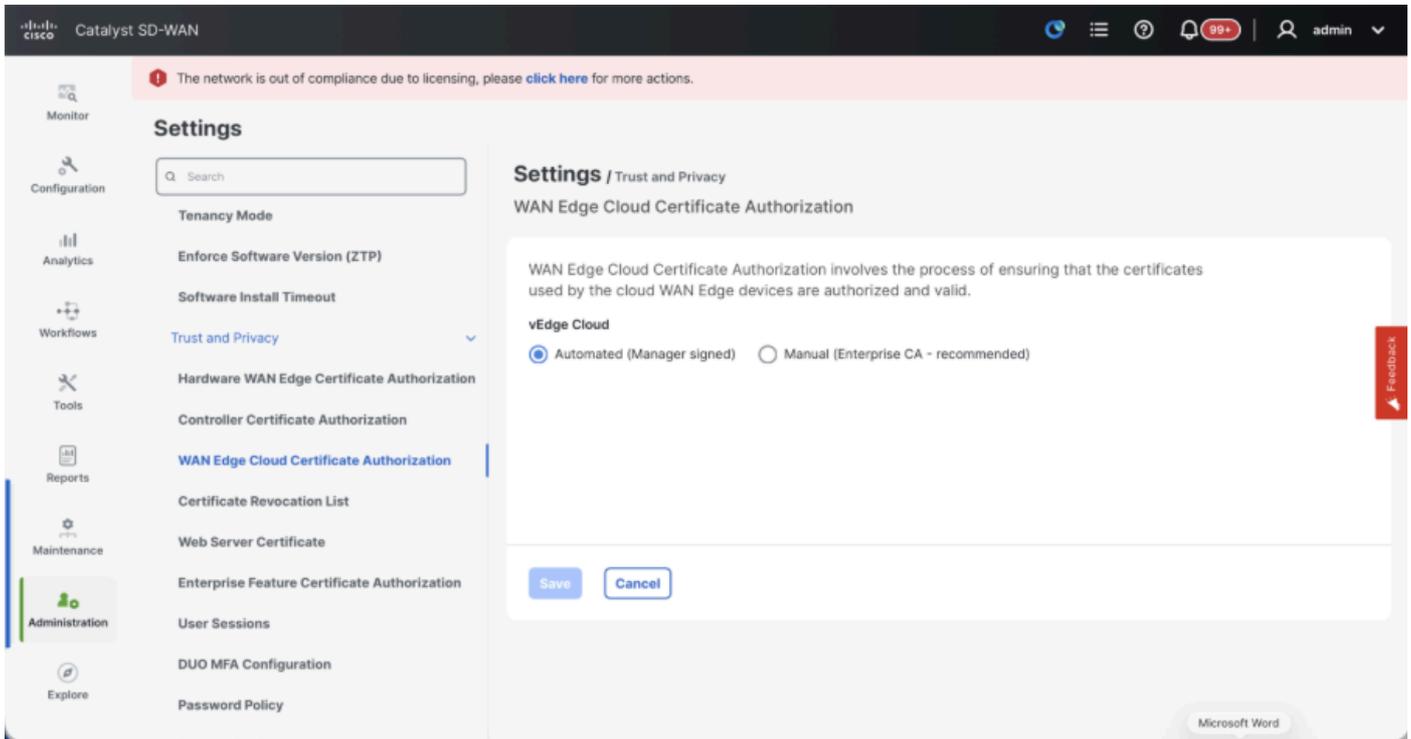
- Cisco (Recommended) - Controllers use the certificates signed by Cisco PKI. vManage automatically contacts the PNP portal using the smart account credentials configured on the vManage and get the certificate signed and is installed on the controller.
- Manual - Controllers use the certificates signed by Cisco PKI. Manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay.
- Enterprise Root Certificate - With this option, the routers use certificates signed by Enterprise certificate authority of your organization. While choosing this option, the root certificate of Enterprise CA must be updated here.



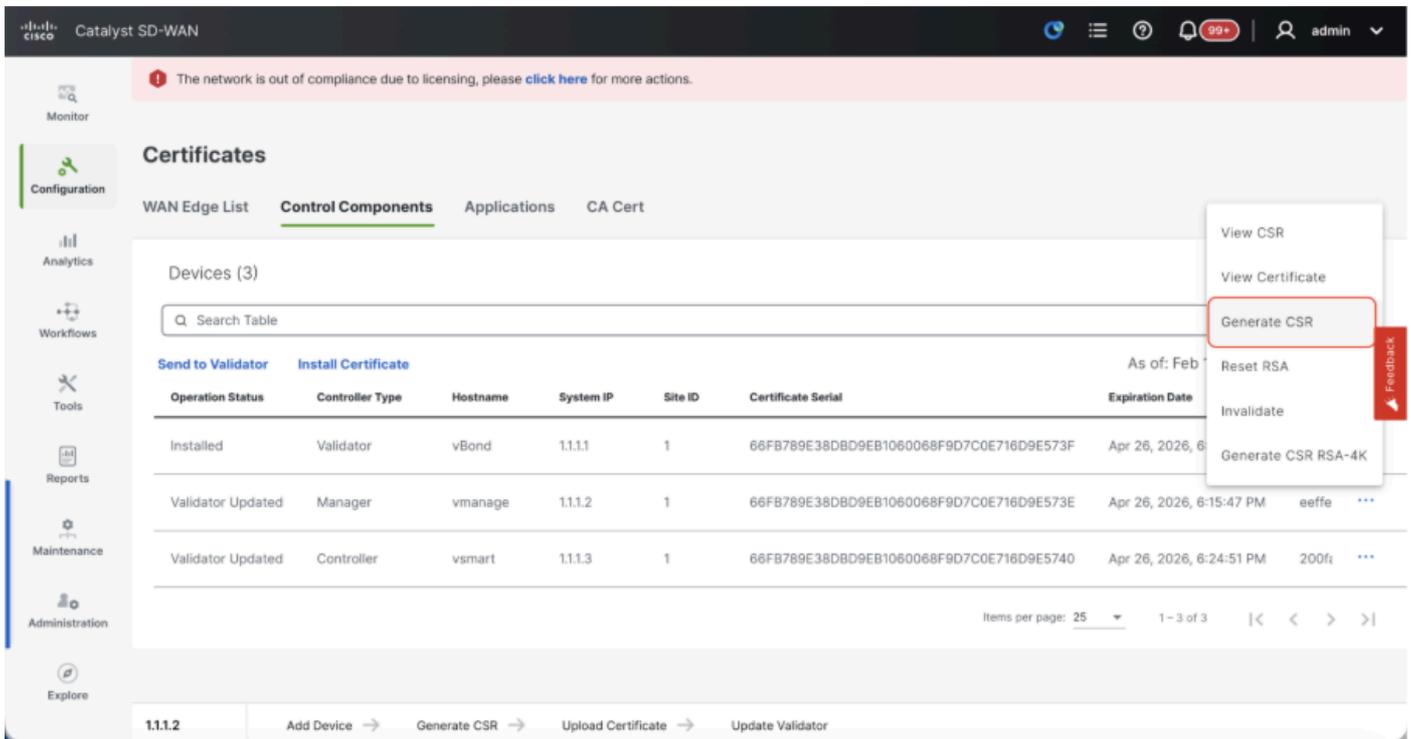
## 3. WAN Edge Cloud Certificate Authorization - Decides the CA for virtual SD-WAN Edge routers (CSR1000v, C8000v, vEdge cloud)

- Automated (vManage signed) - vManage automatically signs the CSR for the virtual Edge routers and install the certificate on the router.
- Manual (Enterprise CA - recommended) - Virtual routers use certificates signed by Enterprise certificate authority of your organization. While choosing this option, the root certificate of Enterprise CA must be updated here.

In case, if we are using our own CA, Enterprise certificate authority, choose Enterprise.



- Navigate to **Configuration > Certificates > Control Components** in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage nodes. In case of 20.9/20.12 versions, **Configuration > Devices > Controllers**
- Click on ... for Manager/vManage and click on Generate CSR.



- Once the CSR is generated, you can download the CSR and get it signed based on the Certificate authority chosen for controllers. You can verify this configuration in **Administration > Settings > Controller Certificate Authorization**. If Cisco (Recommended) is chosen, then the CSR is automatically uploaded to the PNP portal by the vManage and once the certificate is signed, it is installed on the vManage automatically.
- If Manual is chosen, manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay. Once the certificate is available from

PNP portal, click on install certificate on the same section of vManage and upload the certificate and install the certificate. Same procedure is applicable if we are using Digicert and Enterprise Root Certificate.

## Onboarding vBond/Validator and vSmart/Controller to the vManage

Navigate to **Configuration > Devices > Control Components** in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage nodes. In case of 20.9/20.12 versions, **Configuration > Devices > Controllers**

### Onboarding vBond/Validator

- Click on Add vBond in case of 20.12 vManage or Add Validator in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage. A pop up opens, enter the VPN 0 transport IP of vBond which is reachable from the vManage.
- Check the reachability using ping if allowed from CLI of vManage to vBond IP.
- Enter the user credentials of vBond.



**Note:** We need to use admin credentials of vBond or a user part of netadmin group. You can verify this in the CLI of the vBond. Choose Yes in the dropdown of "Generate CSR" if we need to install a new certificate for vBond.



**Note:** If the vBond is behind a NAT device/Firewall, check if the vBond VPN 0 interface IP is translated to a public IP. If VPN 0 interface IP is not reachable from vManage, use the public IP address of VPN 0 interface in this step.

The screenshot shows the vManage interface with the 'Add Validator' modal open. The 'Control Components' table lists three items: a Validator, a Manager, and a Controller. The 'Add Validator' button is highlighted with a red box. The configuration form on the right includes fields for IP address, username, password, and a 'Generate CSR' dropdown set to 'No'.

Controller Type	Site Name	Hostname	Config Locked	Managed By	Device Status	Sync
Validator	SITE_1	vBond	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1
Manager	SITE_1	vmanage	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1
Controller	SITE_1	vsmart	Yes	Template vSmart-template	In Sync	1.1

- Once the CSR is generated, you can download the CSR and get it signed based on the Certificate authority chosen for controllers. You can verify this configuration in **Administration > Settings > Controller Certificate Authorization**. If Cisco (Recommended) is chosen, then the CSR is

automatically uploaded to the PNP portal by the vManage and once the certificate is signed, it is installed on the vBond automatically.

- If Manual is chosen, manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay. Once the certificate is available from PNP portal, click on install certificate on the same section of vManage and upload the certificate and install the certificate. Same procedure is applicable if we are using Digicert and Enterprise Root Certificate.
- If there are multiple vBonds, repeat the same steps.

## Onboarding vSmart/Controller

- Click on **Add vSmart** in case of 20.12 vManage or **Add Controller** in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage.
- A pop up opens, enter the **VPN 0 transport IP of vSmart** which is reachable from the vManage.
- Check the reachability using ping if allowed from CLI of vManage to vSmart IP.
- Enter the user credentials of vSmart Note that we need to use **admin credentials of vSmart** or a user part of netadmin group.
- You can verify this in the CLI of the vSmart.
- Set the protocol to TLS, if we intend to use TLS for routers to establish control connections with vSmart. This config needs to be configured on CLI of vSmarts and vManage nodes as well.
- Choose Yes in the dropdown of "**Generate CSR**" if we need to install a new certificate for vSmart.



**Note:** If the vSmart is behind NAT device/Firewall, check if the vSmart VPN 0 interface IP is translated to a public IP, and if VPN 0 interface IP is not reachable from vManage, use public IP address of VPN 0 interface IP in this step.

The screenshot displays the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN vManage interface. The main view shows the 'Control Components' table with the following data:

Controller Type	Site Name	Hostname	Config Locked	Managed By	Device Status	Sync
Validator	SITE_1	vBond	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1
Manager	SITE_1	vmanage	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1
Controller	SITE_1	vsmart	Yes	Template vSmart-template	In Sync	1.1

The 'Add Controller' configuration window is open on the right, showing the following fields:

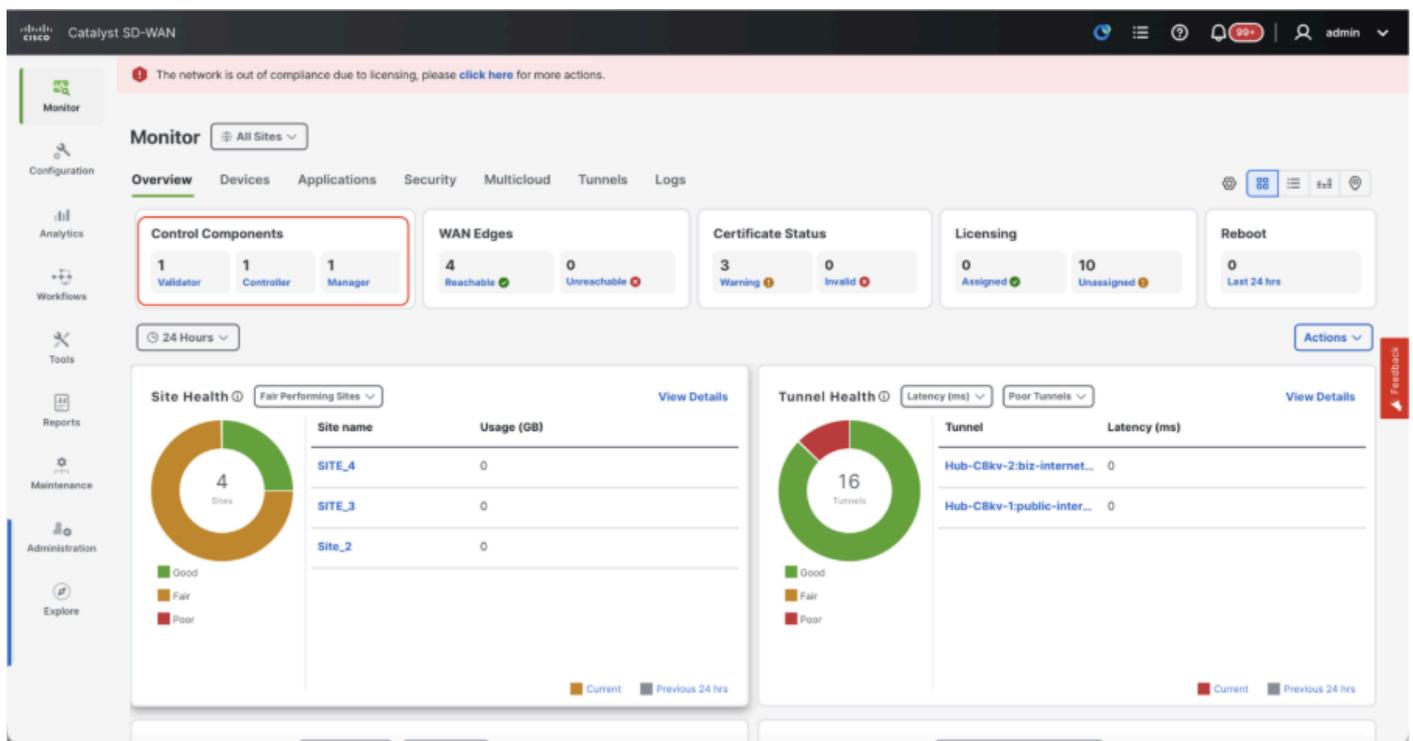
- Controller Management IP Address:
- Username:
- Password:
- Protocol: DTLS (dropdown menu)
- Port:
- Generate CSR: No (dropdown menu)

Buttons for 'Cancel' and 'Add' are visible at the bottom right of the configuration window.

- Once the CSR is generated, you can download the CSR and get it signed based on the Certificate authority chosen for controllers. You can verify this configuration in **Administration > Settings > Controller Certificate Authorization**. If Cisco (Recommended) is chosen, then the CSR is automatically uploaded to the PNP portal by the vManage and once the certificate is signed, it is installed on the vSmart automatically.
- If Manual is chosen, manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay. Same procedure is applicable if we are using Digicert and Enterprise Root Certificate.
- Once the certificate is available from PNP portal, click on install certificate on the same section of vManage and upload the certificate and install the certificate.
- If there are multiple vSmarts, repeat the same steps.

## Verification

Once all the steps are completed, verify that all the control components are reachable in Monitor>Dashboard



- Click on the respective Control components and confirm that they are all reachable.
- Navigate to **Monitor > Devices** and confirm all the control components are reachable.

The screenshot shows the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Monitor interface. At the top, there is a notification: "The network is out of compliance due to licensing, please [click here](#) for more actions." Below this, the "Monitor" section is active, showing a "Devices" tab. The interface displays a table of devices for "SITE\_1".

Hostname	Device Model	Site Name	System IP	Health	Reachability	Control	BFD	TLOC	Up Since	CPU Load	Memory utilization	Act
vBond	Validator	SITE_1	1.1.1.1	✓	↑	14 / 14	N/A	- / -	Jan 13, 2026 11:32 AM	0.79%	13%	...
vmanage	Manager	SITE_1	1.1.1.2	⚠	↑	6 / 6	N/A	8 / 8	Feb 06, 2026 10:07 AM	2.48%	77%	...
vsmart	Controller	SITE_1	1.1.1.3	✓	↑	7 / 7	N/A	2 / 2	Jan 13, 2026 11:33 AM	1.32%	16%	...

### Step 3: Config-db Backup/Restore

#### Collect vManage configuration-db backup and restore on another vManage node

#### Collect Configuration-DB backup:

- In the SD-WAN fabric which is currently in use, you can generate configuration-db backup on both standalone vManage and vManage cluster setup's.
- For standalone vManage, that vManage itself is the configuration-db leader.

Confirm the configuration-db is running on the vManage node.

You can verify the same using the command *request nms configuration-db status* on vManageCLI. The output is as shown

```
vmanage# request nms configuration-db status
NMS configuration database
  Enabled: true
  Status: running PID:32632 for 1066085s
  Native metrics status: ENABLED
  Server-load metrics status: ENABLED
vmanage#
```

Use this command to collect the configuration-db backup from the identified configuration-db leader vManage node.

```
request nms configuration-db backup path /opt/data/backup/<filename>
```

The expected output is as shown:

```
vmanage# request nms configuration-db backup path /opt/data/backup/june18th
Starting backup of configuration-db
config-db backup logs are available in /var/log/nms/neo4j-backup.log file
Successfully saved backup to /opt/data/backup/june18th.tar.gz
sha256sum: 8d0f5af8aee4e70f05e3858be6bdd5e6c136134ae47c383569ec883080f5d359
Removing the temp staging dir :/opt/data/backup/staging
vmanage#
```

- Make a note of the **configuration-db credentials** if it has been updated.
- If you are unaware of the configuration-db credentials, reach out to TAC to retrieve the configuration-db credentials from the existing vManage nodes.
- **Default configuration-db credentials** are username: neo4j and password: password

## Restore Configuration-db Backup to another vManage node

Copy the configuration-db backup to /home/admin/ directory of vManage using SCP.

Sample scp command output:

```
XXXXXXXXX Downloads % scp june18th.tar.gz admin@10.66.62.27:/home/admin/
viptela 20.15.4.1

(admin@10.66.62.27) Password:
(admin@10.66.62.27) Password:
june18th.tar.gz
```

To restore configuration-db backup, first we need to configure the configuration-db credentials. If your configuration-db credentials are default(neo4j/password), we can skip this step.

To configure configuration-db credentials, use the command *request nms configuration-db update-admin-user*. Use the username and password of your choice.

Kindly note that the Application server of vManage is restarted. Due to which vManage UI becomes inaccessible for a short time.

```
vmanage# request nms configuration-db update-admin-user
configuration-db
Enter current user name:neo4j
Enter current user password:password
Enter new user name:ciscoadmin
Enter new user password:ciscoadmin
WARNING: sun.reflect.Reflection.getCallerClass is not supported. This will impact performance.
Successfully updated configuration database admin user(this is service node, please repeat same operati
Successfully restarted vManage Device Data Collector
Successfully restarted NMS application server
Successfully restarted NMS data collection agent
vmanage#
```

Post which we can proceed to restore the configuration-db backup:

We can use the command *request nms configuration-db restore path /home/admin/< >* to restore the configuration-db to the new vManage:

```
vmanage# request nms configuration-db restore path /home/admin/june18th.tar.gz
Starting backup of configuration-db
config-db backup logs are available in /var/log/nms/neo4j-backup.log file
Successfully saved database to /opt/data/backup/configdb-local-tmp-20230623-160954.tar.gz
Successfully backup database to /opt/data/backup/configdb-local-tmp-20230623-160954.tar.gz
Configuration database is running in a standalone mode
WARNING: sun.reflect.Reflection.getCallerClass is not supported. This will impact performance.
Successfully saved cluster configuration for localhost
Successfully saved vManage root CA information for device: "53f95156-f56b-472f-b713-d164561b25b7"
Stopping NMS application server on localhost
Stopping NMS configuration database on localhost
Resetting NMS configuration database on localhost
Loading NMS configuration database on localhost
Starting NMS configuration database on localhost
Waiting for 180s or the instance to start...
NMS configuration database on localhost has started.
Updating DB with the saved cluster configuration data
Successfully reinserted cluster meta information
Successfully reinserted vmanage root ca information
Starting NMS application server on localhost
Waiting for 180s for the instance to start...
Successfully restored database
```

Once the configuration-db is restored, make sure the vManage UI is accessible. Wait for around 5 minutes and then attempt to access the UI.

Once logged into UI successfully, ensure the Edge routers list, template, policies and all the rest of the configurations that were present on your previous or existing vManage UI is reflected on the new vManage UI.

#### **Step 4: Reauthentication of Controllers and invalidation of old controllers**

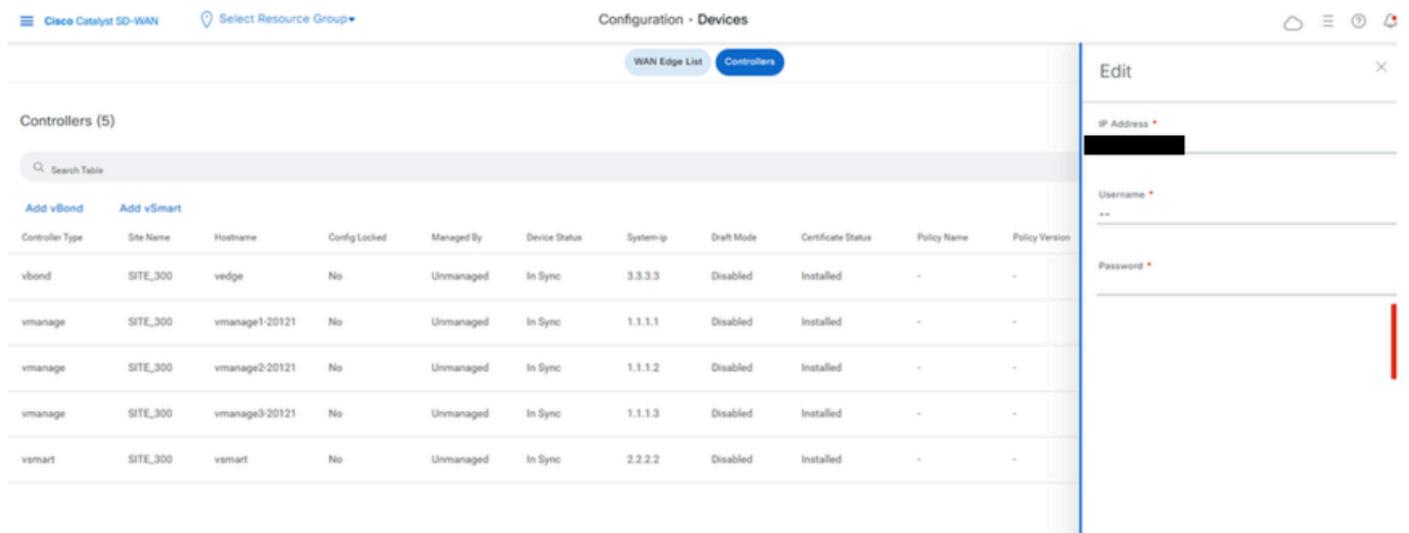
Once configuration-db is restored, we need to reauthenticate all the new controllers (vmanage/vsmart/vbond) in the fabric.



**Note:** In actual production if the interface IP used to re-authenticate is the tunnel interface IP, need to ensure NETCONF service is allowed on the tunnel interface of the vManage, vSmart and vBond and also on the firewalls along the path. The firewall port to open is TCP port 830 as bi-directional rule from DR cluster to all vBonds and vSmarts.

On vmanage UI, click on Configuration > Devices > Controllers

- Click the three dots near each controller and Click Edit



- Replace the ip-address (system-ip of the controller) with the transport vpn 0 (tunnel interface) ip address. Enter the username and password and click save
- Do the same for all the new controllers in the fabric

## Sync the Root-cert-chain

Once all the controllers are onboarded, complete this step:

On any Cisco SD-WAN Manager server in the newly active cluster, perform these actions:

Enter this command to synchronize the root certificate with all Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN devices in the newly active cluster:

<https://vmanage-url/dataservice/system/device/sync/rootcertchain>

Enter this command to synchronize the Cisco SD-WAN Manager UUID with the Cisco SD-WAN Validator:

<https://vmanage-url/dataservice/certificate/syncvbond>

Once the fabric is restored and the control and bfd sessions are up for all edges and controllers in the fabric, we need to invalidate the old controllers (vmanage/vsmart/vbond) from the UI

- On vmanage UI, click on Configuration > Certificates > Controllers
- Click on Controllers
- Click on the three dots in the right hand side of the controller(vmanage/vsmart/vbond) from the old fabric. Click invalidate
- Click send to vbond
- On vmanage UI, click on Configuration > Devices > Controllers
- Click on the three dots in the right hand side of the controller(vmanage/vsmart/vbond) from the old fabric. Click Delete

## Step 5: Post Checks



**Note:** Continue with the Post Checks section shown here, which is common to all deployment combinations.

## Combination 2: Standalone vManage + Single Node DR

### Instances needed:

- 1 vManage (primary, COMPUTE\_AND\_DATA)
- 1 vManage (DR standby, COMPUTE\_AND\_DATA)
- 1 or more vBond
- 1 or more vSmart

### Steps:

1. Bring up all instances using the Common Steps
2. Pre-checks
3. Configure vManage UI, Certificates, and Onboard Controllers
4. Single Node DR Setup
5. Config-db backup/restore
6. Post Checks

### Step 1: Pre-Checks

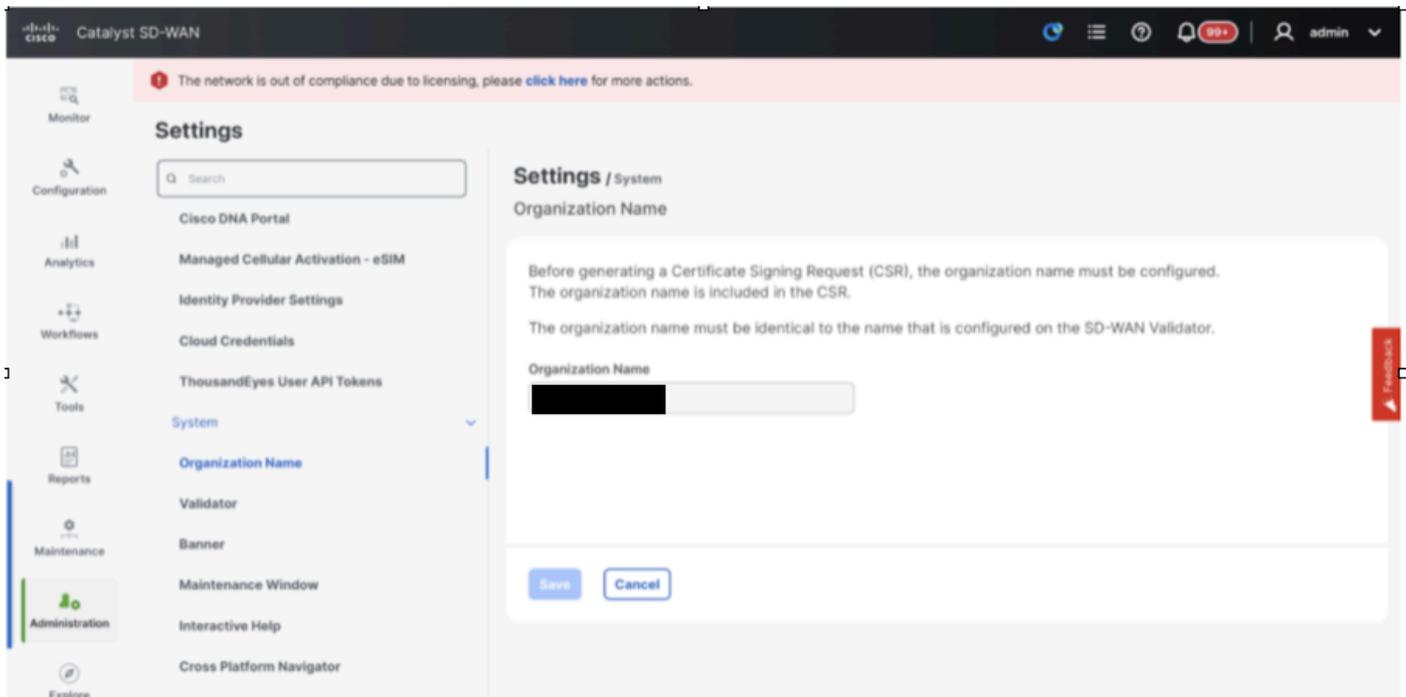
- Ensure that the number of the active Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances are identical to the number of the newly installed Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances.
- Ensure that all the active and new Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances run the same software version.
- Ensure that all the active and new Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances are able to reach the management IP address of the Cisco SD-WAN Validator.
- Ensure that certificates have been installed on the newly installed Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances.
- Ensure that the clocks on all Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN devices, including the newly installed Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances, are synchronized.

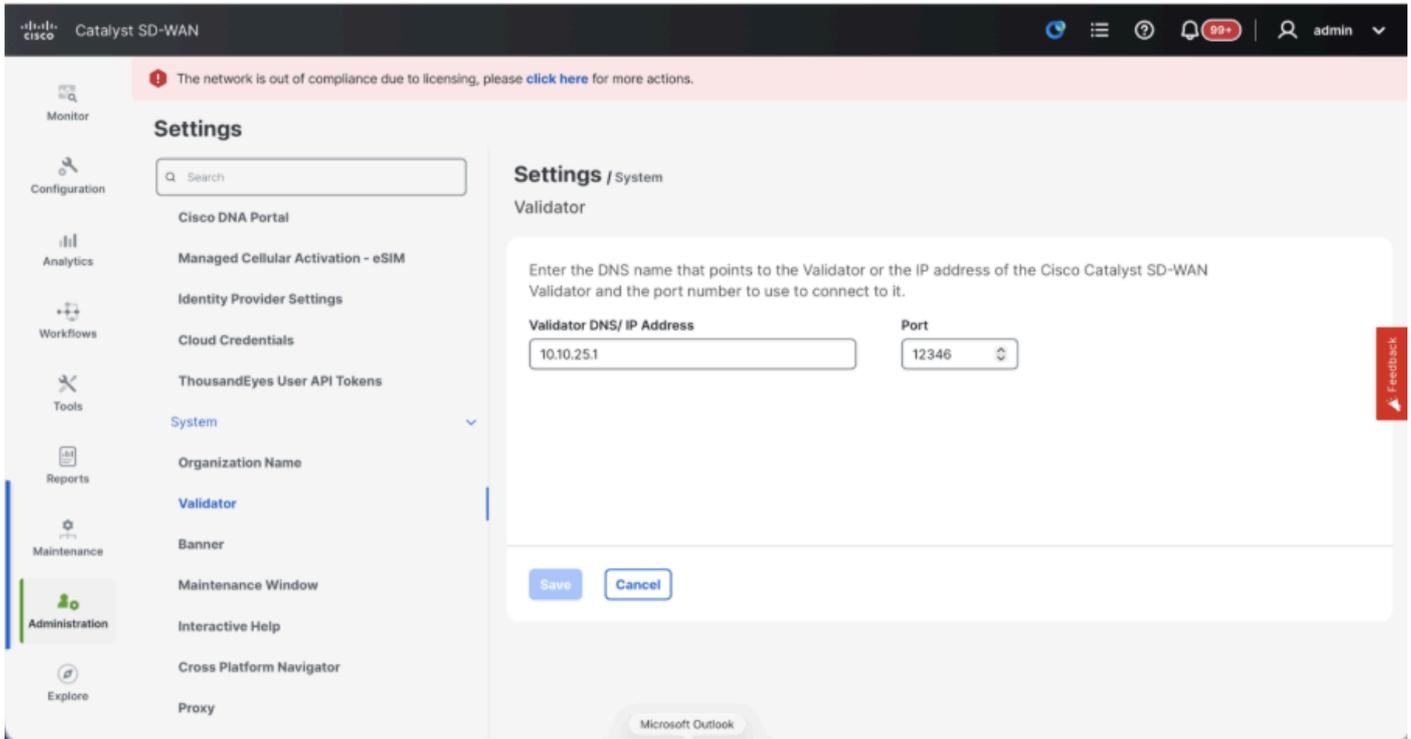
- Ensure that a new set of System IPs and Site IDs is configured on the newly installed Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances, along with the same basic configuration as the active cluster.

## Step 2: Configure vManage UI, Certificates, and Onboard Controllers

### Update the configurations on vManage UI

- Once the configurations in Step 1 are added on the CLI of all the controllers, we can access the webUI of vManage, using the URL **https://<vmanage-ip>** in your browser. Use the **VPN 512 IP address** of respective vManage nodes. You can log in with the admin username and password.
- Navigate to **Administration > Settings** and complete these steps.
- Configure **Organization name** and **Validator/vBond URL/IP address**. Configure the same value as in the CLI of the vManage node.
- In the vManage 20.15/20.18 these configurations are available under section System.

