Cisco Enterprise Service Automation 1.0 Release Notes

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This document contains the following sections:

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Introduction

Cisco Enterprise Service Automation (ESA) is an orchestration and management tool that allows enterprise IT operation teams to design, provision, and manage virtual and physical branch networks. Through its GUI, ESA provides intuitive ways for designing services for bringing up multiple branch networks in almost no time. ESA operates collaboratively with Cisco Prime Infrastructure (PI) and Cisco Application Policy Infrastructure Controller Enterprise Module (APIC-EM) to provision and deploy the configuration and services and to automate monitoring of these services on the enterprise network infrastructure. It helps to ensure optimal performance of virtual network functions (VNFs) running on the Cisco Enterprise Network Functions Virtualization Infrastructure Software (NFVIS) by monitoring and managing the health and lifecycle of the services.

ESA workflows align with Information Technology Infrastructure Library processes, providing ways for user-created network designs for initial service provisioning and service upgrades. It also automates the supply of common network attributes for configuring the devices based on the region, location, or type of branches. Being a process tool, ESA versions the configuration changes for audit and troubleshooting purposes before performing the actual provisioning.

System Requirements

For more information on system requirements, see *Understanding System Requirements* section in Cisco Enterprise Service Automation 1.0 Quick Start Guide.

Installation Guidelines

For detailed information about installing this release of Cisco Enterprise Service Automation, see *Installing Enterprise Service Automation* section in Cisco Enterprise Service Automation 1.0 Quick Start Guide.

Features and Benefits

This section provides a brief description of the key features and benefits in this release.

Service design

This feature creates uniform network designs with flexibility to provide standardized configurations, thereby reducing the complexity by providing best practices and Cisco validated topology designs for the user-selected branch functions.

Plug and Play

Cisco Enterprise Service Automation provides automated zero-touch deployment and day-zero provisioning for the hardware platforms connecting to the network. That is, ESA along with APIC-EM and PI, automates the deployment of devices on the network by obtaining and applying the configuration on a network device. It reduces the operational cost due to reduced need of technicians on-site to connect and configure the physical hardware and the hosting platforms.

Branch Provisioning

Branch provisioning allows you to provision entire branch (Physical and Virtual) network by automating on-boarding, initial configuration, and customer-supplied configurations. The intuitive Graphical User Interface (GUI) shows the deployment status of the branch, especially the map view shows the geographical location of the branch and its status.

Device Provisioning

Device provisioning allows you to create new devices and assign those to branch profiles on the network. The devices along with its configurations can be managed automatically from the Prime Infrastructure, thereby reducing the provisioning time.

Profile Management

This features allows you to design the topology for the branch. There are some cisco-verified and pre-defined templates which already contains list of devices associated to the branch. These templates contain its own configuration details that can be used or referred to create custom branch profiles. Through the application's GUI, you can view the profile status, edit and clone the profile, map to branch and submit for approval.

Virtual Service Chaining

This feature supports Cisco validated topology designs for virtual functions to make sure that the connectivity results in a working branch network, thereby reducing network complexity. It automates service chaining to prevent manual service chaining errors and reduce time required for troubleshooting connectivity issues.

Group Management

This feature automates the multi-branch provisioning by defining common attributes at the group, region, and site levels, It avoids the need to enter the predefined attributes for individual devices or components being provisioned using the tool, thereby improves user experience. The groups are represented in a tree hierarchy where the common attributes are grouped and the devices are classified accordingly.

Deployment and Diagnostics Status

This features provides the branch deployment status by giving insights into errors in provisioning at every logical step per component, thereby improving visibility and reducing the time taken for troubleshooting provisioning errors.

Approval Process

This process is used in the workflow configuration to provide trusted environment for IT organizations before applying any changes to the network. It follows Information Technology Infrastructure Library processes that align with IT organizational needs. This feature allows auto-approval process or authorized users to approve the branch designs and provisioning process.

Role-based Authorization and Control

The Role-based Authorization and Control (RBAC) model provides the IT organization flexibility to create users and roles, and define tasks for each role.

Important Notes

This section contains important notes about Enterprise Service Automation.

- Prime Infrastructure should have Life Cycle, Assurance and Data Center licenses installed before uploading VNF images to the Virtual Image Repository.
- For the branch provisioning, you must configure the hostname of Prime Infrastructure in the DNS setting. To load the VNF images for the provisioning, NFVIS must be able to resolve the DNS in Prime Infrastructure as NFVIS depends on the network configuration to resolve it.
- ESA provisions branch Day0 configuration through NKP/PI template. After that, VNFs are managed in Prime Infrastructure and network customized configuration can be provisioned through Prime Infrastructure configuration templates.
- You must not add Prime Infrastructure to more than one ESA, as this causes provisioning failure.

Open Caveats

Table 1 lists the Open Caveats in Cisco Enterprise Service Automation GA release.

Click the identifier to view the impact and workaround for the caveat. This information is displayed in the Bug Search Tool. You can track the status of the open caveats using the Bug Search Tool.

Table 1 Open Caveats

Identifier	Description
CSCvd16435	Unable to configure the second Interface during ESA installation.
CSCvd34980	'Unexpected end of configuration file' error is shown while deploying physical router.
CSCvd41440	All the passwords appear in plain text in the exported CSV file.
CSCvd42048	When allocating CPU resources, ESA needs to consider low latency of VM and hyper-threading.
CSCvd42426	When NTP templates is selected, all the text fields are shown mandatory during provisioning.
CSCvd42496	Template view does not show the configuration of Prime Infrastructure templates in the deployment page.
CSCvd24912	When a template is edited and saved in Prime Infrastructure, the profile does not show the updated variables from the template.
CSCuz91385	VPC VFC-PO interface stats shows zero and are not incrementing.
CSCvd42559	ESA does not support text area and drop-down variable types from Prime Infrastructure.
CSCvd96355	Memory utilization in system metrics page becomes more than 100%.
CSCvd96363	User Interface becomes slower when number of branches selected is more than 50.
CSCvd98167	Unable to configure VLAN on switch in physical Network Knowledge pack (NKP).
CSCvb07502	An error occurs when ESA backup/restore password contains '!' character.

Table 1 Open Caveats (continued)

Identifier	Description
CSCvb35377	ESA does not support underscore character for the hostname of vWAAS.
CSCvb53749	When password is entered in the user settings, the system immediately logs out.
CSCvd45619	Need to reset PnP timer on NFVIS before deleting the deployment in APIC-EM.
CSCvd96347	An internal error occurs when a profile is created first time after installing ESA.
CSCuz91385	Failed to apply ASAv SNMP server host commands through provisioning,
CSCvc81196	Failed to provision without management IP address when Provision Manually option is used.
CSCva90812	In Enterprise Service Automation, the network does not get cleared even after the cleanup.
CSCvd41415	While editing the approved profile, the changes does not get saved.
CSCvd41459	ESA does not show the notification for the incorrect commands that are applied to the device.
CSCvd92397	ISR4K and UCSE provisioning failed intermittently at provisionDevice_UCSE due to failure in HTTP operation with statusCode 401.
CSCve01678	ESA does not support Import certificate option in certificate management.
CSCvd94144	UCSE provisioning failed intermittently at provisionDevice_UCSE due to error in creating rule.

Obtaining Documentation and Submitting a Service Request

For information on obtaining documentation, submitting a service request, and gathering additional information, see *What's New in Cisco Product Documentation* at: http://www.cisco.com/en/US/docs/general/whatsnew/whatsnew.html.

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