

Understand ACI Fabric Power-Down and Power-Up Procedure

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Introduction

This document describes powering down all devices in an ACI fabric for power maintenance or a physical move, then powering up the fabric.

Overview

A high-level process is documented in [Cisco APIC System Management Configuration Guide](#) and expanded in the next sections:

- These steps apply to a fabric that is part of a Multi-Pod deployment, a Multi-Site deployment, or both
- These steps do not apply when only part of a pod in a Multi-Pod deployment is being powered down.

Power Down the Fabric Using the GUI

Step 1

1. Confirm that the fabric is fully fit before taking any action. Do not proceed if the cluster is not healthy.

<#root>

apic1#

show controller

Fabric Name : Fabric-A
Operational Size : 3
Cluster Size : 3
Time Difference : 2450
Fabric Security Mode : STRICT

ID	Pod	Address	In-Band IPv4	In-Band IPv6	OoB IPv4	OoB IPv6
1*	1	10.0.0.1	0.0.0.0	fd00::1	10.1.1.11	fd00:1::11
2	1	10.0.0.2	0.0.0.0	fd00::2	10.1.1.12	fd00:1::12
3	1	10.0.0.3	0.0.0.0	fd00::3	10.1.1.13	fd00:1::13

Flags - c:Commissioned | r:Registered | v:Valid Certificate | a:Approved | f/s:Failover fail/success
(*)Current (~)Standby (+)AS

<#root>

apic1#

avread

Cluster:

operSize 3
clusterSize 3
fabricDomainName Fabric-A
version apic-6.2(3g)
discoveryMode STRICT
drrMode OFF
kafkaMode OFF
autoUpgradeMode OFF
standbyType warm
optimalLeaders yes

APICs:

	APIC 1	APIC 2	APIC 3
version	6.2(3g)	6.2(3g)	6.2(3g)
address	10.0.0.1	10.0.0.2	10.0.0.3
oobAddress	10.1.1.11/24	10.1.1.12/24	10.1.1.13/24
oobAddressV6	fd00:1::11/64	fd00:1::12/64	fd00:1::13/64
routableAddress	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0
tepAddress	10.0.0.0/16	10.0.0.0/16	10.0.0.0/16
podId	1	1	1
chassisId	11111111-.-11111111	22222222-.-22222222	33333333-.-33333333
cntrlSbst_serial	(APPROVED,SAL1234AB01)	(APPROVED,SAL1234AB02)	(APPROVED,SAL1234AB03)
active	YES	YES	YES
flags	cra-	cra-	cra-
capabilities	[1,2,3]-N	[1,2]-N	[1,2,3]-N

2. Confirm that Cisco Integrated Management Controller (CIMC) access to all APICs is available and working.

3. Confirm that console access to all switches is available and working. If the APICs and switches are being moved to a new location and have new IP addresses and console connections, only CIMC access to the APICs must be validated before the move.

Step 2

Take a configuration snapshot with AES encryption before the power-down. Use this snapshot only in the rare, worst-case scenario that requires a fabric rebuild:

- Video: [Cisco APIC Configuration Export with AES Encryption](#)
- Config Guide: [Controller Configuration Backup, Restore, and Rollback](#)

Step 3

Run the pre-upgrade script.

Although the system is not being upgraded, the pre-upgrade script can be used as a health-check tool in order to identify faults or issues that must be addressed.

Issues such as VLAN overlap require attention because a power cycle can result in an indeterminate configuration push.

For more information, see the [Pre-Upgrade Checklists](#).

Step 4

This step consists of shutting down all APICs except one of the Apics used for the shutdown activity.

1. Log in to an APIC say **apic-1**.
2. From the menu bar, choose **System > Controllers**.
3. Choose an APIC. In the Navigation pane, choose **Controllers > APIC Name** say **apic-2**
4. Right-click the APIC (**apic-2**) and choose **Shutdown**.



Controllers

Quick Start

Topology

Controllers

4-apic1 (Node-1)

Cluster as Seen by Node

Equipment Fans

Equipment Sensors

Interfaces

Memory Slots

NTP Details

Power Supply Units

Processes

Server Response Time

SMU patch version

Storage

4-apic2 (Node-2)

Cluster as Seen by Node

Equipment Fans

Equipment Sensors

Interfaces

Memory Slots

NTP Details

Power Supply Units

Processes

Server Response Time

SMU patch version

Storage

4-apic3 (Node-3)

Controller Policies

Retention Policies

- Launch SSH
- Reload
- Shutdown
- Turn Off Locator LED
- Save as ...
- Post ...
- Share
- Open In Object Store Browser

5. Repeat the APIC selection and shutdown steps for all other APICs except **apic-1**.

Step 5 consists of shutting down **apic-1**.

