

Deploy ISE Virtual Machine on Nutanix

Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Prerequisites](#)

[Requirements](#)

[Components Used](#)

[Configure](#)

[Prepare the Nutanix AHV for Cisco ISE Software Installation](#)

[Deploy Cisco ISE Virtual Machine \(VM\)](#)

[Procedure](#)

[Limitations](#)

[Troubleshoot](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

Introduction

This document describes how to deploy an ISE virtual machine on the Nutanix environment using the standard Cisco ISE .iso image.

Prerequisites

Requirements

Cisco recommends that you have a basic knowledge of these topics:

- Cisco Identity Services Engine (ISE)
- Nutanix AHV (Acropolis HyperVisor)

Components Used

The information in this document is based on these software and hardware versions:

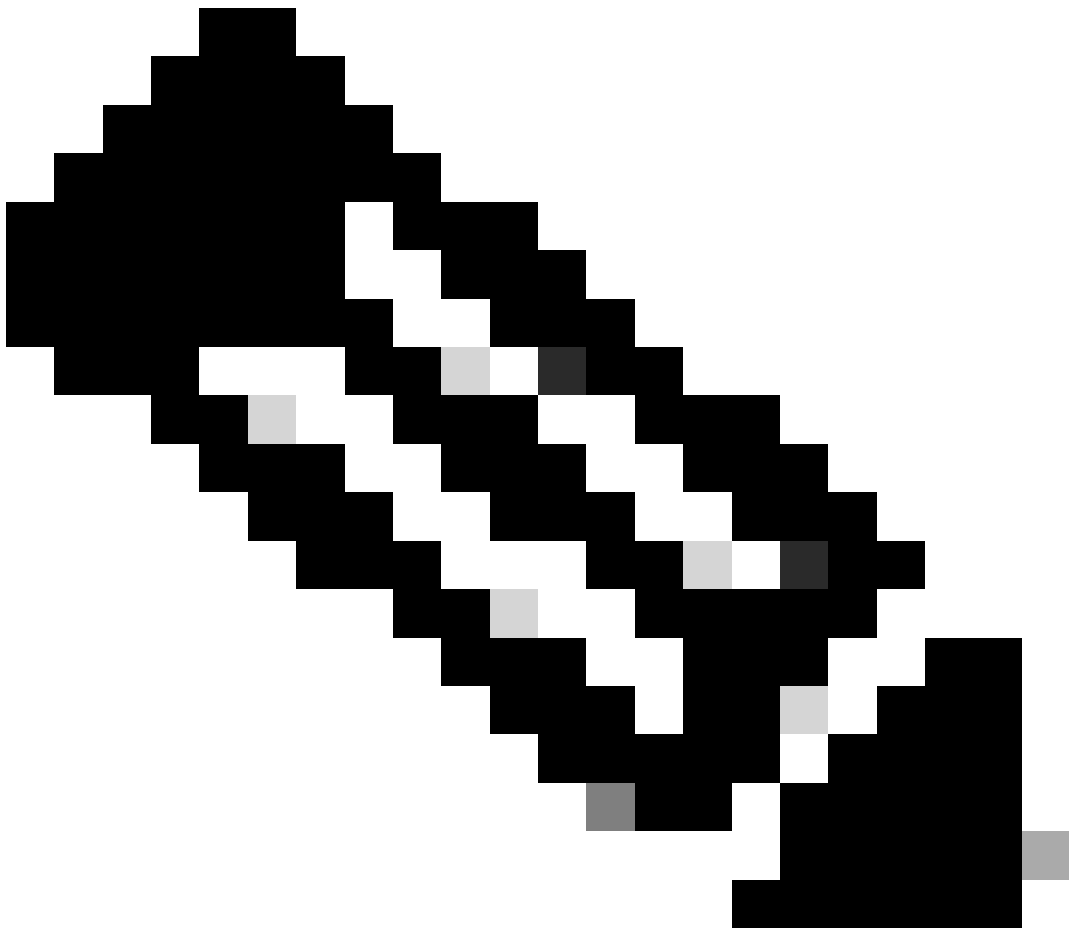
Cisco UCS server C240-M5SX	3 node cluster
Nutanix Acropolis Operating System (AOS) version	7.0
Nutanix AHV Hypervisor version	10.0
Nutanix Cluster Check (NCC)Version	5.1.0
Life Cycle Manager (LCM) Version	3.1
Cisco ISE Version	3.4

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.

