The Basic GUI and the Advanced GUI

About the Basic GUI and the Advanced GUI

The Advanced Mode is the same GUI that has existed since 1.0 code. It represents a 1:1 mapping with the underlying object model. As of Cisco Policy Infrastructure Controller Release 1.2(1), there is now an option to utilize a Basic Mode. The Basic Mode intends to mask some of the complexity associated with Cisco Application Centric Infrastructure (ACI) constructs over the course of configuration. By doing so, the Basic Mode brings a set of limitations in what can and cannot be accomplished for configuration.

The main differences between the Advanced Mode and the Basic Mode are in the workflows that need to be performed to achieve the same configuration. For example, with the Basic Mode, you configure one port at a time, which means the GUI creates one object for each port. The Advanced Mode can be used to create multiple relationships with existing objects, where applicable, and do wholesale configurations using policies and profiles.

Prerequisites for the Basic GUI vs the Advanced GUI

This section contains the prerequisites for each Cisco APIC GUI mode:

- The Basic Mode is available on Cisco APIC Release 1.2(1) and later.
- The Advanced Mode is the same GUI that has been available since product launch.

Guidelines and Limitations for Basic GUI vs Advanced GUI

This section contains the guidelines and limitations for using the Cisco APIC GUI modes:

- If a Cisco ACI fabric was initially deployed on the Advanced Mode, you should continue to use the Advanced Mode for configuration deployment.
- If a Cisco ACI fabric was deployed with the Basic Mode, you should continue to use the Basic Mode configuration deployment.
• Switching between the Basic Mode and Advanced Mode configurations within the same fabric is not supported. Going back and forth between GUI modes while performing configurations can cause undesired relationships between objects if great care is not taken.

• The Basic Mode is designed for usage on small scale, greenfield deployments. This is due to the fact that every instance of policy created within the Basic Mode is a new instance. The Basic Mode is not built around policy reuse.

• L4-L7 services configuration is not available within the Basic Mode.

• Objects created due to the Basic Mode will show up with a prefix of “__ui__” when viewed from the Advanced GUI. They cannot be removed in the Advanced GUI. For the steps to remove unwanted __ui__ objects, see Troubleshooting Unwanted __ui__ Objects in the Cisco APIC Troubleshooting Guide.

• The Basic Mode and the NX-OS-Style CLI utilize the same set of scripts to perform configuration. As such, the NX-OS-Style CLI has the same limitations associated with the Basic Mode.

Verifying the Basic GUI vs the Advance GUI

The current Cisco APIC GUI mode is specified in the top-right corner of the APIC GUI when logged in.

Additional References for Using the Basic GUI and Advanced GUI

• For Basic Mode and Advanced Mode configuration examples, see the Cisco APIC Getting Started Guide at the following URL: http://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/support/cloud-systems-management/application-policy-infrastructure-controller-apic/tsd-products-support-series-home.html

Migrating Existing Networks to Cisco ACI

About Migrating Existing Networks to Cisco ACI

The network centric migration process consists in interconnecting the existing network (built based on STP, vPC, or FabricPath technologies) to a newly developed Cisco Application Centric Infrastructure (ACI) POD with the end goal of migrating applications or workloads between those environments.

Prerequisites for Migrating Existing Networks to Cisco ACI

To accomplish an application migration task, it is required that you map traditional networking concepts (VLANs, IP subnets, VRFs, etc.) to new Cisco ACI constructs such as endpoint groups (EPGs), bridge domains (BDs), and private networks.

Recommended Configuration Procedure for Migrating Existing Networks to Cisco ACI

The steps of the Cisco ACI network-centric migration methodology are described as follows:
Procedure

Step 1  Design and deploy the new Cisco ACI POD; it is likely that the size of such a deployment is initially small with plans to grow in time with the number of applications that are migrated. A typical Cisco ACI POD consists of at least two spine switches and two leaf switches and is managed by a cluster of Cisco APIC controllers.

Step 2  Perform the integration between the existing DC network infrastructure and the new Cisco ACI POD. Layer 2 and Layer 3 connectivity between the two networks is required to allow successful applications and workload migration across the two network infrastructures.

Step 3  Migrate the workloads between the existing network and the new network. It is likely that this application migration process may take several months to complete (depending also on the number and complexity of the applications being migrated), so communication between new and existing networks through the Layer 2 and Layer 3 connections previously mentioned is utilized during this phase.

Additional References for Migrating Existing Networks to Cisco ACI

For more information, see the *Migrating Existing Networks to Cisco ACI* and the *FabricPath to ACI Migration Cisco Validated Design Guide* at the following URL: http://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/support/cloud-systems-management/application-policy-infrastructure-controller-apic/tsd-products-support-series-home.html