



# Installation of Cisco UCS Central

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## Overview of Cisco UCS Central Installation

Cisco UCS Central provides you the option to install in a standalone mode. You must obtain the software from Cisco.com and save it in your local drive before installation.

You can install Cisco UCS Central using either one of the following:

- OVA file
- ISO Image



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**Note** Cisco UCS Central images are delivered in digitally signed OVA file.

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## Obtaining the Cisco UCS Central Software from Cisco.com

### Before you begin

Make sure that you have your Cisco.com username and password ready to be able to successfully download the Cisco UCS Central software.

## Procedure

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- Step 1** In a web browser, navigate to [Cisco.com](https://www.cisco.com).
- Step 2** Under **Support**, click **Products and Downloads**.
- Step 3** In the center pane, click **All Downloads**.
- Step 4** Click **Browse All** or enter your product in the search bar.
- Note**  
If prompted, enter your Cisco.com username and password to log in.
- Step 5** Select **Servers - Unified Computing > UCS Central Software UCS Central x.x**.  
Choose the version that you want to download. For example, UCS Central 2.x.
- Step 6** In the right pane, click the link for the Cisco UCS Central software in the format that you want:
- An OVA file with a name such as `ucs-central.2.x.x.ova`
  - An ISO file with a name such as `ucs-central.2.x.x.iso`
- Step 7** On the page from which you download the software, click the **Release Notes** link to download the latest version of the Release Notes.
- Step 8** Click the link for the release of the Cisco UCS Central software that you want to download.
- Step 9** Click one of the following buttons and follow the instructions provided:
- **Download Now**—Allows you to download the Cisco UCS Central software immediately.
  - **Add to Cart**—Adds the Cisco UCS Central software to your cart to be downloaded at a later time.
- Step 10** Follow the prompts to complete your download of the software.
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### What to do next

Read the Release Notes before deploying the Cisco UCS Central VM.

# Hardware Requirements

## Hardware Requirements

The minimum memory required for client system is 32 GB. However if you have 40 or more registered Cisco UCS Domains, it is recommended to have at least 48 GB memory on the client system.

The minimum system requirements for Cisco UCS Central include a disk space of 200 GB, at least 32 GB of RAM, and a minimum of 10 vCPUs.

For virtual machine types 8.0 or later, it is recommended to select the Guest operating system as Alma Linux (64-bit). For earlier versions, select the guest OS as Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6 (64-bit).

## Supporting Browsers

We recommend using the most recent version of one of the following supported browsers for Windows, LinuxRHEL, and MacOS:

- Microsoft Edge
- Mozilla Firefox
- Google Chrome
- Apple Safari



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**Note** Cisco UCS Central does not support browser full screen mode.

We recommend the below screen resolutions to launch the Cisco UCS Central GUI:

- 1920 x 1080
  - 1600 x 900
  - 1440 x 900
  - 1360 x 768
  - 1280 x 768
  - 1280 x 720
  - 1280 x 600
- 

## Supported Operating Systems

The released ISO is supported by the following:

- VMware ESXi 7.x, ESXi 8.0 and later  
See the VMware Product Lifecycle website at <https://lifecycle.vmware.com/#/>
- Microsoft Hyper-V Server 2022, Microsoft Hyper-V Server 2025, and later
- KVM Hypervisor on Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8.7 and later

The released OVA is supported by VMware ESXi 7.x, ESXi 8.0 and later.

# Installing Cisco UCS Central ISO File

## Installing Cisco UCS Central ISO File in VMware

### Procedure

**Step 1** Create a VM with the following settings:

Setting	Recommended Value
Configuration	Custom configuration
Name	A descriptive name that includes information about the Cisco UCS Central deployment
Virtual machine type	7 or later  For virtual machine types 8.0 or later, it is recommended to select the Guest operating system as Alma Linux (64-bit). For earlier versions, select the guest OS as Red Hat Enterprise Linux 9 (64-bit).  For ESXi 8, Secure boot option must be disabled.
Guest operating system	A supported operating system, such as RHEL 9.4.
Number of vCPU	10
Memory	No less than 32GB
Virtual adapter	1 virtual adapter with VM network
SCSI controller	LSI Logic parallel
Virtual disk	No less than 200GB (100GB +100GB) of available disk space  You also need to create a second 100 GB virtual disk in Step 2.
Advanced options	Virtual device node SCSI

**Step 2** In **Edit Settings**, add a new hard disk for the VM with no less than 100GB of available disk space and an additional 100GB for remote disk Cluster Installations.

