Get Started with Cisco DNA Center

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About Cisco DNA Center

Cisco Digital Network Architecture offers centralized, intuitive management that makes it fast and easy to design, provision, and apply policies across your network environment. The Cisco DNA Center GUI provides end-to-end network visibility and uses network insights to optimize network performance and deliver the best user and application experience. Cisco DNA Center allows you to:

- Lower costs: Reduce errors with automation. Policy-driven deployment and onboarding deliver better uptime and improved security.
- Reduce risk: Predict problems early. Use actionable insights for optimal performance of your network, devices, and applications.

Log In

Access Cisco DNA Center by entering its network IP address in your browser. This IP address connects to the external network and is configured during the Cisco DNA Center installation. For more information about installing and configuring Cisco DNA Center, see the Cisco Digital Network Architecture Center Installation Guide.

You should continuously use Cisco DNA Center to remain logged in. If you are inactive for too long, Cisco DNA Center logs you out of your session automatically.
Procedure

Step 1 Enter an address in your web browser's address field in the following format. Here server-ip is the IP address (or the hostname) of the server on which you have installed Cisco DNA Center:

https://server-ip

Example: https://192.0.2.1

Depending on your network configuration, you may have to update your browser to trust the Cisco DNA Center server security certificate. Doing so will help ensure the security of the connection between your client and Cisco DNA Center.

Step 2 Enter the Cisco DNA Center username and password assigned to you by the system administrator. Cisco DNA Center displays its Home page.

If your user ID has the NETWORK-ADMIN-ROLE and no other user with the same role has logged in before, you will see a first-time setup wizard instead of the Home page. For details, see Log In for the First Time as a Network Administrator, on page 2.

Step 3 To log out, click the Gear icon at the top-right corner and click Sign Out.

Log In for the First Time as a Network Administrator

If your user ID has the NETWORK-ADMIN-ROLE assigned, and no other user with the same role has logged in before, you will see a “Getting Started” wizard instead of the Home dashboard the first time you log in to Cisco DNA Center.

The wizard is a quick way to get immediate value from Cisco DNA Center. It consists of a few screens that collect information needed to discover and monitor the condition of your network devices, and then help you visualize your network's overall health using the Cisco DNA Assurance dashboard.

You can perform all of the same tasks the wizard does using other Cisco DNA Center features. Using the wizard will not prevent you from using those features. You can choose to skip the wizard entirely at any point and it will not be shown again for you. However, Cisco DNA Center will continue to display the wizard at login to any user with the same role until one such user completes the wizard steps. After that, Cisco DNA Center never displays the wizard again.

Before you begin

You will need to have the following information to complete the wizard:

- The IP addresses of your SYSLOG and SNMP servers.
- The IP address and port of your Netflow server.
- For discovery: The IP address to start from (if choosing CDP discovery) or the starting and ending IP addresses (if choosing Range discovery).
- Optional: Your preferred management IP address.
- Device CLI credentials, including the Enable password.
• SNMP v2c credentials, including the read community string

Procedure

Step 1 If you have not already done so. Log in to Cisco DNA Center normally, as explained in Log In, on page 1.

Step 2 With the wizard displayed, click Get Started.

Step 3 In the fields on the following screens, enter the information listed in "Before You Begin", above.

Click Save & Next to continue, Back to return to the previous screen and revise your entries, or Skip to cancel the wizard and display the Cisco DNA Center Home page.

Step 4 When you are finished, click Begin Discovery. Cisco DNA Center displays the Assurance dashboard, which will slowly fill with network health information as discovery completes.

Default Home Page

After you log in to Cisco DNA Center, you are taken to the Cisco DNA Center home page, which is divided into two main areas: Applications and Tools.

The Applications area includes:

• **Design**: Create the structure and framework of your network, including the physical topology, network settings, and device type profiles that you can apply to devices throughout your network.

• **Policy**: Create policies that reflect your organization's business intent for a particular aspect of the network, such as network access. Cisco DNA Center takes the information collected in a policy and translates it into network-specific and device-specific configurations required by the different types, makes, models, operating systems, roles, and resource constraints of your network devices.