Configure

Prepare the Nutanix AHV for Cisco ISE Software Installation

1. Download the Cisco ISE 3.4 .iso image from Cisco.com [ISE Software Download](#).
-



Note: A Cisco.com login and Cisco service contract are required.

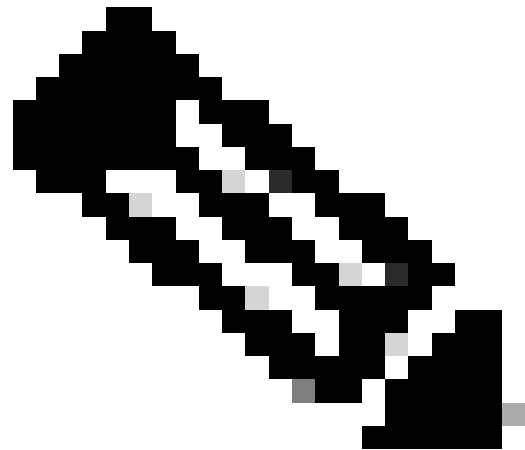
2. Check Nutanix and ISE version compatibility, using the [compatibility check link](#).
3. Check the recommended resource reservations for different types of deployment on Nutanix AHV, [Nutanix AHV Requirements](#).

Type	Number of CPUs	CPU Reservation (In GHz)	Memory (In GB)	Memory Reservation (In GB)	Hard Disks
------	----------------	--------------------------	----------------	----------------------------	------------

Evaluation	4	No reservation	16	No reservation	300 GB
Extra Small	8	8	32	32	300 GB
Small	16	16	32	32	600 GB
Medium	24	24	96	96	1.2 TB
Large	24	24	256	256	2.4 TB (4*600 GB)

Nutanix AHV Requirements

Requirement Type	Minimum Requirements
CPU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clock Speed: 2.0 GHz or faster • Number of Cores: 2 CPU cores • Production: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Extra Small—8 processors (4 cores with hyperthreading enabled) ◦ Small—12 processors (6 cores with hyperthreading enabled) ◦ Large—16 processors (8 cores with hyperthreading enabled) • Clock Speed: 2.0 GHz or faster • Number of Cores <p>Cisco ISE supports Hyperthreading. We recommend that you enable Hyperthreading, if it is available.</p>



Note: Even though Hyperthreading can improve overall performance, it does not change the supported scaling limits per virtual machine appliance. Additionally, you must still allocate CPU resources based on the required number of physical cores, not the number of logical processors.

Memory

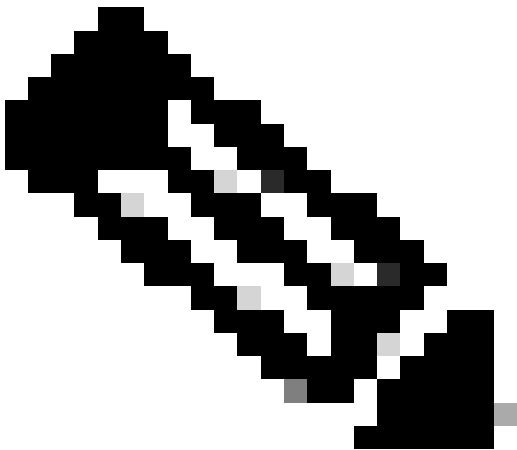
- **Evaluation:**
 - Basic—4 GB (for evaluating guest access and basic access policy flows)
 - Advanced—16 GB (for evaluating advanced features such as pxGrid, Internal CA, SXP, Device Administration, and Passive Identity Services)
- **Production:**
 - Small—16 GB
 - Large—64 GB

Hard disks

- **Evaluation:** 300 GB
- **Production:**

300 GB to 2 TB of disk storage (size depends on deployment and tasks).

We recommend that your Virtual machine host server use hard disks with a minimum speed of 10,000 RPM.