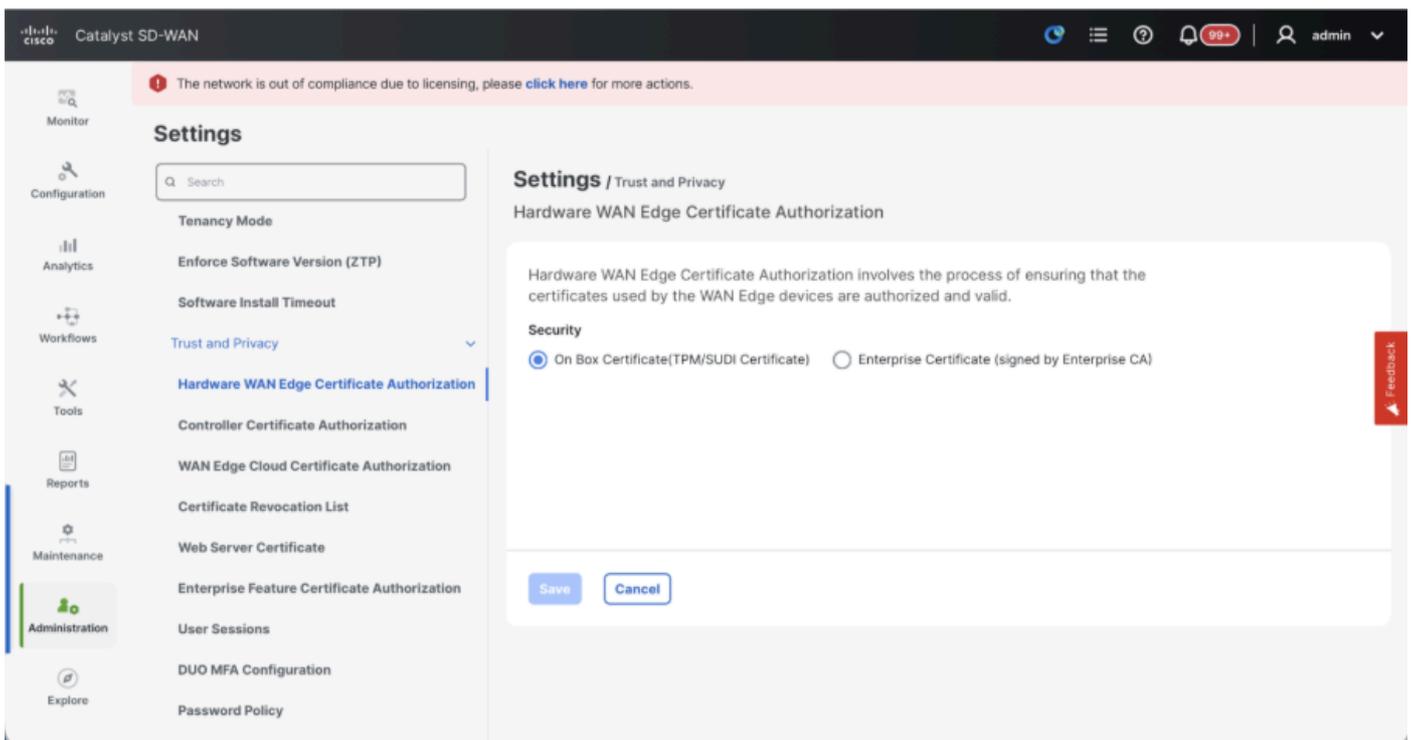




- Verify the configurations for Certificate Authorization(CA), which decides the Certificate Authority used for signing the certificates. We can see 3 options there:

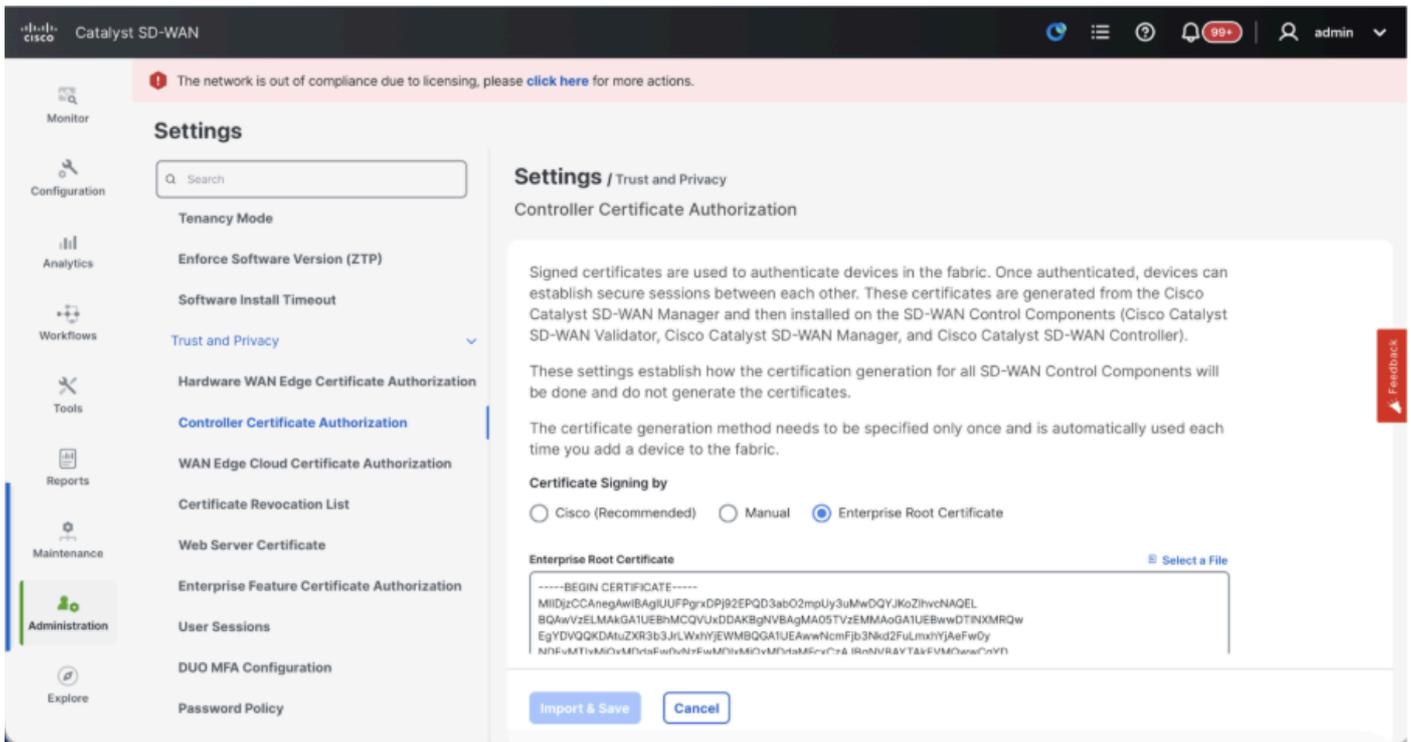
1. **Hardware WAN Edge Certificate Authorization** - Decides the CA for hardware SD-WAN Edge routers.

- On Box Certificate (TPM/SUDI Certificate) - With this option, the preinstalled certificate on the router hardware is used to establish the Control connections (TLS/DTLS connections)
- Enterprise Certificate (signed by Enterprise CA) - With this option, the routers use certificates signed by Enterprise certificate authority of your organization. While choosing this option, the root certificate of Enterprise CA must be updated here.



## 2. Controller Certificate Authorization - Decides the CA for SD-WAN controllers.

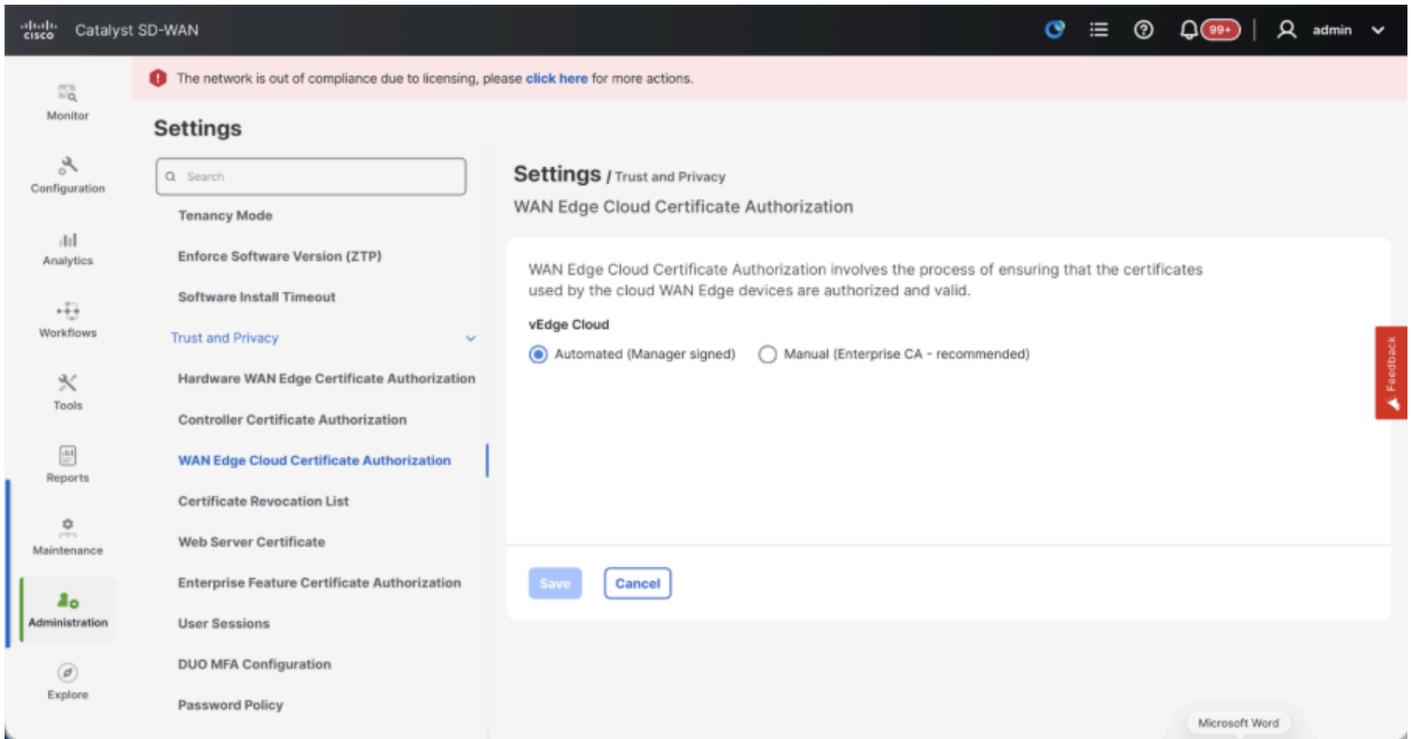
- Cisco (Recommended) - Controllers use the certificates signed by Cisco PKI. vManage automatically contacts the PNP portal using the smart account credentials configured on the vManage and get the certificate signed and is installed on the controller.
- Manual - Controllers use the certificates signed by Cisco PKI. Manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay.
- Enterprise Root Certificate - With this option, the routers use certificates signed by Enterprise certificate authority of your organization. While choosing this option, the root certificate of Enterprise CA must be updated here.



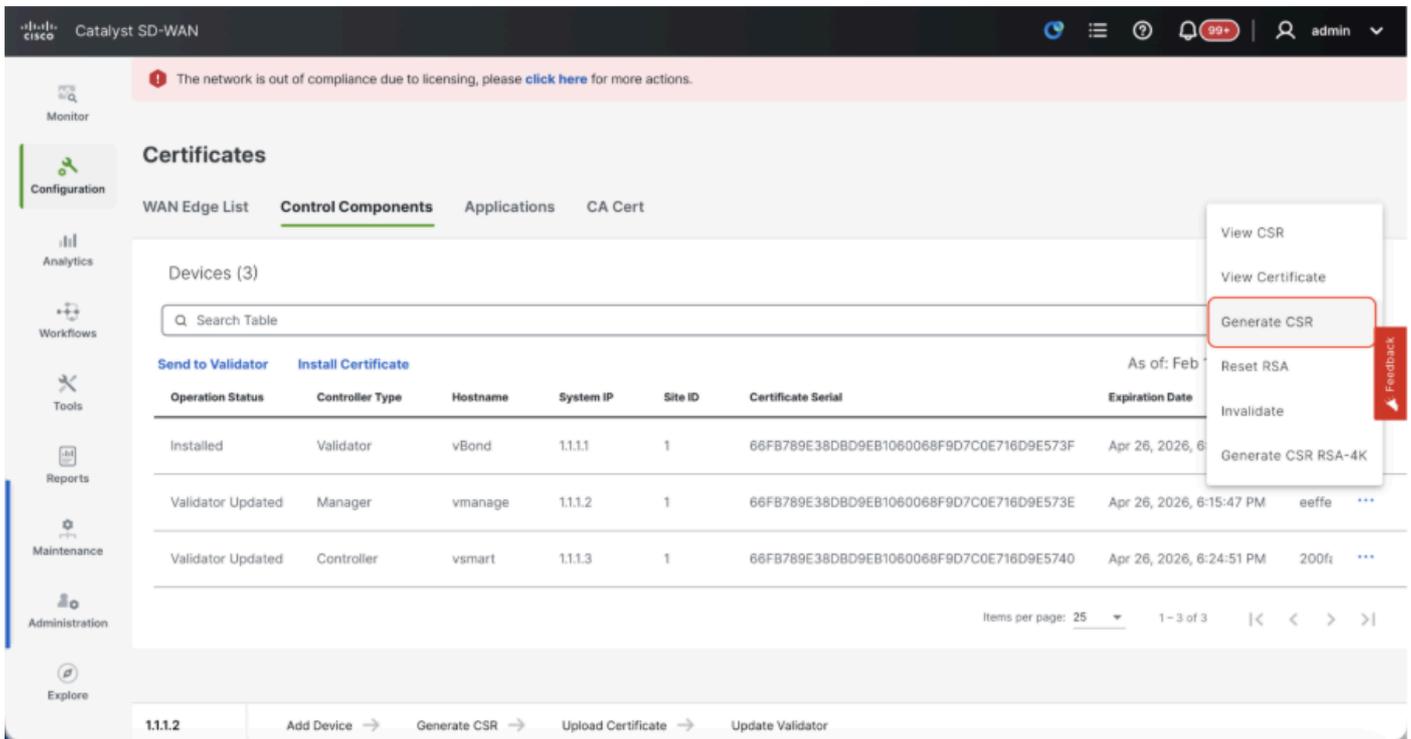
## 3. WAN Edge Cloud Certificate Authorization - Decides the CA for virtual SD-WAN Edge routers (CSR1000v, C8000v, vEdge cloud)

- Automated (vManage signed) - vManage automatically signs the CSR for the virtual Edge routers and install the certificate on the router.
- Manual (Enterprise CA - recommended) - Virtual routers use certificates signed by Enterprise certificate authority of your organization. While choosing this option, the root certificate of Enterprise CA must be updated here.

In case, if we are using our own CA, Enterprise certificate authority, choose Enterprise.



- Navigate to **Configuration > Certificates > Control Components** in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage nodes. In case of 20.9/20.12 versions, **Configuration > Devices > Controllers**
- Click on ... for Manager/vManage and click on Generate CSR.



- Once the CSR is generated, you can download the CSR and get it signed based on the Certificate authority chosen for controllers. You can verify this configuration in **Administration > Settings > Controller Certificate Authorization**. If Cisco (Recommended) is chosen, then the CSR is automatically uploaded to the PNP portal by the vManage and once the certificate is signed, it is installed on the vManage automatically.
- If Manual is chosen, manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay. Once the certificate is available from

PNP portal, click on install certificate on the same section of vManage and upload the certificate and install the certificate. Same procedure is applicable if we are using Digicert and Enterprise Root Certificate.

## Onboarding vBond/Validator and vSmart/Controller to the vManage

Navigate to **Configuration > Devices > Control Components** in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage nodes. In case of 20.9/20.12 versions, **Configuration > Devices > Controllers**

### Onboarding vBond/Validator

- Click on Add vBond in case of 20.12 vManage or Add Validator in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage. A pop up opens, enter the VPN 0 transport IP of vBond which is reachable from the vManage.
- Check the reachability using ping if allowed from CLI of vManage to vBond IP.
- Enter the user credentials of vBond.



**Note:** We need to use admin credentials of vBond or a user part of netadmin group. You can verify this in the CLI of the vBond. Choose Yes in the dropdown of "Generate CSR" if we need to install a new certificate for vBond



**Note:** If the vBond is behind a NAT device/Firewall, check if the vBond VPN 0 interface IP is translated to a public IP. If VPN 0 interface IP is not reachable from vManage, use the public IP address of VPN 0 interface in this step

The screenshot shows the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN vManage interface. The main view is 'Devices > Control Components'. A table lists three control components: a Validator, a Manager, and a Controller. The 'Add Validator' button is highlighted with a red box. A modal window titled 'Add Validator' is open on the right, containing the following fields:

- Validator Management IP Address (text input)
- Username (text input)
- Password (text input)
- Generate CSR (dropdown menu, currently set to 'No')

At the bottom of the modal are 'Cancel' and 'Add' buttons. A 'Feedback' button is visible on the right side of the modal.

- Once the CSR is generated, you can download the CSR and get it signed based on the Certificate authority chosen for controllers. You can verify this configuration in **Administration > Settings > Controller Certificate Authorization**. If Cisco (Recommended) is chosen, then the CSR is

automatically uploaded to the PNP portal by the vManage and once the certificate is signed, it is installed on the vBond automatically.

- If Manual is chosen, manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay. Once the certificate is available from PNP portal, click on install certificate on the same section of vManage and upload the certificate and install the certificate. Same procedure is applicable if we are using Digicert and Enterprise Root Certificate.
- If there are multiple vBonds, repeat the same steps.

## Onboarding vSmart/Controller

- Click on **Add vSmart** in case of 20.12 vManage or **Add Controller** in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage.
- A pop up opens, enter the **VPN 0 transport IP of vSmart** which is reachable from the vManage.
- Check the reachability using ping if allowed from CLI of vManage to vSmart IP.
- Enter the user credentials of vSmart Note that we need to use **admin credentials of vSmart** or a user part of netadmin group.
- You can verify this in the CLI of the vSmart.
- Set the protocol to TLS, if we intend to use TLS for routers to establish control connections with vSmart. This config needs to be configured on CLI of vSmarts and vManage nodes as well.
- Choose Yes in the dropdown of "**Generate CSR**" if we need to install a new certificate for vSmart.



**Note:** If the vSmart is behind NAT device/Firewall, check if the vSmart VPN 0 interface IP is translated to a public IP, and if VPN 0 interface IP is not reachable from vManage, use public IP address of VPN 0 interface IP in this step.

The screenshot displays the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN vManage interface. The main content area shows the 'Control Components' table with the following data:

Controller Type	Site Name	Hostname	Config Locked	Managed By	Device Status	Sync
Validator	SITE_1	vBond	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1
Manager	SITE_1	vmanage	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1
Controller	SITE_1	vsmart	Yes	Template vSmart-template	In Sync	1.1

The 'Add Controller' dialog box is open on the right, with the following fields:

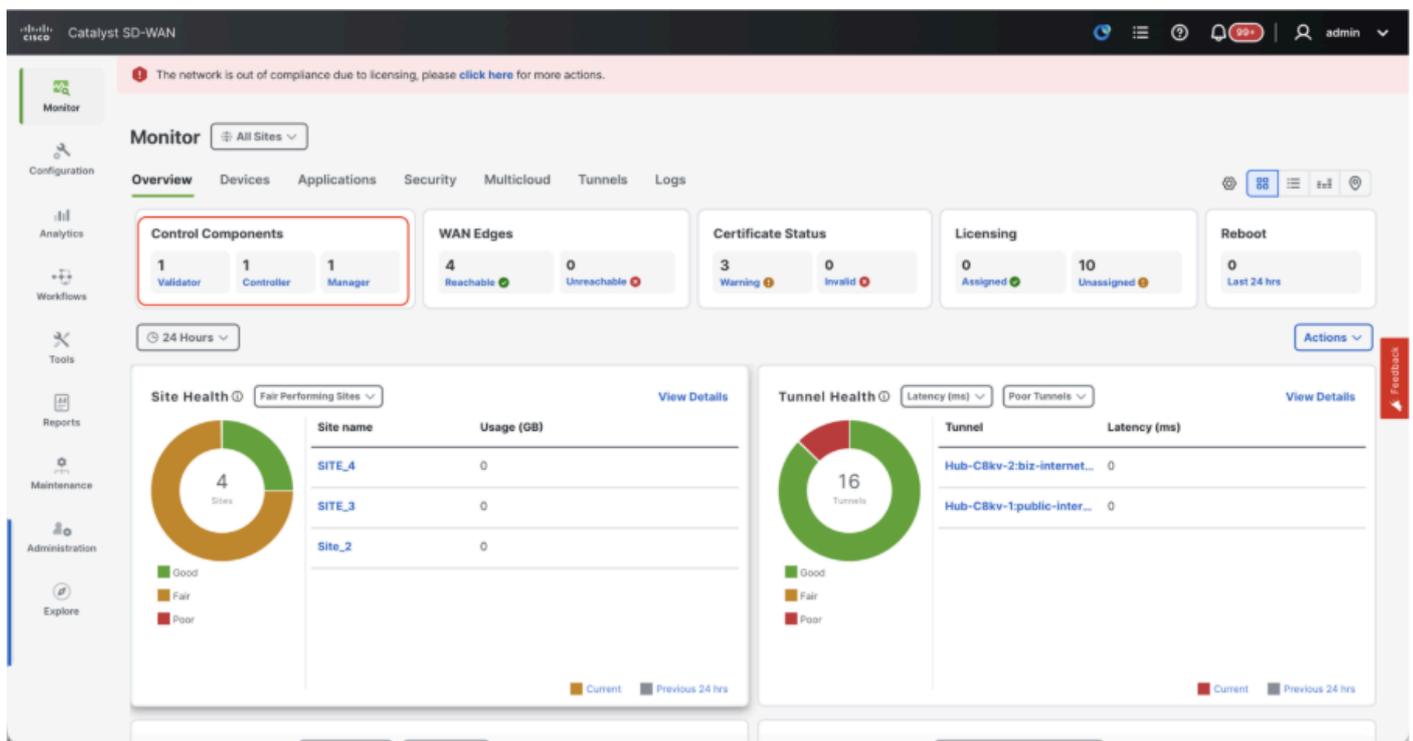
- Controller Management IP Address:
- Username:
- Password:
- Protocol: DTLS (dropdown menu)
- Port:
- Generate CSR: No (dropdown menu)

Buttons for 'Cancel' and 'Add' are visible at the bottom right of the dialog box.

- Once the CSR is generated, you can download the CSR and get it signed based on the Certificate authority chosen for controllers. You can verify this configuration in **Administration > Settings > Controller Certificate Authorization**. If Cisco (Recommended) is chosen, then the CSR is automatically uploaded to the PNP portal by the vManage and once the certificate is signed, it is installed on the vSmart automatically.
- If Manual is chosen, manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay. Same procedure is applicable if we are using Digicert and Enterprise Root Certificate.
- Once the certificate is available from PNP portal, click on install certificate on the same section of vManage and upload the certificate and install the certificate.
- If there are multiple vSmarts, repeat the same steps.

## Verification

Once all the steps are completed, verify that all the control components are reachable in Monitor>Dashboard



- Click on the respective Control components and confirm that they are all reachable.
- Navigate to **Monitor > Devices** and confirm all the control components are reachable.

Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN

The network is out of compliance due to licensing, please [click here](#) for more actions.

Monitor All Sites

Configuration Overview **Devices** Applications Security Multicloud Tunnels Logs

Analytics Workflows Tools Reports Maintenance Administration

Devices Certificates Licensing

Device Group All

Devices (7) Export

Search Table

As of: Feb 18, 2026 11:28 AM

Hostname	Device Model	Site Name	System IP	Health	Reachability	Control	BFD	TLOC	Up Since	CPU Load	Memory utilization	Act
vBond	Validator	SITE_1	1.1.1.1	✓	↑	14 / 14	N/A	- / -	Jan 13, 2026 11:32 AM	0.79%	13%	...
vmanage	Manager	SITE_1	1.1.1.2	⚠	↑	6 / 6	N/A	8 / 8	Feb 06, 2026 10:07 AM	2.48%	77%	...
vsmart	Controller	SITE_1	1.1.1.3	✓	↑	7 / 7	N/A	2 / 2	Jan 13, 2026 11:33 AM	1.32%	16%	...

### Step 3: Config-db Backup/Restore

#### Collect vManage configuration-db backup and restore on another vManage node



**Note:** While collecting configuration-database backup from the existing vManage node which has Disaster recovery enabled, make sure it is collected after the Disaster recovery on that node is paused and deleted.

Confirm there is no ongoing Disaster recovery replication. Navigate to **Administration > Disaster Recovery** and make sure the status Success and not in a transient state such as Import Pending, Export Pending, or Download Pending. If the status is not success, reach out to Cisco TAC and make sure replication is successful before you proceed to pause the disaster recovery.

First Pause the disaster recovery and make sure the task is complete. And then Delete the Disaster recovery and confirm the task is completed.

Cisco vManage Administration - Disaster Recovery

Manage Disaster Recovery

**Primary Cluster Status**

Active Cluster

Node	IP Address	Status
vmanage	[Redacted]	✓

Standby Cluster

Node	IP Address	Status
vmanage-DR	[Redacted]	✓

**Details**

Last Replicated: 31 Jan 2023 2:18:05 pm CET

Time to Replicate: 10 secs

Size of Data: 2511 MB

Status: Success

**History**

Last Switch:

Reason for Switch:

Reach out to Cisco TAC to ensure the Disaster Recovery is successfully cleaned up.

### Collect Configuration-DB backup:

- In the SD-WAN fabric which is currently in use, you can generate configuration-db backup on both standalone vManage and vManage cluster setup's.
- For standalone vManage, that vManage itself is the configuration-db leader.

Confirm the configuration-db is running on the vManage node.

You can verify the same using the command `request nms configuration-db status` on vManage CLI. The output is as shown

```
vmanage# request nms configuration-db status
NMS configuration database
  Enabled: true
  Status: running PID:32632 for 1066085s
  Native metrics status: ENABLED
  Server-load metrics status: ENABLED
vmanage#
```

Use this command to collect the configuration-db backup from the identified configuration-db leader vManage node.

```
request nms configuration-db backup path /opt/data/backup/<filename>
```

The expected output is as shown:

```
vmanage# request nms configuration-db backup path /opt/data/backup/june18th
Starting backup of configuration-db
config-db backup logs are available in /var/log/nms/neo4j-backup.log file
Successfully saved backup to /opt/data/backup/june18th.tar.gz
sha256sum: 8d0f5af8aee4e70f05e3858be6bdd5e6c136134ae47c383569ec883080f5d359
Removing the temp staging dir :/opt/data/backup/staging
vmanage#
```

- Make a note of the **configuration-db credentials** if it has been updated.
- If you are unaware of the configuration-db credentials, reach out to TAC to retrieve the configuration-db credentials from the existing vManage nodes.
- **Default configuration-db credentials** are username: neo4j and password: password

### Restore Configuration-db Backup to another vManage node

Copy the configuration-db backup to /home/admin/ directory of vManage using SCP.

Sample scp command output:

```
XXXXXXXXX Downloads % scp june18th.tar.gz admin@10.66.62.27:/home/admin/  
viptela 20.15.4.1
```

```
(admin@10.66.62.27) Password:  
(admin@10.66.62.27) Password:  
june18th.tar.gz
```

To restore configuration-db backup, first we need to configure the configuration-db credentials. If your configuration-db credentials are default(neo4j/password), we can skip this step.

To configure configuration-db credentials, use the command ***request nms configuration-db update-admin-user***. Use the username and password of your choice.

Kindly note that the Application server of vManage is restarted. Due to which vManage UI becomes inaccessible for a short time.

```
vmanage# request nms configuration-db update-admin-user  
configuration-db  
Enter current user name:neo4j  
Enter current user password:password  
Enter new user name:ciscoadmin  
Enter new user password:ciscoadmin  
WARNING: sun.reflect.Reflection.getCallerClass is not supported. This will impact performance.  
Successfully updated configuration database admin user(this is service node, please repeat same operati  
Successfully restarted vManage Device Data Collector  
Successfully restarted NMS application server  
Successfully restarted NMS data collection agent  
vmanage#
```

Post which we can proceed to restore the configuration-db backup:

We can use the command ***request nms configuration-db restore path /home/admin/< >***to restore the configuration-db to the new vManage:

```
vmanage# request nms configuration-db restore path /home/admin/june18th.tar.gz  
Starting backup of configuration-db  
config-db backup logs are available in /var/log/nms/neo4j-backup.log file  
Successfully saved database to /opt/data/backup/configdb-local-tmp-20230623-160954.tar.gz
```

```
Successfully backup database to /opt/data/backup/configdb-local-tmp-20230623-160954.tar.gz
Configuration database is running in a standalone mode
WARNING: sun.reflect.Reflection.getCallerClass is not supported. This will impact performance.
Successfully saved cluster configuration for localhost
Successfully saved vManage root CA information for device: "53f95156-f56b-472f-b713-d164561b25b7"
Stopping NMS application server on localhost
Stopping NMS configuration database on localhost
Resetting NMS configuration database on localhost
Loading NMS configuration database on localhost
Starting NMS configuration database on localhost
Waiting for 180s or the instance to start...
NMS configuration database on localhost has started.
Updating DB with the saved cluster configuration data
Successfully reinserted cluster meta information
Successfully reinserted vmanage root ca information
Starting NMS application server on localhost
Waiting for 180s for the instance to start...
Successfully restored database
```

Once the configuration-db is restored, make sure the vManage UI is accessible. Wait for around 5 minutes and then attempt to access the UI.

Once logged into UI successfully, ensure the Edge routers list, template, policies and all the rest of the configurations that were present on your previous or existing vManage UI is reflected on the new vManage UI.

## Step 4: Single Node DR Setup

Refer to **Step 2: Prechecks in Combination 2: Standalone vManage + Single Node DR** and make sure we have completed all the requirements before we proceed to enable Disaster recovery.

### Single Node DR

#### Prerequisites

- Ensure that the primary and the secondary node are reachable by HTTPS on a transport VPN (VPN 0).
- Ensure that the Cisco vManage primary node and secondary node are running the same Cisco vManage version.

#### Out-of-band cluster interface in VPN 0

1. For each vManage instance within a cluster, a third interface (cluster link) is required besides the interfaces used for VPN 0 (transport) and VPN 512 (management).
  2. This interface is used for communication and syncing between the vManage servers within the cluster.
  3. This interface must be at least 1 Gbps and have a latency of 4ms or less. A 10 Gbps interface is recommended.
  4. Both vManage nodes must be able to reach each other through this interface: be it a layer 2 segment or through layer 3 routing.
- Ensure that all services (application-server, configuration-db, messaging server, coordination server, and statistics-db) are enabled on both Cisco vManage nodes.
  - Distribute all controllers, including Cisco vBond Orchestrators, across both primary and secondary

data centers. Ensure that these controllers are reachable by Cisco vManage nodes that are distributed across these data centers. The controllers connect only to the primary Cisco vManage node.

- Make sure that no other operations are in process in the active (primary) and the standby (secondary) Cisco vManage node. For example, make sure that no servers are in the process of upgrading or no templates are in the process of attaching templates to devices.
- Disable the Cisco vManage HTTP/HTTPS proxy server if it is enabled. If you do not disable the proxy server, Cisco vManage attempts to establish disaster recovery communication through the proxy IP address, even if Cisco vManage out-of-band cluster IP addresses are directly reachable. You can re-enable the Cisco vManage HTTP/HTTPS proxy server after disaster recovery registration completes.
- Before you start the disaster recovery registration process, go to the Tools → Rediscover Network window on the primary Cisco vManage node and rediscover the Cisco vBond Orchestrators.

## Configuration

### Configure the CLI configurations of all the vManage node which is acting as Disaster recovery node

The bare minimum configuration for vManage prior to the Disaster Recovery registration is as shown

```
config t
system
 host-name          <hostname>
 system-ip          <unique system-ip>
 site-id            <site-id>
 organization-name  <organization name>
 vbond <IP address/URL of vBond>
commit
```



**Note:** If we are using URL as vBond address, make sure to configure DNS server IP addresses in VPN 0 configuration or ensure they can be resolved.

---

These configurations are needed to enable transport interface used to establish control connections with the routers and rest of the controllers

```
config t
vpn 0
 dns <IP-address> primary
 dns <IP-address> secondary
 interface eth1
  ip address <IP-address/mask>
 tunnel-interface
  allow-service all
  allow-service dhcp
  allow-service dns
  allow-service icmp
  no allow-service sshd
  no allow-service netconf
```

```

no allow-service ntp
no allow-service stun
allow-service https
!
no shutdown
!
ip route 0.0.0.0/0 <default-gateway IP>
commit

```

Also configure VPN 512 management interface to enable out of band management access to the controller.

```

Conf t
vpn 512
interface eth0
ip address <IP-address/mask>
no shutdown
!
ip route 0.0.0.0/0 <default-gateway IP>
!
commit

```

### Configure service interface on the DR vManage

Configure service interface on the vManage node. This interface is used for DR communication,

```

conf t
interface eth2
ip address <IP-address/mask>
no shutdown
commit

```

Make sure the same IP subnet is used for service interface on the Primary vManage and DR vManage

### Update the configurations on vManage UI

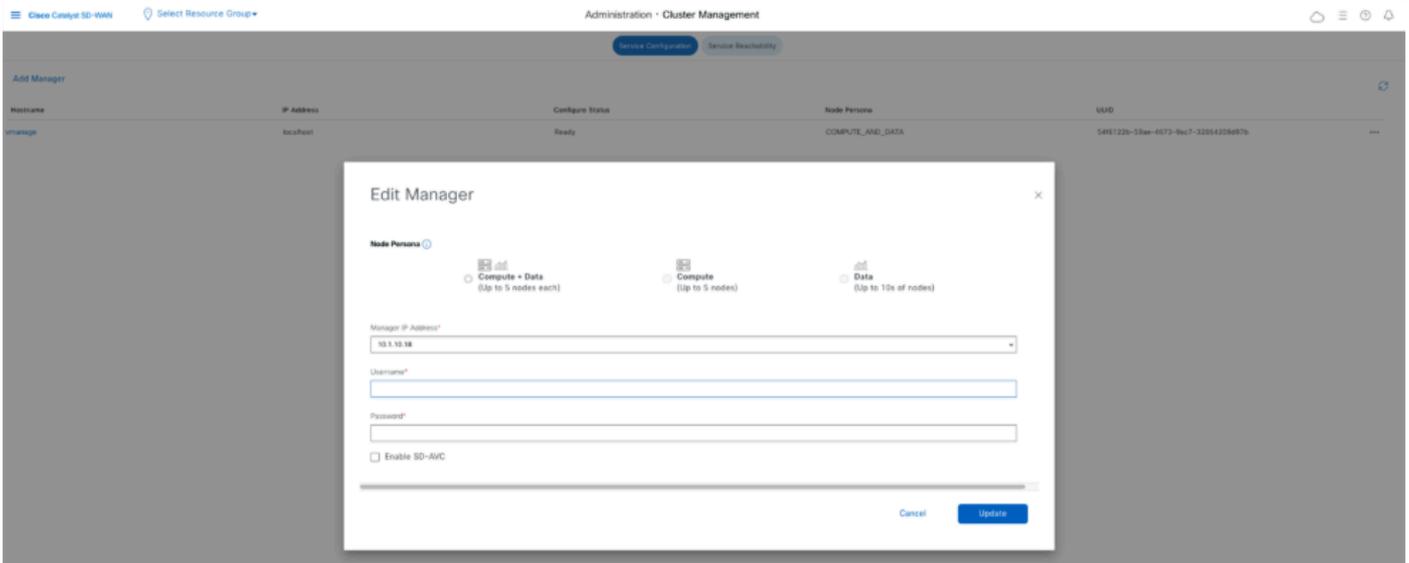
- Once the configurations are added on the CLI of all the controllers, we can access the webUI of vManage, using the URL **https://<vmanage-ip>** in your browser. Use the **VPN 512 IP address** of respective vManage nodes. You can log in with the admin username and password.
- Navigate to **Administration > Settings** and complete these steps.
- Configure **Organization name**. Configure the same value as in the CLI of the vManage node.
- In the vManage 20.15/20.18 these configurations are available under section System.

