aws marketplace

Cisco DNA Center

Reviews, tips, and advice from real users

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Product Recap

Cisco DNA Center

Cisco DNA Center Recap

Cisco DNA Center delivers powerful centralized security, automation, and comprehensive analytics for enhanced network management. With an intuitive dashboard and integration with Cisco devices, it reduces errors, boosts efficiency, and ensures seamless wired and wireless network operations.

Organizations leverage Cisco DNA Center for network management and automation, offering increased visibility into traffic flows and efficient device provisioning. It supports real-time data transmission, network segmentation, and integrates with ISE. Features like wireless assurance, centralized management, and AI-driven insights into network health promote an efficient network environment while addressing compliance issues. However, improvements are necessary for better third-party integration, affordability, and more user-friendly documentation.

What are the solution's most important features?

- Comprehensive Analytics: Provides in-depth network insights through real-time data.
- Centralized Security: Unifies security management, offering enhanced protection.
- Network Management: Simplifies device configuration and policy compliance.
- Automation Capabilities: Reduces human error and facilitates efficient network operations.
- AI-Driven Assurance: Delivers insights into network health for proactive management.

What benefits and ROI should users look for?

- Increased Efficiency: Streamlines operations by reducing manual tasks.
- Improved Security: Enhances protection through centralized policies.
- Cost Effective: Simplifies management, potentially lowering operating costs.
- Enhanced Visibility: Offers comprehensive data for better decision-making.

In industries like healthcare, finance, and education, Cisco DNA Center's advanced features facilitate the management of complex network infrastructures and aid in achieving compliance efficiently. Its ability to manage LANs and WLANs supports diverse networking environments including greenfield projects and SPN setups.

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Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:

- "Scalability in Cisco DNA Center is good; we are using it for Software-Defined Access solution, and we haven't reached our device limit yet— from my experience, we can easily manage numerous devices."

Mahir Öztürk

Network Engineer at NGN Bilgi ve İletişim Hizmetleri

- "The most valuable features include AI-driven insights which make troubleshooting much easier."

Ahmed Helmy

Sr. Director, Business Development & Sales Operations at connect professional services

- "One of the advantages is Cisco support."

Julien KOLLE M

Cloud Infrastructure Architect at POST Luxembourg

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"The monitoring is very valuable to me."

Mustafa Farhat

Systems technician. IT Office at LNU

"The product's most valuable feature is the visual representation of the switch's front panel."

AvrahamSonenthal

Senior Network Engineer at Inside Global

"The most valuable feature of the solution stems from the fact that it gives some kind of ease in operations, especially since our company is moving from CLI to GUI-based configuration."

Bharath _Kumar

Solution Architect at a outsourcing company with 1,001-5,000 employees

"The most valuable feature of Cisco DNA Center is the AI (Artificial Intelligence) that provides us with valuable information."

Edmar Silva

Engineer at AGCO Corporation

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What users had to say about valuable features:

"The most valuable features includes unified visibility and monitoring across LAN & WLAN technologies which make troubleshooting much easier. The real-time monitoring capability of Cisco DNA Center is particularly effective.."

Ahmed Helmy
Sr. Director, Business Development & Sales Operations at connect professional services

Read full review

"The product's most valuable feature is the visual representation of the switch's front panel. It provides a clear, at-a-glance view of each port's status, color-coded based on its status.."

AvrahamSonenthal
Senior Network Engineer at Inside Global

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"The platform's most valuable features are automation and assurance. Automation helps configure devices without manual intervention, enabling zero-touch provisioning. Devices like switches can seamlessly be added to the network, reducing time and effort. It also ensures policy compliance across the network. In addition, the assurance feature provides detailed insights into network health, which is essential for efficient management.."

Validated user
Team Leader support at a computer software company with 501-1,000 employees

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"I mostly use the client history feature of Cisco DNA Center.

"I didn't use the real-time monitoring capability of Cisco DNA Center because I primarily used it for client history regarding issues and problems. I don't use it for real-time monitoring. If there is a problem, I can inspect the situation and see what is happening, which is beneficial.."

Mahir Öztürk
Network Engineer at NGN Bilgi ve İletişim Hizmetleri

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"The features, like segmentation and network automation control solutions, are quite impressive. You can now segment by user identity. This new approach to segmentation by identity is a standout feature.

Automation is another key highlight. With automation, you can automate everything through a single port. This means you can control, monitor, and configure the solution all from one place, which is incredibly convenient.