**Step 3** Mount the Cisco UCS Central ISO image to the CD/DVD drive.

**Step 4** Start the VM and connect to the console.

**Step 5** From the **Cisco UCS Central Installation** menu on the ISO image, choose **Install Cisco UCS Central**.

The Cisco UCS Central installer checks that the VM has the required RAM and disk space (two disks, both disks should be 100GB). If the VM meets the requirements, the installer formats the disks, transfers the files, and installs Cisco UCS Central.

**Step 6** When the Cisco UCS Central VM has completed the initial part of the installation process, answer the following questions in the VM console window:

a) Cisco Smart Licensing is mandatory for UCS Central 2.1 and later..

At the following prompt, choose Yes if Smart Licensing is available; otherwise, select No.

Please confirm that you have UCS Central licenses in the Cisco Smart Licensing system to proceed [yes/no].

If no, Cisco Smart Licensing is mandatory for UCS Central 2.1 installation to proceed. Installation is terminating. Press any key to shut down.

b) Setup new configuration or restore full-state configuration from backup [setup/restore] prompt, enter **setup** and press **Enter**.

To restore, you must enter the password encryption key.

c) At the Enter the UCS Central VM eth0 IPv4 Address : prompt, enter the IP address assigned to Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

You must enter a static IP address that is reserved for this Cisco UCS Central VM. Cisco UCS Central does not support Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP).

d) At the Enter the UCS Central VM eth0 IPv4 Netmask : prompt, enter the netmask assigned to Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

e) At the Enter the Default Gateway : prompt, enter the default gateway used by Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

f) At the Enter the UCS Central VM host name : prompt, enter the host name you want to use for the Cisco UCS Central VM and press **Enter**.

g) (Optional) At the Enter the DNS Server IPv4 Address : prompt, enter the IP address for the DNS server you want to use for Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

If you do not plan to use a DNS server for Cisco UCS Central, leave this blank and press **Enter**.

h) (Optional) At the Enter the Default Domain Name : prompt, enter the domain in which you want to include Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

If you do not plan to include Cisco UCS Central in a domain, leave this blank and press **Enter**. Cisco UCS Central will use the default domain named localdomain.

i) At the Enforce Strong Password (Yes/No) prompt, if you want to set up strong password alert, select yes and press **Enter**.

j) At the Enter the admin Password : prompt, enter the password you want to use for the admin account and press **Enter**.

k) At the Confirm admin Password : prompt, re-enter the password you want to use for the admin account and press **Enter**.

l) At the Enter the Shared Secret : prompt, enter the shared secret (or password) that you want to use to register one or more Cisco UCS Central with Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

The shared secret can contain only alphanumeric characters (a-z, A-Z, 0-9) and the following special characters:

- Period (.)
- Hyphen (-)
- Underscore (\_)
- Colon (:)

Using only these allowed characters helps avoid the need to re-enter unsupported characters in the shared secret.

- m) At the `Confirm Shared Secret` : prompt, re-enter the shared secret and press **Enter**.
- n) At the `Proceed with this configuration. Please confirm[yes/no]` prompt, enter **yes** and press **Enter**.

If you think you made an error when completing any of these steps, enter **no** and press **Enter**. You will then be prompted to answer the questions again.

## Installing Cisco UCS Central ISO File in Microsoft Hyper-V

### Procedure

- Step 1** Create a VM with the following settings:

Setting	Recommended Value
Name	A descriptive name that includes information about the Cisco UCS Central deployment
RAM	No less than 32GB
Network adapter	Default
Number of vCPU	10
Virtual disk	No less than 200GB (100GB +100GB) of available disk space  You also need to create a second 100 GB virtual disk in Step 2.

#### Note

- Choose **Generation 2** in the **Select Generation** pane.
- Choose the template **Microsoft UEFI Certificate Authority**.

- Step 2** Under the same IDE controller as the first virtual drive, create a second virtual drive for the VM with no less than 100GB of available disk space.
- Step 3** Mount the Cisco UCS Central ISO image to the CD/DVD drive.