• **Provision**: Prepare and configure devices, including adding devices to sites, assigning devices to the Cisco DNA Center inventory, deploying the required settings and policies, creating fabric domains, and adding devices to the fabric.

• **Assurance**: Provides proactive and predictive actionable insights about the performance and health of the network infrastructure, applications, and end-user clients.

**Tools**: Use the Tools area to help you configure and manage your network.
Figure 1: Cisco DNA Center Home Page
Click any of the icons in the two main areas to launch the corresponding application or tool.

In addition to the Application and Tool icons, you can click any of the icons at the top-right corner of the home page to perform important common tasks:

- **Search icon**: Lets you search for devices, users, hosts, and other items, anywhere they are stored in the Cisco DNA Center database. For tips on using Search, see Use Global Search, on page 5.

- **Applications icon**: Lets you return to the Cisco DNA Center home page from any other page and access the applications and tools. You can do the same thing by clicking on the Cisco DNA Center logo in the upper-left corner of the home page.

- **Settings icon**: Lets you view audit logs, configure Cisco DNA Center system settings, see the Cisco DNA Center version you are using, and log out.

- **Notifications icon**: Lets you see recently scheduled tasks and other notifications.

Finally, you can click the following icons, which appear at the right side of every page in Cisco DNA Center:

- **Feedback icon**: Lets you submit your comments and suggestions to the Cisco DNA Center product team.

- **Help icon**: Launches Cisco DNA Center's context-sensitive online help in a separate tab in your browser.

If you are new to Cisco DNA Center, see Where to Start, on page 6 for tips and suggestions on how to begin using it.

### Use Global Search

Use the global Search function to find items in the following categories anywhere in Cisco DNA Center:

- **Activities**: Search for Cisco DNA Center menu items, workflows and features by name.

- **Applications**: Search for them by name.

- **Application Groups**: Search for them by name.

- **Hosts and Endpoints**: Search for them by name, IP address, or MAC address.

- **IP Pools**: Search for them by name or IP address.

- **Network Devices**: Search for them by name, IP address, serial number, software version, platform, product family, or MAC address.

- **Sites**: Search for them by name.

- **Users**: Search for them by user name. Please note that case-insensitivity and substring search are not supported for user names in this release.

- **Other items, as new versions of Cisco DNA Center are released.**

To start a global Search, click the icon in the upper-right corner of any Cisco DNA Center page.
When you click the icon, Cisco DNA Center displays a popup global search window, with a search field where you can begin entering identifying information about the item you are looking for.

You can enter all or part of the target item's name, address, serial number, or other identifying information in the search field. The Search field is case-insensitive and can contain any character or combination of characters.

As you begin entering your search string, Cisco DNA Center displays a list of possible search targets that match your entry, in whole or in part. If more than one category of item matches your search string, Cisco DNA Center sorts them by category, with a maximum of five items in each category. The first item in the first category is selected automatically, and summary information for that item appears in the summary panel to the right.

You can scroll the list as needed, and click on any of the suggested search targets to see information for that item in the summary panel. If there are more than five items in a category, click View All next to the category name in the list. When you want to return to the categorized list from the complete list of search targets, click Go Back.

As you add more characters to the search string, global search will automatically narrow the displayed list of categories and items.

The summary panel includes links to more information. The link will vary as appropriate for each category and item. For example: With Activities, the summary panel shows you links to menu items and workflows elsewhere in the Cisco DNA Center system. For Applications, there is the Application 360 view. You will see links to Client 360 and Topology views for Hosts/Endpoints, and links to Device 360 and Topology views for Network Devices. Click on the link to see the appropriate menu item, workflow, or detail view.

When you are finished, click to close the global search window.

Global search can display a maximum of 500 results at one time.

Where to Start

To start using Cisco DNA Center, you must first configure the Cisco DNA Center settings so that the server can communicate outside the network.

After you configure the Cisco DNA Center settings, your current environment determines how you start using Cisco DNA Center:

- Existing infrastructure—If you have an existing infrastructure (brownfield deployment), start by running Discovery. After running Discovery, all your devices are displayed on the Inventory window. For information about running Discovery, see Discover Your Network.

- New or nonexisting infrastructure—If you have no existing infrastructure and are starting from scratch, (green field deployment), create a network hierarchy.