Additionally, the solution offers robust capabilities to identify and address weak points in the server, helping you pinpoint potential problems quickly. It also includes data analytics, providing customers with enhanced visibility and enabling them to find solutions to various issues quickly.."

SHERIF-HASSAN
Manager (Customer Service) at Raya Integration

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“The best feature of Cisco DNA Center is the visibility page, which is unavailable in Cisco Prime. You can see everything on a single plane of glass on the dashboard, and you don't have to be a technical person to view different data and statistics. For example, you can see the issue alarms, errors, topology, and availability. So the tool gives you good visibility into all that's happening within your network infra. It also provides visibility into your computing environment. Application and performance analytics in huge detail is available in the DNA center.

The reporting is fantastic in both Cisco Prime and Cisco DNA Center, so I rate that feature a nine out of ten. My company migrated clients to the Cisco DNA Center, and the reporting is incredible..”

Olajide Olusegun
Network Team Lead at Atlas Security

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Other Solutions Considered

"The previous solution was also from Cisco. It was Cisco Prime infrastructure. Since Cisco Prime is an old solution and end of life, Cisco upgraded it to Cisco DNA.."

Mustafa Farhat
Systems technician. IT Office at LNU

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"To be honest, I did not test all of the comparable solutions for DNS, such as Mist with Juniper, so I cannot provide a comparison for the overall rating of Cisco DNA Center.."

Julien KOLLE M
Cloud Infrastructure Architect at POST Luxembourg

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"Cisco aims to ensure that all its solutions can coexist through the use of APIs. So if you want to, you can link them together and have the power and control as an administrator. From a technical perspective, I think they have done a lot.."

Shu Isaac Spens
Chief Technology Officer/ Network Engineer at Dunamis Networks Inc

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"Cisco DNA Center is the only product for Software-Defined Access in terms of LAN. You'll find a lot of competitors for SD-WAN, but for SDA technology, Cisco DNA Center is the only one currently, so this is the reason why my company is using the solution.."

Syed Aathif Hussain
Principal Associate IT at a tech services company with 10,001+ employees

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ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

"It's a very good product, however, it comes with a very high price. The customer needs to pay a license for each client inside Cisco DNA, each switch, and each access point to get it to work.."

Mustafa Farhat
Systems technician. IT Office at LNU

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"As system integrators, we're now able to use an operations team to follow specific and highly difficult problems and not losing a lot of time in garbage ticket to configure a single port, a single policy, etc.."

Validated user
Network and Security Engineer at Lutech Group

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Use Case

"We primarily use the platform for monitoring, especially within our wireless network. Additionally, we have started registering our 9300 and 9400 switches, although the primary focus remains on monitoring and alarming purposes.."

AvrahamSonenthal
Senior Network Engineer at Inside Global

Read full review

"We have been working with Cisco DNA Center for ten years. Our clients use Cisco DNA Center for unified visibility/monitoring across Enterprise Campus both LAN & WLAN along with Access and fast technical issues troubleshooting.."

Ahmed Helmy
Sr. Director, Business Development & Sales Operations at connect professional services

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"Our customers use the solution to manage and centrally apply device policies. Many administrators are moving away from manual configuration, and DNA Center helps automate network management. Some use it purely for assurance, such as troubleshooting, monitoring, and generating network performance reports. The 360-degree view feature is widely used for monitoring networks, and many customers also leverage automation and access control features.."

Validated user
Team Leader support at a computer software company with 501-1,000 employees

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"In my organization, we currently have some Cisco devices such as access switches, and we also have infrastructure, but that is not part of our responsibility. We do not manage that infrastructure. We have a software-defined network running, but this is a campus environment, and another team manages it because we specialize in the data center only.

"We have Cisco DNA Center, but we are not managing it directly; another team manages it.."

Julien KOLLE M
Cloud Infrastructure Architect at POST Luxembourg

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"I use Cisco DNA Center mainly for greenfield, which is for bringing up the site, adding the devices, and doing day 0 and day 1. With the tool, the key important part handled is in terms of wireless assurance. The tool's Wireless Assurance version provides me with a good amount of data to help me understand how my wireless network functions within the network. The guided remediation helps with the tool's offerings in terms of AI and machine learning, especially if there are a lot of devices and there will be a lot of notifications. In my company, we can select the golden software image, and we can activate and distribute it in bulk. The SIEM compliance part and the integrations that it has in terms of Cisco ISE will form the segmentation in terms of SDN.."