### Installing the Certificate on DR vManage

Proceed with the steps given under section **Combination 2: Standalone vManage + Single Node DR Step 3: Configure vManage UI, Certificates, and Onboard Controllers** to install the certificate on the Disaster recovery vManage.

## Adding the Disaster Recovery Configuration

- For this, go to the primary vManage.
- Navigate to **Administration** → **Cluster Management** and indicate the IP address of the out-of-band interface after clicking on the three dots on the right side of the vManage entry and include username and password. It is recommended to create a separate local user for example dradmin on both primary and DR vmanage for this configuration.



- VManage reboots after this change.
- After the Primary vManage comes up, Navigate to **Administration** → **Disaster Recovery**. Click on **'Manage Disaster Recovery'**.
- In the pop-up window, fill the details for both primary and secondary vManage.
- The IP addresses to be indicated are the out-of-band cluster interfaces(eth2) IP addresses.
- **The credentials must be those of a netadmin user (dradmin) and they must not be changed once the DR is configured.** A separate vManage local user credential for Disaster recovery can be used. We need to make sure the vManage local user is part of netadmin group. Even admin credential can be used here.
- Once filled, click **'Next'**.
- Fill the vBond controllers' details.
- The vBond controllers must be reachable in the specified IP address via Netconf.
- The credentials must be those of a netadmin user (dradmin) and they must not be changed once the DR is configured.
- For this it is recommended that vBond have this dradmin user locally configured or you can use the admin user to add the vBond.

## Manage Disaster Recovery ×

● Connectivity Info — ● vBond Info — ● Recovery Mode — ● Replication Schedule

### vBond Information

IP	<input type="text" value="[REDACTED]"/>	User Name	<input type="text" value="dr-user"/>	Password	<input type="password" value="****"/>	
IP	<input type="text" value="[REDACTED]"/>	User Name	<input type="text" value="dr-user"/>	Password	<input type="password" value="****"/>	

Back
Next
Cancel

- Once filled, click **Next**.
- In the Recovery Mode, choose 'Manual'. Click **Next**.

## Manage Disaster Recovery ×

● Connectivity Info — ● vBond Info — ● Recovery Mode — ● Replication Schedule

### Select Recovery Mode

Manual
Automation

Back
Next
Cancel

In the Replication Schedule, set the 'Replication Interval'. Every replication interval time, the data is replicated from primary vManage to secondary vManage. The minimum configurable value is 15 minutes.

# Manage Disaster Recovery



Connectivity Info — vBond Info — Recovery Mode — Replication Schedule

Start Time: 3:00 AM

Replication Interval: 15 mins

Back Save Cancel

- Set the value and click 'Save'.
- The DR Registration starts now. Click on the refresh button to manually refresh the state and the progress logs. This process can take up to 20-30 minutes.

Disaster Recovery Registration Initiated By: admin From: 10.61.76.160

Total Task: 1 | In Progress : 1

Status	Device IP	Message	Start Time
In progress	default	Data Centers Registration	31 Jan 2023 2:13:00 PM CET

- Note that the vManage GUI is restarted during this process.
- Once finished, a status of **Success** must be seen.

Disaster Recovery Registration Initiated By: admin From: 10.61.76.160

Total Task: 1 | Success : 1

Status	Device IP	Message	Start Time
Success	default	Data Centers Registration	31 Jan 2023 2:13:00 PM CET

## Verify

Navigate to **Administration** → **Disaster Recovery** to see the Disaster Recovery status and when the data was replicated last time.

The screenshot shows the Cisco vManage Administration - Disaster Recovery page. It features a navigation bar with 'Cisco vManage' and 'Select Resource Group'. The main content area is titled 'Administration - Disaster Recovery' and includes a 'Manage Disaster Recovery' button. Below this, there are three main sections: 'Primary Cluster Status', 'Active Cluster', and 'Standby Cluster'. Each section contains a table with columns for 'Node', 'IP Address', and 'Status'. The 'Active Cluster' table shows a single entry for 'vmanage' with a green status indicator. The 'Standby Cluster' table shows a single entry for 'vmanage-DR' with a green status indicator. To the right of these tables is a 'Details' panel with a blacked-out header, containing information such as 'Last Replicated: 31 Jan 2023 2:18:09 pm CET', 'Time to Replicate: 10 secs', 'Size of Data: 2511 MB', and 'Status: Success'. A 'History' section below the details panel shows 'Last Switch' and 'Reason for Switch'.

## Step 5: Reauthentication of Controllers and invalidation of old controllers

Once configuration-db is restored, we need to reauthenticate all the new controllers (vmanage/vsmart/vbond) in the fabric



**Note:** In actual production if the interface IP used to re-authenticate is the tunnel interface IP, need to ensure NETCONF service is allowed on the tunnel interface of the vManage, vSmart and vBond and also on the firewalls along the path. The firewall port to open is TCP port 830 as bi-directional rule from DR cluster to all vBonds and vSmarts .

On vmanage UI, click on Configuration > Devices > Controllers

- Click the three dots near each controller and Click Edit

The screenshot shows the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Configuration - Devices page. The main content area is titled 'Configuration - Devices' and includes a 'WAN Edge List' button and a 'Controllers' button. Below this, there is a 'Controllers (5)' section with a search bar and a table. The table has columns for 'Controller Type', 'Site Name', 'Hostname', 'Config Locked', 'Managed By', 'Device Status', 'System-ip', 'Draft Mode', 'Certificate Status', 'Policy Name', and 'Policy Version'. The table lists five controllers: 'vbond', 'vmanage', 'vmanage', 'vmanage', and 'vsmart'. To the right of the table is an 'Edit' dialog box with fields for 'IP Address', 'Username', and 'Password'. The 'IP Address' field is blacked out, and the 'Username' field contains two asterisks. The 'Password' field is empty.

- Replace the ip-address (system-ip of the controller) with the transport vpn 0(tunnel interface) ip address .Enter the username and password and click save
- Do the same for all the new controllers in the fabric

## Sync the Root-cert-chain

Once all the controllers are onboarded, complete this step:

On any Cisco SD-WAN Manager server in the newly active cluster, perform these actions:

Enter this command to synchronize the root certificate with all Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN devices in the newly active cluster:

<https://vmanage-url/dataservice/system/device/sync/rootcertchain>

Enter this command to synchronize the Cisco SD-WAN Manager UUID with the Cisco SD-WAN Validator:

<https://vmanage-url/dataservice/certificate/syncvbond>

Once the fabric is restored and the control and bfd sessions are up for all edges and controllers in the fabric, we need to invalidate the old controllers (vmanage/vsmart/vbond) from the UI

- On vmanage UI, click on Configuration > Devices > Certificates
- Click on Controllers
- Click on the three dots near the controller(vmanage/vsmart/vbond) from the old fabric. Click invalidate
- Click send to vbond
- On vmanage UI, click on Configuration > Devices > Controllers
- Click on the three dots near the controller(vmanage/vsmart/vbond) from the old fabric. Click Delete

## Step 6: Post Checks



**Note:** Continue with the Post Checks section shown here, which is common to all deployment combinations.

## Combination 3: vManage Cluster + No DR

### Instances needed:

- 3 vManage (3-node cluster, all COMPUTE\_AND\_DATA) or 6 vManage (3 COMPUTE\_AND\_DATA + 3 DATA)
- 1 or more vBond
- 1 or more vSmart

### Steps:

1. Bring up all instances using the Common Steps
2. Pre-checks
3. Configure vManage UI, Certificates, and Onboard Controllers
4. Build vManage Cluster
5. Config-db backup/restore

## 6. Post Checks

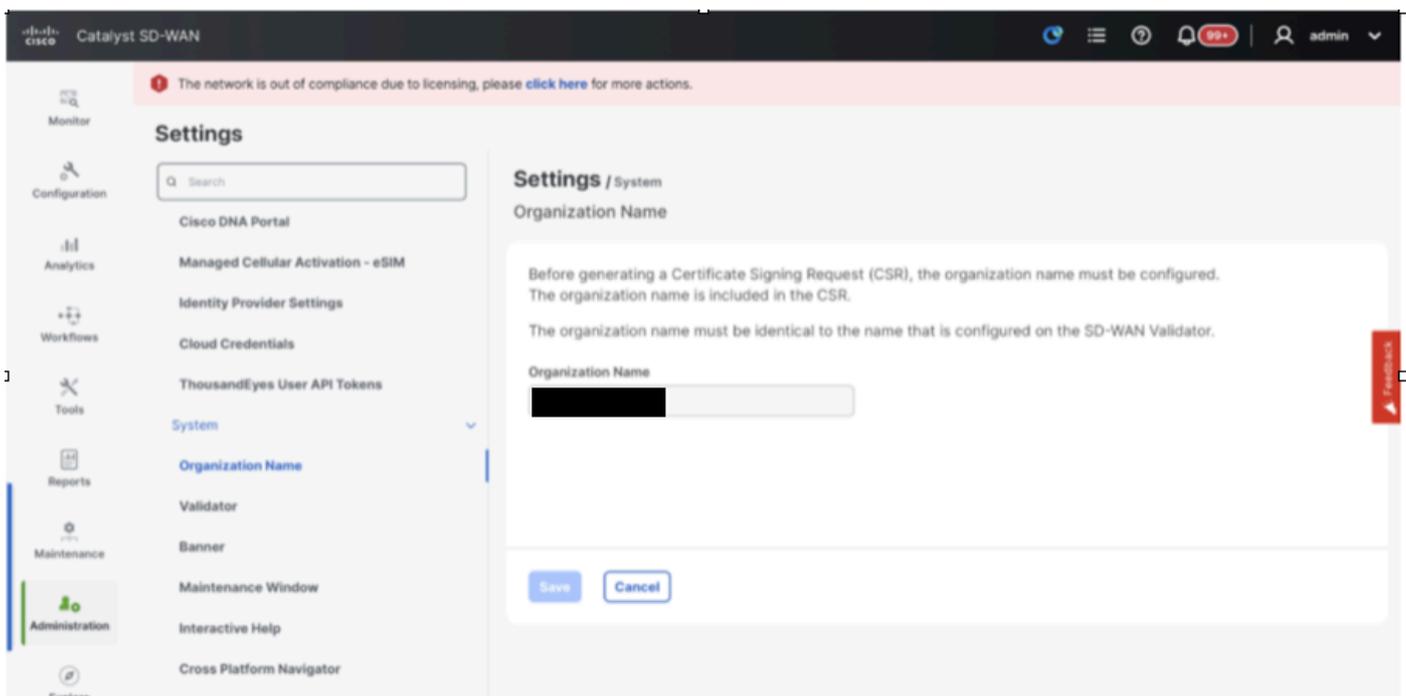
### Step 1: Pre-Checks

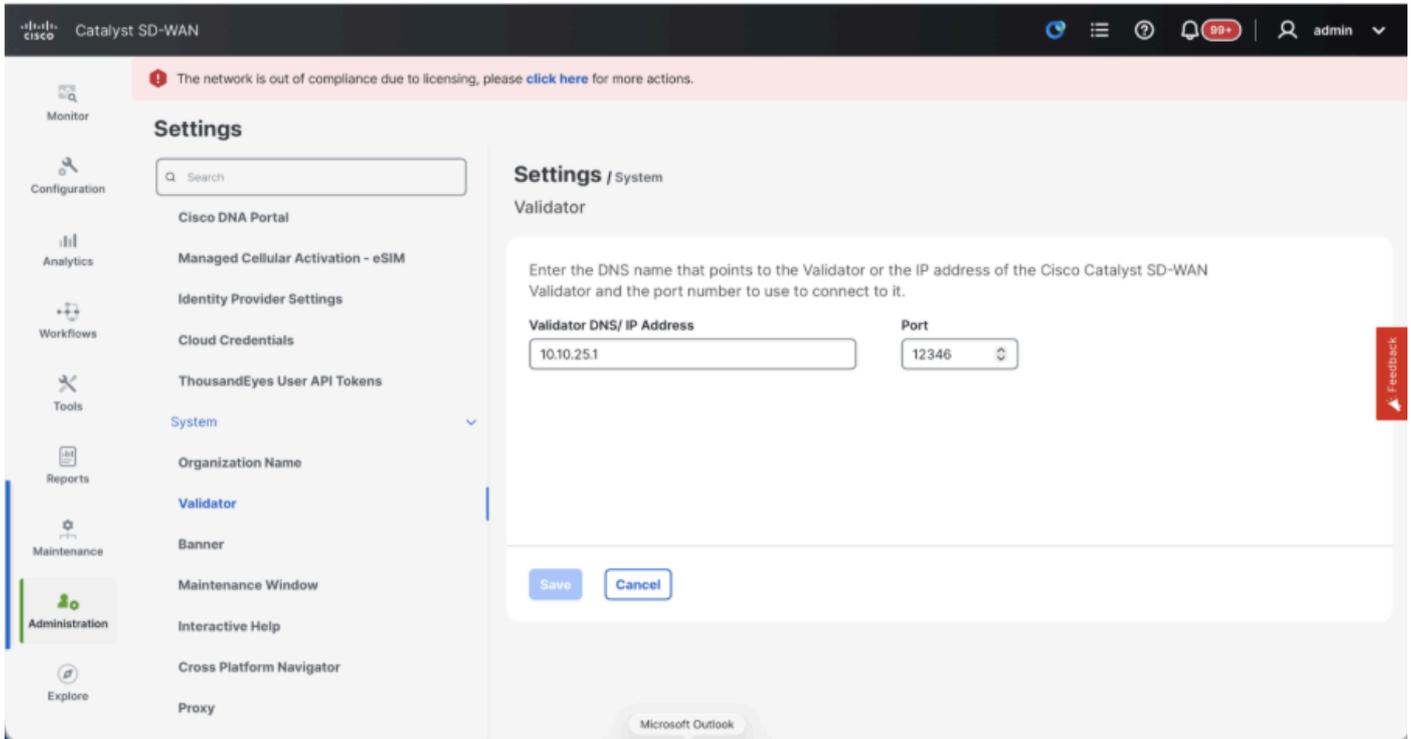
- Ensure that the number of the active Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances are identical to the number of the newly installed Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances.
- Ensure that all the active and new Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances run the same software version.
- Ensure that all the active and new Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances are able to reach the management IP address of the Cisco SD-WAN Validator.
- Ensure that certificates have been installed on the newly installed Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances.
- Ensure that the clocks on all Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN devices, including the newly installed Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances, are synchronized.
- Ensure that a new set of System IPs and Site IDs is configured on the newly installed Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances, along with the same basic configuration as the active cluster.

### Step 2: Configure vManage UI, Certificates, and Onboard Controllers

#### Update the configurations on vManage UI

- Once the configurations in Step 1 are added on the CLI of all the controllers, we can access the webUI of vManage, using the URL **https://<vmanage-ip>** in your browser. Use the **VPN 512 IP address** of respective vManage nodes. You can log in with the admin username and password.
- Navigate to **Administration > Settings** and complete these steps.
- Configure **Organization name** and **Validator/vBond URL/IP address**. Configure the same value as in the CLI of the vManage node.
- In the vManage 20.15/20.18 these configurations are available under section System.

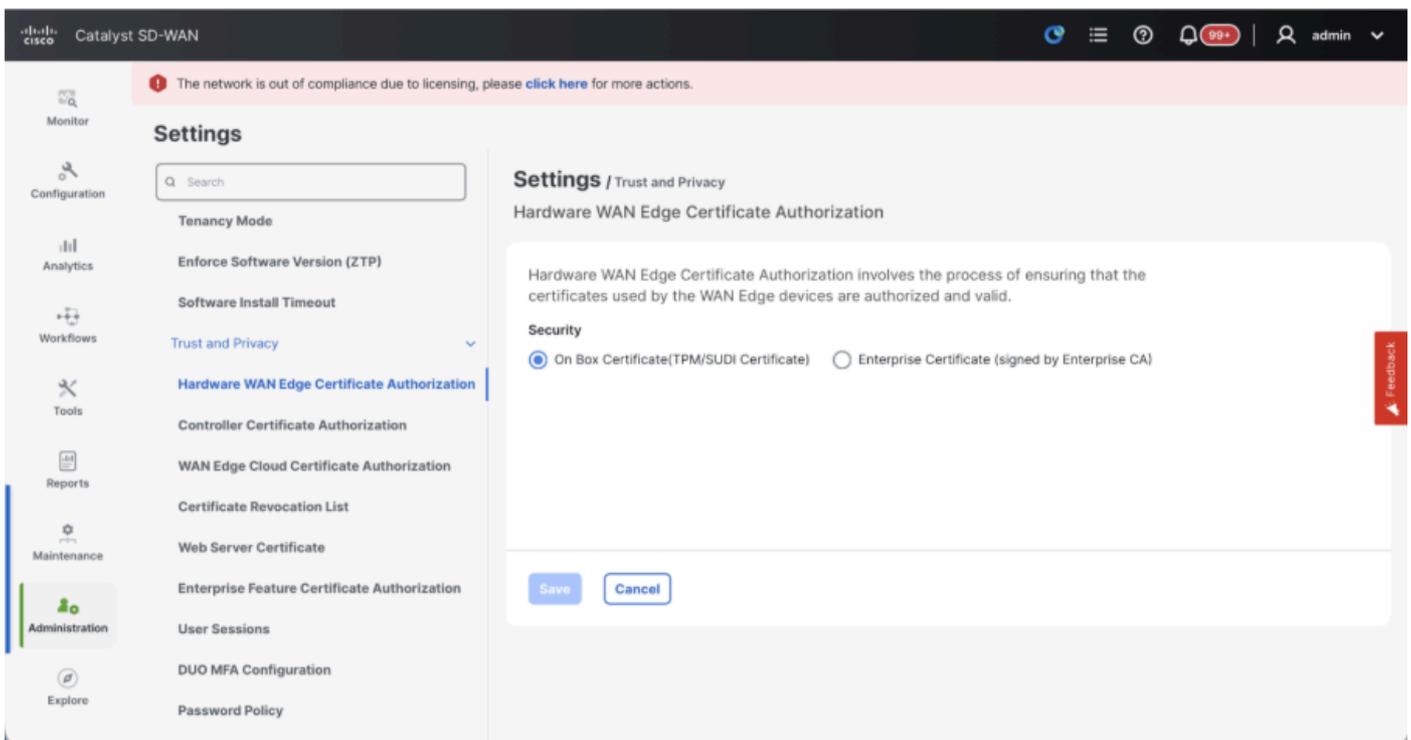




- Verify the configurations for Certificate Authorization(CA), which decides the Certificate Authority used for signing the certificates. We can see 3 options there:

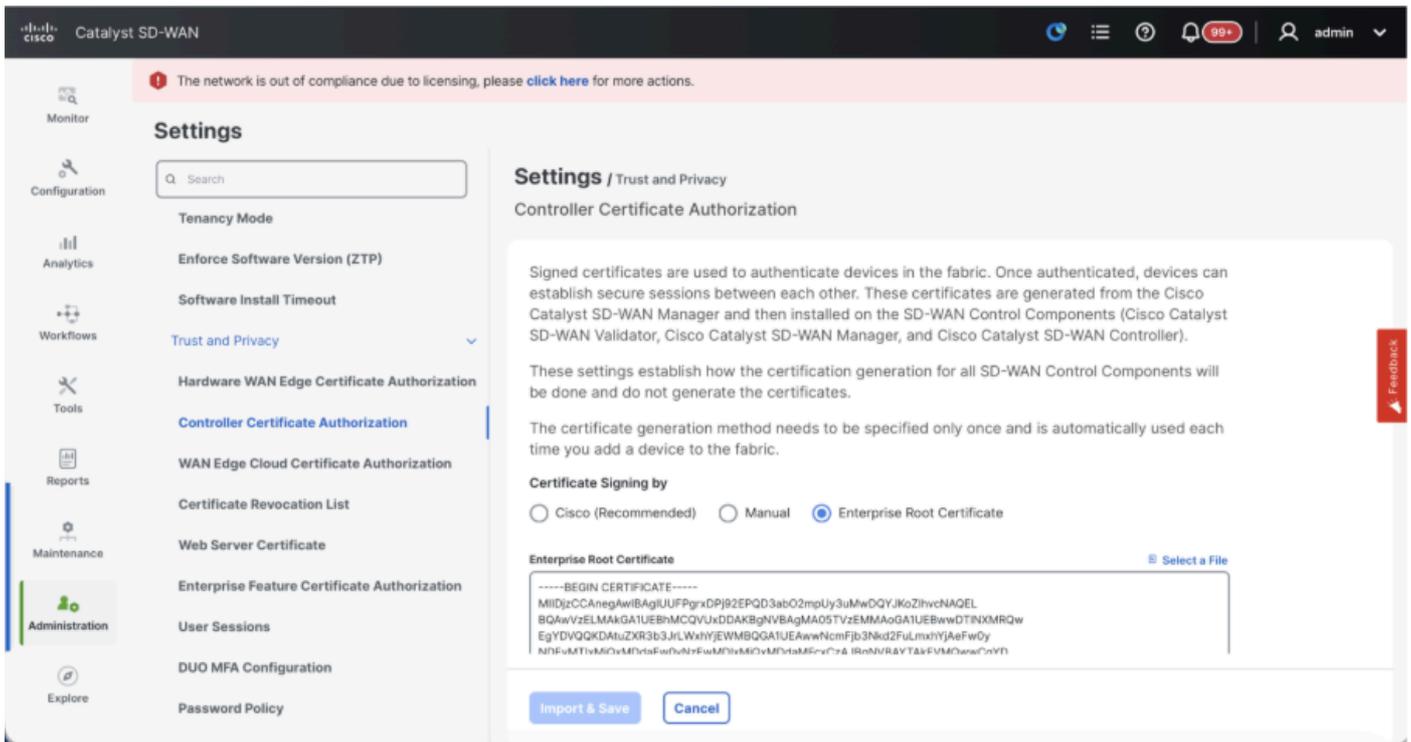
1. **Hardware WAN Edge Certificate Authorization** - Decides the CA for hardware SD-WAN Edge routers.

- On Box Certificate (TPM/SUDI Certificate) - With this option, the preinstalled certificate on the router hardware is used to establish the Control connections (TLS/DTLS connections)
- Enterprise Certificate (signed by Enterprise CA) - With this option, the routers use certificates signed by Enterprise certificate authority of your organization. While choosing this option, the root certificate of Enterprise CA must be updated here.



## 2. Controller Certificate Authorization - Decides the CA for SD-WAN controllers.

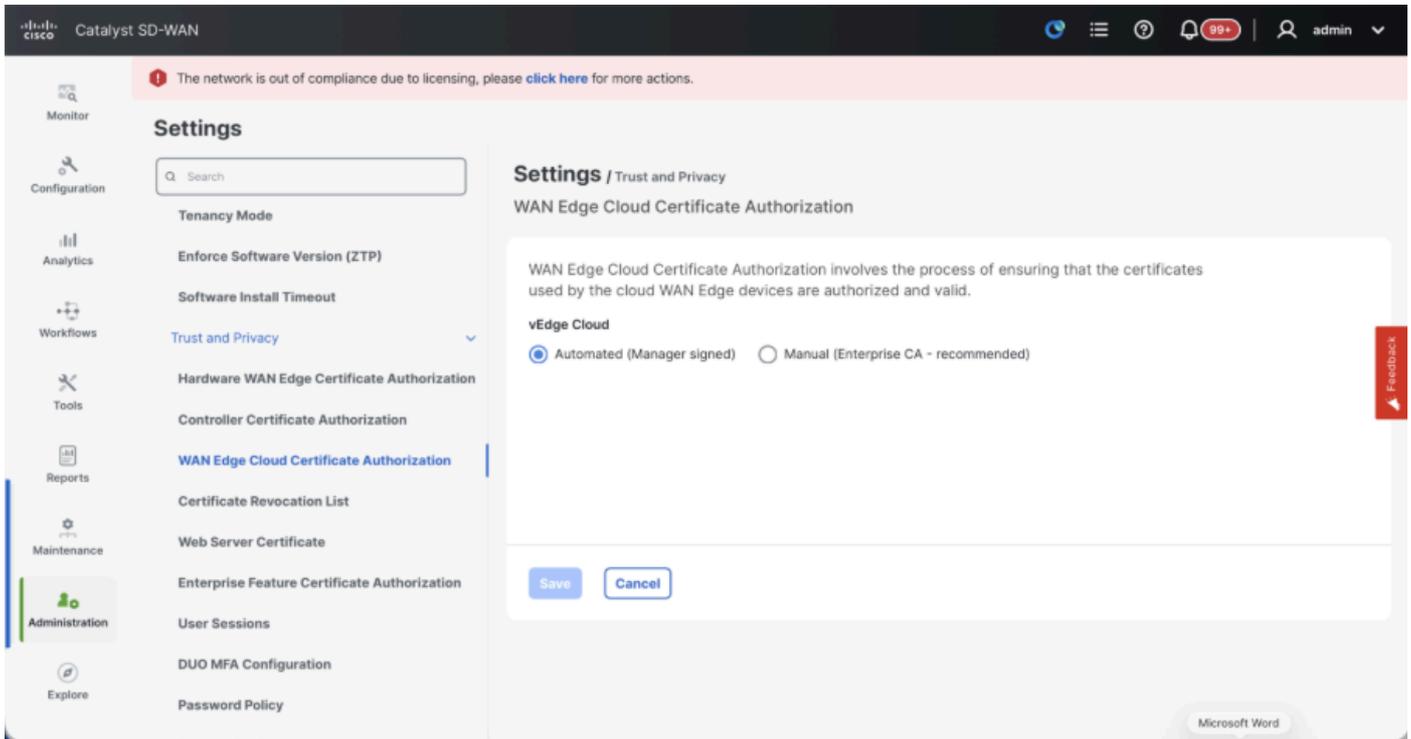
- Cisco (Recommended) - Controllers use the certificates signed by Cisco PKI. vManage automatically contacts the PNP portal using the smart account credentials configured on the vManage and get the certificate signed and is installed on the controller.
- Manual - Controllers use the certificates signed by Cisco PKI. Manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay.
- Enterprise Root Certificate - With this option, the routers use certificates signed by Enterprise certificate authority of your organization. While choosing this option, the root certificate of Enterprise CA must be updated here.



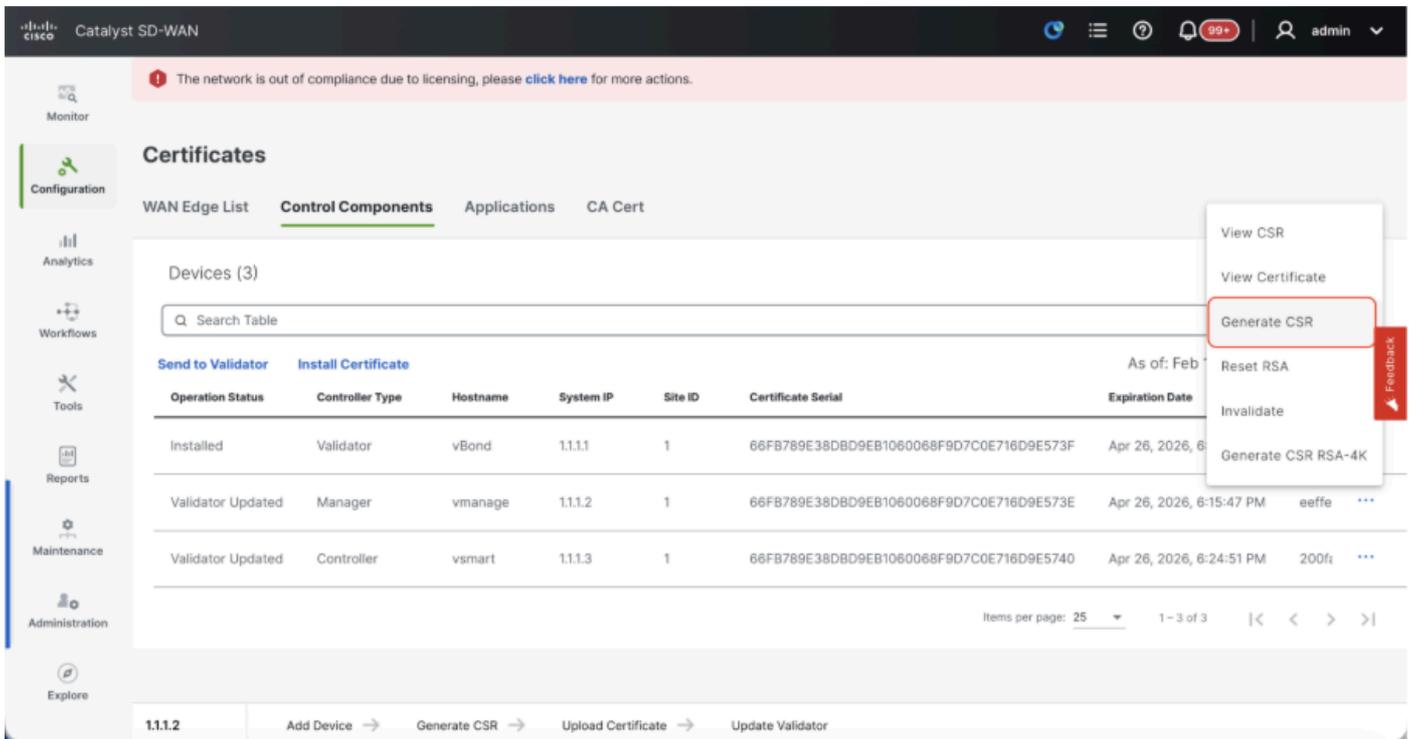
## 3. WAN Edge Cloud Certificate Authorization - Decides the CA for virtual SD-WAN Edge routers (CSR1000v, C8000v, vEdge cloud)

- Automated (vManage signed) - vManage automatically signs the CSR for the virtual Edge routers and install the certificate on the router.
- Manual (Enterprise CA - recommended) - Virtual routers use certificates signed by Enterprise certificate authority of your organization. While choosing this option, the root certificate of Enterprise CA must be updated here.

In case, if we are using our own CA, Enterprise certificate authority, choose Enterprise.



- Navigate to **Configuration > Certificates > Control Components** in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage nodes. In case of 20.9/20.12 versions, **Configuration > Devices > Controllers**
- Click on ... for Manager/vManage and click on Generate CSR.



- Once the CSR is generated, you can download the CSR and get it signed based on the Certificate authority chosen for controllers. You can verify this configuration in **Administration > Settings > Controller Certificate Authorization**. If Cisco (Recommended) is chosen, then the CSR is automatically uploaded to the PNP portal by the vManage and once the certificate is signed, it is installed on the vManage automatically.
- If Manual is chosen, manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay. Once the certificate is available from

PNP portal, click on install certificate on the same section of vManage and upload the certificate and install the certificate. Same procedure is applicable if we are using Digicert and Enterprise Root Certificate.

## Onboarding vBond/Validator and vSmart/Controller to the vManage

Navigate to **Configuration > Devices > Control Components** in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage nodes. In case of 20.9/20.12 versions, **Configuration > Devices > Controllers**

### Onboarding vBond/Validator

- Click on Add vBond in case of 20.12 vManage or Add Validator in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage. A pop up opens, enter the VPN 0 transport IP of vBond which is reachable from the vManage.
- Check the reachability using ping if allowed from CLI of vManage to vBond IP.
- Enter the user credentials of vBond.



**Note:** We need to use admin credentials of vBond or a user part of netadmin group. You can verify this in the CLI of the vBond. Choose Yes in the dropdown of "Generate CSR" if we need to install a new certificate for vBond



**Note:** If the vBond is behind a NAT device/Firewall, check if the vBond VPN 0 interface IP is translated to a public IP. If VPN 0 interface IP is not reachable from vManage, use the public IP address of VPN 0 interface in this step

The screenshot shows the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN vManage interface. The main view is 'Control Components' with a table listing existing components. The 'Add Validator' button is highlighted. The 'Add Validator' configuration window is open, showing fields for Validator Management IP Address, Username, Password, and a dropdown for Generate CSR (set to No). A 'Feedback' button is visible on the right side of the configuration window.

Controller Type	Site Name	Hostname	Config Locked	Managed By	Device Status	Sync
Validator	SITE_1	vBond	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1
Manager	SITE_1	vmanage	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1
Controller	SITE_1	vsmart	Yes	Template vSmart-template	In Sync	1.1

- Once the CSR is generated, you can download the CSR and get it signed based on the Certificate authority chosen for controllers. You can verify this configuration in **Administration > Settings > Controller Certificate Authorization**. If Cisco (Recommended) is chosen, then the CSR is

automatically uploaded to the PNP portal by the vManage and once the certificate is signed, it is installed on the vBond automatically.

- If Manual is chosen, manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay. Once the certificate is available from PNP portal, click on install certificate on the same section of vManage and upload the certificate and install the certificate. Same procedure is applicable if we are using Digicert and Enterprise Root Certificate.
- If there are multiple vBonds, repeat the same steps.