Step 5

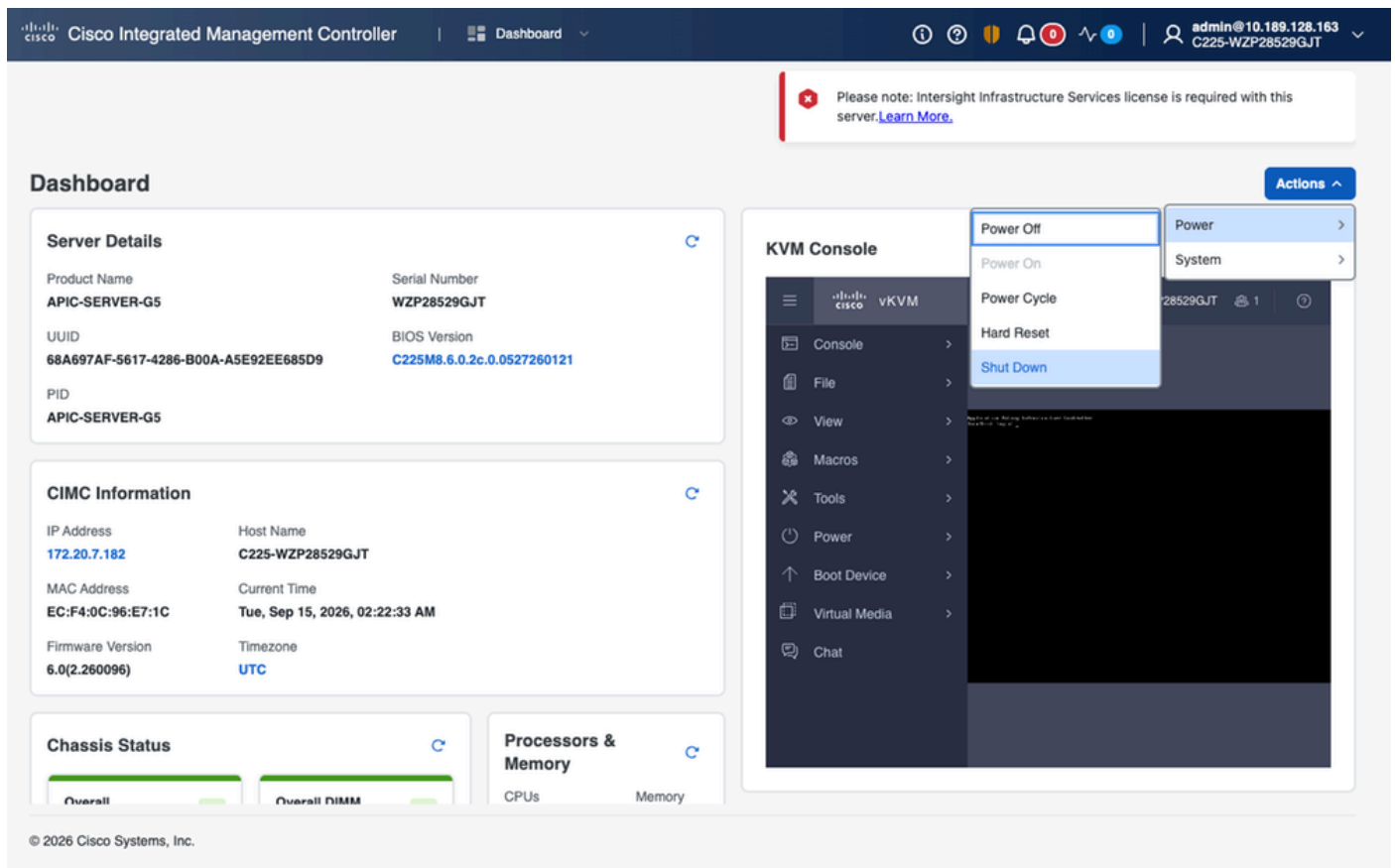
Shut down the last APIC **apic-1** using the CIMC GUI. This is because this server is in read-only mode and does not process a shutdown request through the APIC GUI.

1. Log in to the CIMC GUI of the last APIC.
2. In the Navigation pane, click the **Chassis** menu.
3. From the **Chassis** menu, choose **Summary**.
4. From the toolbar above the work pane, choose **Host Power** > **Shut Down**.

On M1-M4/L1-L4, click **Host Power** in the toolbar at the top right of any page and choose **Shut Down**.

