



# About Cisco IOS Software Documentation for Release 12.3

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This chapter discusses the objectives, audience, organization, and conventions of Cisco IOS software documentation. It also provides sources for obtaining documentation, obtaining technical assistance, and obtaining additional publications and information from Cisco Systems.

## Documentation Objectives

Cisco IOS software documentation describes the tasks and commands necessary to configure and maintain Cisco networking devices.

## Audience

The Cisco IOS software documentation set is intended primarily for users who configure and maintain Cisco networking devices (such as routers and switches) but who may not be familiar with the tasks, the relationship between tasks, or the Cisco IOS software commands necessary to perform particular tasks. The Cisco IOS software documentation set is also intended for those users experienced with Cisco IOS software who need to know about new features, new configuration options, and new software characteristics in the current Cisco IOS software release.

## Documentation Organization for Cisco IOS Release 12.3

Release 12.3 of the Cisco IOS documentation set follows the custom of prior releases in providing configuration guides, command references, and supporting documents. It differs from other recent major releases in these respects:

- Documents are delivered online, in PDF and HTML formats, and are not orderable as printed books.
- For IPv6 and Voice documentation, Cisco IOS Release 12.3 configuration information is integrated. A Cisco IOS IPv6 configuration library consists of implementation guides and a Start Here document, and a Cisco IOS Voice configuration library consists of configuration guides, application guides, and new-feature documentation.
- Other configuration content new to Cisco IOS Release 12.3 is provided in the form of links to new-feature documents from a virtual (online) configuration guide for each technology area. (In previous major Cisco IOS releases, configuration content was integrated into standalone

configuration guides.) The virtual configuration guide highlights information that is new in the release in a framework that references familiar Cisco IOS Release 12.2 documentation. Related feature information is grouped together. This organization is a step toward bringing a stronger user- and task-based focus to Cisco IOS documentation.

**Note**

In some cases, information contained in the new-feature documentation for Cisco IOS Release 12.3(1) and early-deployment Cisco IOS releases numbered 12.2 T augments or supersedes content in the Cisco IOS Release 12.2 configuration guides. New-feature documentation in later 12.2 T releases may replace new-feature documentation in earlier 12.2 T releases.

- The set of new-feature documents published since Cisco IOS Release 12.2 is consolidated into a single downloadable PDF file for each technology area that is covered by a virtual configuration guide and a command reference.
- All command references present commands in alphabetical order, providing organizational consistency among the books and making all commands easier to locate.

## Master Index

A master index provides indexing information for the Cisco IOS software documentation set. The master index for the command references provides a quick way for you to find a command when you know the command name but not which module contains the command. When you use the online master indexes, you can click the page number for an index entry and go to that page in the online document.

## Supporting Documents and Resources

The following documents and resources support the Cisco IOS software documentation set:

- *Cisco IOS System Error Messages* (two volumes)—This publication lists and describes Cisco IOS system error messages. Not all system error messages indicate problems with your system. Some are purely informational, and others may help diagnose problems with communications lines, internal hardware, or the system software.
- *Cisco IOS Debug Command Reference*—This publication contains an alphabetical listing of the **debug** commands and their descriptions. Documentation for each command includes a brief description of its use, command syntax, usage guidelines, and sample output.
- *Dictionary of Internetworking Terms and Acronyms*—This Cisco publication compiles and defines the terms and acronyms used in the internetworking industry.
- New feature documentation—The Cisco IOS software documentation set documents the mainline release of Cisco IOS software (for example, Cisco IOS Release 12.2). New software features are introduced in early deployment releases (for example, the Cisco IOS “T” release train for 12.2, 12.2(x)T). Documentation for these new features can be found in standalone documents called “feature modules.” Feature module documentation describes new Cisco IOS software and hardware networking functionality and is available on Cisco.com and the Documentation CD-ROM.
- Release notes—This documentation describes system requirements, provides information about new and changed features, and includes other useful information about specific software releases. Refer to the section “Using Software Release Notes” in the chapter “Using Cisco IOS Software for Release 12.3” for more information.

- Caveats documentation—This documentation provides information about Cisco IOS software defects in specific software releases.
- RFCs—RFCs are standards documents maintained by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). Cisco IOS software documentation references supported RFCs when applicable. The full text of referenced RFCs may be obtained on the World Wide Web at <http://www.rfc-editor.org/>.
- MIBs—MIBs are used for network monitoring. To locate and download MIBs for selected platforms, Cisco IOS releases, and feature sets, use Cisco MIB Locator found at the following URL: <http://www.cisco.com/go/mibs>

## Document Conventions

Within Cisco IOS software documentation, the term *router* is generally used to refer to a variety of Cisco products (for example, routers, access servers, and switches). Routers, access servers, and other networking devices that support Cisco IOS software are shown interchangeably within examples. These products are used only for illustrative purposes; that is, an example that shows one product does not necessarily indicate that other products are not supported.