**Step 4** Start the VM and connect to the console.

**Step 5** From the **Cisco UCS Central Installation** menu on the ISO image, choose **Install Cisco UCS Central**.

The Cisco UCS Central installer checks that the VM has the required RAM and disk space (two disks, both with 100GBs). If the VM meets the requirements, the installer formats the disks, transfers the files, and installs Cisco UCS Central.

**Step 6** When the Cisco UCS Central VM has completed the initial part of the installation process, answer the following questions in the VM console window:

a) Cisco Smart Licensing is mandatory for UCS Central 2.1 and later..

At the following prompt, choose Yes if Smart Licensing is available; otherwise, select No.

```
Please confirm that you have UCS Central licenses in the Cisco Smart
Licensing system to proceed [yes/no].
```

```
Ifno,Cisco Smart Licensing is mandatory for UCS Central 2.1 installation
to proceed. Installation is terminating. Press any key to shut down.
```

b) Setup new configuration or restore full-state configuration from backup [setup/restore] prompt, enter **setup** and press **Enter**.

You must provide a password encryption key to restore the configuraiton.

c) At the Enter the UCS Central VM eth0 IPv4 Address : prompt, enter the IP address assigned to Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

You must enter a static IP address that is reserved for this Cisco UCS Central VM. Cisco UCS Central does not support Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP).

d) At the Enter the UCS Central VM eth0 IPv4 Netmask : prompt, enter the netmask assigned to Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

e) At the Enter the Default Gateway : prompt, enter the default gateway used by Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

f) At the Enter the UCS Central VM host name : prompt, enter the host name you want to use for the Cisco UCS Central VM and press **Enter**.

g) (Optional) At the Enter the DNS Server IPv4 Address : prompt, enter the IP address for the DNS server you want to use for Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

If you do not plan to use a DNS server for Cisco UCS Central, leave this blank and press **Enter**.

h) (Optional) At the Enter the Default Domain Name : prompt, enter the domain in which you want to include Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

If you do not plan to include Cisco UCS Central in a domain, leave this blank and press **Enter**. Cisco UCS Central will use the default domain named localdomain.

i) At the Enforce Strong Password(Yes/No) prompt, if you want to set up strong password alert, select yes and press **Enter**.

j) At the Enter the admin Password : prompt, enter the password you want to use for the admin account and press **Enter**.

k) At the Confirm admin Password : prompt, re-enter the password you want to use for the admin account and press **Enter**.

l) At the Enter the Shared Secret : prompt, enter the shared secret (or password) that you want to use to register one or more Cisco UCS Central with Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

The shared secret can contain only alphanumeric characters (a-z, A-Z, 0-9) and the following special characters:

- Period (.)
- Hyphen (-)
- Underscore (\_)
- Colon (:)

Using only these allowed characters helps avoid the need to re-enter unsupported characters in the shared secret.

- m) At the `Confirm Shared Secret` : prompt, re-enter the shared secret and press **Enter**.
- n) At the `Proceed with this configuration. Please confirm[yes/no]` prompt, enter **yes** and press **Enter**.

If you think you made an error when completing any of these steps, enter **no** and press **Enter**. You will then be prompted to answer the questions again.

## Installing Cisco UCS Central ISO File in KVM Hypervisor



**Note** When you install Cisco UCS Central on KVM Hypervisor, the set up runs in graphics mode. Installing in text mode is not supported.

### Procedure

**Step 1** Create a VM with the following settings:

Setting	Recommended Value
Name	A descriptive name that includes information about the Cisco UCS Central deployment
RAM	No less than 32GB
Network adapter	Default
Number of vCPU	10
Virtual disk	No less than 100GB of available disk space You also need to create a second 100GB virtual disk under IDE Controller in Step 2.

**Note**

To enable UEFI boot, from the **Overview** section, choose **UEFI X86\_64...** option from the **Firmware** drop-down box.

- Step 2** Under the same IDE controller as the first virtual drive, create a second virtual drive for the VM with no less than 100GB of available disk space.
- Step 3** Mount the Cisco UCS Central ISO image to the CD/DVD drive.
- Step 4** Start the VM and connect to the console.
- Step 5** From the **Cisco UCS Central Installation** menu on the ISO image, choose **Install Cisco UCS Central**.

The Cisco UCS Central installer checks that the VM has the required RAM and disk space (two disks, both with 100GBs). If the VM meets the requirements, the installer formats the disks, transfers the files, and installs Cisco UCS Central.