## Onboarding vSmart/Controller

- Click on **Add vSmart** in case of 20.12 vManage or **Add Controller** in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage.
- A pop up opens, enter the **VPN 0 transport IP of vSmart** which is reachable from the vManage.
- Check the reachability using ping if allowed from CLI of vManage to vSmart IP.
- Enter the user credentials of vSmart Note that we need to use **admin credentials of vSmart** or a user part of netadmin group.
- You can verify this in the CLI of the vSmart.
- Set the protocol to TLS, if we intend to use TLS for routers to establish control connections with vSmart. This config needs to be configured on CLI of vSmarts and vManage nodes as well.
- Choose Yes in the dropdown of "**Generate CSR**" if we need to install a new certificate for vSmart.



**Note:** If the vSmart is behind NAT device/Firewall, check if the vSmart VPN 0 interface IP is translated to a public IP, and if VPN 0 interface IP is not reachable from vManage, use public IP address of VPN 0 interface IP in this step.

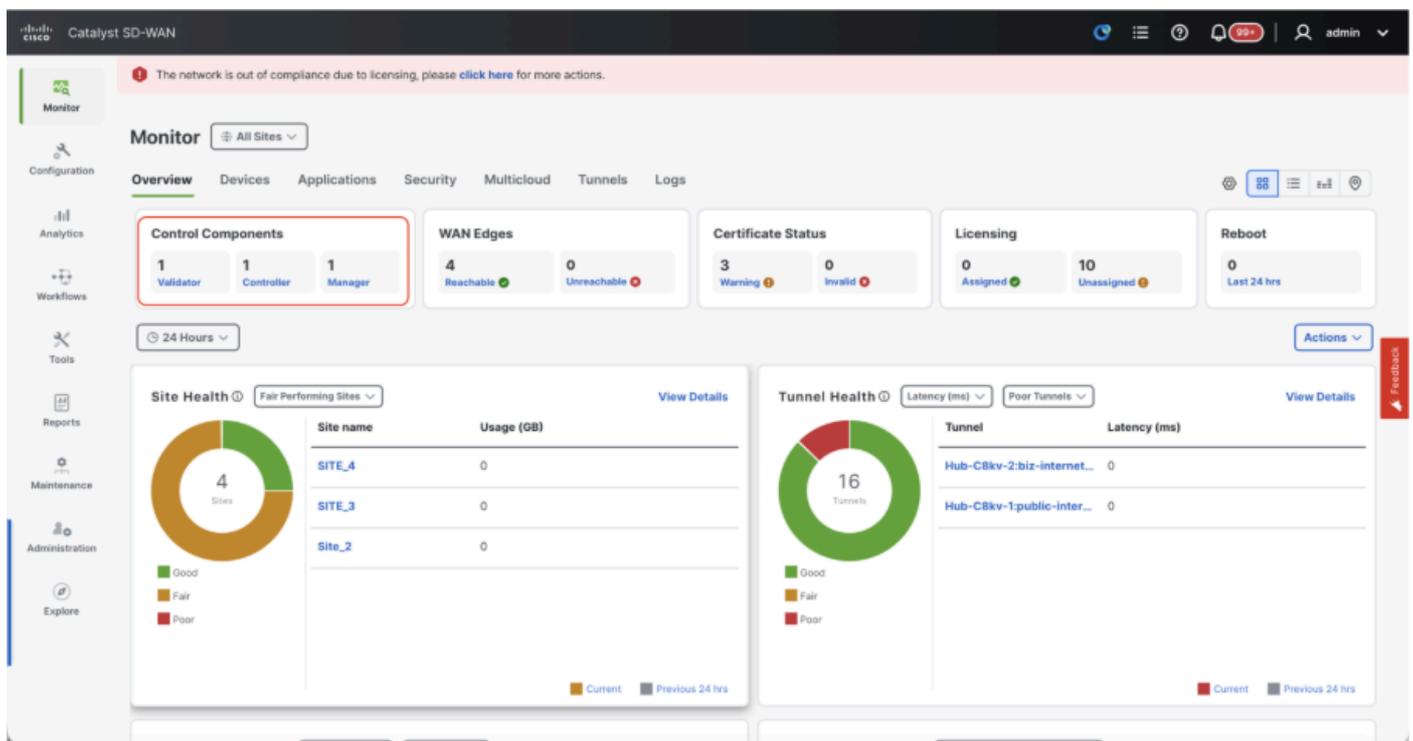
The screenshot displays the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN vManage interface. The main view shows the 'Devices' section with 'Control Components' selected. A table lists three control components: a Validator, a Manager, and a Controller. The Controller component is highlighted, showing its configuration details. A modal window titled 'Add Controller' is open on the right, allowing for the configuration of a new controller. The modal includes fields for 'Controller Management IP Address', 'Username', 'Password', 'Protocol' (set to DTLS), 'Port', and 'Generate CSR' (set to No). A 'Feedback' button is visible on the right side of the modal. The interface also shows a navigation sidebar on the left and a top navigation bar with the user 'admin' logged in.

Controller Type	Site Name	Hostname	Config Locked	Managed By	Device Status	Sync
Validator	SITE_1	vBond	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1
Manager	SITE_1	vmanage	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1
Controller	SITE_1	vsmart	Yes	Template vSmart-template	In Sync	1.1

- Once the CSR is generated, you can download the CSR and get it signed based on the Certificate authority chosen for controllers. You can verify this configuration in **Administration > Settings > Controller Certificate Authorization**. If Cisco (Recommended) is chosen, then the CSR is automatically uploaded to the PNP portal by the vManage and once the certificate is signed, it is installed on the vSmart automatically.
- If Manual is chosen, manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay.
- Once the certificate is available from PNP portal, click on install certificate on the same section of vManage and upload the certificate and install the certificate.
- Same procedure is applicable if we are using Digicert and Enterprise Root Certificate.
- If there are multiple vSmarts, repeat the same steps.

## Verification

Once all the steps are completed, verify that all the control components are reachable in Monitor>Dashboard



- Click on the respective Control components and confirm that they are all reachable.
- Navigate to **Monitor > Devices** and confirm all the control components are reachable.

Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN

The network is out of compliance due to licensing, please [click here](#) for more actions.

Monitor All Sites

Overview **Devices** Applications Security Multicloud Tunnels Logs

Devices Certificates Licensing

Device Group All

Devices (7) Export

Search Table

As of: Feb 18, 2026 11:28 AM

Hostname	Device Model	Site Name	System IP	Health	Reachability	Control	BFD	TLOC	Up Since	CPU Load	Memory utilization	Act
vBond	Validator	SITE_1	1.1.1.1	<span style="color: green;">✔</span>	↑	14 / 14	N/A	- / -	Jan 13, 2026 11:32 AM	0.79%	13%	...
vmanage	Manager	SITE_1	1.1.1.2	<span style="color: orange;">!</span>	↑	6 / 6	N/A	8 / 8	Feb 06, 2026 10:07 AM	2.48%	77%	...
vsmart	Controller	SITE_1	1.1.1.3	<span style="color: green;">✔</span>	↑	7 / 7	N/A	2 / 2	Jan 13, 2026 11:33 AM	1.32%	16%	...

### Step 3: Build vManage Cluster

#### Onboard SD-WAN Fabric with a vManage Cluster in the SD-WAN overlay



**Note:** vManage Cluster can be configured with 3 vManage nodes or 6 vManage nodes depending on the number of sites onboarded to SD-WAN fabric. Kindly refer to your existing vManage cluster and choose the number of nodes as per the same.

#### Configure the CLI configurations of all the vManage nodes which is part of the cluster

##### Configure System config on all vManage nodes

- Configure the rest of the vManage nodes. In case of 3 node cluster, you has remaining 2 nodes to configure, in case of 6 node cluster you has 5 nodes to configure.
- Configure System configurations as shown:

```

config t
system
host-name <hostname>
system-ip <unique system-ip>
site-id <site-id>
organization-name <organization name>
vbond <IP address/URL of vBond>
commit

```



**Note:** If we are using URL as vBond address, make sure to configure DNS server IP addresses in VPN 0 configuration or ensure they can be resolved.

## Configure Transport interface on all vManage nodes

These configurations are needed to enable the transport interface used to establish control connections with the routers and rest of the controllers.

```
config t
vpn 0
  dns <IP-address> primary
  dns <IP-address> secondary
  interface eth1
    ip address <IP-address/mask>
    tunnel-interface
      allow-service all
      allow-service dhcp
      allow-service dns
      allow-service icmp
      no allow-service sshd
      no allow-service netconf
      no allow-service ntp
      no allow-service stun
      allow-service https
    !
    no shutdown
  !
  ip route 0.0.0.0/0 <default-gateway IP>
commit
```

## Configure Management interface on all vManage nodes

Also configure VPN 512 management interface to enable out of band management access to the controller.

```
Conf t
vpn 512
  interface eth0
    ip address <IP-address/mask>
    no shutdown
  !
  ip route 0.0.0.0/0 <default-gateway IP>
  !
Commit
```

### Optional Config:

- You can refer to the configurations of your existing controller and if the config listed here is present, you can add this configuration to the new controllers.
- Configure the control protocol as TLS only if there is a requirement for routers to establish secure control connections with the vManage nodes using TLS. By default, all the controllers and routers establish control connection using DTLS. This is an optional config required only on vSmart and vManage nodes depending on your requirement.

```
Conf t
security
  control
    protocol tls
commit
```

## Configure service interface on all vManage nodes

Configure service interface on all the vManage nodes including vManage-1 which has been onboarded already. This interface is used for cluster communication, meaning communication between the vManage nodes in the cluster.

```
conf t
interface eth2
  ip address <IP-address/mask>
  no shutdown
commit
```

Make sure the same IP subnet is used for service interface across all the nodes in the vManage cluster.

## Configure cluster credentials

We can use the same admin credentials of the vManage nodes to configure the vManage cluster. Else we can configure a new user credential which is part of the netadmin group. The configurations to configure new user credential is as shown

```
conf t
system
  aaa
    user <username>
      password <password>
      group netadmin
commit
```

Make sure to configure the same user credentials across all the vManage nodes which is part of the cluster. If we decide to use admin credentials, it must be the same username/password across all the vManage nodes.

## Install device certificate on all vManage nodes

- Login to vManage UI of all the vManage nodes using the URL <https://<vmanage-ip>> in your browser. Use the VPN 512 IP address of respective vManage nodes. You can log in with the admin username and password.
- Navigate to **Configuration > Certificates > Control Components** in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage nodes. In case of 20.9/20.12 versions, **Configuration > Devices > Controllers**

Click on ... for Manager/vManage and click on **Generate CSR**.

The screenshot shows the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN web interface. At the top, there is a notification: "The network is out of compliance due to licensing, please [click here](#) for more actions." The main content area is titled "Certificates" and has tabs for "WAN Edge List", "Control Components", "Applications", and "CA Cert". The "Control Components" tab is selected, showing a table of devices. A context menu is open over the first device, with "Generate CSR" highlighted. The table has columns for Operation Status, Controller Type, Hostname, System IP, Site ID, Certificate Serial, and Expiration Date. Below the table, there are navigation buttons: Add Device, Generate CSR, Upload Certificate, and Update Validator.

Operation Status	Controller Type	Hostname	System IP	Site ID	Certificate Serial	Expiration Date
Installed	Validator	vBond	1.1.1.1	1	66FB789E38DBD9EB1060068F9D7C0E716D9E573F	Apr 26, 2026, 6:15:47 PM
Validator Updated	Manager	vmanage	1.1.1.2	1	66FB789E38DBD9EB1060068F9D7C0E716D9E573E	Apr 26, 2026, 6:15:47 PM
Validator Updated	Controller	vsmart	1.1.1.3	1	66FB789E38DBD9EB1060068F9D7C0E716D9E5740	Apr 26, 2026, 6:24:51 PM

- Once the CSR is generated, you can download the CSR and get it signed based on the Certificate authority chosen for controllers. You can verify this configuration in **Administration > Settings > Controller Certificate Authorization**. If Cisco (Recommended) is chosen, then the CSR is automatically uploaded to the PNP portal by the vManage and once the certificate is signed, it is installed on the vManage automatically.
- If Manual is chosen, manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay. Same procedure is applicable if we are using Digicert and Enterprise Root Certificate.
- Once the certificate is available from PNP portal, click on install certificate on the same section of vManage and upload the certificate and install the certificate.
- Complete this step across all the vManage nodes which is part of the cluster.

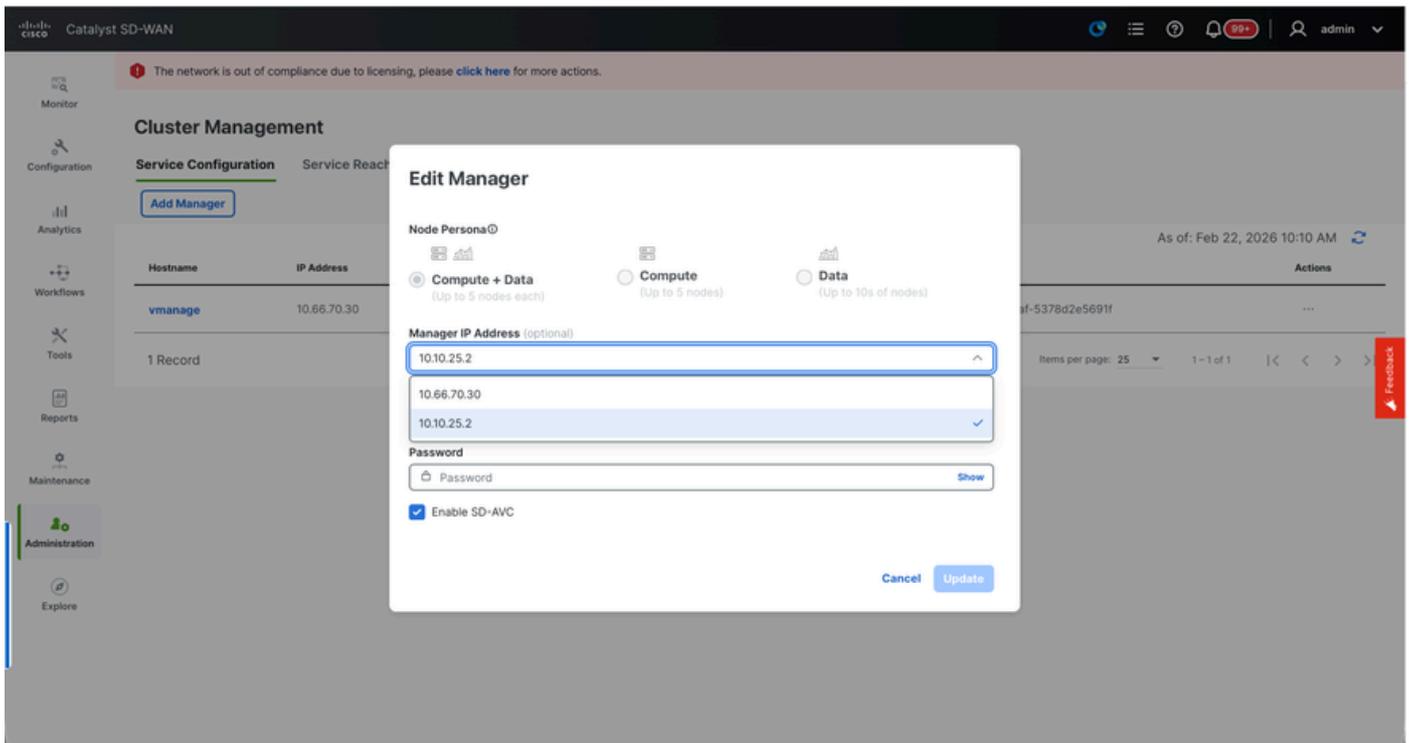
## Prepare to build the vManage Cluster

- On the webUI of vManage-1, navigate to **Administration > Cluster Management**, click on ... under Actions for vManage-1, choose Edit.
- The node persona is chosen automatically based on the persona we chose while the VM was spun up.



**Note:** For a 3-node cluster, all 3 vManage nodes are brought up with compute+data as the persona.

- For a 6 node cluster, 3 vManage nodes are brought up with compute+data as the persona and 3 vManage nodes are brought up with data as the persona.
- From the dropdown for Manager IP address, make sure to **choose service interface IP** of the vManage.



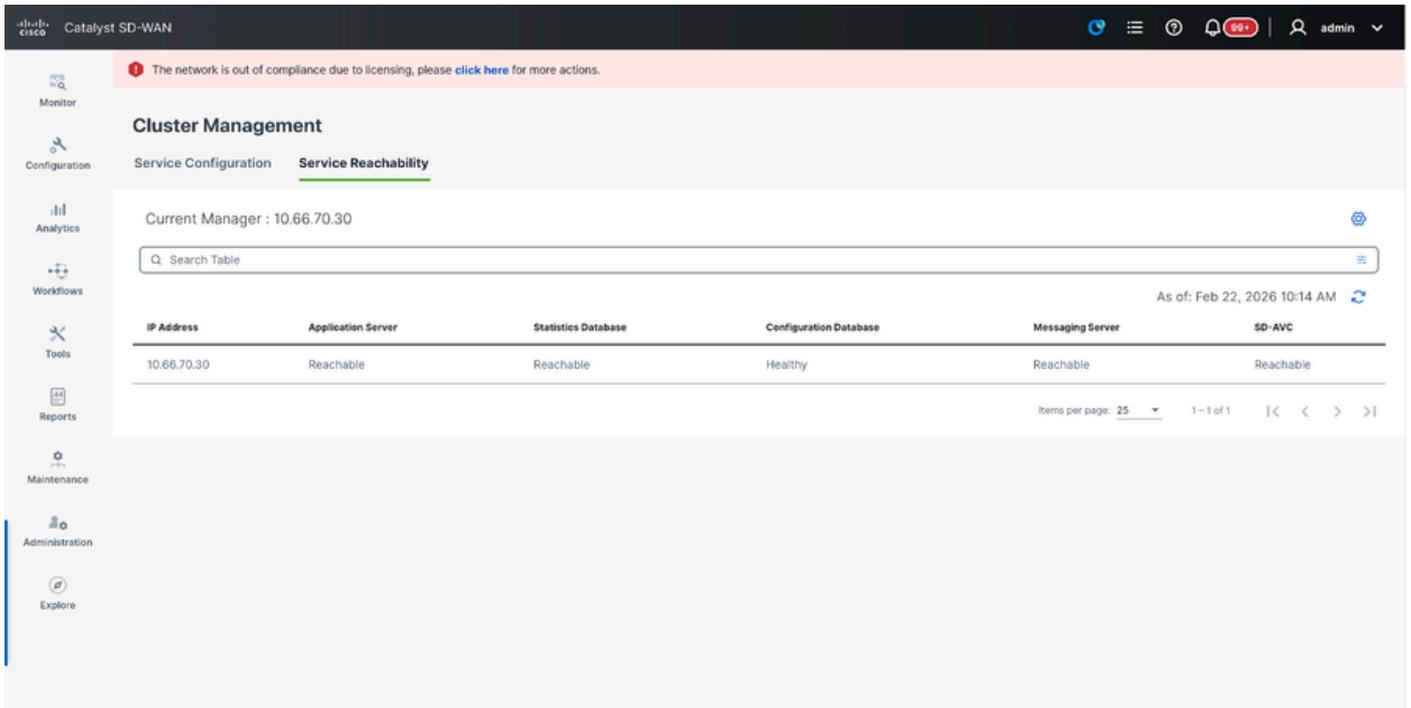
- Enter the username and password which we desire to use to enable vManage cluster which is referred as cluster credentials.
- As mentioned earlier, **same credentials must be configured on all the vManage nodes** and must be used while adding all the nodes to the cluster.



**Note:** Please refer to this configuration in your existing cluster to Enable SDAVC- Need to be checked only if it is required and is needed only on one vManage node of the cluster.

Click on Update.

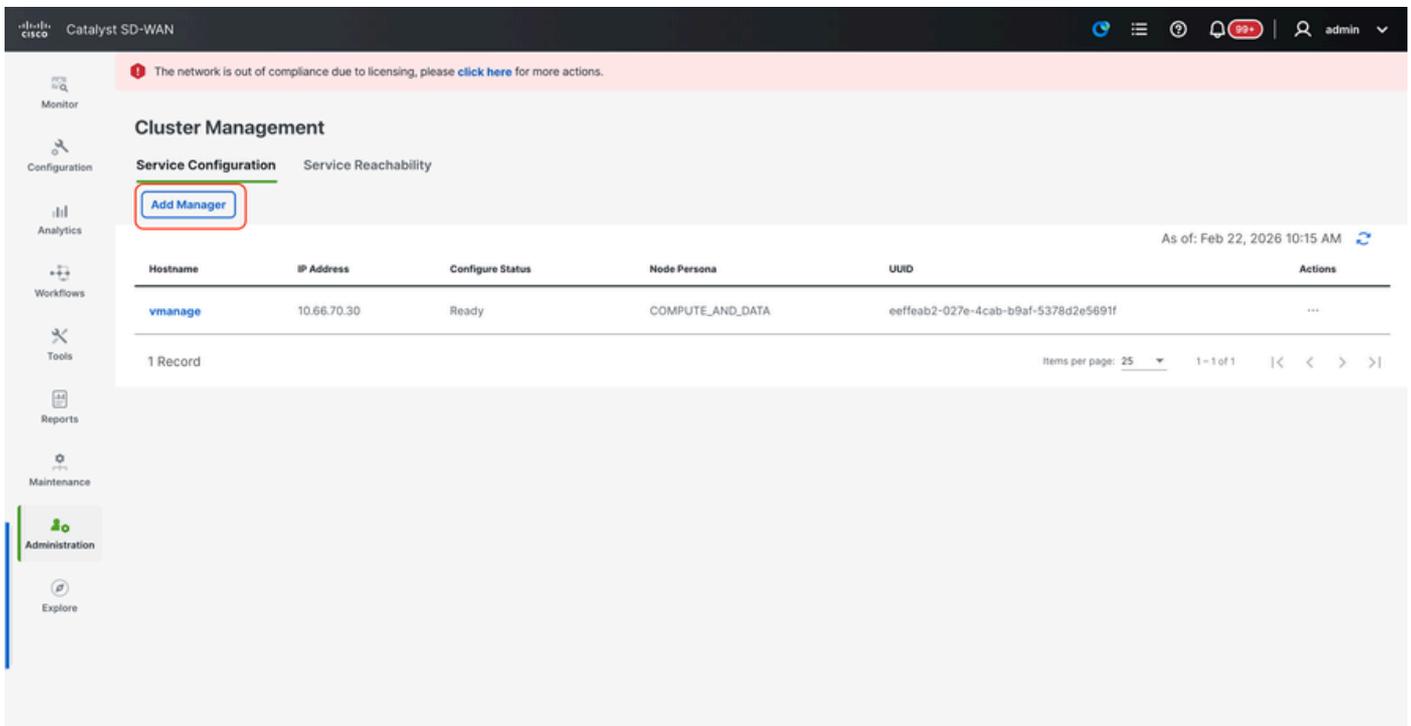
- Post this, the vManage NMS services restarts in the background and the UI is not available for a few minutes of around 5 to 10 minutes. During this time, CLI access of vManage is available.
- Once the vManage-1 UI is accessible navigate to **Administration > Cluster Management**, make sure **service interface IP of vManage is reflected under IP address, Configure Status is Ready and node persona is reflected correctly.**
- Switch to Service reachability section in the same page and make sure **all services are reachable.**

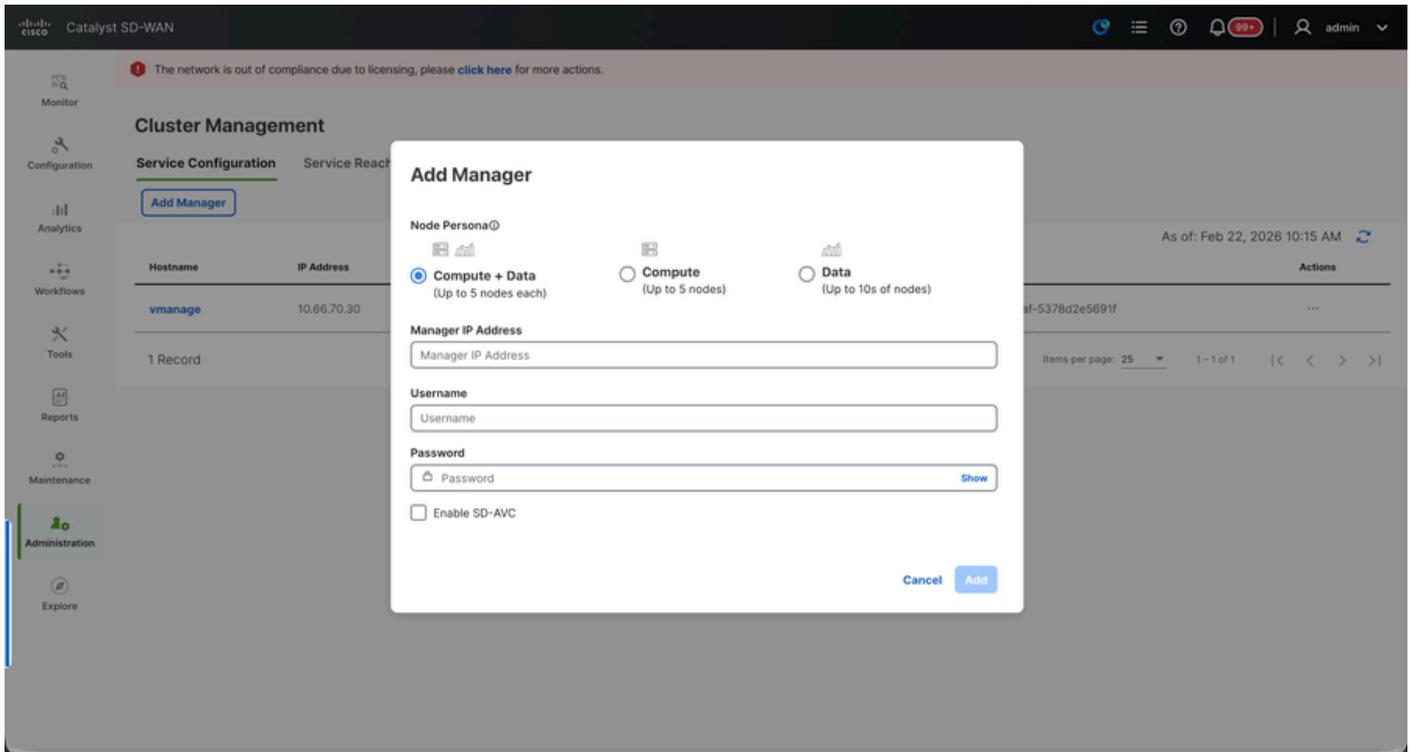


- If we see any of the services are not reachable yet, please wait. Usually takes around 20 to 30 minutes.

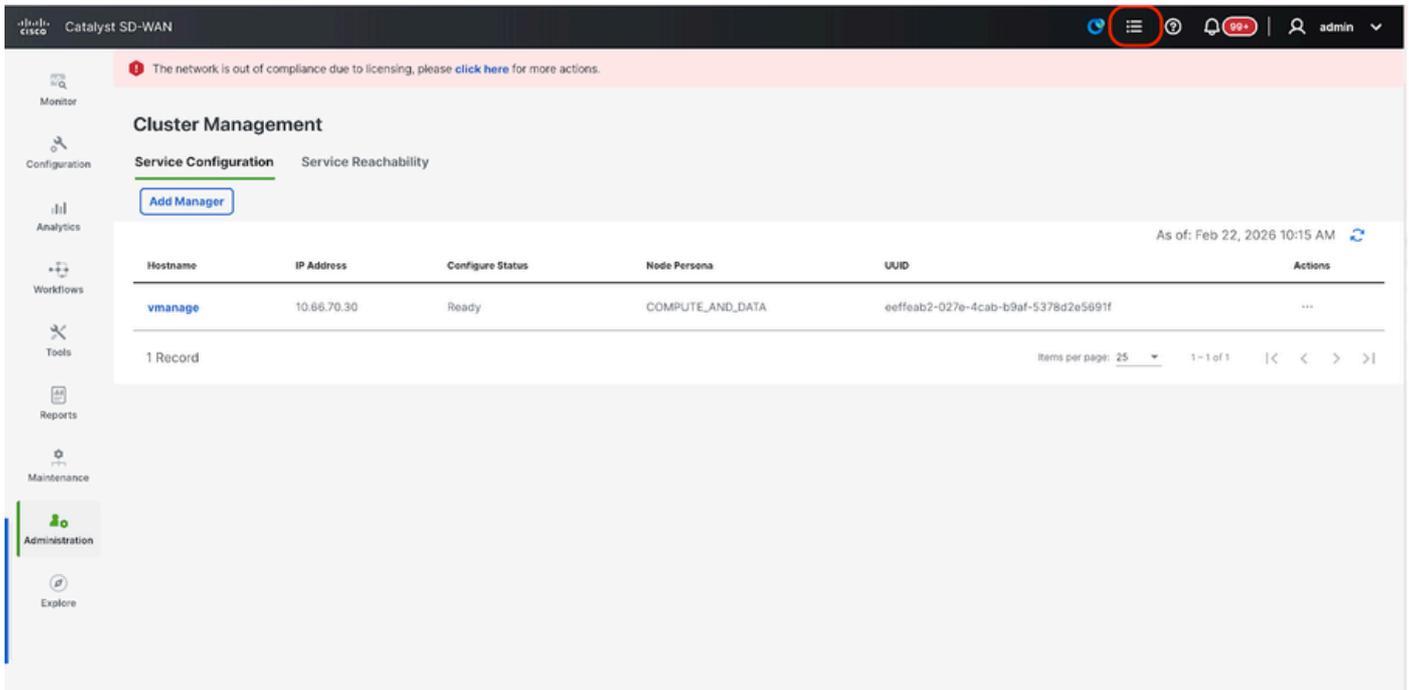
## Build the vManage Cluster

- On the webUI of vManage-1, navigate to **Administration > Cluster Management**, in the section Service Configuration,
- Click on **Add Manager**, a pop-up window appears:





- Choose the **Node persona** based on the persona configurations done while the vManage – 2 node was spun up.
- Enter the **service interface IP of vManage-2** under Manager IP address
- Enter the username and password, which is the same credentials as we used in Step 6.
- Enable SDAVC - To be left unchecked as we would have enabled it already on vManage-1
- Click on Add.
- Post this, the vManage NMS services restarts in the background for vManage 1 and 2 nodes. The UI is not available for a few minutes of around 5 to 10 minutes for vManage 1 and 2.
- During this time, CLI access of vManage 1 and 2 is available.
- Once the vManage-1 UI is accessible navigate to **Administration > Cluster Management**, make sure **service interface IP of both the vManage is reflected under IP address, Configure Status is Ready and node persona is reflected correctly.**
- Switch to **Service reachability section in the same page and make sure all services are reachable for both the vManage nodes.**
- If we see any of the services are not reachable yet, please wait. Usually takes around 5 to 10 minutes.
- You can check the status of cluster add process in the Task-list available on the top right corner of the vManage UI.



- You can look up for Active task list and if the task is still listed under Active task list, it indicates the task is not completed yet.
- You can click on the task to check the progress of the same. If the task is not listed under Active task list, switch to Completed and make sure the task is successfully completed.
- Only after these points are validated proceed to next step.

**These points need to be taken into consideration before adding the next node to the cluster:**

Please verify these points on all the UIs of the vManage nodes that are added to cluster so far:

- Navigate to **Monitor > Overview** of vManage UI and make sure the number of vManage nodes are reflected correctly and are seen reachable depending on the number of the nodes added to the cluster.
- Navigate to **Administration > Cluster Management** and make sure **service interface IP of both the vManage is reflected under IP address, Configure Status is Ready and node persona is reflected correctly.**
- Switch to **Service reachability section in the same page and make sure all services are reachable for both the vManage nodes.**
- Each time, a node is added to the cluster, the NMS services of all the nodes in the cluster is restarted hence the UI of all those nodes becomes unreachable for some time.
- Depending on the number of the nodes in the cluster, it can take a longer time for the UI to be back up and all the services to be reachable.
- You can monitor the task under Task-list available on the top right corner of the vManage UI.
- On the vManage UI of each of node added to the cluster, we need to see all the routers, templates and policies if they were available in vManage-1.
- If those configurations were not present on vManage-1, the vBonds and vSmarts that were added to vManage-1 and also Administration > Settings configurations for Organization-name, vBond, Certificate Authorization must be reflected on rest of the vManage nodes added to the cluster.
- Repeat the same steps for the rest of the vManage nodes.

Once all the controllers are onboarded, complete this step:

**Step 4: Config-db Backup/Restore**

## Collect vManage configuration-db backup and restore on another vManage node



**Note:** While collecting configuration-database backup from the existing vManage cluster which has Disaster recovery enabled, make sure it is collected after the Disaster recovery on that node is paused and deleted.

Confirm there is no ongoing Disaster recovery replication. Navigate to **Administration > Disaster Recovery** and make sure the status Success and not in a transient state such as Import Pending, Export Pending, or Download Pending. If the status is not success, reach out to Cisco TAC and make sure replication is successful before you proceed to pause the disaster recovery.

First Pause the disaster recovery and make sure the task is complete. And then Delete the Disaster recovery and confirm the task is completed.

The screenshot displays the Cisco vManage Administration interface for Disaster Recovery. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Cisco vManage', 'Select Resource Group', and 'Administration - Disaster Recovery'. A 'Manage Disaster Recovery' button is visible. Below this, a red box highlights three options: 'Pause Disaster Recovery', 'Pause Replication', and 'Delete Disaster Recovery'. The main content area is divided into 'Primary Cluster Status', 'Active Cluster', and 'Standby Cluster'. The 'Active Cluster' section shows a table with columns for 'Node', 'IP Address', and 'Status'. The 'Standby Cluster' section also has a similar table. To the right, a 'Details' panel shows 'Last Replicated: 31 Jan 2023 2:18:05 pm CET', 'Time to Replicate: 10 secs', 'Size of Data: 2511 MB', and 'Status: Success'. A 'History' section is also present at the bottom right.

Reach out to Cisco TAC to ensure the Disaster Recovery is successfully cleaned up.

### Collect Configuration-DB backup:

- In the SD-WAN fabric which is currently in use, you can generate configuration-db backup from vManage cluster.
- Kindly note that we must generate configuration-db backup only on one node of the vManage cluster which is the configuration-db leader.
- For standalone vManage, that vManage itself is the configuration-db leader.
- In vManage cluster, identify the configuration-db leader node using the command *request nms configuration-db diagnostics*. You can run this command on all the nodes of the **3 node vManage cluster**.
- In a **6 node cluster**, make sure to run this command on the vManage nodes where configuration-db is enabled to identify the leader node. Navigate to **Administration > Cluster Management** to verify the same:
- As we see in the screenshot, the nodes configured with persona **COMPUTE\_AND\_DATA** have configuration-db running.

