



Cisco APIC OpenStack Plug-in Release Notes, Release 6.1(3)

Introduction

This document describes the features, bugs, and limitations for the Cisco Application Policy Infrastructure Controller (APIC) OpenStack Plug-in.

Cisco APIC OpenStack Plug-in allows policy deployment automation across Cisco Application Centric Infrastructure (ACI) and OpenStack, enabling a complete undercloud and overcloud visibility on Cisco ACI. The Cisco APIC OpenStack Plug-in allows dynamic creation of networking constructs to be driven directly from OpenStack, while providing extra visibility and control from the Cisco APIC.

Release notes are sometimes updated with new information about restrictions and bugs. See the following website for the most recent version of this document:

<https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/support/cloud-systems-management/application-policy-infrastructure-controller-apic/tsd-products-support-series-home.html>

For more information about this product, see "Related Content."

Note: The documentation set for this product strives to use bias-free language. For the purposes of this documentation set, bias-free is defined as language that does not imply discrimination based on age, disability, gender, racial identity, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and intersectionality. Exceptions may be present in the documentation due to language that is hardcoded in the user interfaces of the product software, language used based on RFP documentation, or language that is used by a referenced third-party product.

| Date | Description |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| March 8, 2025 | Release 6.1(3) became available. |

New Software Features

Following are the new features introduced in the 6.1(3) plug-in release:

- A tripleo parameter has been added to control which interfaces are used for sending and receiving LLDP packets

The string specifies which interfaces to use for sending and receiving LLD packets. If an empty string is provided, all available physical interfaces will be used, including interfaces for OpenStack instances. This option can use wildcards. Several interfaces can be specified separated by commas. It is also possible to exclude an interface by suffixing it with an exclamation mark. It is possible to include an interface by suffixing it with two exclamation marks. An included interface beats an excluded interface, which beats a simple matched interface. For example, the pattern "eth*,!eth1,!eth2" will only use interfaces starting with "eth", with the exception of "eth1" and "eth2", while "*,!eth*,!!eth1" will use all interfaces, except interfaces starting by "eth" with the exception of "eth1". When an exact match is found, it will override other matches. For example, if "eth0.12" is specified, it will be accepted even if this is a VLAN interface.

```
CiscoAciLldpdInterfaces:
  default: '*,!tap*'
  description: Interfaces that the LLDP daemon uses for LLDP discovery
  type: string
```

- Three tripleo parameters have been added to control the logging of connection tracking for SNAT traffic

The first parameter controls whether logging is done or not, while the second and third parameters control how the logging is reported in syslog.

NeutronOpflexEnableSnatConntrack:

```
default: true
description: Enable the SNAT connection track which will dump the
output to syslog.
type: boolean
```

NeutronOpflexSnatConntrackSeverity:

```
default: 'info'
description: The syslog severity used by opflex-conn-track program.
type: string
```

NeutronOpflexSnatConntrackFacility:

```
default: 'user'
description: The syslog facility used by opflex-conn-track program.
type: string
```

- NAT IPs Allocated from Dummy Pool

This feature enables you to configure a subnet of your choice on an external network for assigning the router gateway IP. By default, it is the first valid subnet, but setting this extension enables you to specifically configure the required subnet.

This configuration can be changed at any point in a subnet's lifespan, using either '--apic_router_gw_ip_pool_enable' or '--apic_router_gw_ip_pool_disable.

```
openstack subnet create gw-ip-subnet --apic_router_gw_ip_pool_enable --network
sauto_l3out-2 --subnet-range 82.82.82.0/24
openstack subnet set gw-ip-subnet --apic_router_gw_ip_pool_disable
```

- Tenant Rebalancing across multiple AIM processes

AIM-AID process uses a consistent hash to assign new tenants to AIM-AID processes. Depending on the distribution of tenants, as well as the deletion of tenants, this can lead to uneven distribution of ACI tenants to the AIM-AID processes.

This feature provides a configuration knob for customers to be able to modify the distribution by modifying the number of vnodes that is used in calculating the consistent hash, that helps change the distribution of the tenants across the AIM-AID processes.

In the ciscoaci_aim container, this command can be run as below:

- o `aimctl tenant rebalance --vnodes [40:400]`
- o Vnodes can be set in the range of 40 to 400. Default is 40.