- Step 6** When the Cisco UCS Central VM has completed the initial part of the installation process, answer the following questions in the VM console window:

- a) Cisco Smart Licensing is mandatory for UCS Central 2.1 and later..

At the following prompt, choose Yes if Smart Licensing is available; otherwise, select No.

```
Please confirm that you have UCS Central licenses in the Cisco Smart Licensing system to proceed [yes/no].
```

```
If no, Cisco Smart Licensing is mandatory for UCS Central 2.1 installation to proceed. Installation is terminating. Press any key to shut down.
```

- b) Setup new configuration or restore full-state configuration from backup [setup/restore] prompt, enter **setup** and press **Enter**.

You must provide a password encryption key to restore the configuration.

- c) At the Enter the UCS Central VM eth0 IPv4 Address : prompt, enter the IP address assigned to Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**

You must enter a static IP address that is reserved for this Cisco UCS Central VM. Cisco UCS Central does not support Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP).

- d) At the Enter the UCS Central VM eth0 IPv4 Netmask : prompt, enter the netmask assigned to Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

- e) At the Enter the Default Gateway : prompt, enter the default gateway used by Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

- f) At the Enter the UCS Central VM host name : prompt, enter the host name you want to use for the Cisco UCS Central VM and press **Enter**.

- g) (Optional) At the Enter the DNS Server IPv4 Address : prompt, enter the IP address for the DNS server you want to use for Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

If you do not plan to use a DNS server for Cisco UCS Central, leave this blank and press **Enter**.

- h) (Optional) At the Enter the Default Domain Name : prompt, enter the domain in which you want to include Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

If you do not plan to include Cisco UCS Central in a domain, leave this blank and press **Enter**. Cisco UCS Central will use the default domain named localdomain.

- i) At the Enforce Strong Password (Yes/No) prompt, if you want to set up strong password alert, select yes and press **Enter**.

- j) At the `Enter the admin Password :` prompt, enter the password you want to use for the admin account and press **Enter**.
- k) At the `Confirm admin Password :` prompt, re-enter the password you want to use for the admin account and press **Enter**.
- l) At the `Enter the Shared Secret :` prompt, enter the shared secret (or password) that you want to use to register one or more Cisco UCS Central with Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

The shared secret can contain only alphanumeric characters (a-z, A-Z, 0-9) and the following special characters:

- Period (.)
- Hyphen (-)
- Underscore (\_)
- Colon (:)

Using only these allowed characters helps avoid the need to re-enter unsupported characters in the shared secret.

- m) At the `Confirm Shared Secret :` prompt, re-enter the shared secret and press **Enter**.
- n) At the `Proceed with this configuration. Please confirm[yes/no]` prompt, enter **yes** and press **Enter**.

If you think you made an error when completing any of these steps, enter **no** and press **Enter**. You will then be prompted to answer the questions again.

## Installing Cisco UCS Central OVA File

### OVA Installation in vCenter

#### Procedure

- Step 1** On the Cisco.com download site for Cisco UCS Central Software, download the Cisco UCS Central OVA. The files are stored in your local download folder.
- Step 2** Log in to the vCenter server, right-click on any inventory object and select **Deploy OVF Template**. The **Deploy OVF Template wizard** is displayed.
- Step 3** Specify the location of the OVA on the **Select an OVF template** page, and click **Next**.
- Step 4** Enter a unique name for the virtual machine, and select a deployment location on the next page. Click **Next**.
- Step 5** Select a resource to run the deployed OVA. Click **Next**.
- Step 6** Verify the OVA details, and click **Next**.
- Step 7** Select a storage location. Click **Next**.

(Optional) Select virtual disk format as **Thin provision**.

**Step 8** Select a source network, and map it to a destination network. Click **Next**.

**Note**

Proceed with the default settings.

**Step 9** Review the information on the **Ready to complete** page, and click **Finish**.

**Step 10** Deploy the OVA file by choosing the ESX host on which you want to host the Cisco UCS Central VM.  
Follow the steps to boot VM and wait until the process is 100% complete to proceed to the next step.

**Step 11** If have not powered up the VM as part of importing the OVA file , power up the Cisco UCS Central VM.

**Step 12** Open up a console window for the Cisco UCS Central VM.

**Step 13** When the Cisco UCS Central VM has completed the initial part of the installation process, answer the following questions in the VM console window:

a) Cisco Smart Licensing is mandatory for UCS Central 2.1 and later..