	 <p>Note: You must use 4*600 GB for 2.4 TB hard disk support.</p>
KVM Disk Device	Disk bus - SCSI
NIC	1 GB NIC interface required (two or more NICs are recommended; six NICs are supported). Cisco ISE supports VirtIO drivers. We recommend VirtIO drivers for better performance.
Hypervisor	AOS - 6.8, Nutanix AHV - 20230302.100169

4. Upload the Cisco ISE .iso image File to Nutanix as shown here:

Step 1: Log in to the **Nutanix Prism Web Console**.

Step 2: Click the gear icon to open the **Settings** page.

Step 3: Click **Image Configuration** from the left pane.

Step 4: Click **Upload Image**.

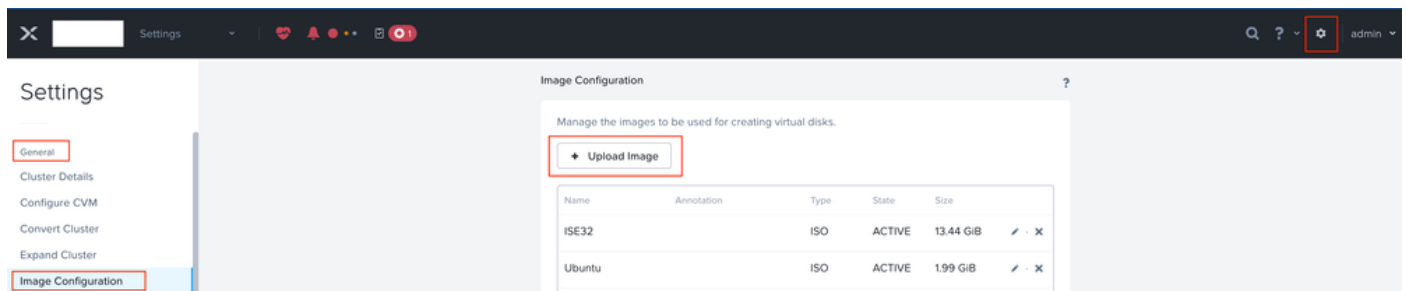
Step 5: Create the image:

1. Enter a name for the image.
2. From the **Image Type** drop-down list, choose **ISO**.
3. From the **Storage Container** drop-down list, choose the desired container.
4. Specify the location of the ISE ISO image:

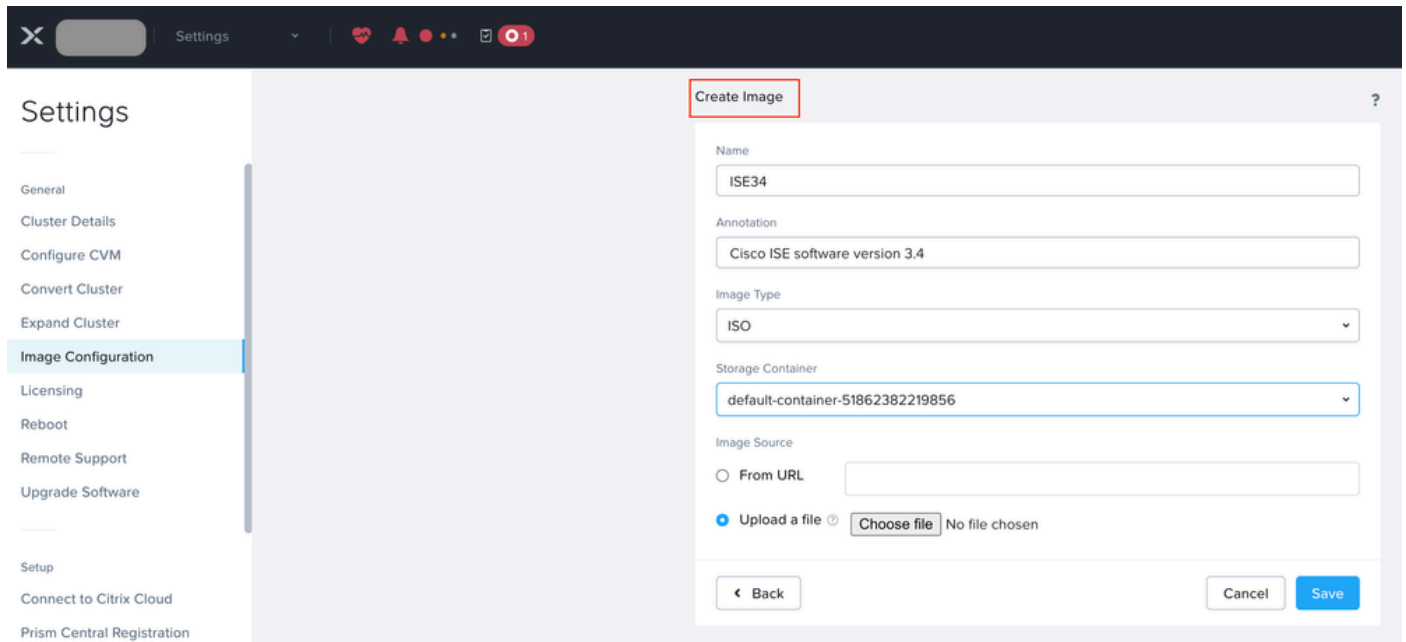
You can either specify a URL (to import the file from a web server) or upload the file from your workstation.

5. Click **Save**.

Step 6: Wait until the new image appears in the **Image Configuration** page.



Upload Image Option



Create Image on Nutanix

Deploy Cisco ISE Virtual Machine (VM)

Ensure that the image of the Cisco ISE that you plan to deploy is appearing on the **Image Configuration** page.

Procedure

Step 1: Log in to the **Nutanix Prism Web Console**.

Step 2: From the main menu bar, click the view drop-down list, and choose **VM**.

Step 3: If not already displayed, select the **Table** tab.

Step 4: On the VM Dashboard, click **Create VM**.

Create VM

?

X

General Configuration

Name

VM name is already in use

TestISE-3.4

Description

ISe 3.4 image

Timezone

(UTC + 05:30) Asia/Kolkata

Use UTC timezone for Linux VMs and local timezone for Windows VMs.

☐ Use this VM as an agent VM

Compute Details

vCPU(s)

12

Number Of Cores Per vCPU

2

Cancel

Save

Create an ISE VM

Step 5: In the **Create VM** pane enter:

1. Name for the Cisco ISE virtual instance.
2. Optionally enter a description for the Cisco ISE virtual instance.
3. Select the Timezone that you want the Cisco ISE to use.

Step 6: Enter the compute details:

1. Enter the number of virtual CPUs to allocate to the Cisco ISE virtual instance.
2. Enter the number of cores that must be assigned to each virtual CPU.
3. Enter the amount of memory (in GB) to allocate to Cisco ISE virtual instance.

Step 7: In the **Boot Configuration**, select **Legacy BIOS**.

Step 8: Attach a disk to the Cisco ISE virtual instance:

1. Under **Disks**, click **Edit** for CD-ROM
2. From the **Operation** drop-down list, choose **Clone from Image Service**.
3. From the **Bus Type** drop-down list, choose **SATA**.
4. From the **Image** drop-down list, choose the image that you want to use.