Cisco ACI Virtualization Compatibility Matrix

For information about Cisco ACI and OpenStack, see the Cisco Virtualization Compatibility Matrix at the following URL:

Supported Scale

For the verified scalability limits (except for CLI limits), see the Verified Scalability Guide for this release. For Kubernetes-based Integrations (including Docker, OpenShift, and Rancher), and OpenStack Platform Scale Limits, see the following table.

Note: The scalability information in the following table applies to Kubernetes or OpenStack resources integrated with OpFlex into the Cisco ACI fabric. It does not apply to Microsoft SCVMM hosts or Cisco ACI Virtual Edge instances.

| Limit Type | Maximum Supported |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Number of OpFlex hosts per leaf | 120 |
| Number of OpFlex hosts per port | 20 |
| Number of vPC links per leaf | 40 |
| Number of endpoints per leaf | 10,000 |
| Number of endpoints per host | 400 |
| Number of virtual endpoints per leaf | 40,000 |

Notes:

- For containers, an endpoint corresponds to a pod's network interface.
- For OpenStack, an endpoint corresponds to any of the following:
 - A virtual machine (VM) interface (also known as vnic)
 - A DHCP agent's port in OpenStack (if in DHCP namespace on the network controller)
 - A floating IP address
- Total virtual endpoints on a leaf can be calculated as virtual endpoints / leaf = VPCs x EPGs, where:
 - VPCs is the number of VPC links on the switch in the attachment profile used by the OpenStack Virtual Machine Manager (VMM).
 - EPGs is the number of EPGs provisioned for the OpenStack VMM.

For the CLI verified scalability limits, see the *Cisco NX-OS Style Command-Line Interface Configuration Guide* for this release.

Known Limitations

This section lists the known limitations.

- Cisco ACI Unified Plug-in for OpenStack does not support the following features:
 - ESX hypervisor support
 - ASR1K edgeNAT support

- GBP/NFP Service chaining
- ML2 Network constraints
- Dual-stack operation requires that all IPv4 and IPv6 subnets - both for internal and external networks - use the same VRF in Cisco ACI. The one exception to this is when separate external networks are used for IPv4 and IPv6 traffic. In that workflow, the IPv4 and IPv6 subnets used for internal networks plus the IPv6 subnets used for external networks all belong to one VRF, while the subnets for the IPv4 external network belong to a different VRF. IPv4 NAT can then be used for external networking.
- For installations with B-series that use VXLAN encapsulation, Layer 2 Policies (for example, bridge domains) should each contain only one Policy Target Group (that is, Endpoint Group) to ensure a functional data plane.
- The Cisco ACI OpenStack Plug-in is not integrated with the Multi-Site Orchestrator. When deploying to a Multi-Site deployment, the Cisco ACI configurations implemented by the plug-in must not be affected by the Multi-Site Orchestrator.
- When you delete the Overcloud Heat stack, the Overcloud nodes are freed but the virtual machine manager (VMM) domain remains present in Cisco APIC. The VMM appears in Cisco APIC as a stale VMM domain along with the tenant unless you delete the VMM domain manually. Before you delete the VMM domain, verify that the stack has been deleted from the undercloud, and check that any hypervisors appearing under the VMM domain are no longer in the connected state. After both these conditions are met, you can safely delete the VMM domain Cisco APIC.
- Due to a bug in upstream Neutron, subport bindings are not cleaned up in trunk workflows. This has existed in earlier releases and is equally applicable to usage with Open vSwitch (OVS) reference implementation agents as well as OpFlex agents. For more information about the Neutron bug, see bug 1639111 on the Launchpad.net website.

Usage Guidelines

- When performing updates of the overcloud, it is recommended to update compute nodes in small groups of 3 or less. This minimizes the policy request load by the opflex-agent on the fabric, and helps ensure that the data plane remains stable during the upgrade window. This is done using the “-limit” flag when running the “openstack overcloud update run” command.
- The OpflexDroplogConfig parameter added in the 5.2(6) plugin release allows configuration of the opflex-agent droplog feature across all hosts when deployed using OpenStack Platform (OSP) Director 16. The parameter requires a valid json blob, which is used for each host’s opflex-agent droplog configuration file.
- There is a known issue related to connection tracking in Red Hat Enterprise Linux, which prevents communication between the LBaaS worker VMs and the LBaaS healthcheck service. See the solution for *What is the option "nf_conntrack_tcp_be_liberal" for* on the RedHat website.