At the following prompt, choose Yes if Smart Licensing is available; otherwise, select No.

```
Please confirm that you have UCS Central licenses in the Cisco Smart  
Licensing system to proceed [yes/no].
```

```
Ifno,Cisco Smart Licensing is mandatory for UCS Central 2.1 installation  
to proceed. Installation is terminating. Press any key to shut down.
```

b) Setup new configuration or restore full-state configuration from backup  
[setup/restore] prompt, enter **setup** and press **Enter**.

c) At the Enter the UCS Central VM eth0 IPv4 Address : prompt, enter the IP address  
assigned to Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

You must enter a static IP address that is reserved for this Cisco UCS Central VM. Cisco UCS Central  
does not support Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP).

d) At the Enter the UCS Central VM eth0 IPv4 Netmask : prompt, enter the netmask  
assigned to Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

e) At the Enter the Default Gateway : prompt, enter the default gateway used by Cisco UCS  
Central and press **Enter**.

f) At the Enter the UCS Central VM host name : prompt, enter the host name you want to  
use for the Cisco UCS Central VM and press **Enter**.

g) (Optional) At the Enter the DNS Server IPv4 Address : prompt, enter the IP address for  
the DNS server you want to use for Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

If you do not plan to use a DNS server for Cisco UCS Central, leave this blank and press **Enter**.

h) (Optional) At the Enter the Default Domain Name : prompt, enter the domain in which you  
want to include Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

If you do not plan to include Cisco UCS Central in a domain, leave this blank and press **Enter**. Cisco  
UCS Central will use the default domain named localdomain.

i) At the Enforce Strong Password (Yes/No) prompt, if you want to set up strong password alert,  
select yes and press **Enter**.

j) At the Enter the admin Password : prompt, enter the password you want to use for the admin  
account and press **Enter**.

- k) At the `Confirm admin Password` : prompt, re-enter the password you want to use for the admin account and press **Enter**.
- l) At the `Enter the Shared Secret` : prompt, enter the shared secret (or password) that you want to use to register one or more Cisco UCS Central with Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.

The shared secret can contain only alphanumeric characters (a-z, A-Z, 0-9) and the following special characters:

- Period (.)
- Hyphen (-)
- Underscore (\_)
- Colon (:)

Using only these allowed characters helps avoid the need to re-enter unsupported characters in the shared secret.

- m) At the `Confirm Shared Secret` : prompt, re-enter the shared secret and press **Enter**.
- n) At the `Proceed with this configuration. Please confirm[yes/no]` prompt, enter **yes** and press **Enter**.

If you think you made an error when completing any of these steps, enter **no** and press **Enter**. You will then be prompted to answer the questions again.

After you confirm that you want to proceed with the configuration, the network interface reinitializes with your settings and Cisco UCS Central becomes accessible via the IP address.

## Importing the IdenTrust Certificate Chain

The Cisco UCS Central OVA file is signed with an IdenTrust CA certificate, which is not included in VMware's default truststore. As a result, the Review details page in the Deploy OVF Template wizard indicates that you are using an invalid certificate while completing the wizard.

You can prevent this by importing the IdenTrust certificate chain to the host or cluster on which you want to deploy the OVA file.

### Procedure

- Step 1** On the VMware ESXi host or cluster where your virtual appliance will reside, download the **Issuing CA Cert (PEM)** (`trustidevcodesigning4.pem`) and **Root CA Cert** (`identrustcommercialrootca1.pem`) for **TrustID EV Code Signing CA 4** from <https://www.cisco.com/security/pki/codesign>.
- Step 2** Log in to the vSphere Web Client.
- Step 3** Select **Administration > Certificates > Certificate Management**.
- Step 4** In the **Trusted Root Certificates** field, click **Add**.
- Step 5** Check the **Start Root certificate push to vCenter Hosts** check box. Click **Add**.
- Step 6** In the **Add Trusted Root** dialog box, click **Browse**.

**Step 7** Navigate and select the certificate chain you downloaded in Step 1 (**trustidevcodesigning4.pem** and **identrustcommercialrootca1.pem**). Click **Open**.

The files gets displayed in the **Add Trusted Root Certificate** page.