Update Disk

?

X

The CD-ROM is empty.

Type

CD-ROM

Operation

Clone from Image Service

Bus Type

SATA

Image ⓘ

ISE34

Logical Size (GiB) ⓘ

13.54

Please note that changing the size of an image is not allowed.

Index

Next Available

Cancel

Update

Mapping ISE Image to Disk

Step 9: Attach an additional disk to the Cisco ISE virtual instance:

1. Click **Add**.
2. Add an additional disk Under **Disks**, Click **Add New Disk**.

3. From the **Operation** drop-down list, choose **Allocate on Storage Container**
4. From the **Bus Type** drop-down list, choose **SCSI**.
5. Choose the **Storage Container** Drop-down list, choose the desired container.
6. Allocate the Logical Size of disk in GB.
7. Click **Add**.

Add Disk?

X

Type

DISK

Operation

Allocate on Storage Container

Bus Type

SCSI

Storage Container

SelfServiceContainer (6.99 TiB logical f...

Logical Size (GiB) ?

300

Index

Next Available

Cancel

Add

Adding additional Disk in VM

Step 10: Configure virtual network interface.

Under **Network Adapters (NIC)**, click **Add New NIC**, select a network, and click **Add**.

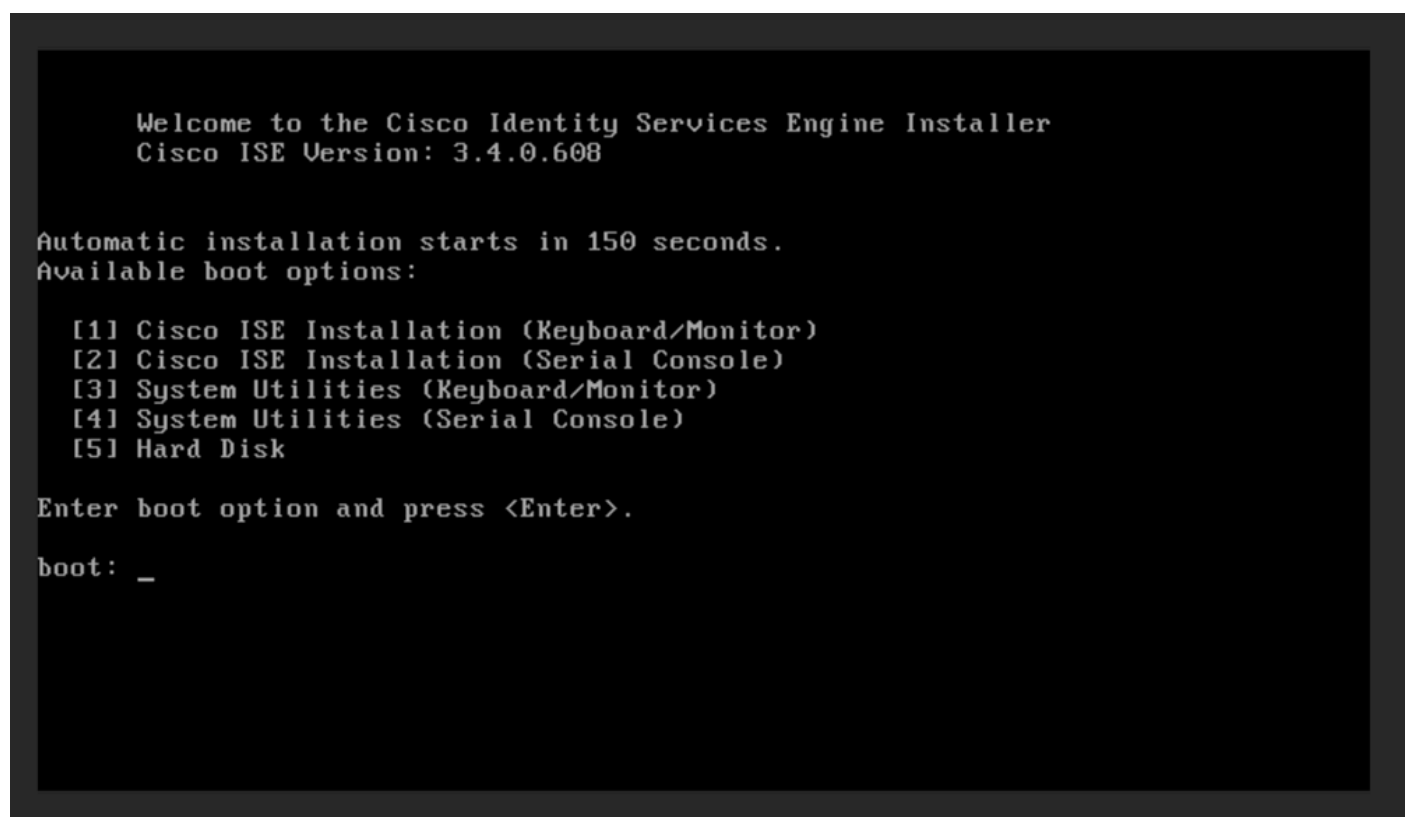
Step 11: Click **Save** to deploy the Cisco ISE VM. The ISE virtual instance appears in the VM table view and it is **Power off** by default. (image to be added).