To avoid this, the ExtraSysctlSettings tripleo parameter can be used to add this tuning to deployments.
- The APIC SNAT subnet only extension is used to control IP address allocation from a subnet on a neutron external network. When setting the gateway on a neutron router, if no subnet or IP address is specified, neutron picks the subnet with the lowest UUID value, and allocates an IP address from that subnet to use for the router gateway port. In order to avoid exhausting IP addresses intended for SNAT, this extension can be enabled on subnets used for SNAT:

```
openstack subnet set --apic-snat-subnet-only-enable foosubnet
```

Once enabled, whenever a neutron router is attached to the external network that owns the SNAT subnet, that subnet will not be used to allocate gateway IP addresses. This extension can also be disabled, allowing allocations from the subnet:

```
openstack subnet set --apic-snat-subnet-only-disable foosubnet
```

The default value for the extension is False, which means existing workflows will behave the same as before. If a user tries specifying a subnet or IP address on a subnet with this extension *enabled* when setting a router gateway, that operation will fail.

- Logging of dropped packets on hosts can be enabled in Hat OpenStack Platform (RHOSP) Director 16. This is done using the following tripleo parameter specified in the `/opt/ciscoaci-tripleo-heat-templates/deployment/deployment/opflex/opflex-agent-container-puppet.yaml` template:

```
OpflexEnableDroplog:
  default: false
  description: Enable droplog feature on hypervisors
  type: Boolean
```

Setting this parameter to true enables logging of dropped packets on the hypervisor.

- A new template has been added for RHOSP 16, in order to support simultaneous operation of hypervisors using both optimized and non-optimized DHCP and metadata. This template is found on the undercloud in `/opt/ciscoaci-tripleo-heat-templates/deployment/neutron_opflex/neutron-opflex-agent-container-puppet-controller.yaml`, and should only be used to deploy the neutron-opflex-agent service on controller nodes.
- We recommend that service VMs used in service function chaining (SFC) workflows use static IP addressing and not rely on DHCP. When the service VM becomes part of a service chain in OpenStack and correspondingly a service graph on Cisco ACI, the associated EPG is removed. Thus, services such as DHCP are not available for the endpoint. This is applicable with OVS reference implementation agents as well as OpFlex agents.
- When you run the host report ansible-playbook (`/opt/ciscoaci-tripleo-heat-templates/tools/report.yml`), the step to copy files from a running container may return an error, causing the host report to fail. If this happens, rerun the playbook until it succeeds. The failure is due to a known issue in Red Hat OpenStack Platform (OSP) 13 Director. For more information, see the Red Hat Bugzilla bug 1767289. You can find the related product note in the Red Hat Customer portal knowledge base article "docker cp command sometimes failed with invalid argument."
- If you are using Cisco ACI Virtual Edge with OpenStack or Kubernetes OpFlex on the same leaf, do not use Cisco APIC version 4.2(3), or you will encounter the bug CSCvs49419. If you have that configuration and need features from the Cisco APIC 4.2(x) release train, use the 4.2(2) or 4.2(4) version.
- JuJu charms users must first update the Charms before installing the updated plug-in.
- Newer RHEL installations limit the maximum number of multicast group subscriptions to 20. This is configured with the `net.ipv4.igmp_max_memberships` sysctl variable. Installations using VXLAN encapsulation for OpenStack VMM domains should set this value higher than the total number of

endpoint groups (EPGs) that might appear on the node (one for each Neutron network with Neutron workflow, or one for each Policy Target Group with Group Based Policy workflow).

Note: Controller hosts running DHCP agents that are connected to OpFlex networks have an EPG for each network.

- When using the allowed address pair feature with the Cisco ACI plug-in, be aware of the following differences from upstream implementation:
 - As OpenStack allows the same `allowed_address_pair` to be configured on multiple interfaces for HA, the OpFlex agent requires that the specific VNIC that currently owns a specific `allowed_address_pair` to assert that address ownership using Gratuitous ARP.
 - When using the promiscuous mode, the vSwitch stops enforcing the port security check. To get reverse traffic for a different IP or MAC address, you still need to use the `allowed-address-pair` feature. If you are running `tempest`, you will see `test_port_security_macspoofing_port` fail in scenario testing, as that test does not use the `allowed-address-pair` feature.