You can verify the same using the command `request nms configuration-db status` on vManageCLI. The output is as shown



18 rows

ready to start consuming query after 388 ms, results consumed after another 13 ms

Completed

Connecting to 10.10.10.3...

Displaying the Neo4j Cluster Status

```
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| name      | aliases | access      | address          | role          | requestedStatus | currentStatus |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| "neo4j"   | []      | "read-write" | "169.254.3.5:7687" | "leader"      | "online"        | "online"      |
| "neo4j"   | []      | "read-write" | "169.254.2.5:7687" | "follower"    | "online"        | "online"      |
| "neo4j"   | []      | "read-write" | "169.254.1.5:7687" | "follower"    | "online"        | "online"      |
| "system"  | []      | "read-write" | "169.254.3.5:7687" | "follower"    | "online"        | "online"      |
| "system"  | []      | "read-write" | "169.254.2.5:7687" | "follower"    | "online"        | "online"      |
| "system"  | []      | "read-write" | "169.254.1.5:7687" | "leader"      | "online"        | "online"      |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
```

6 rows

ready to start consuming query after 256 ms, results consumed after another 3 ms

Completed

Total disk space used by configuration-db:

60M .

Use this command to collect the configuration-db backup from the identified configuration-db leader vManage node.

```
request nms configuration-db backup path /opt/data/backup/<filename>
```

The expected output is as shown:

```
vmanage# request nms configuration-db backup path /opt/data/backup/june18th
Starting backup of configuration-db
config-db backup logs are available in /var/log/nms/neo4j-backup.log file
Successfully saved backup to /opt/data/backup/june18th.tar.gz
sha256sum: 8d0f5af8aee4e70f05e3858be6bdd5e6c136134ae47c383569ec883080f5d359
Removing the temp staging dir :/opt/data/backup/staging
vmanage#
```

- Make a note of the **configuration-db credentials** if it has been updated.
- If you are unaware of the configuration-db credentials, reach out to TAC to retrieve the configuration-db credentials from the existing vManage nodes.
- **Default configuration-db credentials** are username: neo4j and password: password

## Restore Configuration-db Backup to another vManage node

Copy the configuration-db backup to /home/admin/ directory of vManage using SCP.

Sample scp command output:

```
XXXXXXXXXX Downloads % scp june18th.tar.gz admin@10.66.62.27:/home/admin/
```

viptela 20.15.4.1

```
(admin@10.66.62.27) Password:  
(admin@10.66.62.27) Password:  
june18th.tar.gz
```

To restore configuration-db backup, first we need to configure the configuration-db credentials. If your configuration-db credentials are default(neo4j/password), we can skip this step.

To configure configuration-db credentials, use the command ***request nms configuration-db update-admin-user***. Use the username and password of your choice.

Kindly note that the Application server of vManage is restarted. Due to which vManage UI becomes inaccessible for a short time.

```
vmanage# request nms configuration-db update-admin-user  
configuration-db  
Enter current user name:neo4j  
Enter current user password:password  
Enter new user name:ciscoadmin  
Enter new user password:ciscoadmin  
WARNING: sun.reflect.Reflection.getCallerClass is not supported. This will impact performance.  
Successfully updated configuration database admin user(this is service node, please repeat same operation)  
Successfully restarted vManage Device Data Collector  
Successfully restarted NMS application server  
Successfully restarted NMS data collection agent  
vmanage#
```

Post which we can proceed to restore the configuration-db backup:

We can use the command ***request nms configuration-db restore path /home/admin/< >*** to restore the configuration-db to the new vManage:

```
vmanage# request nms configuration-db restore path /home/admin/june18th.tar.gz  
Starting backup of configuration-db  
config-db backup logs are available in /var/log/nms/neo4j-backup.log file  
Successfully saved database to /opt/data/backup/configdb-local-tmp-20230623-160954.tar.gz  
Successfully backup database to /opt/data/backup/configdb-local-tmp-20230623-160954.tar.gz  
Configuration database is running in a standalone mode
```

```
WARNING: sun.reflect.Reflection.getCallerClass is not supported. This will impact performance.
Successfully saved cluster configuration for localhost
Successfully saved vManage root CA information for device: "53f95156-f56b-472f-b713-d164561b25b7"
Stopping NMS application server on localhost
Stopping NMS configuration database on localhost
Resetting NMS configuration database on localhost
Loading NMS configuration database on localhost
Starting NMS configuration database on localhost
Waiting for 180s or the instance to start...
NMS configuration database on localhost has started.
Updating DB with the saved cluster configuration data
Successfully reinserted cluster meta information
Successfully reinserted vmanage root ca information
Starting NMS application server on localhost
Waiting for 180s for the instance to start...
Successfully restored database
```

Once the configuration-db is restored, make sure the vManage UI is accessible. Wait for around 5 minutes and then attempt to access the UI.

Once logged into UI successfully, ensure the Edge routers list, template, policies and all the rest of the configurations that were present on your previous or existing vManage UI is reflected on the new vManage UI.

## Step 5: Reauthentication of Controllers and invalidation of old controllers

Once configuration-db is restored ,we need to reauthenticate all the new controllers (vmanage/vsmart/vbond) in the fabric



**Note:** In actual production if the interface IP used to re-authenticate is the tunnel interface IP, need to ensure NETCONF service is allowed on the tunnel interface of the vManage, vSmart and vBond and also on the firewalls along the path. The firewall port to open is TCP port 830 as bi-directional rule from DR cluster to all vBonds and vSmarts .

---

On vmanage UI, click on Configuration > Devices > Controllers

- Click the three dots near each controller and Click Edit

The screenshot shows the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Manager interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN' and 'Select Resource Group'. The main header is 'Configuration · Devices'. Below this, there are tabs for 'WAN Edge List' and 'Controllers'. The 'Controllers' tab is active, showing a table with 5 controllers. To the right of the table is an 'Edit' form with fields for IP Address, Username, and Password.

Controller Type	Site Name	Hostname	Config Locked	Managed By	Device Status	System-ip	Draft Mode	Certificate Status	Policy Name	Policy Version
vbond	SITE_300	vedge	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	3.3.3.3	Disabled	Installed	-	-
vmanage	SITE_300	vmanage1-20121	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1.1.1	Disabled	Installed	-	-
vmanage	SITE_300	vmanage2-20121	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1.1.2	Disabled	Installed	-	-
vmanage	SITE_300	vmanage3-20121	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1.1.3	Disabled	Installed	-	-
vsmart	SITE_300	vsmart	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	2.2.2.2	Disabled	Installed	-	-

- Replace the ip-address (system-ip of the controller) with the transport vpn 0(tunnel interface) ip address .Enter the username and password and click save
- Do the same for all the new controllers in the fabric

## Sync the Root-cert-chain

Once all the controllers are onboarded, complete this step:

On any Cisco SD-WAN Manager server in the newly active cluster, perform these actions:

Enter this command to synchronize the root certificate with all Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN devices in the newly active cluster:

<https://vmanage-url/dataservice/system/device/sync/rootcertchain>

Enter this command to synchronize the Cisco SD-WAN Manager UUID with the Cisco SD-WAN Validator:

<https://vmanage-url/dataservice/certificate/syncvbond>

Once the fabric is restored and the control and bfd sessions are up for all edges and controllers in the fabric,we need to invalidate the old controllers (vmanage/vsmart/vbond) from the UI

- On vmanage UI, click on Configuration > Devices > Certificates
- Click on Controllers
- Click on the three dots near the controller(vmanage/vsmart/vbond) from the old fabric. Click invalidate
- Click send to vbond
- On vmanage UI, click on Configuration > Devices > Controllers
- Click on the three dots near the controller(vmanage/vsmart/vbond) from the old fabric. Click Delete.

## Step 6: Post Checks



**Note:** Continue with the Post Checks section shown here, which is common to all deployment combinations.

# Combination 4: vManage Cluster + Manual/Cold Standby DR

**What is Manual/Cold Standby DR ?** The backup SD-WAN Manager server or SD-WAN Manager cluster is kept shutdown in cold standby state.

Regular backups of the active database are taken, and if the primary SD-WAN Manager or SD-WAN Manager cluster goes down, the standby SD-WAN Manager or SD-WAN Manager cluster is brought up manually and the backup database restored on it.

## Instances needed:

- 3 or 6 vManage (primary cluster)
- 3 or 6 vManage (DR standby cluster)
- 1 or more vBond (distributed across primary and DR data centers)
- 1 or more vSmart (distributed across primary and DR data centers)

## Steps:

1. Bring up all instances using the Common Steps
2. Pre-checks
3. Configure vManage UI, Certificates, and Onboard Controllers
4. Build vManage Cluster
5. Cold Standby DR Cluster Setup
6. Config-db backup/restore
7. Post Checks

## Step 1: Pre-Checks

- Ensure that the number of the active Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances are identical to the number of the newly installed Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances.
- Ensure that all the active and new Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances run the same software version.
- Ensure that all the active and new Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances are able to reach the management IP address of the Cisco SD-WAN Validator.
- Ensure that certificates have been installed on the newly installed Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances.
- Ensure that the clocks on all Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN devices, including the newly installed Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances, are synchronized.
- Ensure that a new set of System IPs and Site IDs is configured on the newly installed Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances, along with the same basic configuration as the active cluster.

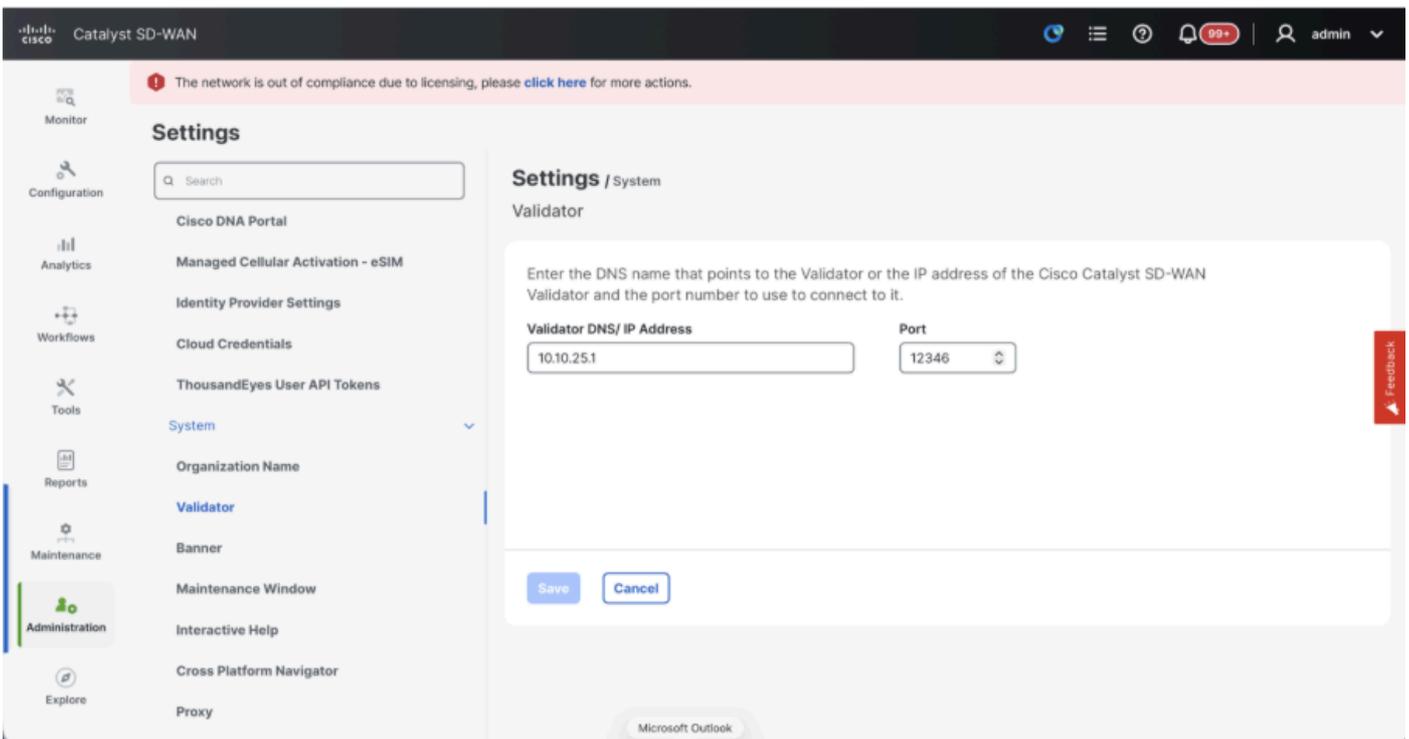
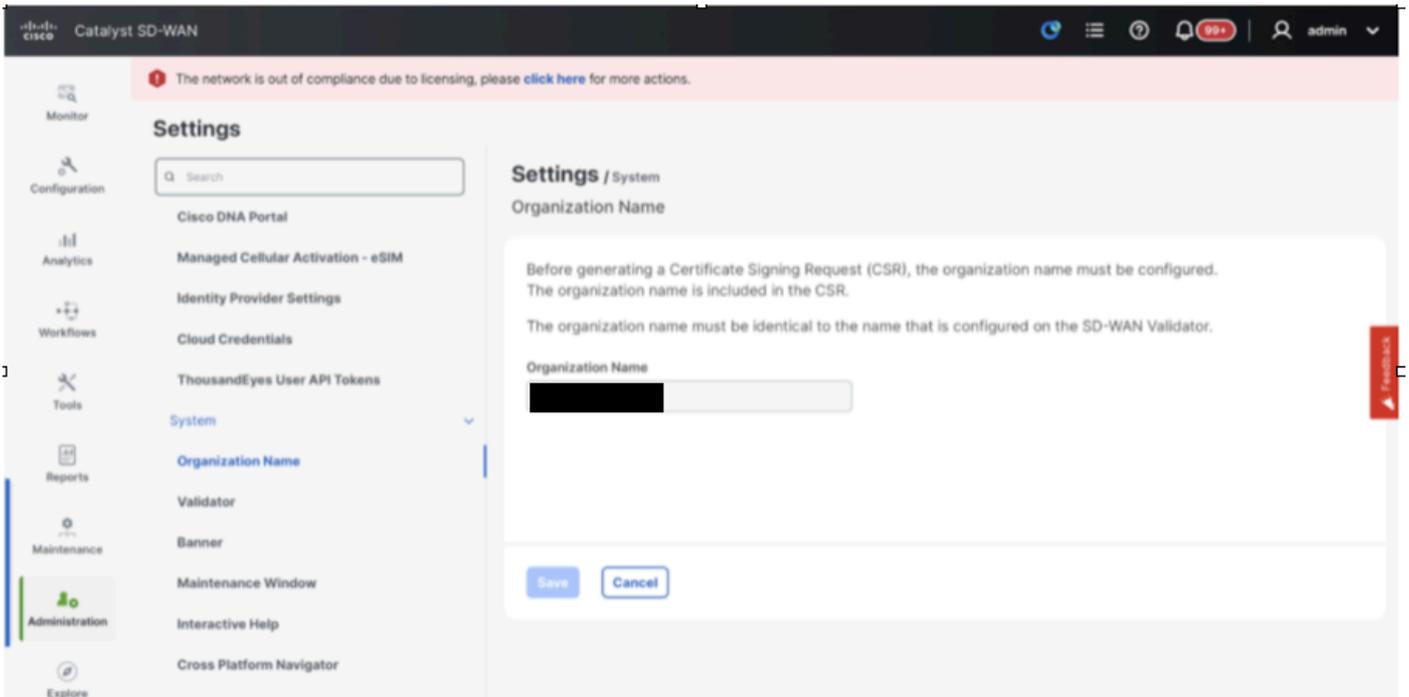
## Step 2: Configure vManage UI, Certificates, and Onboard Controllers

### Update the configurations on vManage UI

- Once the configurations in Step 1 are added on the CLI of all the controllers, we can access the webUI of vManage, using the URL **https://<vmanage-ip>** in your browser. Use the **VPN 512 IP address** of respective vManage nodes. You can log in with the admin username and password.
- Navigate to **Administration > Settings** and complete these steps.
- Configure **Organization name** and **Validator/vBond URL/IP address**. Configure the same value as

in the CLI of the vManage node.

- In the vManage 20.15/20.18 these configurations are available under section System.

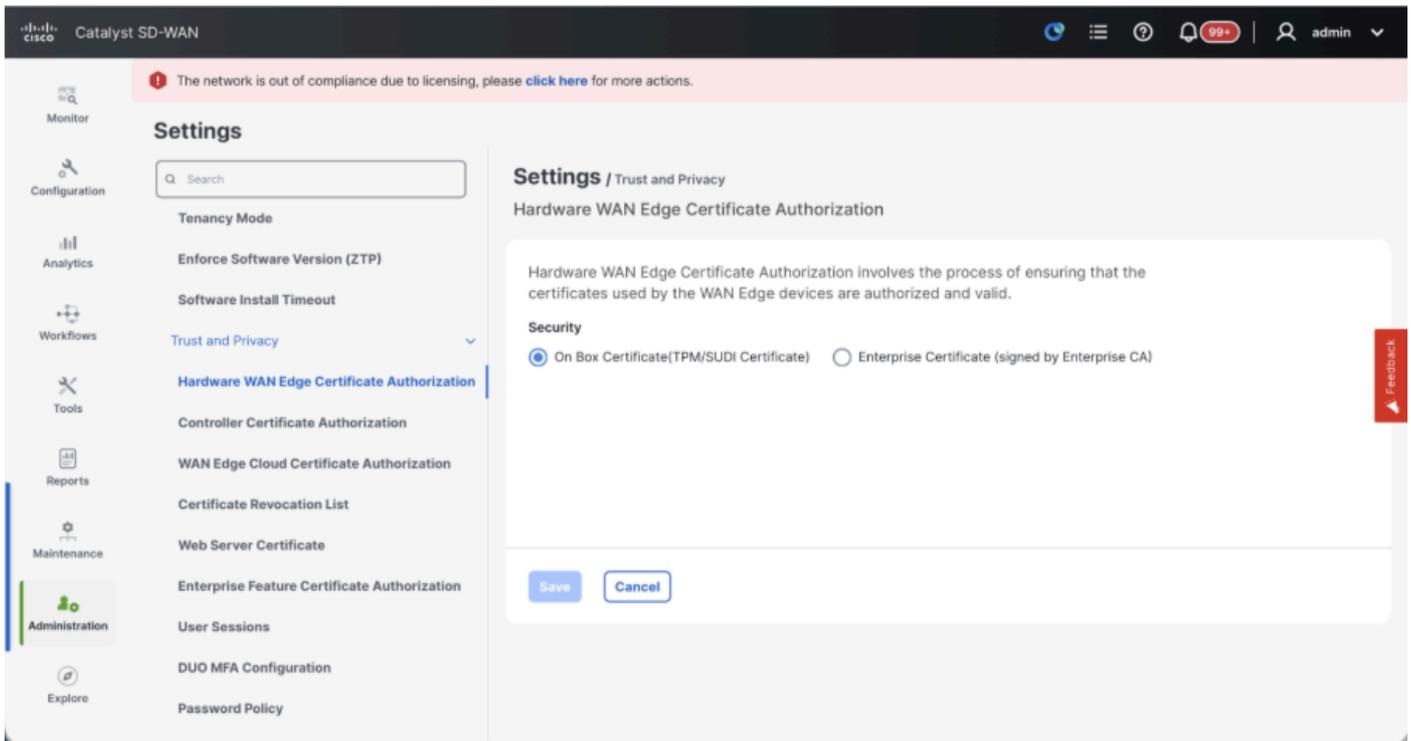


- Verify the configurations for Certificate Authorization(CA), which decides the Certificate Authority used for signing the certificates. We can see 3 options there:

### 1. **Hardware WAN Edge Certificate Authorization** - Decides the CA for hardware SD-WAN Edge routers.

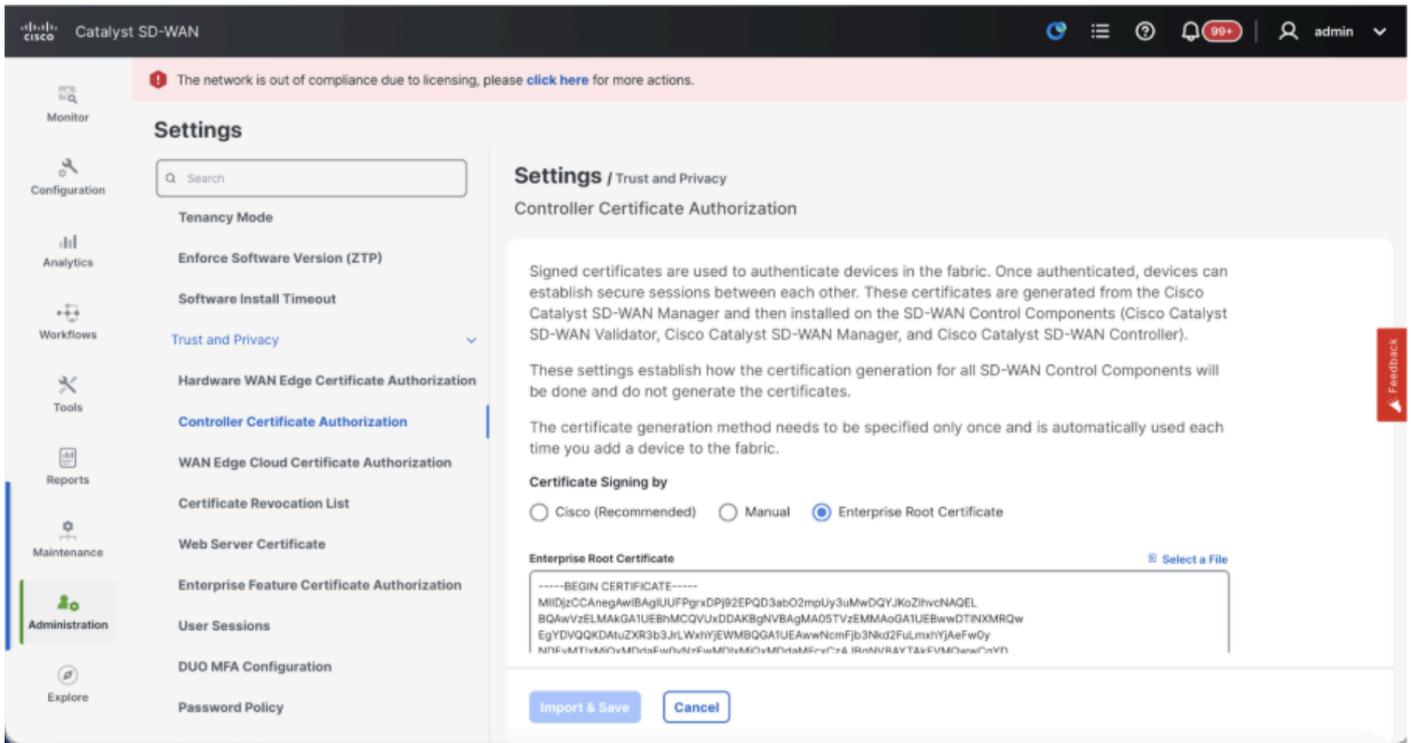
- On Box Certificate (TPM/SUDI Certificate) - With this option, the preinstalled certificate on the router hardware is used to establish the Control connections (TLS/DTLS connections)
- Enterprise Certificate (signed by Enterprise CA) - With this option, the routers use certificates signed by Enterprise certificate authority of your organization. While choosing this option, the

root certificate of Enterprise CA must be updated here.



## 2. Controller Certificate Authorization - Decides the CA for SD-WAN controllers.

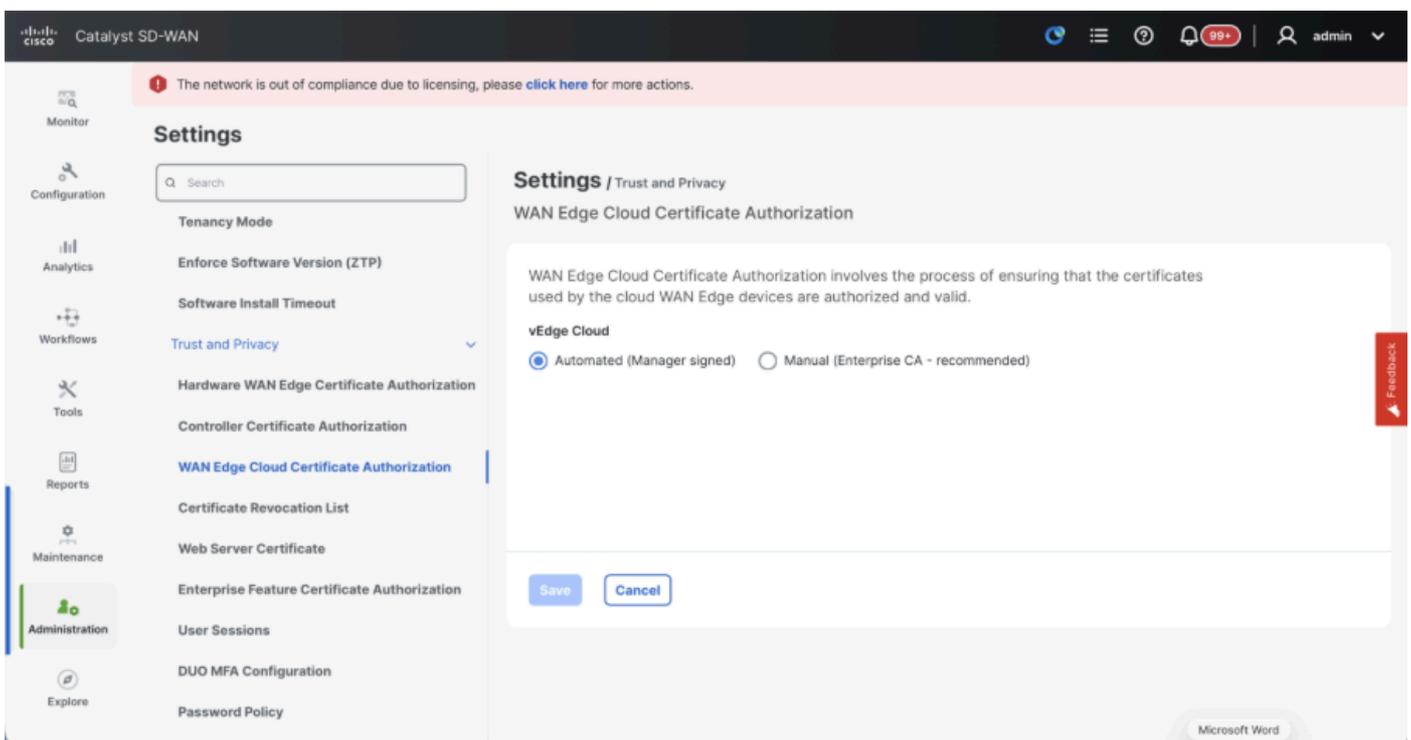
- Cisco (Recommended) - Controllers use the certificates signed by Cisco PKI. vManage automatically contacts the PNP portal using the smart account credentials configured on the vManage and get the certificate signed and is installed on the controller.
- Manual - Controllers use the certificates signed by Cisco PKI. Manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay.
- Enterprise Root Certificate - With this option, the routers use certificates signed by Enterprise certificate authority of your organization. While choosing this option, the root certificate of Enterprise CA must be updated here.



### 3. WAN Edge Cloud Certificate Authorization - Decides the CA for virtual SD-WAN Edge routers (CSR1000v, C8000v, vEdge cloud)

- Automated (vManage signed) - vManage automatically signs the CSR for the virtual Edge routers and install the certificate on the router.
- Manual (Enterprise CA - recommended) - Virtual routers use certificates signed by Enterprise certificate authority of your organization. While choosing this option, the root certificate of Enterprise CA must be updated here.

In case, if we are using our own CA, Enterprise certificate authority, choose Enterprise.



- Navigate to **Configuration > Certificates > Control Components** in case of

- 20.15/20.18 vManage nodes. In case of 20.9/20.12 versions, **Configuration > Devices > Controllers**
- Click on ... for Manager/vManage and click on Generate CSR.

The screenshot shows the vManage interface for Catalyst SD-WAN. The 'Certificates' section is active, with the 'Control Components' tab selected. A table lists three devices: vBond, vmanage, and vsmart. A context menu is open over the table, with 'Generate CSR' highlighted. The table columns include Operation Status, Controller Type, Hostname, System IP, Site ID, Certificate Serial, and Expiration Date.

Operation Status	Controller Type	Hostname	System IP	Site ID	Certificate Serial	Expiration Date
Installed	Validator	vBond	1.1.1.1	1	66FB789E38DBD9EB1060068F9D7C0E716D9E573F	Apr 26, 2026, 8:15:47 PM
Validator Updated	Manager	vmanage	1.1.1.2	1	66FB789E38DBD9EB1060068F9D7C0E716D9E573E	Apr 26, 2026, 6:15:47 PM
Validator Updated	Controller	vsmart	1.1.1.3	1	66FB789E38DBD9EB1060068F9D7C0E716D9E5740	Apr 26, 2026, 6:24:51 PM

- Once the CSR is generated, you can download the CSR and get it signed based on the Certificate authority chosen for controllers. You can verify this configuration in **Administration > Settings > Controller Certificate Authorization**. If Cisco (Recommended) is chosen, then the CSR is automatically uploaded to the PNP portal by the vManage and once the certificate is signed, it is installed on the vManage automatically.
- If Manual is chosen, manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay. Once the certificate is available from PNP portal, click on install certificate on the same section of vManage and upload the certificate and install the certificate. Same procedure is applicable if we are using Digicert and Enterprise Root Certificate.

## Onboarding vBond/Validator and vSmart/Controller to the vManage

Navigate to **Configuration > Devices > Control Components** in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage nodes. In case of 20.9/20.12 versions, **Configuration > Devices > Controllers**

### Onboarding vBond/Validator

- Click on Add vBond in case of 20.12 vManage or Add Validator in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage. A pop up opens, enter the VPN 0 transport IP of vBond which is reachable from the vManage.
- Check the reachability using ping if allowed from CLI of vManage to vBond IP.
- Enter the user credentials of vBond.



**Note:** We need to use admin credentials of vBond or a user part of netadmin group. You can verify this in the CLI of the vBond. Choose Yes in the dropdown of "Generate CSR" if we need to install a new certificate for vBond



**Note:** If the vBond is behind a NAT device/Firewall, check if the vBond VPN 0 interface IP is translated to a public IP. If VPN 0 interface IP is not reachable from vManage, use the public IP address of VPN 0 interface in this step

The screenshot shows the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN vManage interface. At the top, there is a notification: "The network is out of compliance due to licensing, please [click here](#) for more actions." The main navigation menu on the left includes Monitor, Configuration, Analytics, Workflows, Tools, Reports, Maintenance, Administration, and Explore. The 'Devices' section is active, showing 'Control Components (3)'. A table lists the components:

Controller Type	Site Name	Hostname	Config Locked	Managed By	Device Status	Sync
Validator	SITE_1	vBond	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1
Manager	SITE_1	vmanage	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1
Controller	SITE_1	vsmart	Yes	Template vSmart-template	In Sync	1.1

The 'Add Validator' dialog box is open on the right, with fields for Validator Management IP Address, Username, Password, and Generate CSR (set to No). A 'Feedback' button is visible on the right side of the dialog.

- Once the CSR is generated, you can download the CSR and get it signed based on the Certificate authority chosen for controllers. You can verify this configuration in **Administration > Settings > Controller Certificate Authorization**. If Cisco (Recommended) is chosen, then the CSR is automatically uploaded to the PNP portal by the vManage and once the certificate is signed, it is installed on the vBond automatically.
- If Manual is chosen, manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay. Once the certificate is available from PNP portal, click on install certificate on the same section of vManage and upload the certificate and install the certificate. Same procedure is applicable if we are using Digicert and Enterprise Root Certificate.
- If there are multiple vBonds, repeat the same steps.

### Onboarding vSmart/Controller:

- Click on **Add vSmart** in case of 20.12 vManage or **Add Controller** in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage.
- A pop up opens, enter the **VPN 0 transport IP of vSmart** which is reachable from the vManage.
- Check the reachability using ping if allowed from CLI of vManage to vSmart IP.
- Enter the user credentials of vSmart Note that we need to use **admin credentials of vSmart** or a user part of netadmin group.
- You can verify this in the CLI of the vSmart.
- Set the protocol to TLS, if we intend to use TLS for routers to establish control connections

with vSmart. This config needs to be configured on CLI of vSmarts and vManage nodes as well.

- Choose Yes in the dropdown of "**Generate CSR**" if we need to install a new certificate for vSmart.



**Note:** If the vSmart is behind NAT device/Firewall, check if the vSmart VPN 0 interface IP is translated to a public IP, and if VPN 0 interface IP is not reachable from vManage, use public IP address of VPN 0 interface IP in this step.