Step 12: Access the **NutanixController Virtual Machine (CVM)** via ssh login and run the commands shown:

```
$accli <acropolis> vm.serial_port_create <Cisco ISE VM Name> type=kServer index=0 <acropolis> vm.update <Cisco ISE VM Name>
disable_branding=true <acropolis> vm.update <Cisco ISE VM Name> disable_hyperv=true nutanix@NTNX-WZP2429001T-A-
CVM:x.x.x.x:~$ accli <acropolis> vm.serial_port_create TestISE-3.4 type=kServer index=0 VmUpdate: complete <acropolis> vm.update
TestISE-3.4 disable_branding=true TestISE-3.4: complete <acropolis> vm.update TestISE-3.4 disable_hyperv=true TestISE-3.4: complete
```

Step 13: Exit Acropolis CLI and **Power ON** the VM to proceed with the installation using Cisco ISE ISO.

Step 14: When the VM boots, the console displays:



```

Welcome to the Cisco Identity Services Engine Installer
Cisco ISE Version: 3.4.0.608

Automatic installation starts in 150 seconds.
Available boot options:

[1] Cisco ISE Installation (Keyboard/Monitor)
[2] Cisco ISE Installation (Serial Console)
[3] System Utilities (Keyboard/Monitor)
[4] System Utilities (Serial Console)
[5] Hard Disk

Enter boot option and press <Enter>.

boot: _
```

ISE image bootup prompt

Under the boot option, type “**1**” to select **Cisco ISE Installation (Keyboard/Monitor)** and press **Enter**.