- Keystone configuration update

When the OpenStack plug-in is installed in the unified mode, the Cisco installer adds the required configuration for keystone integration with AIM. When not using unified mode, or when using your own installer, the configuration section must be provisioned manually:

```
[apic_aim_auth]
auth_plugin=v3password
auth_url=http://<IP Address of controller>:35357/v3
username=admin
password=<admin_password>
user_domain_name=default
project_domain_name=default
project_name=admin
```

- When using optimized DHCP, the DHCP lease times are set by the configuration variable `apic_optimized_dhcp_lease_time` under the `[ml2_apic_aim]` section.
 - This requires a restart of `neutron-server` to take effect
 - If this value is updated, existing instances will continue using the old lease time, provided their neutron port is not changed (e.g. rebooting the instance would trigger a port change, and cause it to get the updated lease time). New instances will however use the updated lease time.

- In upstream Neutron, the " `advertise_mtu` " option has been removed.

Since the `aim_mapping` driver still uses this configuration, the original configuration which appeared in the default section should be moved to the `aim_mapping` section. For example:

```
[aim_mapping]
advertise_mtu = True
```

It is set to `True` by default in the code (if not explicitly specified in the config file).

- The Unified Plug-in allows coexistence of GBP and ML2 networking models on a single OpenStack Cloud installation. However, they must operate on different VRFs. We recommend using a single model per OpenStack Project.

- If a default VRF is implicitly created for a tenant in ML2, it is not implicitly deleted until the tenant is deleted (even if it not being used anymore).
- Unified model impact of the transaction Model Updates in Newton.

When GBP and ML2 co-exist, GBP implicitly created some neutron resources. In Newton, the neutron transaction model has been updated and has added various checks. Some of those checks spuriously see this nested transaction usage as an error and log and raise an exception. The exception is handled correctly by GBP and there is no functional impact but unfortunately the neutron code also logs some exceptions in neutron log file – leading to the impression that the action had failed.

While most such exceptions are logged at the DEBUG level, occasionally you might see some exceptions being logged at the ERROR level. If such an exception log is followed by a log message which indicates that the operation is being retried, the exception is being handled correctly. One such example is the following:

Delete of policy-target on a policy-target-group associated to a network-service-policy could raise this exception:

```
2017-03-18 12:52:34.421 27767 ERROR neutron.api.v2.resource [...] delete failed
2017-03-18 12:52:34.421 27767 ERROR neutron.api.v2.resource Traceback ...:
2017-03-18 12:52:34.421 27767 ERROR neutron.api.v2.resource File
"/usr/lib/python2.7/site-packages/neutron/api/v2/resource.py", line 84, ...
...
2017-03-18 12:52:34.421 27767 ERROR neutron.api.v2.resource raise ...
2017-03-18 12:52:34.421 27767 ERROR neutron.api.v2.resource ResourceClosedError: This
transaction is closed
```

Note: Cisco is working with the upstream community for further support on Error level logs.

- When a Layer 2 policy is deleted in GBP, some implicit artifacts related to it may not be deleted (resulting in unused BDs/subnets on Cisco APIC). If you hit that situation, the workaround is to create a new empty Layer 2 policy in the same context and delete it.
- If you use tempest to validate OpenStack, the following tests are expected to fail and can be ignored:

```
tempest.scenario.test_network_basic_ops.TestNetworkBasicOps.test_update_router_admin_s
tate
```

- Neutron-server logs may show the following message when DEBUG level is enabled:

```
Timed out waiting for RPC response: Timeout while waiting on RPC response - topic:
"<unknown>", RPC method: "<unknown>" info: "<unknown>"
```

This message can be ignored.

- High Availability LBaaSv2 is not supported.
- OpenStack Newton is the last version to support non-unified plug-in. OpenStack Ocata and future releases will only be supported with the unified plug-in.
- For deployments running Cisco ACI version 4.1(2g) and using the Group Based Policy workflow and associated APIs, contract filters set to an EtherType of ARP can result in the filter being incorrectly set as “Unspecified” on the leaf. If an EtherType of ARP is required, then you must use a Cisco ACI release other than 4.1(2g).

- Some deployments require installation of an “allow” entry in IP Tables for IGMP. This must be added to all hosts running an OpFlex agent and using VXLAN encapsulation to the leaf. The rule must be added using the following command:

```
# iptables -A INPUT -p igmp -j ACCEPT
```

In order to make this change persistent across reboots, add the command either to `/etc/rc.d/rc.local` or to a cron job that runs after reboot.