Bharath _Kumar
Solution Architect at a outsourcing company with 1,001-5,000 employees

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"We deploy the Cisco DNA Center through Cisco Prime Migration, and we use Cisco DNA Center to monitor all the wired connections, endpoints, and switches such as access switches, data center switches, and routers. We also manage the wireless access points through the Cisco DNA Center.

We get reports on availability, health, manageability, logs, and critical errors. We monitor and maintain all the network devices using the solution.."

Olajide Olusegun
Network Team Lead at Atlas Security

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Setup

The setup process involves configuring and preparing the product or service for use, which may include tasks such as installation, account creation, initial configuration, and troubleshooting any issues that may arise. Below you can find real user quotes about the setup process.

"Deployment is not difficult; it could take approximately a day to complete, assuming we have all the necessary information and the initial email from Cisco.

."

Joni Saputro

System Engineer at Packet System Indonesia

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"I rate the initial setup a six out of ten. The time it takes to set up depends on the solution and the size of the customer. But typically, if everything goes smoothly and we're dealing with just one building or three to four floors, it might take a maximum of one week to get everything settled.."

SHERIF-HASSAN

Manager (Customer Service) at Raya Integration

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"The deployment is easy after we get the IOS image. However, when compared to cloud-hosted solutions, the process requires manual work. We have to deploy it manually. If everything is ready, it takes us a full day to deploy the tool. It takes one week to deploy it if we have to prepare the network and get the IOS image.

One engineer is enough to deploy the tool. Maintenance is not super easy. The upgrades are time-consuming. The features do not work as they're supposed to sometimes. If there are errors, we have to contact Cisco TAC.."

Validated user Read full review

Consultant - Enterprise Managed Services Centre Of Excellence (EMS-COE) at a comms service provider with 10,001+ employees

"The deployment of Cisco DNA Center was complex due to the fact that on the data center side, we have a Juniper infrastructure, which created some complexity, though not significant.

"The deployment for Cisco DNA Center took approximately six to seven months; I do not remember exactly.

"The reason it took so long for the deployment is because they were deploying it building by building.."

Julien KOLLE M Read full review

Cloud Infrastructure Architect at POST Luxembourg

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“I rate the initial setup around seven to eight. While the physical setup, like rack-mounting, is straightforward, the complexity arises in gathering the prerequisites, such as management IP addresses and other configuration details from the customer. With proper planning, the setup can be completed in about 30 minutes. However, the lengthy upgrade process remains a challenge.

It is mostly deployed on-premises. It comes with UCS appliances, and most customers prefer the on-premise deployment for security and performance reasons. Although cloud deployment options may be available, most of our deployments are on-prem.

The deployment time depends on the size of the customer's network. Smaller setups can take a few days if all prerequisites are in place. However, larger networks, especially those requiring fabric-enabled switches or firewall integration, can take longer. The DNA Center's configuration is relatively simple, but preparing the network infrastructure can extend the timeline..”

Validated user

Team Leader support at a computer software company with 501-1,000 employees

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"The product is easy to deploy.

The number of engineers or architects required for the deployment and maintenance of the tool depends on the size of the organization. Suppose you are catering to the needs of an organization where there are more than 40 or 50 sites are there with one DNS center, which is deployed in an HQ or a regional center, even if you roughly have a Cisco stack consisting of wired and wireless tools if you have Cisco DNA Center, even if it is based on a twenty-four hours and seven days a week shift, you can able to manage the entire network with around three to four engineers.

The time required to install the product depends on the scale at which you plan to deploy the tool. For just doing the basics related to the deployment part involving or utilizing enterprise port or cluster port, you just make it up and get it connected to the network and reach out to Cisco sites to download anything, which will take maybe one to two hours to just to make it up if every prerequisite is met and are in place.."

Bharath _Kumar

Solution Architect at a outsourcing company with 1,001-5,000 employees

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Customer Service and Support

"I did not talk with Cisco support directly, but according to my colleagues, the support for Cisco DNA Center is good. On a scale from one to ten, it would rate seven or eight.."

Mahir Öztürk
Network Engineer at NGN Bilgi ve İletişim Hizmetleri

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"I faced a few problems during the solution's upgrade process, and TAC took a few hours to fix it. I'm pretty comfortable with the solution's technical support.."

Edmar Silva
Engineer at AGCO Corporation

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"Cisco is good at helping with technical stuff, and they have a special team to ensure customers have a great experience. They provide all the help and advice you need, starting immediately, even before you go.."