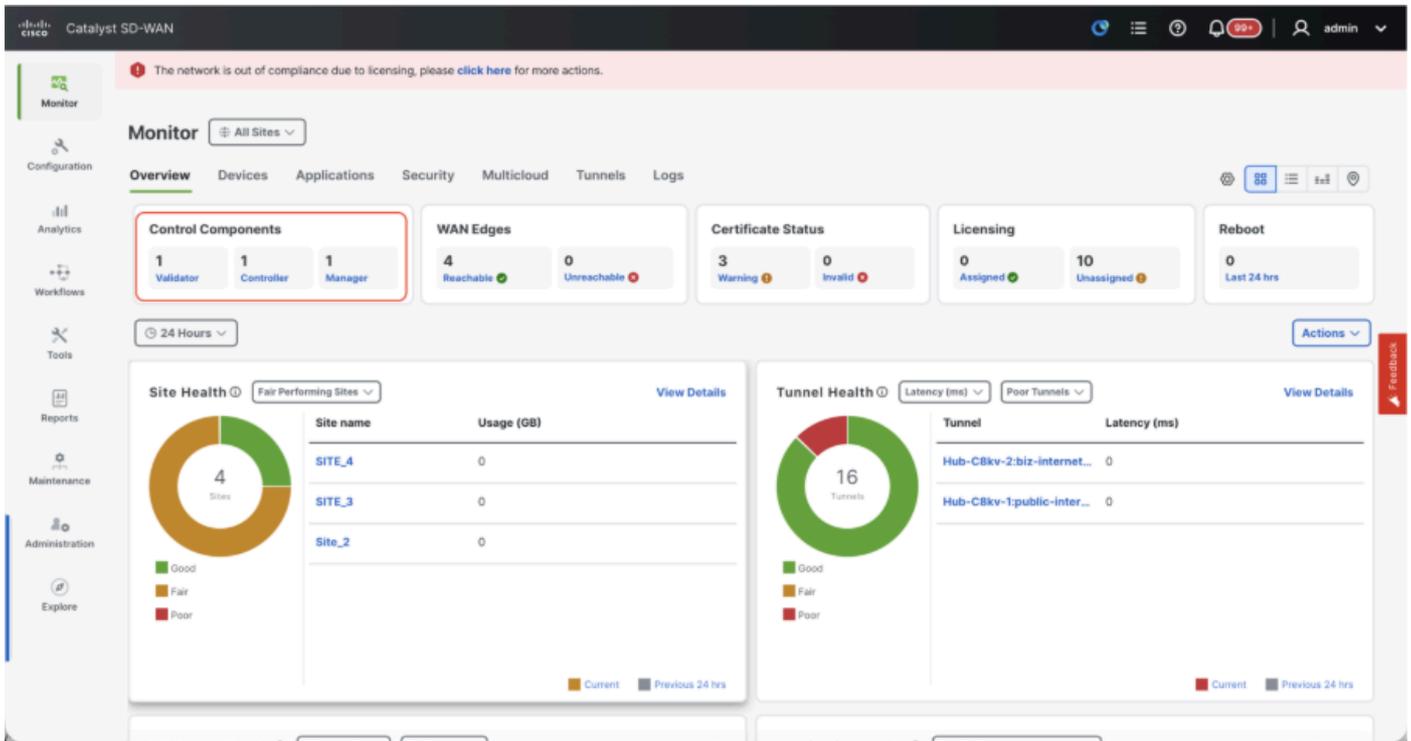
The screenshot displays the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN vManage interface. The main view shows a table of Control Components (3) with columns for Controller Type, Site Name, Hostname, Config Locked, Managed By, and Device Status. The 'Add Controller' dialog box is open on the right, with fields for Controller Management IP Address, Username, Password, Protocol (set to DTLS), Port, and Generate CSR (set to No).

Controller Type	Site Name	Hostname	Config Locked	Managed By	Device Status	Sy
Validator	SITE_1	vBond	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1
Manager	SITE_1	vmanage	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1
Controller	SITE_1	vsmart	Yes	Template vSmart-template	In Sync	1.1

- Once the CSR is generated, you can download the CSR and get it signed based on the Certificate authority chosen for controllers. You can verify this configuration in **Administration > Settings > Controller Certificate Authorization**. If Cisco (Recommended) is chosen, then the CSR is automatically uploaded to the PNP portal by the vManage and once the certificate is signed, it is installed on the vSmart automatically.
- If Manual is chosen, manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay.
- Once the certificate is available from PNP portal, click on install certificate on the same section of vManage and upload the certificate and install the certificate.
- Same procedure is applicable if we are using Digicert and Enterprise Root Certificate.
- If there are multiple vSmarts, repeat the same steps.

## Verification

Once all the steps are completed, verify that all the control components are reachable in Monitor>Dashboard



- Click on the respective Control components and confirm that they are all reachable.
- Navigate to **Monitor** > **Devices** and confirm all the control components are reachable.

Hostname	Device Model	Site Name	System IP	Health	Reachability	Control	BFD	TLOC	Up Since	CPU Load	Memory utilization	Act
vbond	Validator	SITE_3	1.1.1	Good	↑	14 / 14	N/A	- / -	Jan 13, 2026 11:32 AM	0.79%	13%	...
vmanage	Manager	SITE_3	1.1.2	Warning	↑	6 / 6	N/A	8 / 8	Feb 06, 2026 10:07 AM	2.48%	77%	...
vsmart	Controller	SITE_3	1.1.3	Good	↑	7 / 7	N/A	2 / 2	Jan 13, 2026 11:33 AM	1.32%	16%	...

### Step 3: Build vManage Cluster

#### Onboard SD-WAN Fabric with a vManage Cluster in the SD-WAN overlay



**Note:** vManage Cluster can be configured with 3 vManage nodes or 6 vManage nodes depending on the number of sites onboarded to SD-WAN fabric

#### Onboard all the SD-WAN controllers with single vManage node

Proceed with the steps shared in "Onboard SD-WAN controllers with a single node vManage in the SD-WAN overlay" to first bring up the SD-WAN fabric with one vManage node and onboard all the required Validators(vBond) and Controllers(vSmart).

### Configure the CLI configurations of all the vManage nodes which is part of the cluster

- Configure the rest of the vManage nodes. In case of 3 node cluster, you has remaining 2 nodes to configure, in case of 6 node cluster you has 5 nodes to configure.
- Configure System configurations as shown:

```
config t
system
 host-name          <hostname>
 system-ip         <unique system-ip>
 site-id           <site-id>
 organization-name <organization name>
 vbond <IP address/URL of vBond>
commit
```



**Note:** If we are using URL as vBond address, make sure to configure DNS server IP addresses in VPN 0 configuration or ensure they can be resolved.

---

These configurations are needed to enable the transport interface used to establish control connections with the routers and rest of the controllers.

```
config t
vpn 0
 dns <IP-address> primary
 dns <IP-address> secondary
 interface eth1
 ip address <IP-address/mask>
 tunnel-interface
 allow-service all
 allow-service dhcp
 allow-service dns
 allow-service icmp
 no allow-service sshd
 no allow-service netconf
 no allow-service ntp
 no allow-service stun
 allow-service https
 !
 no shutdown
 !
 ip route 0.0.0.0/0 <default-gateway IP>
commit
```

Also configure VPN 512management interface to enable out of band management access to the controller.

```

Conf t
vpn 512
interface eth0
ip address <IP-address/mask>
no shutdown
!
ip route 0.0.0.0/0 <default-gateway IP>
!
Commit

```

### Optional Config:

- You can refer to the configurations of your existing controller and if the config listed here is present, you can add this configuration to the new controllers.
- Configure the control protocol as TLS only if there is a requirement for routers to establish secure control connections with the vManage nodes using TLS. By default, all the controllers and routers establish control connection using DTLS. This is an optional config required only on vSmart and vManage nodes depending on your requirement.

```

Conf t
security
control
protocol tls
commit

```

### Configure service interface on all vManage nodes

Configure service interface on all the vManage nodes including vManage-1 which has been onboarded already. This interface is used for cluster communication, meaning communication between the vManage nodes in the cluster.

```

conf t
interface eth2
ip address <IP-address/mask>
no shutdown
commit

```

Make sure the same IP subnet is used for service interface across all the nodes in the vManage cluster.

### Configure cluster credentials

We can use the same admin credentials of the vManage nodes to configure the vManage cluster. Else we can configure a new user credential which is part of netadmin group. The configurations to configure new user credential is as shown

```

conf t

```

```

system
aaa
user <username>
password <password>
group netadmin
commit

```

Make sure to configure the same user credentials across all the vManage nodes which is part of the cluster. If we decide to use admin credentials, it must be the same username/password across all the vManage nodes.

## Install device certificate on all vManage nodes

- Login to vManage UI of all the vManage nodes using the URL `https://<vmanage-ip>` in your browser. Use the VPN 512 IP address of respective vManage nodes. You can log in with the admin username and password.
- Navigate to **Configuration > Certificates > Control Components** in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage nodes. In case of 20.9/20.12 versions, **Configuration > Devices > Controllers**

Click on ... for Manager/vManage and click on **Generate CSR**.

The screenshot shows the vManage interface for Catalyst SD-WAN. The 'Certificates' section is active, and the 'Control Components' tab is selected. A table lists three devices: vBond, vmanage, and vsmart. A context menu is open over the vmanage device, showing options like 'View CSR', 'View Certificate', 'Generate CSR', 'Reset RSA', 'Invalidate', and 'Generate CSR RSA-4K'. The 'Generate CSR' option is highlighted with a red box.

Operation Status	Controller Type	Hostname	System IP	Site ID	Certificate Serial	Expiration Date
Installed	Validator	vBond	1.1.1.1	1	66FB789E38DBD9EB1060068F9D7C0E716D9E573F	Apr 26, 2026, 6:15:47 PM
Validator Updated	Manager	vmanage	1.1.1.2	1	66FB789E38DBD9EB1060068F9D7C0E716D9E573E	Apr 26, 2026, 6:15:47 PM
Validator Updated	Controller	vsmart	1.1.1.3	1	66FB789E38DBD9EB1060068F9D7C0E716D9E5740	Apr 26, 2026, 6:24:51 PM

- Once the CSR is generated, you can download the CSR and get it signed based on the Certificate authority chosen for controllers. You can verify this configuration in **Administration > Settings > Controller Certificate Authorization**. If Cisco (Recommended) is chosen, then the CSR is automatically uploaded to the PNP portal by the vManage and once the certificate is signed, it is installed on the vManage automatically.
- If Manual is chosen, manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay.
- Once the certificate is available from PNP portal, click on install certificate on the same section

of vManage and upload the certificate and install the certificate.

- Same procedure is applicable if we are using Digicert and Enterprise Root Certificate.
- Complete this step across all the vManage nodes which is part of the cluster.

## Prepare to build the vManage Cluster

- On the webUI of vManage-1, navigate to **Administration > Cluster Management**, click on ... under Actions for vManage-1, choose Edit.
- The node persona is chosen automatically based on the persona we chose while the VM was spun up.



**Note:** For a 3-node cluster, all 3 vManage nodes are brought up with compute+data as the persona.

---

- For a 6 node cluster, 3 vManage nodes are brought up with compute+data as the persona and 3 vManage nodes are brought up with data as the persona.
- From the dropdown for Manager IP address, make sure to **choose service interface IP** of the vManage.
- Enter the username and password which we desire to use to enable vManage cluster which is referred as cluster credentials.
- As mentioned earlier, **same credentials must be configured on all the vManage nodes** and must be used while adding all the nodes to the cluster.

## Optional Config:

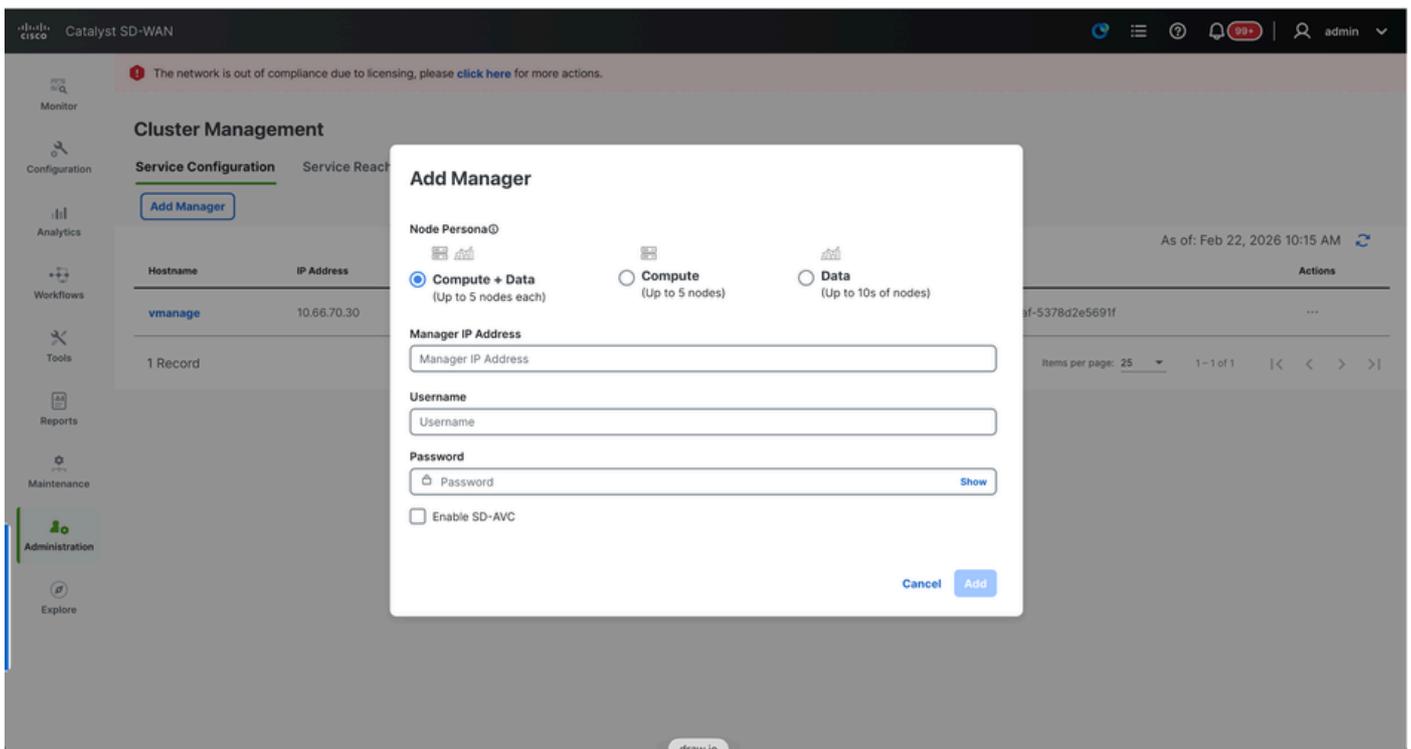
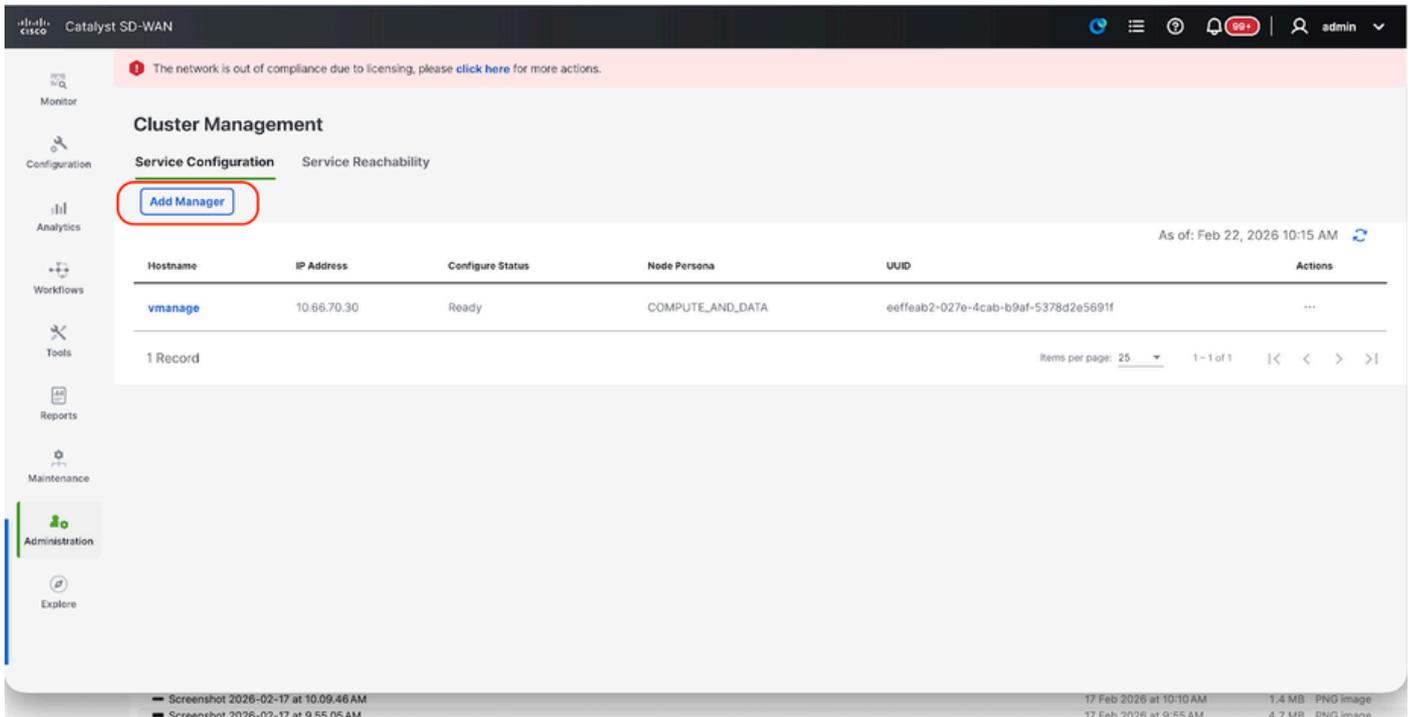
**Please refer to this configuration in your existing cluster to Enable SDAVC** - Need to be checked only if it is required and is needed only on one vManage node of the cluster.

Click on Update.

- Post this, the vManage NMS services restarts in the background and the UI is not available for a few minutes of around 5 to 10 minutes. During this time, CLI access of vManage is available.
- Once the vManage-1 UI is accessible navigate to **Administration > Cluster Management**, make sure **service interface IP of vManage is reflected under IP address, Configure Status is Ready and node persona is reflected correctly**. Switch to Service reachability section in the same page and make sure **all services are reachable**.
- If we see any of the services are not reachable yet, please wait. Usually takes around 20 to 30 minutes.

## Build the vManage Cluster

- On the webUI of vManage-1, navigate to **Administration > Cluster Management**, in the section Service Configuration,
- Click on **Add Manager**, a pop-up window appears:



- Choose the **Node persona** based on the persona configurations done while the vManage – 2 node was spun up.
- Enter the **service interface IP of vManage-2** under Manager IP address
- Enter the username and password, which is the same credentials as we used in Step 6.
- Enable SDAVC - To be left unchecked as we would have enabled it already on vManage-1
- Click on Add.
- Post this, the vManage NMS services restarts in the background for vManage 1 and 2 nodes. The UI is not available for a few minutes of around 5 to 10 minutes for vManage 1 and 2.
- During this time, CLI access of vManage 1 and 2 is available.
- Once the vManage-1 UI is accessible navigate to **Administration > Cluster Management**, make sure **service interface IP of both the vManage is reflected under IP address, Configure Status is Ready and node persona is reflected correctly.**

- **Switch to Service reachability section in the same page and make sure all services are reachable for both the vManage nodes.**
- If we see any of the services are not reachable yet, please wait. Usually takes around 5 to 10 minutes.
- You can check the status of cluster add process in the Task-list available on the top right corner of the vManage UI.

The screenshot shows the vManage interface for Catalyst SD-WAN. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Cisco logo and 'Catalyst SD-WAN'. A red notification banner at the top states: 'The network is out of compliance due to licensing, please [click here](#) for more actions.' Below this, the 'Cluster Management' section is visible, with 'Service Configuration' and 'Service Reachability' tabs. An 'Add Manager' button is present. A table lists the cluster members:

Hostname	IP Address	Configure Status	Node Persona	UUID	Actions
vmanage	10.66.70.30	Ready	COMPUTE_AND_DATA	eeffeab2-027e-4cab-b9af-5378d2e5691f	...

At the bottom of the table, it indicates '1 Record' and 'Items per page: 25'. The top right corner of the interface shows a task list icon circled in red, along with a user profile 'admin'.

- You can look up for Active task list and if the task is still listed under Active task list, it indicates the task is not completed yet.
- You can click on the task to check the progress of the same. If the task is not listed under Active task list, switch to Completed and make sure the task is successfully completed.
- Only after these points are validated proceed to next step.

**These points need to be taken into consideration before adding the next node to the cluster:**

Please verify these points on all the UIs of the vManage nodes that are added to cluster so far:

- Navigate to **Monitor > Overview** of vManage UI and make sure the number of vManage nodes are reflected correctly and are seen reachable depending on the number of the nodes added to the cluster.
- Navigate to **Administration > Cluster Management** and make sure **service interface IP of both the vManage is reflected under IP address, Configure Status is Ready and node persona is reflected correctly.**
- Switch to **Service reachability section in the same page and make sure all services are reachable for both the vManage nodes.**
- Each time, a node is added to the cluster, the NMS services of all the nodes in the cluster is restarted hence the UI of all those nodes becomes unreachable for some time.
- Depending on the number of the nodes in the cluster, it can take a longer time for the UI to be back up and all the services to be reachable.
- You can monitor the task under Task-list available on the top right corner of the vManage UI.
- On the vManage UI of each of node added to the cluster, we need to see all the routers, templates and policies if they were available in vManage-1.
- If those configurations were not present on vManage-1, the vBonds and vSmarts that were added to vManage-1 and also Administration > Settings configurations for Organization-name, vBond,

Certificate Authorization must be reflected on rest of the vManage nodes added to the cluster.

- Repeat the same steps for the rest of the vManage nodes.

## Step 4: Cold Standby DR Cluster Setup

### Cold Standby DR Cluster Setup

You can bring up one more vManage cluster using steps described in **Step 4: Build vManage Cluster**. Post that complete the steps described in Step 6: Config-db Backup/Restore to restore the config-db backup in the Standby cluster.

## Step 5: Config-db Backup/Restore

### Collect vManage configuration-db backup and restore on another vManage node

#### Collect Configuration-DB backup:

- In the SD-WAN fabric which is currently in use, you can generate configuration-db backup from vManage cluster.
- Kindly note that we must generate configuration-db backup only on one node of the vManage cluster which is the configuration-db leader.
- For standalone vManage, that vManage itself is the configuration-db leader.
- In vManage cluster, identify the configuration-db leader node using the command *request nms configuration-db diagnostics*. You can run this command on all the nodes of the **3 node vManage cluster**.
- In a **6 node cluster**, make sure to run this command on the vManage nodes where configuration-db is enabled to identify the leader node. Navigate to **Administration > Cluster Management** to verify the same:
- As we see in the screenshot, the nodes configured with persona **COMPUTE\_AND\_DATA** have configuration-db running.

You can verify the same using the command `request nms configuration-db status` on vManageCLI. The output is as shown

```
vmanage# request nms configuration-db status
NMS configuration database
  Enabled: true
  Status: running PID:32632 for 1066085s
  Native metrics status: ENABLED
  Server-load metrics status: ENABLED
vmanage#
```

- Once you execute the command *request nms configuration-db diagnostics* on these nodes, the output is as shown:
- Look for the highlighted field for **“IsLeader”**. If it is set to 1, it indicates that node is the leader node and we can collect configuration-db backup from it.

```
vManage-3# request nms configuration-db diagnostics
NMS configuration database
```



Use this command to collect the configuration-db backup from the identified configuration-db leader vManage node.

```
request nms configuration-db backup path /opt/data/backup/<filename>
```

The expected output is as shown:

```
vmanage# request nms configuration-db backup path /opt/data/backup/june18th
Starting backup of configuration-db
config-db backup logs are available in /var/log/nms/neo4j-backup.log file
Successfully saved backup to /opt/data/backup/june18th.tar.gz
sha256sum: 8d0f5af8aee4e70f05e3858be6bdd5e6c136134ae47c383569ec883080f5d359
Removing the temp staging dir :/opt/data/backup/staging
vmanage#
```

- Make a note of the **configuration-db credentials** if it has been updated.
- If you are unaware of the configuration-db credentials, reach out to TAC to retrieve the configuration-db credentials from the existing vManage nodes.
- **Default configuration-db credentials** are username: neo4j and password: password

### Restore Configuration-db Backup to another vManage node

Copy the configuration-db backup to /home/admin/ directory of vManage using SCP.

Sample scp command output:

```
XXXXXXXXX Downloads % scp june18th.tar.gz admin@10.66.62.27:/home/admin/
viptela 20.15.4.1

(admin@10.66.62.27) Password:
(admin@10.66.62.27) Password:
june18th.tar.gz
```

To restore configuration-db backup, first we need to configure the configuration-db credentials. If your configuration-db credentials are default(neo4j/password), we can skip this step.

To configure configuration-db credentials, use the command *request nms configuration-db update-admin-user*. Use the username and password of your choice.

Kindly note that the Application server of vManage is restarted. Due to which vManage UI becomes

inaccessible for a short time.

```
vmanage# request nms configuration-db update-admin-user
configuration-db
Enter current user name:neo4j
Enter current user password:password
Enter new user name:ciscoadmin
Enter new user password:ciscoadmin
WARNING: sun.reflect.Reflection.getCallerClass is not supported. This will impact performance.
Successfully updated configuration database admin user(this is service node, please repeat same op
Successfully restarted vManage Device Data Collector
Successfully restarted NMS application server
Successfully restarted NMS data collection agent
vmanage#
```

Post which we can proceed to restore the configuration-db backup:

We can use the command ***request nms configuration-db restore path /home/admin/< >***to restore the configuration-db to the new vManage:

```
vmanage# request nms configuration-db restore path /home/admin/june18th.tar.gz
Starting backup of configuration-db
config-db backup logs are available in /var/log/nms/neo4j-backup.log file
Successfully saved database to /opt/data/backup/configdb-local-tmp-20230623-160954.tar.gz
Successfully backup database to /opt/data/backup/configdb-local-tmp-20230623-160954.tar.gz
Configuration database is running in a standalone mode
WARNING: sun.reflect.Reflection.getCallerClass is not supported. This will impact performance.
Successfully saved cluster configuration for localhost
Successfully saved vManage root CA information for device: "53f95156-f56b-472f-b713-d164561b25b7"
Stopping NMS application server on localhost
Stopping NMS configuration database on localhost
Reseting NMS configuration database on localhost
Loading NMS configuration database on localhost
Starting NMS configuration database on localhost
Waiting for 180s or the instance to start...
NMS configuration database on localhost has started.
Updating DB with the saved cluster configuration data
Successfully reinserted cluster meta information
Successfully reinserted vmanage root ca information
Starting NMS application server on localhost
Waiting for 180s for the instance to start...
Successfully restored database
```

Once the configuration-db is restored, make sure the vManage UI is accessible. Wait for around 5 minutes and then attempt to access the UI.

Once logged into UI successfully, ensure the Edge routers list, template, policies and all the rest of the configurations that were present on your previous or existing vManage UI is reflected on the new vManage UI.

## Step 6: Reauthentication of Controllers and invalidation of old controllers

Once configuration-db is restored ,we need to reauthenticate all the new controllers (vmanage/vsmart/vbond) in the fabric



**Note:** In actual production if the interface IP used to re-authenticate is the tunnel interface IP, need to ensure NETCONF service is allowed on the tunnel interface of the vManage, vSmart and vBond and also on the firewalls along the path. The firewall port to open is TCP port 830 as bi-directional rule from DR cluster to all vBonds and vSmarts .

On vmanage UI, click on Configuration > Devices > Controllers

- Click the three dots near each controller and Click Edit

The screenshot shows the vManage UI interface. The main content area displays a table of controllers under the heading 'Controllers (5)'. The table has columns for Controller Type, Site Name, Hostname, Config Locked, Managed By, Device Status, System-ip, Draft Mode, Certificate Status, Policy Name, and Policy Version. There are five rows of controller data. An 'Edit' modal is open on the right side of the screen, showing fields for IP Address, Username, and Password. The IP Address field is currently redacted with a black box.

Controller Type	Site Name	Hostname	Config Locked	Managed By	Device Status	System-ip	Draft Mode	Certificate Status	Policy Name	Policy Version
vbond	SITE_300	vedge	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	3.3.3.3	Disabled	Installed	-	-
vmanage	SITE_300	vmanage1-20121	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1.1.1	Disabled	Installed	-	-
vmanage	SITE_300	vmanage2-20121	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1.1.2	Disabled	Installed	-	-
vmanage	SITE_300	vmanage3-20121	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1.1.3	Disabled	Installed	-	-
vsmart	SITE_300	vsmart	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	2.2.2.2	Disabled	Installed	-	-

- Replace the ip-address (system-ip of the controller) with the transport vpn 0(tunnel interface) ip address .Enter the username and password and click save
- Do the same for all the new controllers in the fabric

## Sync the Root-cert-chain

Once all the controllers are onboarded, complete this step:

On any Cisco SD-WAN Manager server in the newly active cluster, perform these actions:

Enter this command to synchronize the root certificate with all Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN devices in the newly active cluster:

<https://vmanage-url/dataservice/system/device/sync/rootcertchain>

Enter this command to synchronize the Cisco SD-WAN Manager UUID with the Cisco SD-WAN Validator:

<https://vmanage-url/dataservice/certificate/syncvbond>

Once the fabric is restored and the control and bfd sessions are up for all edges and controllers in the fabric, we need to invalidate the old controllers (vmanage/vsmart/vbond) from the UI

- On vmanage UI, click on Configuration > Devices > Certificates
- Click on Controllers
- Click on the three dots near the controller(vmanage/vsmart/vbond) from the old fabric. Click invalidate
- Click send to vbond
- On vmanage UI, click on Configuration > Devices > Controllers
- Click on the three dots near the controller(vmanage/vsmart/vbond) from the old fabric. Click Delete

## Step 7: Post Checks

---



**Note:** Continue with the Post Checks section shown here, which is common to all deployment combinations.

---

## Combination 5: vManage Cluster + DR Enabled

### Instances needed:

- 3 or 6 vManage (primary cluster)
- 3 or 6 vManage (DR standby cluster)
- 1 or more vBond (distributed across primary and DR data centers)
- 1 or more vSmart (distributed across primary and DR data centers)

### Steps:

1. Bring up all instances using the Common Steps
2. Pre-checks
3. Configure vManage UI, Certificates, and Onboard Controllers
4. Build vManage Cluster
5. Cold Standby DR Cluster Setup
6. Config-db backup/restore
7. Post Checks

### Step 1: Pre-Checks

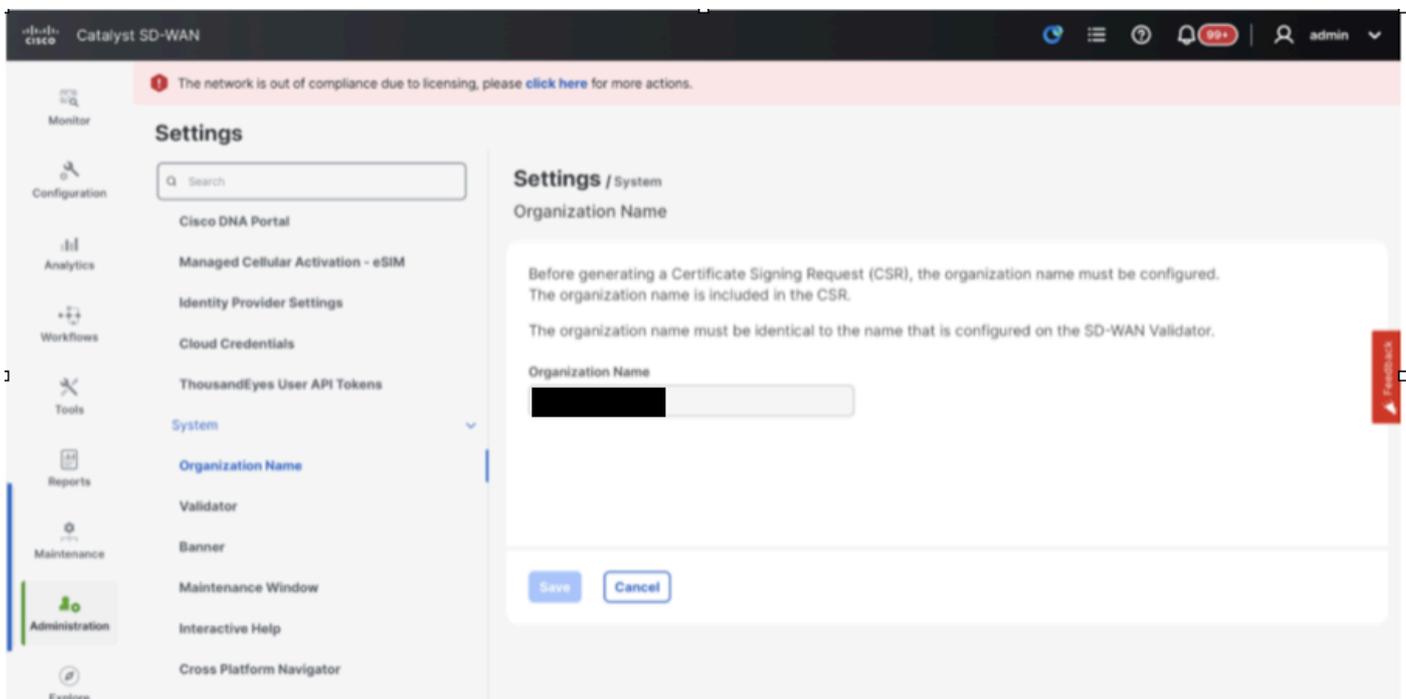
- Ensure that the number of the active Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances are identical to the number of the newly installed Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances.
- Ensure that all the active and new Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances run the same software version.
- Ensure that all the active and new Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances are able to reach the management IP address of the Cisco SD-WAN Validator.
- Ensure that certificates have been installed on the newly installed Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances.