**Step 8** Click **Add**.

A message indicates that the certificate chain was imported.

When you complete the Deploy OVF Template wizard, the Publisher field in the Review details page indicates that you are using a trusted certificate.

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### What to do next

[OVA Installation in VCenter, on page 10](#)

## Resetting the Admin Password

If you misplaced the admin password that you created for your account when you first installed the Cisco UCS Central software, you must reset your password before you can perform any admin-specific tasks.

### Mount the ISO from ESXi:

- Click **Edit Settings** and do the following:
- In the **CD/DVD Media** settings, select the **Browse** option and choose the most recent UCS Central ISO file.
- Under the **Boot Options**, enable **Force BIOS Setup**.
- Click **Save**.
- Reboot the VM instance.
- From the GRUB boot options, choose **Reset UCS Central Admin Password** option.

For additional assistance, please reach out to TAC for further guidance.

Ensure that the ISO image is unmounted after completing the password reset process.

### Mount the ISO from Hyper-V:

- Select the VM settings.
  - Modify the boot sequence in the Firmware settings.
  - Mount the ISO image.
  - Restart the VM instance.
  - Choose the Reset UCS Central password option from the GRUB menu.
- For additional assistance, please reach out to TAC for further guidance.
- Before rebooting, update the boot order to prioritize the disk containing Cisco UCS Central.

### Mount the ISO from RHEL KVM:

- Choose the **Details** option under the **View** section.
- Mount the ISO under SATA CD-ROM drive.
- Update the boot order and ensure both the SATA CD-ROM and the disk containing Cisco UCS Central are selected under Boot options.
- Apply the settings
- Restart the VM instance.
- Choose the **Reset UCS Central password** option from the GRUB menu.  
For further assistance, please contact TAC for additional support.
- Unmount the ISO file before rebooting.

## Upgrading from Cisco UCS Central

### Upgrading from Cisco UCS Central 2.1 Release

#### Memory Allocation and Requirement Validation

The minimum memory requirement is validated during the upgrade of Cisco UCS Central. If the system does not meet this requirement, warning messages are displayed.

- **Configurations for Systems with Less Than 32 GB Memory**

Detected memory: XXXXX MB

The minimum required Memory is 32 GB. For environments with a larger number of domains (approximately 500), 64 GB of Memory is recommended.

Warning : The System Memory is less than required. Do you want to proceed anyway? (Y/N)

- **Configurations for Systems greater or equal to 32 GB Memory**

Detected memory: XXXXX MB

For environments with a larger number of domains (approximately 500), 64 GB of Memory is recommended.

Mounting the ISO ...

- **Configurations for Systems greater or equal to 64 GB Memory**

Detected memory: XXXXX MB

System meets the memory requirement for larger number of domains (approximately 500), continuing ...

Mounting the ISO ...

The minimum memory needed is **32 GB**. If you have **40 or more registered Cisco UCS Domains**, it is recommended to have at least **48 GB** of memory. For very large environments with around **500 domains**, **64 GB** of memory is recommended.

You can upgrade Cisco UCS Central 2.1 to any other later release:

Base Version	Upgradable Version	Upgrade Mode
2.1(1a)	2.1(1b) and above	CLI

Base Version	Upgradable Version	Upgrade Mode
2.1(1b)	2.1(1c) and above	CLI
2.1(1c)	2.1(2a) and above	CLI
2.1(2a)	—	CLI

### Before you begin



**Note** This is applicable for ESXi only.

- Snapshot the existing Cisco UCS Central VM.
- Download the upgrade (.iso) from [software.cisco.com](https://software.cisco.com).
- Upload the .iso to the vCenter Datastore accessible to the Cisco UCS Central VM.

### Procedure

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- Step 1** Mount the ISO from ESXi.
- Step 2** Click **Edit Settings** and do the following:
- In the **CD/DVD drive 1 settings**, select **Connected** option to ensure the drive is active and accessible.
  - In the **CD/DVD Media settings**, select the **Browse** option and choose the most recent UCS Central ISO file.
  - In **Status**, select the **Connect at Power On** checkbox.
  - Click **Save**.
- Step 3** Login to the Cisco UCS Central CLI.
- Step 4** Enter the **connect local-mgmt** command.
- Step 5** Enter the **Upgrade** command.  
Click **Yes** to continue.
- Step 6** After upgrade, do the following:
- Enter the **show version** command to confirm if all the services are upgraded.
  - Enter the **show pmon state** command to confirm if all the services are running.
-

## Upgrading from Cisco UCS Central 2.0 or an Earlier Release

- There is no direct upgrade path supported to Cisco UCS Central release 2.1 from an earlier release.
- Backup restoration to Cisco UCS Central Release 2.1 is supported from Cisco UCS Central Release 2.0(1s) and later.