Validated user
Sr. Solutions Architect, Consulting Engineer at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

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"There are several compliance issues that they are unable to resolve. The response time is very slow, and we must change the agent frequently because the agents cannot address questions.."

Igor Bobrov
Head of Cisco Department at MUK

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"The technical support is not excellent, but it is good. If we seek information that is not in the public documentation, then we don't get answers from Cisco TAC. The support could be improved. If we are unsure about the behavior of a feature or application, we should get proper documentation from Cisco on how the feature should work.."

Validated user
Consultant - Enterprise Managed Services Centre Of Excellence (EMS-COE) at a comms service provider with 10,001+ employees

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"For support, Cisco demonstrates themselves as more reactive, and I think they are better than Juniper.

"One of the advantages is Cisco support.

"I would rate Cisco support easily at nine out of ten.."

Julien KOLLE M
Cloud Infrastructure Architect at POST Luxembourg

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Other Advice

"I am a Cisco Gold partner and currently Managing Director at CONNECT-PS ConnectProfessional Services Saudi Regional Office. The overall rating for Cisco DNA Center is 8 out of 10.."

Ahmed Helmy
Sr. Director, Business Development & Sales Operations at connect professional services

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"Cisco needs to review the pricing of the Cisco DNA license. Otherwise, they might lose customers.

I rate the overall solution between eight out of ten.."

Mustafa Farhat
Systems technician. IT Office at LNU

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"My company uses Cisco DNA Center.

I'd tell anyone planning to use Cisco DNA Center to use it, especially when you have Cisco products or devices, such as wireless, security, and voice. Cisco DNA Center is the best product for network monitoring and management. You can use Cisco Prime, but I prefer Cisco DNA Center because the visibility available there. You can see almost all information on a single page of the dashboard. If you have a Cisco environment, it's best to go for Cisco DNA Center.

I would give Cisco DNA Center an eight out of ten overall.."

Olajide Olusegun
Network Team Lead at Atlas Security

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"I have not worked with Cisco Wireless 9110 access points, and I did not work on the recent models.

"I have never worked with Cisco Crosswork technology.

"I have never worked on TIBCO Spotfire; I never had a chance to work on it.

"My overall rating for this solution is eight out of ten.."

Julien KOLLE M
Cloud Infrastructure Architect at POST Luxembourg

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"I am just a customer in relation to Cisco.

"I don't know anything about prices and licensing of Cisco DNA Center because it's

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not my job; I'm just using it.

“I have Cisco DNA Center deployed on-premises.

“I have approximately three years of experience working in my current field.

“I rate Cisco DNA Center overall nine out of ten..”

Mahir Öztürk
Network Engineer at NGN Bilgi ve İletişim Hizmetleri

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“The platform's biggest benefit has been in managing our wireless network. Having a single pane of glass to control all wireless controllers and access points and to monitor activity has been a significant advantage.

We're a small federal agency with around 300 network devices, so automation is a minor focus. It's more relevant for larger networks.

The main benefits we've seen are in inventory management and the potential for configuration automation. However, I recommend using the DNA Centre only for larger networks with over a thousand devices; otherwise, it may not be cost-effective.

Before proceeding, ensure that your devices are compatible with DNA Center, as not all Cisco devices are supported. Also, investing in proper training is different from plug-and-play.

I rate it an eight. .”

AvrahamSonenthal
Senior Network Engineer at Inside Global

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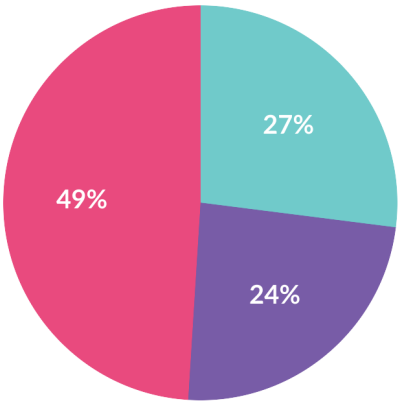

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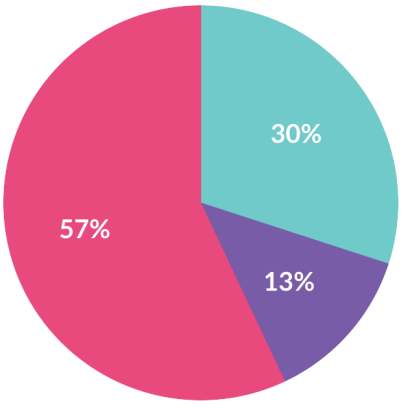

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