The Cisco IOS documentation set uses the following conventions:

Convention	Description
^ or Ctrl	The ^ and Ctrl symbols represent the Control key. For example, the key combination ^D or Ctrl-D means hold down the Control key while you press the D key. Keys are indicated in capital letters but are not case sensitive.
<i>string</i>	A string is a nonquoted set of characters shown in italics. For example, when setting an SNMP <i>community</i> string to <i>public</i> , do not use quotation marks around the string or the string will include the quotation marks.

Command syntax descriptions use the following conventions:

Convention	Description
<b>bold</b>	Bold text indicates commands and keywords that you enter literally as shown.
<i>italics</i>	Italic text indicates arguments for which you supply values.
[x]	Square brackets enclose an optional element (keyword or argument).
	A vertical line indicates a choice within an optional or required set of keywords or arguments.
[x   y]	Square brackets enclosing keywords or arguments separated by a vertical line indicate an optional choice.
{x   y}	Braces enclosing keywords or arguments separated by a vertical line indicate a required choice.

Nested sets of square brackets or braces indicate optional or required choices within optional or required elements. For example:

Convention	Description
[x {y   z}]	Braces and a vertical line within square brackets indicate a required choice within an optional element.

Examples use the following conventions:

Convention	Description
screen	Examples of information displayed on the screen are set in Courier font.
<b>bold screen</b>	Examples of text that you must enter are set in Courier bold font.
< >	Angle brackets enclose text that is not printed to the screen, such as passwords.
!	An exclamation point at the beginning of a line indicates a comment line. (Exclamation points are also displayed by the Cisco IOS software for certain processes.)
[ ]	Square brackets enclose default responses to system prompts.

The following conventions are used to attract the attention of the reader:



#### Caution

Means *reader be careful*. In this situation, you might do something that could result in equipment damage or loss of data.



#### Note

Means *reader take note*. Notes contain helpful suggestions or references to materials not contained in this manual.



#### Timesaver

Means the *described action saves time*. You can save time by performing the action described in the paragraph.

## Obtaining Documentation

Cisco provides several ways to obtain documentation, technical assistance, and other technical resources. These sections explain how to obtain technical information from Cisco Systems.

### Cisco.com

You can access the most current Cisco documentation on the World Wide Web at this URL:

<http://www.cisco.com/univercd/home/home.htm>

You can access the Cisco website at this URL:

<http://www.cisco.com>

International Cisco websites can be accessed from this URL:

[http://www.cisco.com/public/countries\\_languages.shtml](http://www.cisco.com/public/countries_languages.shtml)

## Documentation CD-ROM

Cisco documentation and additional literature are available in a Cisco Documentation CD-ROM package, which may have shipped with your product. The Documentation CD-ROM is updated regularly and may be more current than printed documentation. The CD-ROM package is available as a single unit or through an annual or quarterly subscription.

Registered Cisco.com users can order a single Documentation CD-ROM (product number DOC-CONDOCCD=) through the Cisco Ordering tool:

[http://www.cisco.com/en/US/partner/ordering/ordering\\_place\\_order\\_ordering\\_tool\\_launch.html](http://www.cisco.com/en/US/partner/ordering/ordering_place_order_ordering_tool_launch.html)

All users can order monthly or quarterly subscriptions through the online Subscription Store:

<http://www.cisco.com/go/subscription>

## Ordering Documentation

You can find instructions for ordering documentation at this URL:

[http://www.cisco.com/univercd/cc/td/doc/es\\_inpk/pdi.htm](http://www.cisco.com/univercd/cc/td/doc/es_inpk/pdi.htm)

You can order Cisco documentation in these ways:

- Registered Cisco.com users (Cisco direct customers) can order Cisco product documentation from the Networking Products MarketPlace:

<http://www.cisco.com/en/US/partner/ordering/index.shtml>

- Nonregistered Cisco.com users can order documentation through a local account representative by calling Cisco Systems Corporate Headquarters (California, U.S.A.) at 408 526-7208 or, elsewhere in North America, by calling 800 553-NETS (6387).

## Documentation Feedback

You can submit comments electronically on Cisco.com. On the Cisco Documentation home page, click **Feedback** at the top of the page.

You can e-mail your comments to [bug-doc@cisco.com](mailto:bug-doc@cisco.com).

You can submit comments by using the response card (if present) behind the front cover of your document or by writing to the following address:

Cisco Systems  
Attn: Customer Document Ordering  
170 West Tasman Drive  
San Jose, CA 95134-9883

We appreciate your comments.

# Obtaining Technical Assistance

Cisco provides Cisco.com, which includes the Cisco Technical Assistance Center (TAC) website, as a starting point for all technical assistance. Customers and partners can obtain online documentation, troubleshooting tips, and sample configurations from the Cisco TAC website. Cisco.com registered users have complete access to the technical support resources on the Cisco TAC website, including TAC tools and utilities.

## Cisco.com

Cisco.com offers a suite of interactive, networked services that let you access Cisco information, networking solutions, services, programs, and resources at any time, from anywhere in the world.

