



## Preface

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## Overview of Cisco Identity Services Engine

Cisco Identity Services Engine (ISE), as a next-generation identity and access control policy platform enables enterprises to enforce compliance, enhance infrastructure security, and streamline their service operations. The unique architecture of Cisco ISE allows enterprises to gather real-time contextual information from networks, users, and devices in order to make proactive governance decisions by tying identity to various network elements including access switches, wireless LAN controllers (WLCs), virtual private network (VPN) gateways, and data center switches.

Cisco ISE is a key component of the Cisco Security Group Access Solution. Cisco ISE is a consolidated policy-based access control solution that:

- Combines authentication, authorization, accounting (AAA), posture, profiler, and guest management services into one appliance
- Enforces endpoint compliance by checking the device posture of all endpoints accessing the network, including 802.1X environments
- Provides support for discovery, profiling, policy-based placement, and monitoring of endpoint devices on the network
- Enables consistent policy in centralized and distributed deployments allowing services to be delivered where they are needed
- Employs advanced enforcement capabilities including Security Group Access (SGA) through the use of Security Group Tags (SGTs) and Security Group (SG) Access Control Lists (ACLs)
- Supports scalability to support a number of deployment scenarios from small office to large enterprise environments

The Cisco ISE architecture supports standalone and distributed deployments, allowing you to configure and manage your network from a centralized portal. For more information on the capabilities of Cisco ISE, see the [Cisco Identity Services Engine Admin Guide](#).

# Purpose

This application programming interface (API) reference guide provides only a brief high-level overview of the capabilities afforded by the supported APIs. The purpose of this API reference guide is to provide a developer, system or network administrator, or system integrator with basic guidelines for using the outlined APIs within the Cisco ISE deployment.

The REST API calls use queries to determine the following types of data:

- Number of active sessions
- Types of active sessions
- Authentication status of active session
- MAC addresses in use
- NAS IP addresses in use
- Node versions and types
- Reasons for node session failures

The External RESTful Services APIs and related API calls can be used to perform CRUD (Create, Read, Update, Delete) operations on Cisco ISE resources. External RESTful Services is based on HTTP protocol and REST methodology.



## Note

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For more information about the Cisco ISE network, its nodes and personas, concepts of operation or usage, or how to use the Cisco ISE user interface, see the [Cisco Identity Services Engine Admin Guide](#).

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# Audience

This API reference guide is intended for experienced system administrators who administer Cisco ISE appliances within a network environment, system integrators who may want to make use of the APIs, or third-party partners who have with the responsibility for managing or troubleshooting Cisco ISE deployments. As a prerequisite to using this API reference guide, you should have a basic understanding of troubleshooting and diagnostic practices and how to make and interpret API calls.

# Document Conventions

This section outlines the conventions used throughout this document.



## Caution

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Means *reader be careful*. You are capable of doing something that might result in equipment damage or loss of data.

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## Note

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

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This API reference guide uses the following conventions to convey instructions and information.

Item	Convention
Commands, keywords, special terminology, and options that should be chosen during procedures	<b>boldface font</b>
Variables for which you supply values and new or important terminology	<i>italic font</i>
Displayed session and system information, paths, and file names	screen font
Information you enter	<b>boldface screen font</b>
Variables you enter	<i>italic screen font</i>
Menu items and button names	<b>boldface font</b>
Indicates menu items to choose, in the order in which you choose them.	<b>Option &gt; Network Preferences</b>

## Related Documentation

This section provides information on release-specific documentation, as well as platform-specific documentation.

General product information for Cisco ISE is available at <http://www.cisco.com/go/ise>. End-user documentation is available on Cisco.com at [http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps11640/tsd\\_products\\_support\\_series\\_home.html](http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps11640/tsd_products_support_series_home.html).

## Platform-Specific Documentation

- Cisco Secure ACS  
[http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps9911/tsd\\_products\\_support\\_series\\_home.html](http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps9911/tsd_products_support_series_home.html)
- Cisco NAC Appliance  
[http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps6128/tsd\\_products\\_support\\_series\\_home.html](http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps6128/tsd_products_support_series_home.html)
- Cisco NAC Profiler  
[http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps8464/tsd\\_products\\_support\\_series\\_home.html](http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps8464/tsd_products_support_series_home.html)
- Cisco NAC Guest Server  
[http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps10160/tsd\\_products\\_support\\_series\\_home.html](http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps10160/tsd_products_support_series_home.html)

## Obtaining Documentation and Submitting a Service Request

For information on obtaining documentation, submitting a service request, and gathering additional information, refer to the monthly *What's New in Cisco Product Documentation*, which also lists all new and revised Cisco technical documentation, at:

<http://www.cisco.com/en/US/docs/general/whatsnew/whatsnew.html>

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