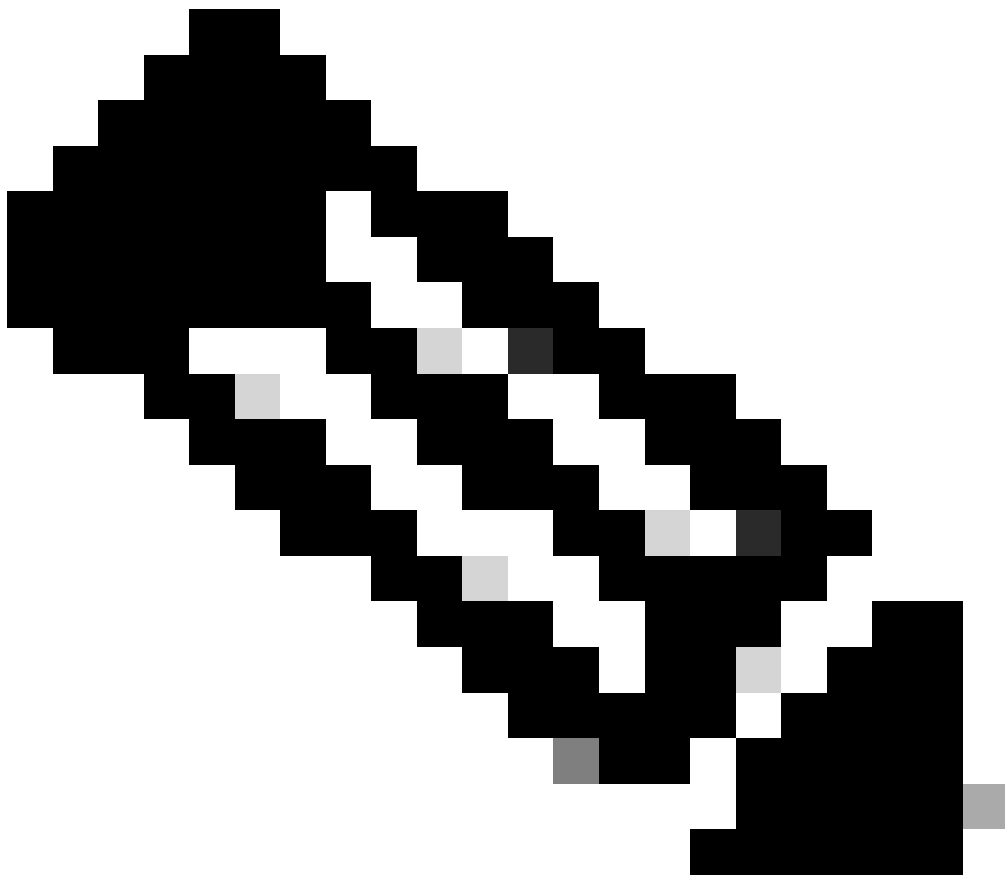
The installer starts the installation of the Cisco ISE software. Allow 20 minutes for the installation process to complete. When the installation process finishes, the virtual machine reboots automatically. When the VM reboots, the console displays:

Type 'setup' to configure your appliance localhost:

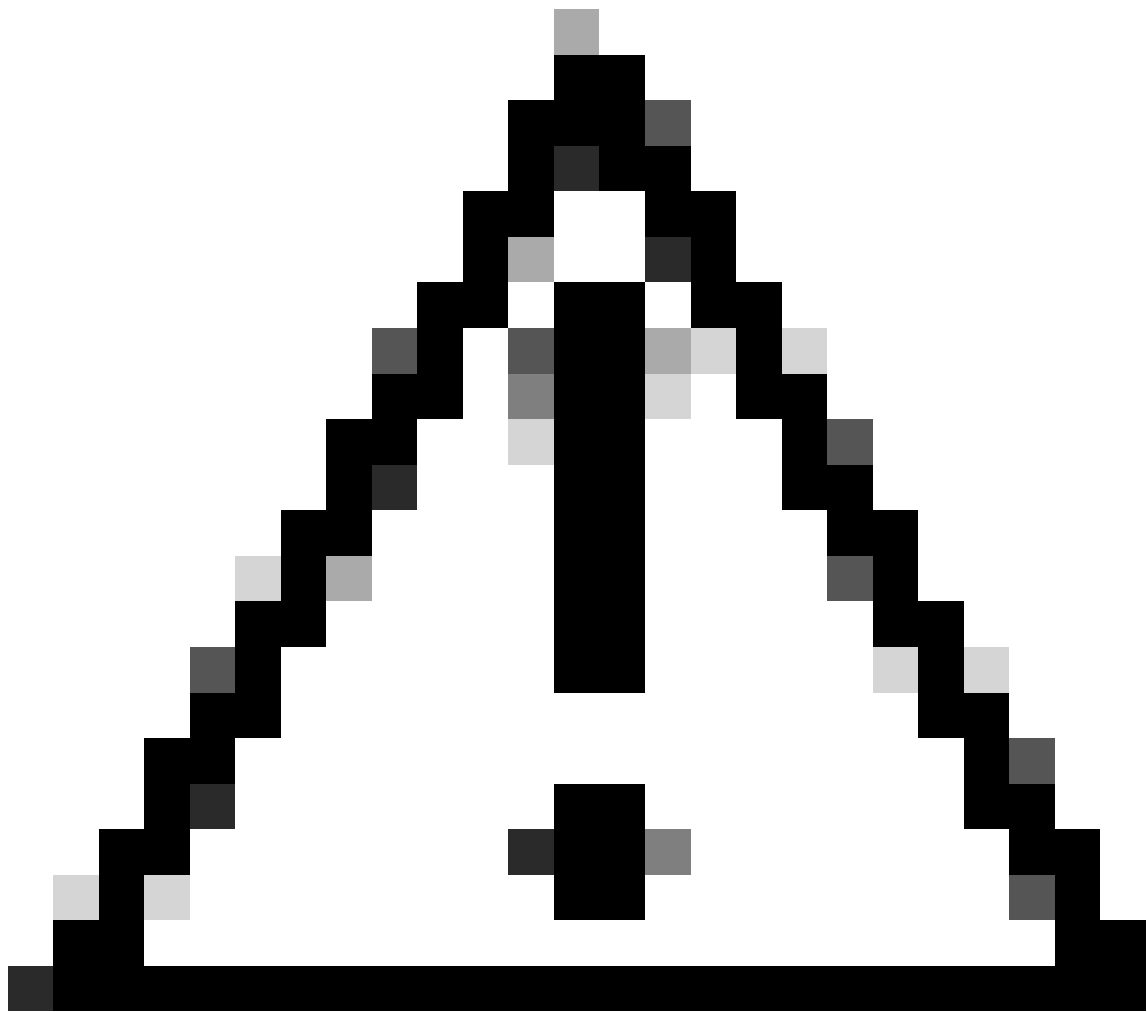
Step 15: At the system prompt, type **setup** and press **Enter**. The Setup Wizard appears and guides you through the initial configuration.

Limitations

- Deploying Cisco ISE using OVA templates is not supported on Nutanix AHV.



Note: Cisco ISE does not support VM snapshots for backing up ISE data on any of the virtual environments (VMware, Linux KVM, Microsoft Hyper-V, and Nutanix AHV) because a VM snapshot saves the status of a VM at a given point in time. In a multi-node Cisco ISE deployment, data in all the nodes are continuously synchronized with current database information. Restoring a snapshot can cause database replication and synchronization issues. We recommend that you use the backup functionality included in Cisco ISE for archival and restoration of data. Using snapshots to back up ISE data results in stopping Cisco ISE services. A reboot is required to bring up the ISE node.



Caution: If the Snapshot feature is enabled on the VM, it can corrupt the VM configuration. If this issue occurs, you have to re-image the VM and disable VM snapshot.

Troubleshoot

There is currently no specific troubleshooting information available for this configuration.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the compatibility between Cisco ISE and Nutanix versions?

Please check the [Compatibility and Interoperability Matrix](#).

2. ISE Installation halted after booting the VM with ISE iso image?

After saving the VM configuration, before powering ON the VM, make sure to access the Nutanix CVM using your **ssh** login and run the commands listed in STEP 12.

3. How to migrate an ISE-VM-K9 from VMware to a Nutanix environment?

Use the backup and restore process of ISE upgrade guide (install ISE VM on Nutanix and restore the configuration backup taken from the ISE VM deployed on VMware). For more information, see [Cisco Identity Services Engine Upgrade Journey, Release 3.4](#).