The screenshot shows the Cisco Integrated Management Controller (CIMC) GUI. The top navigation bar includes the Cisco logo, the title 'Cisco Integrated Management Controller', and user information 'admin@10.189.170.209 - C225-WZP260291PY'. The main content area is titled 'Chassis / Summary'. On the left, 'Server Properties' are listed: Product Name (APIC-SERVER-L4), Serial Number (WZP260291PY), PID (APIC-SERVER-L4), UUID (A5BB1D7B-D198-49F0-8793-F5C1E9CBF462), BIOS Version (C225M6.4.3.4b.0.0827240450), Description (empty field), and Asset Tag (Unknown). On the right, 'Cisco Integrated Management Controller (Cisco IMC) Information' is displayed, including Hostname (C225-WZP260291PY), IP Address (172.23.141.201), MAC Address (EC:F4:0C:07:87:0C), Firmware Version (4.3(4.252002)), Current Time (UTC: Sat Aug 29 17:06:02 2026), Local Time (Sat Aug 29 17:06:02 2026 UTC +0000 (Local)), and Timezone (UTC). A toolbar at the top right contains buttons for 'Refresh', 'Host Power', 'Launch vKVM', 'Ping', 'CIMC Reboot', 'Locator LED', and help icons. The 'Host Power' dropdown menu is open, showing options: 'Host: Powered On', 'Power Off', 'Power On', 'Power Cycle', 'Hard Reset', and 'Shut Down'. Below the server properties, 'Chassis Status' is shown with various indicators: Power State (On), Post Completion Status (Completed), Overall Server Status (Good), Temperature (Good), Overall DIMM Status (Good), Power Supplies (Good), Fans (Good), Locator LED (On), and Overall Storage Status (Good). At the bottom right, there are 'Save Changes' and 'Reset Values' buttons.

On APIC-SERVER-G5, there is no **Host Power** menu. Access the same actions from **Actions** in the upper-right corner, and then open the **Power** submenu.



Step 6

After you shut down all APICs, power down the switches by turning off their power supplies.

Power Up the Fabric Using the GUI

This procedure powers up the fabric through the Cisco Integrated Management Controller (IMC) GUI.

Step 1

Power on the APICs through the CIMC GUI.

1. Log in to the CIMC GUI of an APIC.
2. In the Navigation pane, click the **Chassis** menu.
3. From the **Chassis** menu, choose **Summary**.
4. Power on the server through CIMC. On M1–M4/L1–L4 appliances, choose **Host Power > Power On**.
On APIC-SERVER-G5 appliances, choose **Actions > Power**.
5. Repeat these steps for all APICs.

Step 2

Power on the leaf switches that are connected directly to the APICs.

Step 3

Power on the spine switches approximately one minute after you power on the leaf switches.

Step 4

Power on the remaining leaf switches in the fabric.

Step 5

Confirm that the fabric is fully fit before taking any action.

<#root>

apic1#

show controller

Fabric Name : Fabric-A
Operational Size : 3
Cluster Size : 3
Time Difference : 2450
Fabric Security Mode : STRICT

ID	Pod	Address	In-Band IPv4	In-Band IPv6	OOB IPv4	OOB IPv6
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2	1	10.0.0.2	0.0.0.0	fd00::2	10.1.1.12	fd00:1::12
3	1	10.0.0.3	0.0.0.0	fd00::3	10.1.1.13	fd00:1::13

Flags - c:Commissioned | r:Registered | v:Valid Certificate | a:Approved | f/s:Failover fail/success
(*)Current (~)Standby (+)AS

<#root>

apic1#

avread

Cluster:

operSize 3
clusterSize 3
fabricDomainName Fabric-A
version apic-6.2(3g)
discoveryMode STRICT
drrMode OFF
kafkaMode OFF
autoUpgradeMode OFF
standbyType warm
optimalLeaders yes

APICs:

version APIC 1 APIC 2 APIC 3
address 6.2(3g) 6.2(3g) 6.2(3g)
oobAddress 10.0.0.1 10.0.0.2 10.0.0.3
oobAddressV6 10.1.1.11/24 10.1.1.12/24 10.1.1.13/24
routableAddress fd00:1::11/64 fd00:1::12/64 fd00:1::13/64
tepAddress 0.0.0.0 0.0.0.0 0.0.0.0
podId 10.0.0.0/16 10.0.0.0/16 10.0.0.0/16
chassisId 1 1 1
cntrlSbst_serial 11111111-.-11111111 22222222-.-22222222 33333333-.-33333333
active (APPROVED,SAL1234AB01) (APPROVED,SAL1234AB02) (APPROVED,SAL1234AB03)
flags YES YES YES
capabilities cra- cra- cra-
health [1,2,3]-N [1,2]-N [1,2,3]-N
255 255 255