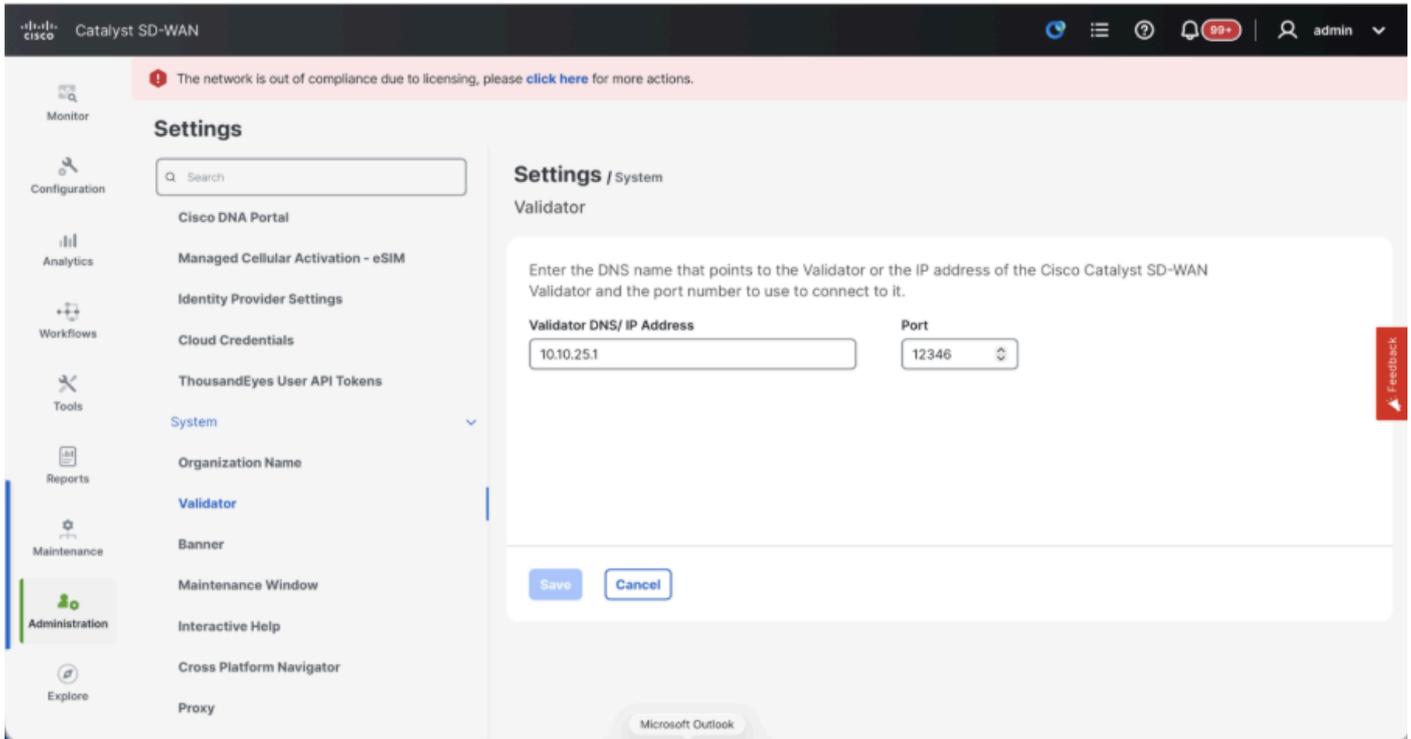
- Ensure that the clocks on all Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN devices, including the newly installed Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances, are synchronized.
- Ensure that a new set of System IPs and Site IDs is configured on the newly installed Cisco SD-WAN Manager instances, along with the same basic configuration as the active cluster.

## Step 2: Configure vManage UI, Certificates, and Onboard Controllers

### Update the configurations on vManage UI

- Once the configurations in Step 1 are added on the CLI of all the controllers, we can access the webUI of vManage, using the URL **https://<vmanage-ip>** in your browser. Use the **VPN 512 IP address** of respective vManage nodes. You can log in with the admin username and password.
- Navigate to **Administration > Settings** and complete these steps.
- Configure **Organization name** and **Validator/vBond URL/IP address**. Configure the same value as in the CLI of the vManage node.
- In the vManage 20.15/20.18 these configurations are available under section System.

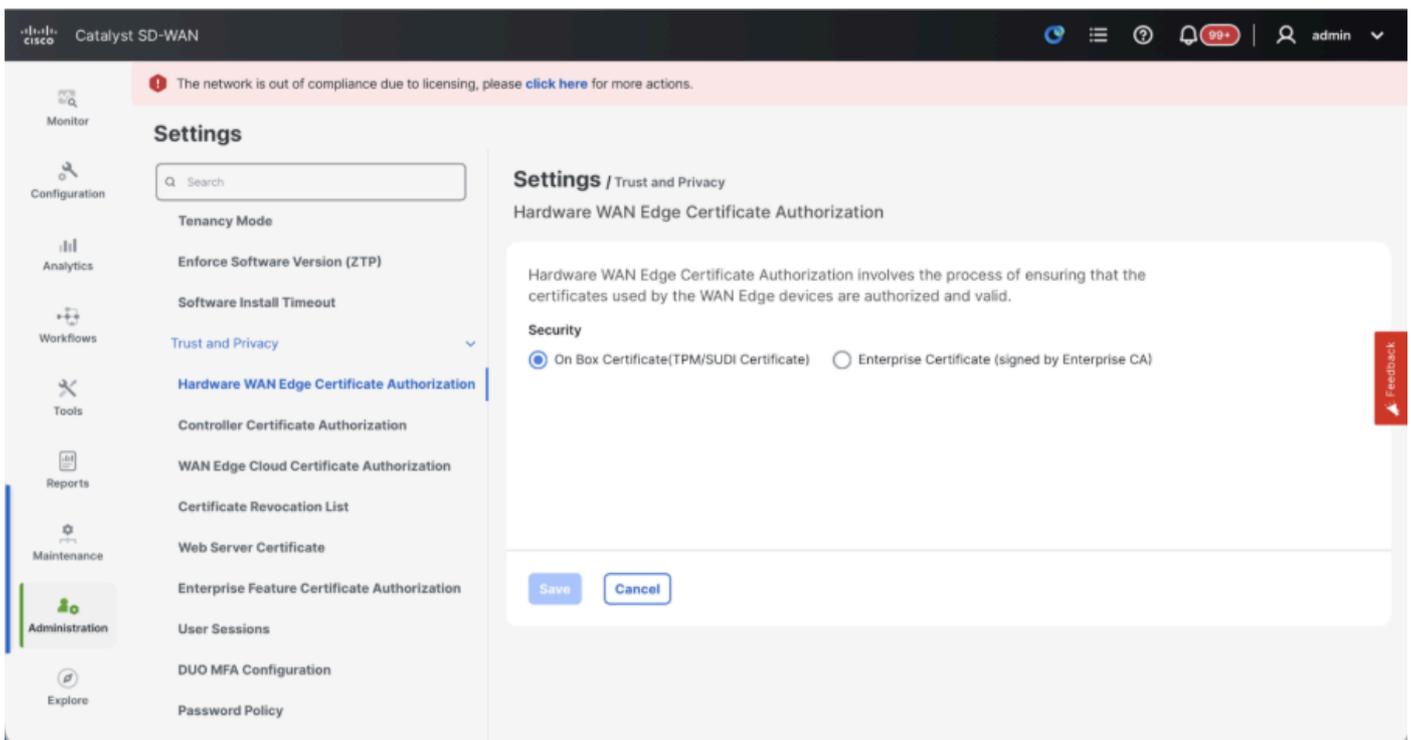




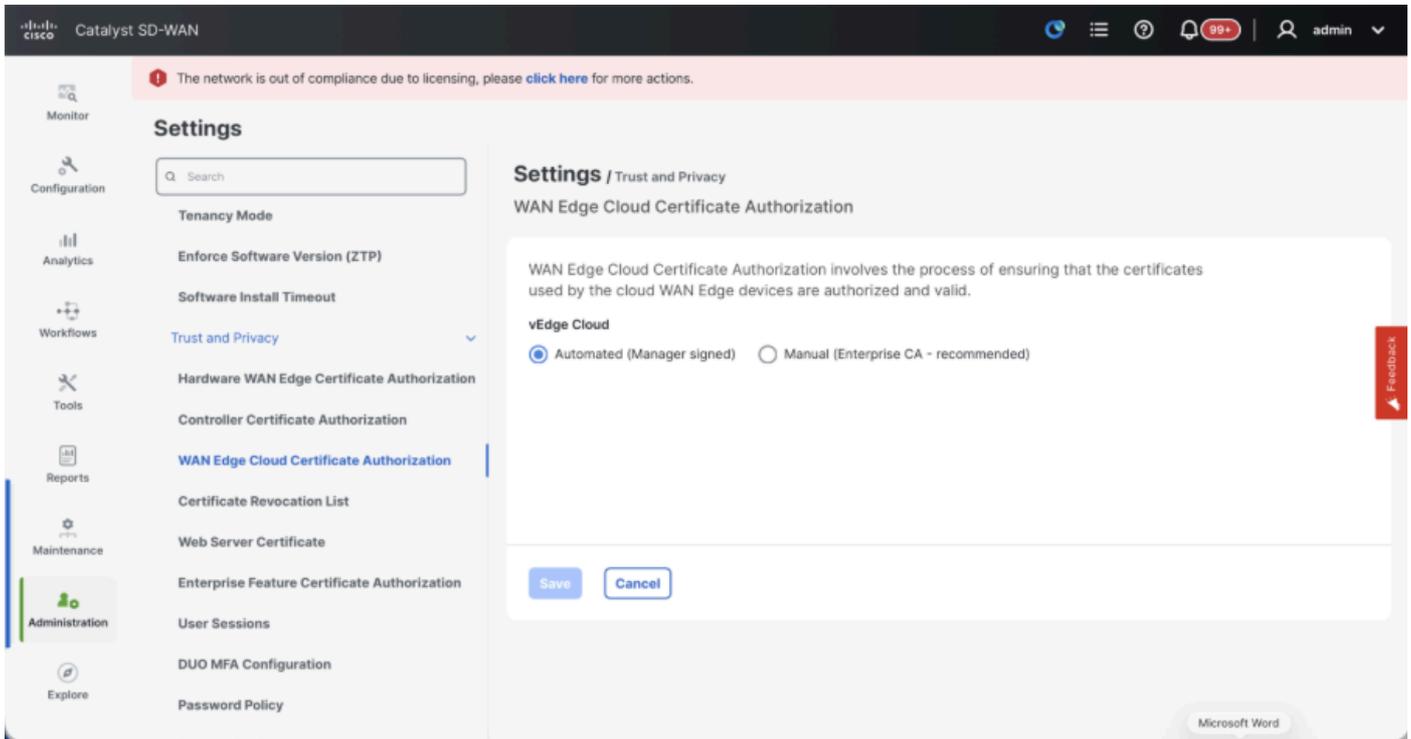
- Verify the configurations for Certificate Authorization(CA), which decides the Certificate Authority used for signing the certificates. We can see 3 options there:

1. **Hardware WAN Edge Certificate Authorization** - Decides the CA for hardware SD-WAN Edge routers.

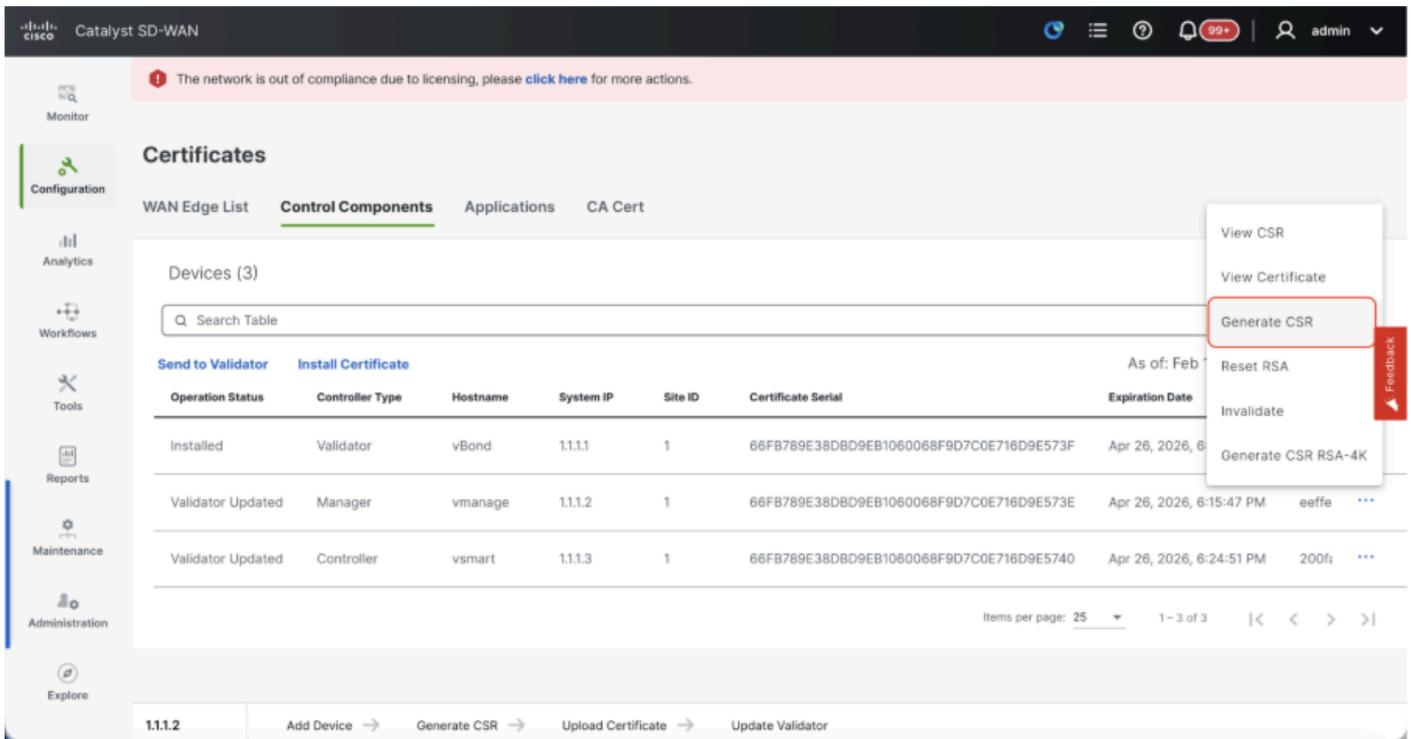
- On Box Certificate (TPM/SUDI Certificate) - With this option, the preinstalled certificate on the router hardware is used to establish the Control connections (TLS/DTLS connections)
- Enterprise Certificate (signed by Enterprise CA) - With this option, the routers use certificates signed by Enterprise certificate authority of your organization. While choosing this option, the root certificate of Enterprise CA must be updated here.







- Navigate to **Configuration > Certificates > Control Components** in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage nodes. In case of 20.9/20.12 versions, **Configuration > Devices > Controllers**
- Click on ... for Manager/vManage and click on Generate CSR.



- Once the CSR is generated, you can download the CSR and get it signed based on the Certificate authority chosen for controllers. You can verify this configuration in **Administration > Settings > Controller Certificate Authorization**. If Cisco (Recommended) is chosen, then the CSR is automatically uploaded to the PNP portal by the vManage and once the certificate is signed, it is installed on the vManage automatically.
- If Manual is chosen, manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay. Once the certificate is available from

PNP portal, click on install certificate on the same section of vManage and upload the certificate and install the certificate. Same procedure is applicable if we are using Digicert and Enterprise Root Certificate.

## Onboarding vBond/Validator and vSmart/Controller to the vManage

Navigate to **Configuration > Devices > Control Components** in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage nodes. In case of 20.9/20.12 versions, **Configuration > Devices > Controllers**

### Onboarding vBond/Validator

- Click on Add vBond in case of 20.12 vManage or Add Validator in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage. A pop up opens, enter the VPN 0 transport IP of vBond which is reachable from the vManage.
- Check the reachability using ping if allowed from CLI of vManage to vBond IP.
- Enter the user credentials of vBond.



**Note:** We need to use admin credentials of vBond or a user part of netadmin group. You can verify this in the CLI of the vBond. Choose Yes in the dropdown of "Generate CSR" if we need to install a new certificate for vBond



**Note:** If the vBond is behind a NAT device/Firewall, check if the vBond VPN 0 interface IP is translated to a public IP. If VPN 0 interface IP is not reachable from vManage, use the public IP address of VPN 0 interface in this step

The screenshot shows the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN vManage interface. The main view is 'Devices > Control Components'. A table lists existing control components:

Controller Type	Site Name	Hostname	Config Locked	Managed By	Device Status	Sync
Validator	SITE_1	vBond	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1
Manager	SITE_1	vmanage	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1
Controller	SITE_1	vsmart	Yes	Template vSmart-template	In Sync	1.1

The 'Add Validator' button is highlighted in the table. The 'Add Validator' configuration window is open, showing the following fields:

- Validator Management IP Address:
- Username:
- Password:
- Generate CSR:

Buttons for 'Cancel' and 'Add' are visible at the bottom right of the configuration window.

- Once the CSR is generated, you can download the CSR and get it signed based on the Certificate authority chosen for controllers. You can verify this configuration in **Administration > Settings > Controller Certificate Authorization**. If Cisco (Recommended) is chosen, then the CSR is

automatically uploaded to the PNP portal by the vManage and once the certificate is signed, it is installed on the vBond automatically.

- If Manual is chosen, manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay. Once the certificate is available from PNP portal, click on install certificate on the same section of vManage and upload the certificate and install the certificate. Same procedure is applicable if we are using Digicert and Enterprise Root Certificate.
- If there are multiple vBonds, repeat the same steps.

### Onboarding vSmart/Controller:

- Click on **Add vSmart** in case of 20.12 vManage or **Add Controller** in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage.
- A pop up opens, enter the **VPN 0 transport IP of vSmart** which is reachable from the vManage.
- Check the reachability using ping if allowed from CLI of vManage to vSmart IP.
- Enter the user credentials of vSmart Note that we need to use **admin credentials of vSmart** or a user part of netadmin group.
- You can verify this in the CLI of the vSmart.
- Set the protocol to TLS, if we intend to use TLS for routers to establish control connections with vSmart. This config needs to be configured on CLI of vSmarts and vManage nodes as well.
- Choose Yes in the dropdown of "**Generate CSR**" if we need to install a new certificate for vSmart.



**Note:** If the vSmart is behind NAT device/Firewall, check if the vSmart VPN 0 interface IP is translated to a public IP, and if VPN 0 interface IP is not reachable from vManage, use public IP address of VPN 0 interface IP in this step.

The screenshot displays the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN vManage interface. The main content area shows the 'Control Components' table with the following data:

Controller Type	Site Name	Hostname	Config Locked	Managed By	Device Status	System
Validator	SITE_1	vBond	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1
Manager	SITE_1	vmanage	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1
Controller	SITE_1	vsmart	Yes	Template vSmart-template	In Sync	1.1

The 'Add Controller' dialog box is open on the right side, featuring the following fields and options:

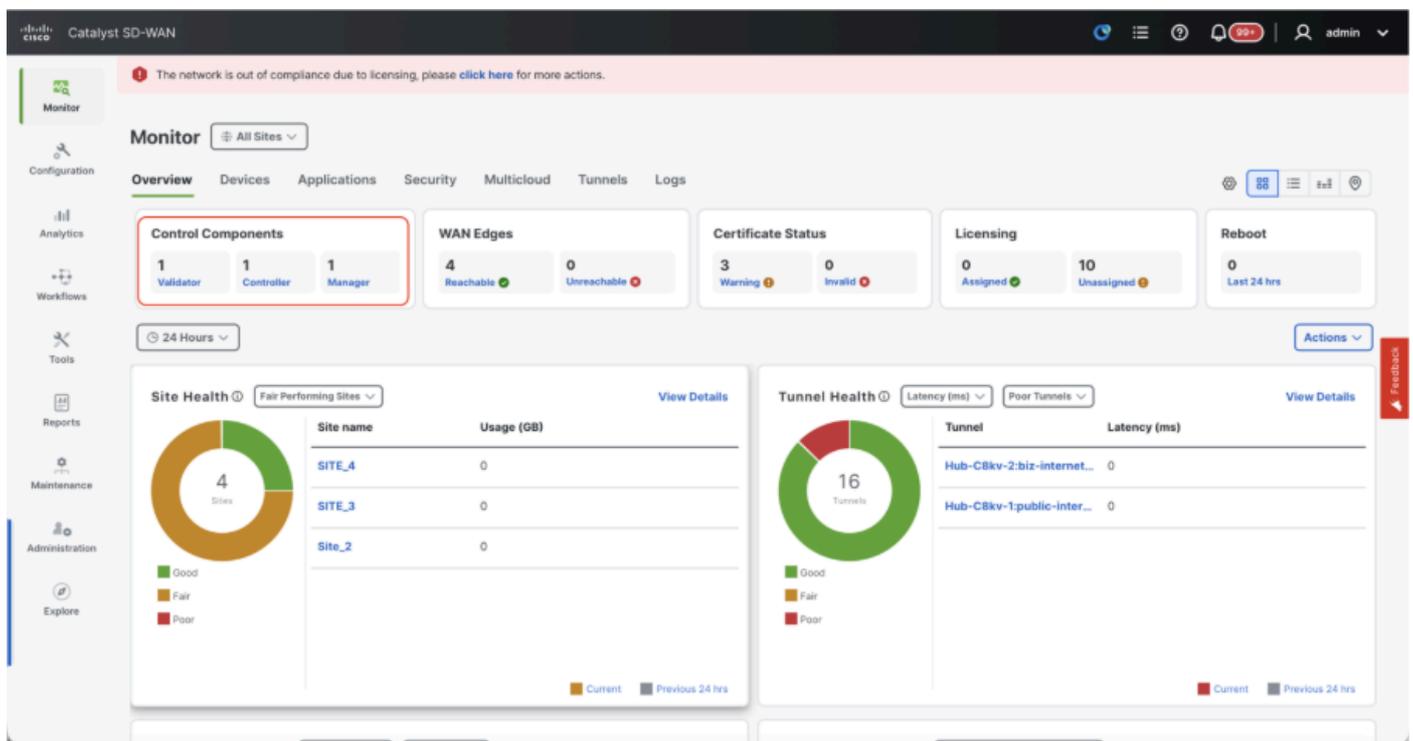
- Controller Management IP Address:
- Username:
- Password:
- Protocol:
- Port:
- Generate CSR:

Buttons for 'Cancel' and 'Add' are located at the bottom right of the dialog box.

- Once the CSR is generated, you can download the CSR and get it signed based on the Certificate authority chosen for controllers. You can verify this configuration in **Administration > Settings > Controller Certificate Authorization**. If Cisco (Recommended) is chosen, then the CSR is automatically uploaded to the PNP portal by the vManage and once the certificate is signed, it is installed on the vSmart automatically.
- If Manual is chosen, manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay.
- Once the certificate is available from PNP portal, click on install certificate on the same section of vManage and upload the certificate and install the certificate.
- Same procedure is applicable if we are using Digicert and Enterprise Root Certificate.
- If there are multiple vSmarts, repeat the same steps.

## Verification

Once all the steps are completed, verify that all the control components are reachable in Monitor>Dashboard



- Click on the respective Control components and confirm that they are all reachable.
- Navigate to **Monitor > Devices** and confirm all the control components are reachable.

Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN

The network is out of compliance due to licensing, please [click here](#) for more actions.

Monitor All Sites

Overview **Devices** Applications Security Multicloud Tunnels Logs

Devices Certificates Licensing

Device Group All

Devices (7) Export

Search Table

As of: Feb 18, 2026 11:28 AM

Hostname	Device Model	Site Name	System IP	Health	Reachability	Control	BFD	TLOC	Up Since	CPU Load	Memory utilization	Act
vBond	Validator	SITE_1	1.1.1.1	<span style="color: green;">✔</span>	↑	14 / 14	N/A	- / -	Jan 13, 2026 11:32 AM	0.79%	13%	...
vmanage	Manager	SITE_1	1.1.1.2	<span style="color: orange;">!</span>	↑	6 / 6	N/A	8 / 8	Feb 06, 2026 10:07 AM	2.48%	77%	...
vsmart	Controller	SITE_1	1.1.1.3	<span style="color: green;">✔</span>	↑	7 / 7	N/A	2 / 2	Jan 13, 2026 11:33 AM	1.32%	16%	...

### Step 3: Build vManage Cluster

#### Onboard SD-WAN Fabric with a vManage Cluster in the SD-WAN overlay



**Note:** vManage Cluster can be configured with 3 vManage nodes or 6 vManage nodes depending on the number of sites onboarded to SD-WAN fabric

#### Onboard all the SD-WAN controllers with single vManage node

Proceed with the steps shared in "Onboard SD-WAN controllers with a single node vManage in the SD-WAN overlay" to first bring up the SD-WAN fabric with one vManage node and onboard all the required Validators(vBond) and Controllers(vSmart).

#### Configure the CLI configurations of all the vManage nodes which is part of the cluster

- Configure the rest of the vManage nodes. In case of 3 node cluster, you has remaining 2 nodes to configure, in case of 6 node cluster you has 5 nodes to configure.
- Configure System configurations as shown:

```

config t
system
  host-name          <hostname>
  system-ip         <unique system-ip>
  site-id           <site-id>
  organization-name <organization name>
  vbond <IP address/URL of vBond>
commit

```



**Note:** If we are using URL as vBond address, make sure to configure DNS server IP addresses in

---

VPN 0 configuration or ensure they can be resolved.

---

These configurations are needed to enable the transport interface used to establish control connections with the routers and rest of the controllers.

```
config t
vpn 0
  dns <IP-address> primary
  dns <IP-address> secondary
  interface eth1
    ip address <IP-address/mask>
    tunnel-interface
    allow-service all
    allow-service dhcp
    allow-service dns
    allow-service icmp
    no allow-service sshd
    no allow-service netconf
    no allow-service ntp
    no allow-service stun
    allow-service https
  !
  no shutdown
  !
  ip route 0.0.0.0/0 <default-gateway IP>
commit
```

Also configure VPN 512 management interface to enable out of band management access to the controller.

```
Conf t
vpn 512
  interface eth0
    ip address <IP-address/mask>
    no shutdown
  !
  ip route 0.0.0.0/0 <default-gateway IP>
  !
Commit
```

### Optional Config:

- You can refer to the configurations of your existing controller and if the config listed here is present, you can add this configuration to the new controllers.
- Configure the control protocol as TLS only if there is a requirement for routers to establish secure control connections with the vManage nodes using TLS. By default, all the controllers and routers establish control connection using DTLS. This is an optional config required only on vSmart and vManage nodes depending on your requirement.

Conf t

```
security
  control
    protocol tls
  commit
```

## Configure service interface on all vManage nodes

Configure service interface on all the vManage nodes including vManage-1 which has been onboarded already. This interface is used for cluster communication, meaning communication between the vManage nodes in the cluster.

```
conf t
  interface eth2
    ip address <IP-address/mask>
    no shutdown
  commit
```

Make sure the same IP subnet is used for service interface across all the nodes in the vManage cluster.

## Configure cluster credentials

We can use the same admin credentials of the vManage nodes to configure the vManage cluster. Else we can configure a new user credential which is part of the netadmin group. The configurations to configure new user credential is as shown

```
conf t
system
  aaa
    user <username>
      password <password>
      group netadmin
  commit
```

Make sure to configure the same user credentials across all the vManage nodes which is part of the cluster. If we decide to use admin credentials, it must be the same username/password across all the vManage nodes.

## Install device certificate on all vManage nodes

- Login to vManage UI of all the vManage nodes using the URL `https://<vmanage-ip>` in your browser. Use the VPN 512 IP address of respective vManage nodes. You can log in with the admin username and password.
- Navigate to **Configuration > Certificates > Control Components** in case of 20.15/20.18 vManage nodes. In case of 20.9/20.12 versions, **Configuration > Devices > Controllers**

Click on ... for Manager/vManage and click on **Generate CSR**.

The screenshot shows the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN web interface. At the top, there is a notification: "The network is out of compliance due to licensing, please [click here](#) for more actions." The main heading is "Certificates". Below it, there are tabs for "WAN Edge List", "Control Components", "Applications", and "CA Cert". The "Control Components" tab is selected. Underneath, there is a "Devices (3)" section with a search bar. A dropdown menu is open over the table, with "Generate CSR" highlighted. The table has the following data:

Operation Status	Controller Type	Hostname	System IP	Site ID	Certificate Serial	Expiration Date
Installed	Validator	vBond	1.1.1.1	1	66FB789E38DBD9EB1060068F9D7C0E716D9E573F	Apr 26, 2026, 6:15:47 PM
Validator Updated	Manager	vmanage	1.1.1.2	1	66FB789E38DBD9EB1060068F9D7C0E716D9E573E	Apr 26, 2026, 6:15:47 PM
Validator Updated	Controller	vsmart	1.1.1.3	1	66FB789E38DBD9EB1060068F9D7C0E716D9E5740	Apr 26, 2026, 6:24:51 PM

At the bottom of the interface, there are navigation buttons: "1.1.1.2", "Add Device", "Generate CSR", "Upload Certificate", and "Update Validator".

- Once the CSR is generated, you can download the CSR and get it signed based on the Certificate authority chosen for controllers. You can verify this configuration in **Administration > Settings > Controller Certificate Authorization**. If Cisco (Recommended) is chosen, then the CSR is automatically uploaded to the PNP portal by the vManage and once the certificate is signed, it is installed on the vManage automatically.
- If Manual is chosen, manually sign the CSR using the Cisco PNP portal by navigating to smart account and virtual account of the respective SD-WAN overlay.
- Once the certificate is available from PNP portal, click on install certificate on the same section of vManage and upload the certificate and install the certificate.
- Same procedure is applicable if we are using Digicert and Enterprise Root Certificate.
- Complete this step across all the vManage nodes which is part of the cluster.

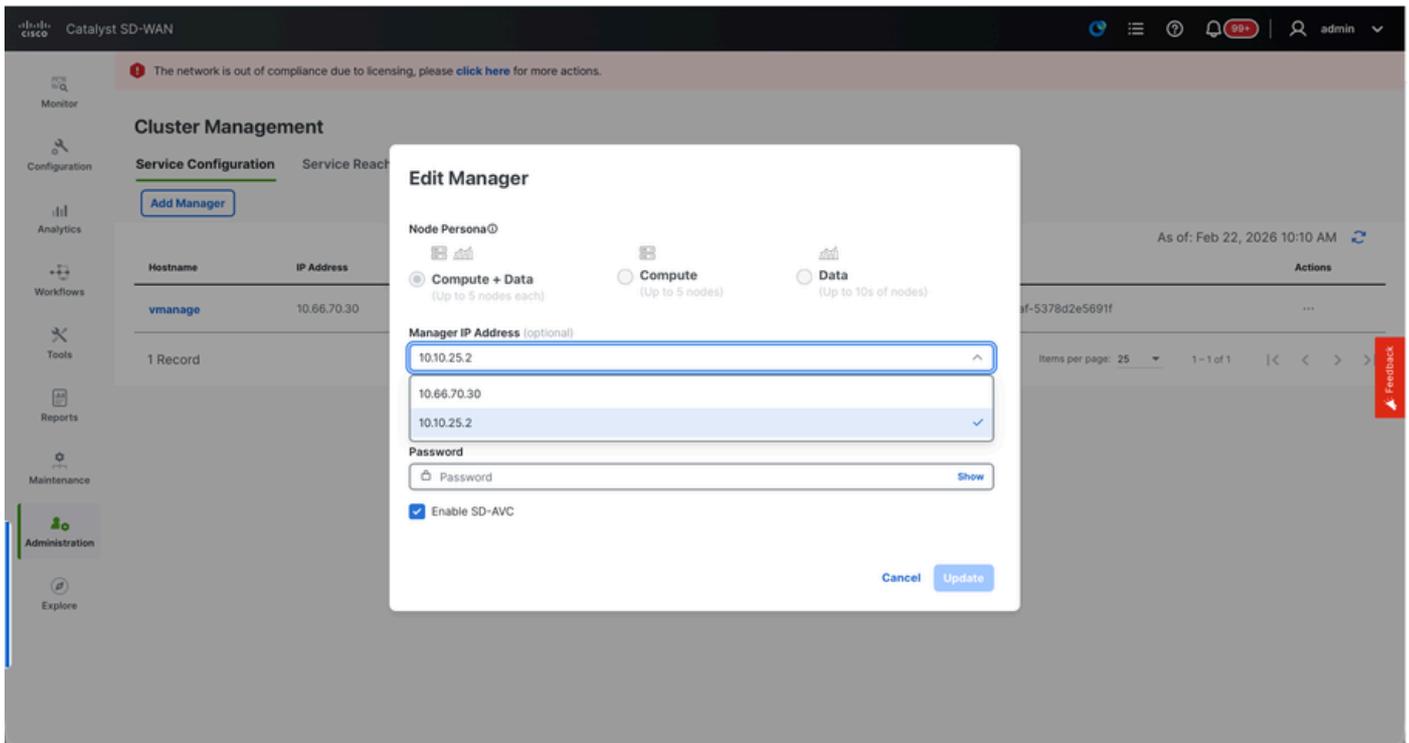
## Prepare to build the vManage Cluster

- On the webUI of vManage-1, navigate to **Administration > Cluster Management**, click on ... under Actions for vManage-1, choose Edit.
- The node persona is chosen automatically based on the persona we chose while the VM was spun up.



**Note:** For a 3-node cluster, all 3 vManage nodes are brought up with compute+data as the persona. For a 6-node cluster, 3 vManage nodes are brought up with compute+data as the persona and 3 vManage nodes are brought up with data as the persona.

- From the dropdown for Manager IP address, make sure to **choose service interface IP** of the vManage.



- Enter the username and password which we desire to use to enable vManage cluster which is referred as cluster credentials.
- As mentioned earlier, **same credentials must be configured on all the vManage nodes** and must be used while adding all the nodes to the cluster.