For more information, see [Installation of Cisco UCS Central](#).

## Restoring the Cisco UCS Central VM

- This procedure describes the process to restore using an OVA and ISO file.
- Backup restoration to Cisco UCS Central Release 2.1(1a) is compatible with Cisco UCS Central version 2.0(1s) and later.
- As a general recommendation, wait approximately 20 to 30 minutes after the restore operation before attempting GUI login. This ensures that system initialization is complete and CPU utilization has normalized, which can be verified through the CLI. Execute the following commands:

```
ucsCentral#connect local-mgmt
ucsCentral(local-managment)#show processes
```

### Before you begin

You must have a backup file with extension .tgz from a Cisco UCS Central system that you want to use to restore the configuration of the Cisco UCS Central VM. For information on how to back up a Cisco UCS Central system, see Managing Back up and Restore in [Cisco UCS Central User Manual and CLI Reference Manual](#).

### Procedure

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- Step 1** Save the Cisco UCS Central OVA file to a folder that you can access from the hypervisor.
- Step 2** Open or import the Cisco UCS Central OVA file into a supported hypervisor, as required by the hypervisor. Do not continue with the next step until the VM has finished booting.
- Step 3** If you have not already done so as part of importing the OVA file, power up the Cisco UCS Central VM.
- Step 4** Open up a console window to the Cisco UCS Central VM.
- Step 5** When the Cisco UCS Central VM has completed the initial part of the installation process, answer the following questions in the VM console window:
- a) Cisco Smart Licensing is mandatory for UCS Central 2.1 and later..
- At the following prompt, choose Yes if Smart Licensing is available; otherwise, select No.
- ```
Please confirm that you have UCS Central licenses in the Cisco Smart
Licensing system to proceed [yes/no].
```
- Ifno,Cisco Smart Licensing is mandatory for UCS Central 2.1 installation to proceed. Installation is terminating. Press any key to shut down.

- b) Setup new configuration or restore full-state configuration from backup [setup/restore] prompt, enter **restore** and press **Enter**.
- c) At the Enter the UCS Central VM eth0 IPv4 Address : prompt, enter the IP address assigned to Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.
- d) At the Enter the UCS Central VM eth0 IPv4 Netmask : prompt, enter the netmask assigned to Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.
- e) At the Enter the Default Gateway : prompt, enter the default gateway used by Cisco UCS Central and press **Enter**.
- f) At the Enter the File copy protocol[tftp/scp/ftp/sftp] : prompt, enter the supported protocol that you want to use to copy the backup file to the Cisco UCS Central VM and press **Enter**.
- g) At the Enter the Backup server IPv4 Address : prompt, enter the IP address assigned to the server where the backup file is stored and press **Enter**.
- h) At the Enter the Backup file path and name : prompt, enter the full file path and name of the backup file on the server and press **Enter**.
- i) At the Enter the Username to be used for backup file transfer : prompt, enter the username the system should use to log in to the remote server and press **Enter**.
- j) At the Enter the Password to be used for backup file transfer : prompt, enter the password for the remote server username and press **Enter**.
- k) At the Enter the key for decrypting the backup file (if backup taken from 201u or before, press enter to proceed : prompt, enter the password encryption key to restore the configuration and press **Enter**.
- l) At the Proceed with this configuration. Please confirm[yes/no] prompt, enter **yes** and press **Enter**.

If you think you made an error when completing any of these steps, enter **no** and press **Enter**. You will then be prompted to answer the questions again.

After you confirm that you want to proceed with the configuration, the network interface reinitializes with your settings and Cisco UCS Central becomes accessible via the IP address.

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### What to do next

After Cisco UCS Central is restored, login to Cisco UCS Central and download the firmware images into Image library. If any firmware images are referenced in the service profiles, then you must make sure that the images are downloaded and available in the image library before you re-acknowledge a Cisco UCS domain from the suspended state.