Cisco.com provides a broad range of features and services to help you with these tasks:

- Streamline business processes and improve productivity
- Resolve technical issues with online support
- Download and test software packages
- Order Cisco learning materials and merchandise
- Register for online skill assessment, training, and certification programs

To obtain customized information and service, you can self-register on Cisco.com at this URL:

<http://tools.cisco.com/RPF/register/register.do>

## Technical Assistance Center

The Cisco TAC is available to all customers who need technical assistance with a Cisco product, technology, or solution. Two types of support are available: the Cisco TAC website and the Cisco TAC Escalation Center. The type of support that you choose depends on the priority of the problem and the conditions stated in service contracts, when applicable.

We categorize Cisco TAC inquiries according to urgency:

- Priority level 4 (P4)—You need information or assistance concerning Cisco product capabilities, product installation, or basic product configuration. There is little or no impact to your business operations.
- Priority level 3 (P3)—Operational performance of the network is impaired, but most business operations remain functional. You and Cisco are willing to commit resources during normal business hours to restore service to satisfactory levels.
- Priority level 2 (P2)—Operation of an existing network is severely degraded, or significant aspects of your business operations are negatively impacted by inadequate performance of Cisco products. You and Cisco will commit full-time resources during normal business hours to resolve the situation.
- Priority level 1 (P1)—An existing network is “down,” or there is a critical impact to your business operations. You and Cisco will commit all necessary resources around the clock to resolve the situation.

## Cisco TAC Website

The Cisco TAC website provides online documents and tools to help troubleshoot and resolve technical issues with Cisco products and technologies. To access the Cisco TAC website, go to this URL:

<http://www.cisco.com/tac>

All customers, partners, and resellers who have a valid Cisco service contract have complete access to the technical support resources on the Cisco TAC website. Some services on the Cisco TAC website require a Cisco.com login ID and password. If you have a valid service contract but do not have a login ID or password, go to this URL to register:

<http://tools.cisco.com/RPF/register/register.do>

If you are a Cisco.com registered user, and you cannot resolve your technical issues by using the Cisco TAC website, you can open a case online at this URL:

<http://www.cisco.com/tac/caseopen>

If you have Internet access, we recommend that you open P3 and P4 cases online so that you can fully describe the situation and attach any necessary files.

## Cisco TAC Escalation Center

The Cisco TAC Escalation Center addresses priority level 1 or priority level 2 issues. These classifications are assigned when severe network degradation significantly impacts business operations. When you contact the TAC Escalation Center with a P1 or P2 problem, a Cisco TAC engineer automatically opens a case.

To obtain a directory of toll-free Cisco TAC telephone numbers for your country, go to this URL:

<http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/687/Directory/DirTAC.shtml>

Before calling, please check with your network operations center to determine the Cisco support services to which your company is entitled: for example, SMARTnet, SMARTnet Onsite, or Network Supported Accounts (NSA). When you call the center, please have available your service agreement number and your product serial number.

# Obtaining Additional Publications and Information

Information about Cisco products, technologies, and network solutions is available from various online and printed sources.

- The *Cisco Product Catalog* describes the networking products offered by Cisco Systems, as well as ordering and customer support services. Access the *Cisco Product Catalog* at this URL:

[http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/products\\_catalog\\_links\\_launch.html](http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/products_catalog_links_launch.html)

- Cisco Press publishes a wide range of networking publications. Cisco suggests these titles for new and experienced users: *Internetworking Terms and Acronyms Dictionary*, *Internetworking Technology Handbook*, *Internetworking Troubleshooting Guide*, and the *Internetworking Design Guide*. For current Cisco Press titles and other information, go to Cisco Press online at this URL:

<http://www.ciscopress.com>

- *Packet* magazine is the Cisco quarterly publication that provides the latest networking trends, technology breakthroughs, and Cisco products and solutions to help industry professionals get the most from their networking investment. Included are networking deployment and troubleshooting tips, configuration examples, customer case studies, tutorials and training, certification information, and links to numerous in-depth online resources. You can access *Packet* magazine at this URL:  
<http://www.cisco.com/go/packet>
- iQ Magazine is the Cisco bimonthly publication that delivers the latest information about Internet business strategies for executives. You can access iQ Magazine at this URL:  
<http://www.cisco.com/go/iqmagazine>
- Internet Protocol Journal is a quarterly journal published by Cisco Systems for engineering professionals involved in designing, developing, and operating public and private internets and intranets. You can access the Internet Protocol Journal at this URL:  
[http://www.cisco.com/en/US/about/ac123/ac147/about\\_cisco\\_the\\_internet\\_protocol\\_journal.html](http://www.cisco.com/en/US/about/ac123/ac147/about_cisco_the_internet_protocol_journal.html)
- Training—Cisco offers world-class networking training. Current offerings in network training are listed at this URL:  
[http://www.cisco.com/en/US/learning/le31/learning\\_recommended\\_training\\_list.html](http://www.cisco.com/en/US/learning/le31/learning_recommended_training_list.html)