- For deployments that use B-series servers, an additional service must be started on the hosts to ensure that connectivity is maintained with the leaf at all times. Complete the following steps:

Step 1. Install the Cisco APIC API package (`python-apicapi` for Debian packaging, `apicapi` for RPM packaging) for any servers running an OpFlex agent.

Step 2. Add the OpFlex uplink bond name to `/etc/environments` (that is, `opflex_bondif=bond1`).

This is needed if the interface is other than default (`bond0`).

Step 3. Enable the `apic-bond-watch` service using the following command:

```
sudo systemctl enable apic-bond-watch
```

Step 4. Start the `apic-bond-watch` service using the following command:

```
sudo systemctl start apic-bond-watch
```

For OpenStack Director installations using VXLAN encapsulation for VMM domains, two additional configuration items may be needed to handle large installations. The number of multicast groups should be configured to match the maximum number of endpoint groups for the host, and the maximum auxiliary memory for sockets needs to be increased for IPC. These are configured using the `extra-config.yaml` file, with the following parameters:

```
ControllerParameters:
  ExtraSysctlSettings:
    net.ipv4.igmp_max_memberships:
      value: 4096
    net.core.optmem_max:
      value: 1310720
ComputeParameters:
  ExtraSysctlSettings:
    net.ipv4.igmp_max_memberships:
      value: 1024
```

The IGMP max memberships value should be greater than or equal to the number of Neutron networks that the host has Neutron ports on. For example, if a compute host has 100 instances, and each instance is on a different Neutron network, then this number must be set to at least 100. Controller hosts running the `neutron-dhcp-agent` will need set this value to match the number of Neutron networks managed by that agent, which means this number will probably need to be higher on controller hosts than compute hosts.

- For installations not using OpenStack Director, the maximum allowed packet size for the database must be configured to support database transactions for tenants in AIM with large configurations. The default value installed by OpenStack director in `/etc/my.cnf.d/galera.cnf` is sufficient for most installations:

```
[mysqld]
...
```

```
max_allowed_packet = 16M
[mysqldump]
max_allowed_packet = 16M"
```

- After deploying Queens with Juju charms (18 or 19), sometimes a VM spawn fails. The failure is due to a neutron-opflex-agent failing to start on the host that the VM was scheduled to. The host can be determined using the neutron `agent-list` command: The neutron-opflex-agent is missing for the effected compute node.

Restart of neutron-opflex-agent on the affected node fixes the problem and can be used as a workaround after a fresh deployment.

- When you do an upgrade involving Red Hat OSP13, the installer doesn't delete the `/var/www/html/acirpo` directory. This causes problems when building new containers. When performing an upgrade using OSP13, be sure to manually delete this directory before installing the new RPM.

Open Issues

There are no known issues in this release.

Resolved Issues

Click the bug ID to access the Bug Search tool and see additional information about the bug.

| Bug ID | Description |
|----------------------------|---|
| CSCwk79521 | When provisioning LBaaS service in Openstack with ACI ML2 plugin health check service doesn't work. |
| CSCwn66547 | opflex-conn-track lkog messages are per default logged in OS <code>/var/log/messages</code> . |
| CSCwm98387 | opflex-agent generates too many empty opflex-json.log under <code>/var/log/</code> . |
| CSCwk00066 | Openstack: rsyslog configuration issues. |
| CSCwj91326 | OpenStack: update of the admin account password leads to the neutron to keystone authentication issues. |
| CSCvu73642 | Schedule new tenants to aim-aid processes to maintain an even distribution. |

Known Issues

There are no known issues in this release.

Related Content

See the [Cisco Application Policy Infrastructure Controller \(APIC\)](#) page for the documentation.

The documentation includes installation, upgrade, configuration, programming, and troubleshooting guides, technical references, release notes, and knowledge base (KB) articles, as well as other documentation. KB articles provide information about a specific use case or a specific topic.

By using the "Choose a topic" and "Choose a document type" fields of the APIC documentation website, you can narrow down the displayed documentation list to make it easier to find the desired document.

You can watch videos that demonstrate how to perform specific tasks in the Cisco APIC on the [Cisco Data Center Networking](#) YouTube channel.

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