### Optional Config:

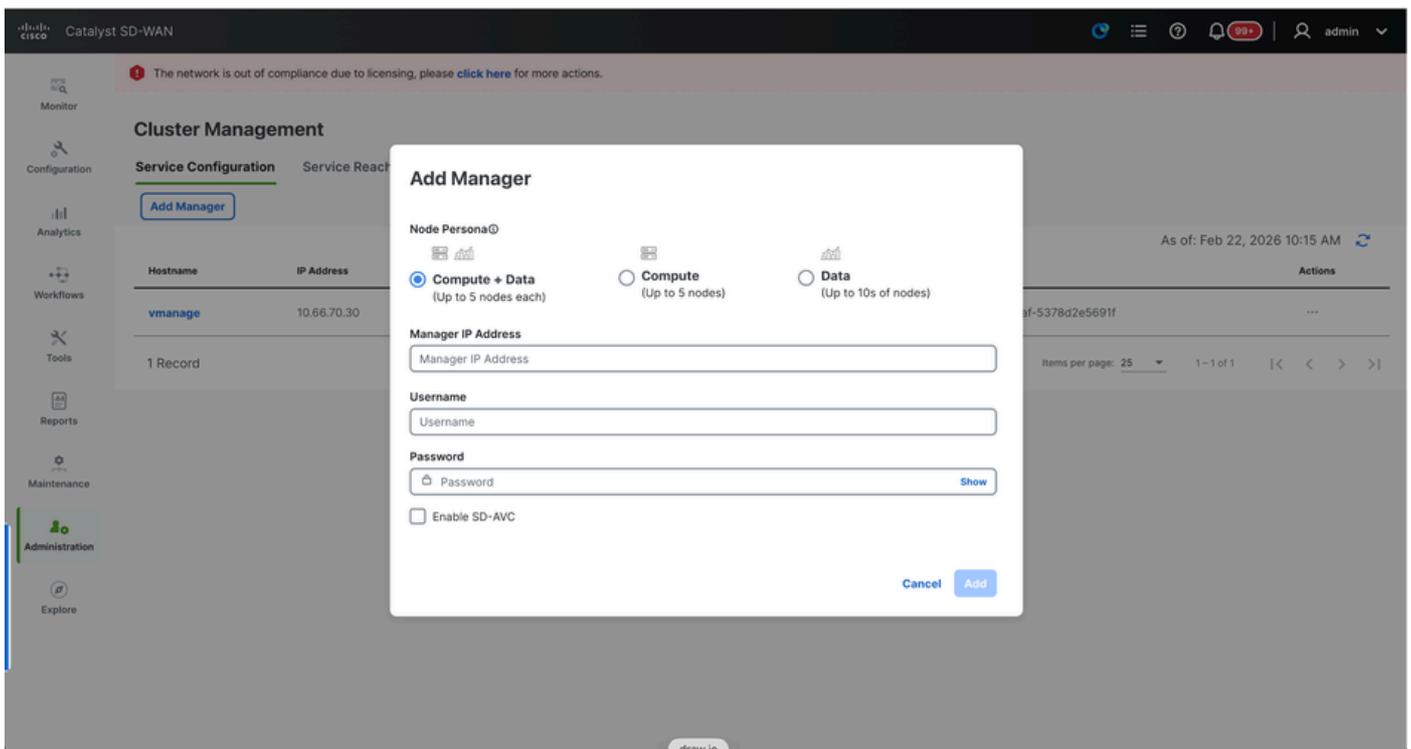
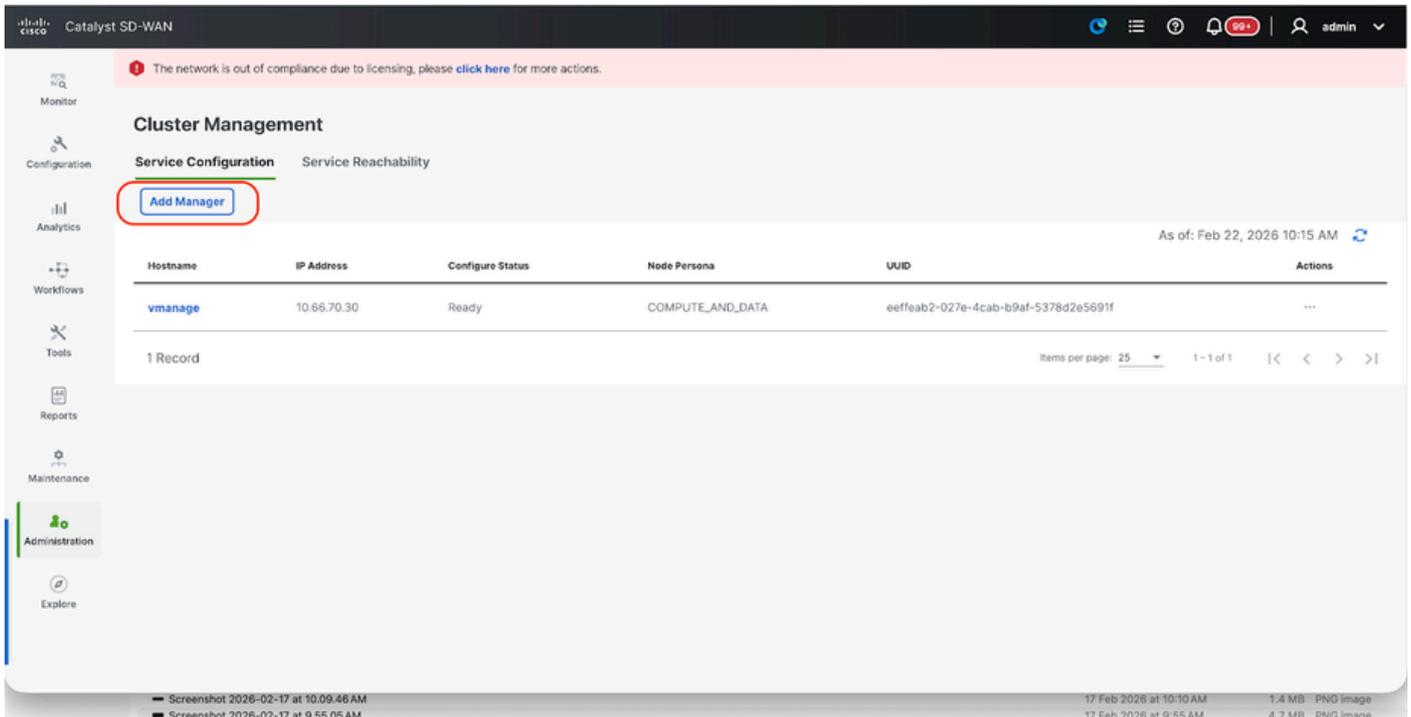
Please refer to this configuration in your existing cluster to Enable SDAVC - Need to be checked only if it is required and is needed only on one vManage node of the cluster.

Click on Update.

- Post this, the vManage NMS services restarts in the background and the UI is not available for a few minutes of around 5 to 10 minutes. During this time, CLI access of vManage is available.
- Once the vManage-1 UI is accessible navigate to **Administration > Cluster Management**, make sure **service interface IP of vManage is reflected under IP address, Configure Status is Ready and node persona is reflected correctly**. Switch to **Service reachability section** in the same page and make sure **all services are reachable**.
- If we see any of the services are not reachable yet, please wait. Usually takes around 20 to 30 minutes.

### Build the vManage Cluster

- On the webUI of vManage-1, navigate to **Administration > Cluster Management**, in the section Service Configuration,
- Click on **Add Manager**, a pop-up window appears:



- Choose the **Node persona** based on the persona configurations done while the vManage – 2 node was spun up.
- Enter the **service interface IP of vManage-2** under Manager IP address
- Enter the username and password, which is the same credentials as we used in Step 6.
- Enable SDAVC - To be left unchecked as we would have enabled it already on vManage-1
- Click on Add.
- Post this, the vManage NMS services restarts in the background for vManage 1 and 2 nodes. The UI is not available for a few minutes of around 5 to 10 minutes for vManage 1 and 2.
- During this time, CLI access of vManage 1 and 2 is available.
- Once the vManage-1 UI is accessible navigate to **Administration > Cluster Management**, make sure **service interface IP of both the vManage is reflected under IP address, Configure Status is Ready and node persona is reflected correctly.**

- **Switch to Service reachability section in the same page and make sure all services are reachable for both the vManage nodes.**
- If we see any of the services are not reachable yet, please wait. Usually takes around 5 to 10 minutes.
- You can check the status of cluster add process in the Task-list available on the top right corner of the vManage UI.

The screenshot shows the vManage interface for Catalyst SD-WAN. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Cisco logo and 'Catalyst SD-WAN'. A red notification banner at the top states: 'The network is out of compliance due to licensing, please [click here](#) for more actions.' Below this, the 'Cluster Management' section is visible, with 'Service Configuration' and 'Service Reachability' tabs. An 'Add Manager' button is present. A table displays the following data:

Hostname	IP Address	Configure Status	Node Persona	UUID	Actions
vmanage	10.66.70.30	Ready	COMPUTE_AND_DATA	eeffeab2-027e-4cab-b9af-5378d2e5691f	...

At the bottom of the table, it indicates '1 Record' and 'Items per page: 25'. The top right corner of the interface shows a task list icon circled in red, along with a user profile 'admin'.

- You can look up for Active task list and if the task is still listed under Active task list, it indicates the task is not completed yet.
- You can click on the task to check the progress of the same. If the task is not listed under Active task list, switch to Completed and make sure the task is successfully completed.
- Only after these points are validated proceed to next step.

**These points need to be taken into consideration before adding the next node to the cluster:**

Please verify these points on all the UIs of the vManage nodes that are added to cluster so far:

- Navigate to **Monitor > Overview** of vManage UI and make sure the number of vManage nodes are reflected correctly and are seen reachable depending on the number of the nodes added to the cluster.
- Navigate to **Administration > Cluster Management** and make sure **service interface IP of both the vManage is reflected under IP address, Configure Status is Ready and node persona is reflected correctly.**
- Switch to **Service reachability section in the same page and make sure all services are reachable for both the vManage nodes.**
- Each time, a node is added to the cluster, the NMS services of all the nodes in the cluster is restarted hence the UI of all those nodes becomes unreachable for some time.
- Depending on the number of the nodes in the cluster, it can take a longer time for the UI to be back up and all the services to be reachable.
- You can monitor the task under Task-list available on the top right corner of the vManage UI.
- On the vManage UI of each of node added to the cluster, we need to see all the routers, templates and policies if they were available in vManage-1.
- If those configurations were not present on vManage-1, the vBonds and vSmarts that were added to vManage-1 and also Administration > Settings configurations for Organization-name, vBond,

Certificate Authorization must be reflected on rest of the vManage nodes added to the cluster.

- Repeat the same steps for the rest of the vManage nodes.

## Step 4: Config-db Backup/Restore

### Collect vManage configuration-db backup and restore on another vManage node



**Note:** While collecting configuration-database backup from the existing vManage cluster which has Disaster recovery enabled, make sure it is collected after the Disaster recovery on that node is paused and deleted.

Confirm there is no ongoing Disaster recovery replication. Navigate to **Administration > Disaster Recovery** and make sure the status Success and not in a transient state such as Import Pending, Export Pending, or Download Pending. If the status is not success, reach out to Cisco TAC and make sure replication is successful before you proceed to pause the disaster recovery.

First Pause the disaster recovery and make sure the task is complete. And then Delete the Disaster recovery and confirm the task is completed.

The screenshot displays the Cisco vManage Administration - Disaster Recovery interface. At the top, there is a 'Manage Disaster Recovery' button. Below it, three buttons are highlighted with a red box: 'Pause Disaster Recovery', 'Pause Replication', and 'Delete Disaster Recovery'. The main content area is divided into 'Primary Cluster Status', 'Active Cluster', and 'Standby Cluster'. The 'Active Cluster' section shows a table with columns for Node, IP Address, and Status. The 'Standby Cluster' section also shows a table with columns for Node, IP Address, and Status. On the right side, there is a 'Details' section with a blacked-out header, followed by a 'History' section. The 'Details' section includes the following information: Last Replicated: 31 Jan 2023 2:18:05 pm CET, Time to Replicate: 10 secs, Size of Data: 2511 MB, and Status: Success. The 'History' section includes Last Switch and Reason for Switch.

Reach out to Cisco TAC to ensure the Disaster Recovery is successfully cleaned up.

### Collect Configuration-DB backup:

- In the SD-WAN fabric which is currently in use, you can generate configuration-db backup from vManage cluster.
- Kindly note that we must generate configuration-db backup only on one node of the vManage cluster which is the configuration-db leader.
- For standalone vManage, that vManage itself is the configuration-db leader.
- In vManage cluster, identify the configuration-db leader node using the command *request nms configuration-db diagnostics*. You can run this command on all the nodes of the **3 node vManage cluster**.
- In a **6 node cluster**, make sure to run this command on the vManage nodes where configuration-db is

enabled to identify the leader node. Navigate to **Administration > Cluster Management** to verify the same:

- As we see in the screenshot, the nodes configured with persona **COMPUTE\_AND\_DATA** have configuration-db running.

You can verify the same using the command `request nms configuration-db status` on vManageCLI. The output is as shown

```
vmanage# request nms configuration-db status
NMS configuration database
  Enabled: true
  Status: running PID:32632 for 1066085s
  Native metrics status: ENABLED
  Server-load metrics status: ENABLED
vmanage#
```

- Once you execute the command `request nms configuration-db diagnostics` on these nodes, the output is as shown:
- Look for the highlighted field for **“IsLeader”**. If it is set to 1, it indicates that node is the leader node and we can collect configuration-db backup from it.

```
vManage-3# request nms configuration-db diagnostics
NMS configuration database
Checking cluster connectivity for ports 7687,7474 ...
Pinging vManage node 0 on 169.254.1.5:7687,7474...
Starting Nping 0.7.80 ( https://nmap.org/nping ) at 2026-02-18 12:41 UTC
SENT (0.0013s) Starting TCP Handshake > 169.254.1.5:7474
RCVD (0.0022s) Handshake with 169.254.1.5:7474 completed
SENT (1.0024s) Starting TCP Handshake > 169.254.1.5:7687
RCVD (1.0028s) Handshake with 169.254.1.5:7687 completed
SENT (2.0044s) Starting TCP Handshake > 169.254.1.5:7474
RCVD (2.0050s) Handshake with 169.254.1.5:7474 completed
SENT (3.0064s) Starting TCP Handshake > 169.254.1.5:7687
RCVD (3.0072s) Handshake with 169.254.1.5:7687 completed
SENT (4.0083s) Starting TCP Handshake > 169.254.1.5:7474
RCVD (4.0091s) Handshake with 169.254.1.5:7474 completed
SENT (5.0106s) Starting TCP Handshake > 169.254.1.5:7687
RCVD (5.0115s) Handshake with 169.254.1.5:7687 completed
Max rtt: 0.906ms | Min rtt: 0.392ms | Avg rtt: 0.724ms
TCP connection attempts: 6 | Successful connections: 6 | Failed: 0 (0.00%)
Nping done: 1 IP address pinged in 5.01 seconds
Pinging vManage node 1 on 169.254.2.5:7687,7474...
===== SNIP =====
Connecting to 10.10.10.3...
```

type	row	attributes[row]["value"]
"StoreSizes"	"TotalStoreSize"	85828934
"PageCache"	"Flush"	4268666
"PageCache"	"EvictionExceptions"	0
"PageCache"	"UsageRatio"	0.09724264705882353
"PageCache"	"Eviction"	2068
"PageCache"	"HitRatio"	1.0
"ID Allocations"	"NumberOfRelationshipIdsInUse"	2068
"ID Allocations"	"NumberOfPropertyIdsInUse"	56151

"ID Allocations"	"NumberOfNodeIdsInUse"	7561	
"ID Allocations"	"NumberOfRelationshipTypeIdsInUse"	31	
"Transactions"	"LastCommittedTxId"	214273	
"Transactions"	"NumberOfOpenTransactions"	1	
"Transactions"	"NumberOfOpenedTransactions"	441742	
"Transactions"	"PeakNumberOfConcurrentTransactions"	11	
"Transactions"	"NumberOfCommittedTransactions"	414568	
"Causal Cluster"	"IsLeader"	1	>>>>>>>>
"Causal Cluster"	"MsgProcessDelay"	0	
"Causal Cluster"	"InFlightCacheTotalBytes"	0	

18 rows

ready to start consuming query after 388 ms, results consumed after another 13 ms  
Completed

Connecting to 10.10.10.3...

Displaying the Neo4j Cluster Status

name	aliases	access	address	role	requestedStatus	currentStatus
"neo4j"	[]	"read-write"	"169.254.3.5:7687"	"leader"	"online"	"online"
"neo4j"	[]	"read-write"	"169.254.2.5:7687"	"follower"	"online"	"online"
"neo4j"	[]	"read-write"	"169.254.1.5:7687"	"follower"	"online"	"online"
"system"	[]	"read-write"	"169.254.3.5:7687"	"follower"	"online"	"online"
"system"	[]	"read-write"	"169.254.2.5:7687"	"follower"	"online"	"online"
"system"	[]	"read-write"	"169.254.1.5:7687"	"leader"	"online"	"online"

6 rows

ready to start consuming query after 256 ms, results consumed after another 3 ms  
Completed

Total disk space used by configuration-db:

60M .

Use this command to collect the configuration-db backup from the identified configuration-db leader vManage node.

```
request nms configuration-db backup path /opt/data/backup/<filename>
```

The expected output is as shown:

```
vmanage# request nms configuration-db backup path /opt/data/backup/june18th
Starting backup of configuration-db
config-db backup logs are available in /var/log/nms/neo4j-backup.log file
Successfully saved backup to /opt/data/backup/june18th.tar.gz
sha256sum: 8d0f5af8aee4e70f05e3858be6bdd5e6c136134ae47c383569ec883080f5d359
Removing the temp staging dir :/opt/data/backup/staging
vmanage#
```

- Make a note of the **configuration-db credentials** if it has been updated.
- If you are unaware of the configuration-db credentials, reach out to TAC to retrieve the configuration-db credentials from the existing vManage nodes.

- **Default configuration-db credentials** are username: neo4j and password: password

## Restore Configuration-db Backup to another vManage node

Copy the configuration-db backup to /home/admin/ directory of vManage using SCP.

Sample scp command output:

```
XXXXXXXXX Downloads % scp june18th.tar.gz admin@10.66.62.27:/home/admin/
viptela 20.15.4.1

(admin@10.66.62.27) Password:
(admin@10.66.62.27) Password:
june18th.tar.gz
```

To restore configuration-db backup, first we need to configure the configuration-db credentials. If your configuration-db credentials are default(neo4j/password), we can skip this step.

To configure configuration-db credentials, use the command *request nms configuration-db update-admin-user*. Use the username and password of your choice.

Kindly note that the Application server of vManage is restarted. Due to which vManage UI becomes inaccessible for a short time.

```
vmanage# request nms configuration-db update-admin-user
configuration-db
Enter current user name:neo4j
Enter current user password:password
Enter new user name:ciscoadmin
Enter new user password:ciscoadmin
WARNING: sun.reflect.Reflection.getCallerClass is not supported. This will impact performance.
Successfully updated configuration database admin user(this is service node, please repeat same operati
Successfully restarted vManage Device Data Collector
Successfully restarted NMS application server
Successfully restarted NMS data collection agent
vmanage#
```

Post which we can proceed to restore the configuration-db backup:

We can use the command *request nms configuration-db restore path /home/admin/< >*to restore the configuration-db to the new vManage:

```
vmanage# request nms configuration-db restore path /home/admin/june18th.tar.gz
Starting backup of configuration-db
config-db backup logs are available in /var/log/nms/neo4j-backup.log file
Successfully saved database to /opt/data/backup/configdb-local-tmp-20230623-160954.tar.gz
Successfully backup database to /opt/data/backup/configdb-local-tmp-20230623-160954.tar.gz
Configuration database is running in a standalone mode
WARNING: sun.reflect.Reflection.getCallerClass is not supported. This will impact performance.
Successfully saved cluster configuration for localhost
Successfully saved vManage root CA information for device: "53f95156-f56b-472f-b713-d164561b25b7"
Stopping NMS application server on localhost
Stopping NMS configuration database on localhost
Reseting NMS configuration database on localhost
Loading NMS configuration database on localhost
Starting NMS configuration database on localhost
Waiting for 180s or the instance to start...
NMS configuration database on localhost has started.
Updating DB with the saved cluster configuration data
Successfully reinserted cluster meta information
Successfully reinserted vmanage root ca information
Starting NMS application server on localhost
Waiting for 180s for the instance to start...
Successfully restored database
```

Once the configuration-db is restored, make sure the vManage UI is accessible. Wait for around 5 minutes and then attempt to access the UI.

Once logged into UI successfully, ensure the Edge routers list, template, policies and all the rest of the configurations that were present on your previous or existing vManage UI is reflected on the new vManage UI.

## **Step 5: Enable Disaster Recovery on a vManage Cluster**

### **Important Prechecks**

Two separate vManage 3-node clusters must be configured and operational in order to proceed with disaster recovery. On the active cluster you must have validators and controllers onboarded. In case you have validator and controllers on the DR site, they must also be onboarded on the active cluster and not on the DR vManage cluster.

Cisco recommends that before registering disaster recovery, these requirements must be met:

- Ensure that the primary and the secondary node are reachable by HTTPS on a transport VPN (VPN 0).
- Ensure that Cisco vSmart Controllers and Cisco vBond Orchestrators on the secondary setup are connected to the primary setup.
- Ensure that the Cisco vManage primary node and secondary node are running the same Cisco vManage version.
- Out-of-band cluster interface(service interface) in VPN 0.

- For each vManage instance within a cluster, a third interface (cluster link) is required besides the interfaces used for VPN 0 (transport) and VPN 512 (management).
- This interface is used for communication and syncing between the vManage servers within the cluster.
- This interface must be at least 1 Gbps and have a latency of 4ms or less. A 10 Gbps interface is recommended.
- Both vManage nodes must be able to reach each other through this interface: be it a layer 2 segment or through layer 3 routing.
- In each vManage, this interface must be configured in the GUI as a cluster interface (**Administration > Cluster Management**– indicate own out-of-band cluster interface IP address, user and password).
- In order to allow Cisco vManage nodes to communicate with each other across data centers, enable TCP ports 8443 and 830 on your data center firewalls.
- Ensure that all services (application-server, configuration-db, messaging server, coordination server, and statistics-db) are enabled on both Cisco vManage nodes.
- Distribute all controllers, including Cisco vBond Orchestrators, across both primary and secondary data centers. Ensure that these controllers are reachable by Cisco vManage nodes that are distributed across these data centers. The controllers connect only to the primary Cisco vManage node.
- Ensure that no other operations are in process in the active (primary) and the standby (secondary) Cisco vManage node. For example, ensure that no servers are in the process of upgrading or attaching templates to devices.
- Disable the Cisco vManage HTTP/HTTPS proxy server if it is enabled. See [HTTP/HTTPS Proxy Server for Cisco vManage Communication with External Servers](#). If you do not disable the proxy server, Cisco vManage attempts to establish disaster recovery communication through the proxy IP address, even if Cisco vManage out-of-band cluster IP addresses are directly reachable. You can re-enable the Cisco vManage HTTP/HTTPS proxy server after disaster recovery registration completes.
- Before you start the disaster recovery registration process, navigate to the **Tools > Rediscover Network** window on the primary Cisco vManage node and rediscover the Cisco vBond Orchestrators.

## Configurations

For more information on vManage Disaster Recovery, refer to [this](#) link.

The two separate 3-node-clusters are already created, assuming each SD-WAN manager has bare minimum configuration and certification part is completed.

Navigate to **Administration > Cluster Management** on both clusters and verify all nodes are in ready state.

## DC vManage

Administration - Cluster Management

Service Configuration Service Reachability

Add Manager

Hostname	IP Address	Configure Status	Node Persona	UUID
vmanage1	[REDACTED]	Ready	COMPUTE_AND_DATA	cb87a08e-079e-4394-81c3-e63c36ac22c0
vmanage2	[REDACTED]	Ready	COMPUTE_AND_DATA	866c314-baca-40e7-a72c-94a3e6be9d61
vmanage3	[REDACTED]	Ready	COMPUTE_AND_DATA	4a27ea41-3e1f-447c-baad-ff63d07994d

## DR vmanage

Administration - Cluster Management

Service Configuration Service Reachability

Add Manager

Hostname	IP Address	Configure Status	Node Persona	UUID
DR-vmanage1	[REDACTED]	Ready	COMPUTE_AND_DATA	d78832e5-e6d3-4b4b-bf61-f923cf3c7282
DR-vmanage3	[REDACTED]	Ready	COMPUTE_AND_DATA	b45f345-f2e-48ac-b08f-0b02427cc28
DR-vmanage2	[REDACTED]	Ready	COMPUTE_AND_DATA	c3e303a2-53d0-4525-901b-d96e9ec92875

Navigate to **Administration>Disaster Recovery of Primary vManage Cluster**. Click **Manage Disaster Recovery**.

Administration - Disaster Recovery

Manage Disaster Recovery Manage Password

Pause Disaster Recovery Pause Replication Delete Disaster Recovery

Cluster Status

Active Cluster

Node	IP Address	Status
Disaster Recovery Not Configured		

Standby Cluster

Node	IP Address	Status
Disaster Recovery Not Configured		

Arbitrator

Node	IP Address	Status
Disaster Recovery Not Configured		

Details

Last Import:

Time to Import:

Size of Data:

Status:

History

Last Switch:

Reason for Switch:

Schedule

Replication Interval:

Switchover Threshold:

In the pop-up window, fill the details for both primary and secondary vManage.

The IP addresses to be indicated are the out-of-band cluster interfaces IP addresses. Preferably use the IP address of VPN 0 service interface of vManage-1 in each of the cluster.

The credentials must be those of a **netadmin user and they must not be changed once the DR is configured**, unless it is deleted. A separate vManage local user credential for Disaster recovery can be used. We need to make sure the vManage local user is part of netadmin group. Even admin credential can be used here.

# Manage Disaster Recovery



● Connectivity Info — ● Validator Info — ● Recovery Mode — ● Replication Schedule

Active Cluster

IP\*

Username\*

Password\*

Standby Cluster

IP\*

Username\*

Password\*

Once filled, click **Next**.

- Fill the vBond controllers' details.

The vBond controllers must be reachable in the specified IP address via Netconf.

## Manage Disaster Recovery ×

Connectivity Info — Validator Info — Recovery Mode — Replication Schedule

vBond Information

IP  User Name  Password  +

[Back](#)  [Cancel](#)

Once filled, click **Next**.

- In the Recovery Mode, choose **Manual**. The Automation mode is deprecated. Click **Next**.

# Manage Disaster Recovery



Select Recovery Mode

- Manual  Automation

[Back](#)

[Next](#)

[Cancel](#)

# Manage Disaster Recovery



Connectivity Info — Validator Info — Recovery Mode — Replication Schedule

Start Time

Replication Interval

Back

Save

Cancel

Set the value and click **Save**.

- The DR Registration starts now. Click the refresh button to manually refresh the state and the progress logs. This process can take up to 20-30 minutes.

The screenshot shows the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Administration interface for Disaster Recovery. On the left, the 'Disaster Recovery Registration' section shows a 'Total Task: 1 | Success: 1' and a 'Device Group (1)' with a search table. The table has columns for Status, Chassis Number, Hostname, and Message. A single row shows 'Success' for 'Data Centers Regis'. On the right, a 'View Logs' dialog box is open, displaying a log of registration events. The logs include timestamps and messages such as 'Restarting Vmanage 89.89.89.5', 'Restart initiated. Waiting for Vmanage 89.89.89.5 to come up.', and 'Vmanage 89.89.89.5 has successfully restarted.' The dialog box has a 'Close' button at the bottom right.

## Verification

Navigate to **Administration>Disaster Recovery** in order to see the Disaster Recovery status and when the data was replicated last time.



Note: Replication can take several hours depending on the database size. Additionally, it can require a few cycles to achieve successful replication.

## Step 6: Reauthentication of Controllers and invalidation of old controllers

Once configuration-db is restored ,we need to reauthenticate all the new controllers (vmanage/vsmart/vbond) in the fabric



**Note:** In actual production if the interface IP used to re-authenticate is the tunnel interface IP, need to ensure NETCONF service is allowed on the tunnel interface of the vManage, vSmart and vBond and also on the firewalls along the path. The firewall port to open is TCP port 830 as bi-directional rule from DR cluster to all vBonds and vSmarts .

On vmanage UI, click on Configuration > Devices > Controllers

- Click the three dots near each controller and Click Edit

The screenshot shows the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Configuration - Devices page. The main content is a table of controllers, and an 'Edit' form is open on the right side.

Controller Type	Site Name	Hostname	Config Locked	Managed By	Device Status	System-ip	Draft Mode	Certificate Status	Policy Name	Policy Version
vbond	SITE_300	vedge	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	3.3.3.3	Disabled	Installed	-	-
vmanage	SITE_300	vmanage1-20121	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1.1.1	Disabled	Installed	-	-
vmanage	SITE_300	vmanage2-20121	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1.1.2	Disabled	Installed	-	-
vmanage	SITE_300	vmanage3-20121	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	1.1.1.3	Disabled	Installed	-	-
vsmart	SITE_300	vsmart	No	Unmanaged	In Sync	2.2.2.2	Disabled	Installed	-	-

The 'Edit' form on the right has the following fields:

- IP Address: [Redacted]
- Username: --
- Password: [Redacted]

- Replace the ip-address (system-ip of the controller) with the transport vpn 0(tunnel interface) ip address .Enter the username and password and click save
- Do the same for all the new controllers in the fabric

## Sync the Root-cert-chain

Once all the controllers are onboarded, complete this step:

On any Cisco SD-WAN Manager server in the newly active cluster, perform these actions:

Enter this command to synchronize the root certificate with all Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN devices in the newly active cluster:

<https://vmanage-url/dataservice/system/device/sync/rootcertchain>

Enter this command to synchronize the Cisco SD-WAN Manager UUID with the Cisco SD-WAN Validator:

<https://vmanage-url/dataservice/certificate/syncvbond>

Once the fabric is restored and the control and bfd sessions are up for all edges and controllers in the fabric,we need to invalidate the old controllers (vmanage/vsmart/vbond) from the UI

- On vmanage UI, click on Configuration > Devices > Certificates
- Click on Controllers
- Click on the three dots near the controller(vmanage/vsmart/vbond) from the old fabric. Click invalidate
- Click send to vbond
- On vmanage UI, click on Configuration > Devices > Controllers
- Click on the three dots near the controller(vmanage/vsmart/vbond) from the old fabric. Click Delete

## Post Checks

These post checks apply to all deployment combinations.

### Reactivate cloud Edge routers:

- If C8000v are part of the overlay and vmanaged signed, they need to be re-authenticated, that is:

request platform software sdwan vedge\_cloud activate chassis-number <chassis-number > token <token number>

- Confirm Control connections and BFD sessions are up
- Confirm application traffic is flowing end to end
- If changes were made to the port-hop prior to the fabric rebuild on the edges, they must be reverted
- Verify that the items appear as expected:
  - Templates
  - Policies
  - Device page (both tabs)WAN vEdge ListandControllers

### vManage post checks

- Applicable for vManage nodes:

Configuration-DB(Neo4j) Checks:

Execute the command "request nms configuration-db diagnostics" on all the vManage nodes:

1. Check for Node online and Leadership status:(not available for all versions)

name	aliases	access	address	role	requestedStatus	currentStatus	error	default	home
"neo4j"	[]	"read-write"	"169.254.1.5:7687"	"leader"	"on-line"	"on-line"	**	TRUE	TRUE
"neo4j"	[]	"read-write"	"169.254.3.5:7687"	"follower"	"on-line"	"on-line"	**	TRUE	TRUE
"neo4j"	[]	"read-write"	"169.254.2.5:7687"	"follower"	"on-line"	"on-line"	**	TRUE	TRUE
"system"	[]	"read-write"	"169.254.1.5:7687"	"follower"	"on-line"	"on-line"	**	FALSE	FALSE
"system"	[]	"read-write"	"169.254.3.5:7687"	"follower"	"on-line"	"on-line"	**	FALSE	FALSE
"system"	[]	"read-write"	"169.254.2.5:7687"	"leader"	"on-line"	"on-line"	**	FALSE	FALSE

“Neo4j” must show 3 nodes online and 1 leader and 2 followers. “system” must also show 3 nodes online and 1 leader and 2 followers, however as this is not the default Db the default flag is false. If there are less than 3 entries in each neo4j and system means node fallen off from cluster. Please contact Cisco TAC to troubleshoot the same.

2. Check if any node is "quarantine".

```
#####  
#####  
Running quarantine check  
WARNING: sun.reflect.Reflection.getCallerClass is not supported. This will impact performance.  
Check if Neo4j Nodes are Quarantined  
None of the neo4j nodes is quarantined  
None of the neo4j nodes is quarantined  
None of the neo4j nodes is quarantined  
#####
```

None of the nodes must be in quarantine state.

3. Schema validation must be "successful".

```
#####
Running schema violation pre-check script
WARNING: sun.reflect.Reflection.getCallerClass is not supported. This will impact performance.
Validating Schema from the configuration-db
Successfully validated configuration-db schema
written to file /opt/data/containers/mounts/upgrade-coordinator/schema.json
Contents of /opt/data/containers/mounts/upgrade-coordinator/schema.json:
{
  "check_name": "Validating configuration-db admin names",
  "check_result": "SUCCESSFUL",
  "check_analysis": "Successfully validated configuration-db schema",
  "check_action": ""
}
#####
#####
```

4. Collect a configuration-db backup using the command "request nms configuration-db diagnostics" and make sure it is successful.

```
vmange_2013# request nms configuration-db backup path /opt/data/backup/9thSepBackup.tar.gz
Starting backup of configuration-db
config-db backup logs are available in /var/log/nms/neo4j-backup.log file
Successfully saved backup to /opt/data/backup/9thSepBackup.tar.gz.tar.gz
sha256sum: 9d43addcf6c43f18c32b833295a6318fa0a63a7bf7456965140dcb9a61118b5e
Removing the temp staging dir :/opt/data/backup/staging
vmange_2013# █
```

If there are any inconsistency or errors seen, reach out to Cisco TAC for troubleshooting.

Alternatively we can run these API calls to confirm the vmanage node status for a cluster ( for all COMPUTE+DATA nodes) - works on version 20.12 and later only

go to vshell of the vmanage node ( to be done on all vmanages)

```
=====
curl -u <config-db username>:<config-db password> -H "Content-Type: application/json" -d '{"statement": "show node status"}'
curl -u <config-db username>:<config-db password> -H "Content-Type: application/json" -d '{"statement": "show node status"}'
```

Ensure in a cluster has only one leader for both neo4j and system and rest as followers .Ensure all the nodes are online .If you have 3 node cluster ( all three are COMPUTE+DATA),there must be only one leader for both neo4j and system .Any deviation ,you must contact TAC

5. Check in /var/log/kern.log for any Disk, Mem , IO errors. This needs to be checked on all the vManage nodes.

6.Check the step when you form a fresh cluster for vmanage which dont have CC between each node Perform ssh as vmanage-admin from node 1 to other nodes cluster ip and vise versa, to check if public key is exchanged and password less ssh is working [Consent token is required for shown here steps]

```
DR-vManage-1:~# ssh -i /etc/viptela/.ssh/id_dsa -p 830 vmanage-admin@<ClusterIP>
The authenticity of host '[192.168.50.5]:830 ([192.168.50.5]:830)' can't be established.
ECDSA key fingerprint is SHA256:rSpscoYCVc+yifUMHVT1xtjqmyrZSFg93msFdoSUieQ.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes
Warning: Permanently added '[192.168.50.5]:830' (ECDSA) to the list of known hosts.
viptela 20.9.3.0.31
```

Password:

In case the output is asking to enter the password ,Contact TAC

### **Controller Post checks:**

Applicable for all the SD-WAN controllers (vBond, vManage, vSmart):

Execute the commands on all the controllers in the overlay and confirm the vManage UUID and serial numbers seen are valid for the currently fabric:

#### **vBond commands:**

```
show orchestrator valid-vsmarts
```

```
show orchestrator valid-vmanage-id
```

#### **vManage/vSmart commands:**

```
show control valid-vsmarts
```

```
show control valid-vmanage-id
```

Please note the output of show control valid-vsmarts includes the serial numbers of both vSmarts and vManage nodes.

Compare it with the ones seen in vManage UI. Navigate to section **Configuration > Certificates > Controllers**.

If any additional entries are seen for the UUID/serial number which are currently not onboarded to the fabric, we must delete them. You can contact Cisco TAC for the same.