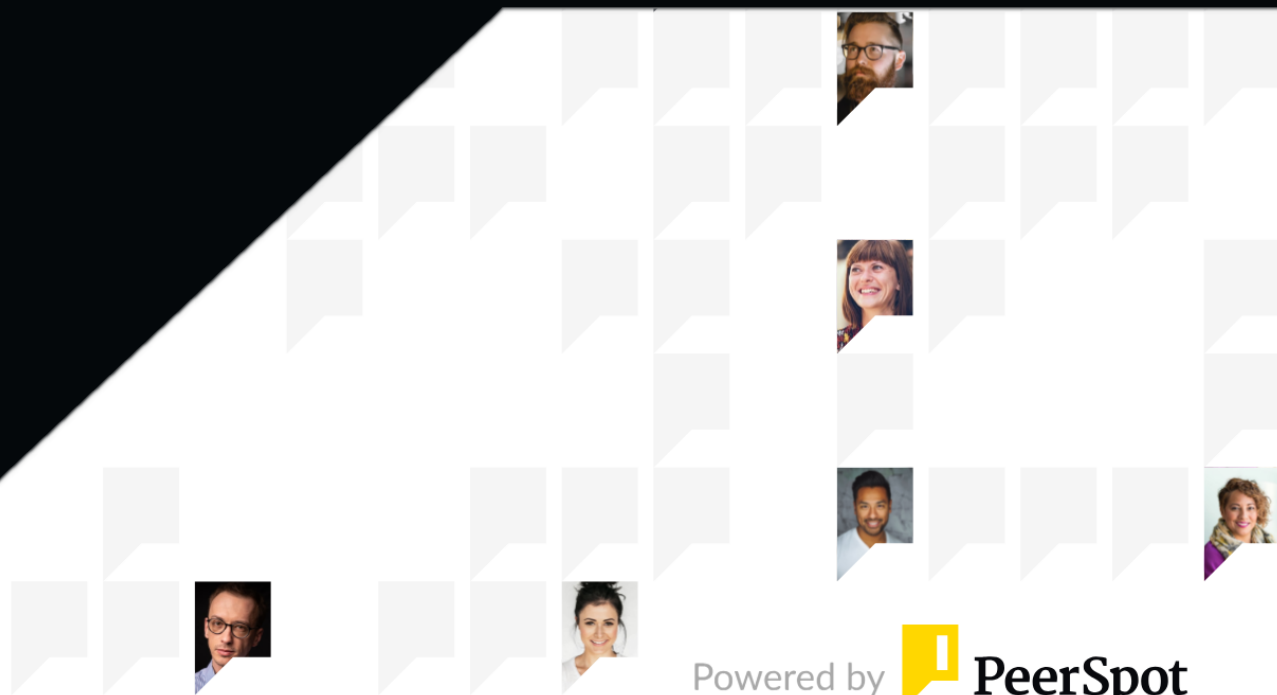




Cisco Nexus Dashboard

Reviews, tips, and advice from real users



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Product Recap



Cisco Nexus Dashboard

Cisco Nexus Dashboard Recap

Cisco Nexus Dashboard offers an integrated infrastructure management solution. Designed to streamline network operations, it provides centralized visibility and control across diverse environments, ensuring efficient management and coordination.

Cisco Nexus Dashboard addresses the complexities of modern network management. It optimizes workflows and reduces operational overhead with its centralized platform. The dashboard enhances efficiency by integrating seamlessly with existing infrastructure, enabling administrators to efficiently configure and monitor their networks. The platform's capabilities support network agility, allowing organizations to adapt to changing demands while maintaining consistent performance and security standards.

What are the key features of Cisco Nexus Dashboard?

- **Centralized Management:** Unifies network operations in a single interface.
- **Multi-Cloud Support:** Manages cloud and on-premises environments.
- **Comprehensive Visibility:** Offers real-time insights into network performance.
- **Scalability:** Adapts to growing network demands efficiently.
- **Automation:** Reduces manual processes to enhance productivity.

What benefits can users expect from Cisco Nexus Dashboard?

- **Cost Reduction:** Minimizes operational costs through automation and efficiency.
- **Improved Performance:** Enhances network reliability and speed.
- **Enhanced Security:** Strengthens security protocols with comprehensive monitoring.
- **Increased Agility:** Supports quick adaptation to market and technology changes.

Cisco Nexus Dashboard finds application across sectors like finance, healthcare, and telecom. In finance, it ensures secure, reliable transactions. Healthcare benefits from improved data handling and security compliance, while telecom relies on it for robust network management and service delivery.

Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:



“I can tell several advantages of Cisco Nexus Dashboard like centralized management that allows managing and monitoring multiple Nexus switches and data center fabrics from one platform.”



Karthik Shivaram

Technical Director at STI INFOTECH PVT LTD



“Cisco Nexus Dashboard is very advanced and very smart, and it has a Cisco brand name to it.”



AadishBahati

Principal Solution Architect at EchoStor



“Regarding return on investment for Cisco Nexus Dashboard, I would say 100%.”



AbhinavSingh

Technical Marketing Engineer Hybrid Cloud Infrastructures at NetApp



“What I like the most about Cisco Nexus Dashboard is the easier way to know exactly which device is connected to where.”



Vijaya Mandadi

Senior Network Engineer at Wells Fargo



“Customers who have adopted Cisco Nexus Dashboard experience benefits due to their existing Nexus infrastructure, which typically includes twenty to thirty switches arranged in a leaf and spine architecture.”



Bharath_Kumar

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



“The feature I appreciate most about Cisco Nexus Dashboard is the ability to control everything in one centralized place.”



Rafael Cabrera

Systems Administrator at San Mateo Health Commission

What users had to say about valuable features:

What I like the most about Cisco Nexus Dashboard is the easier way to know exactly which device is connected to where. It paints a pretty picture, and if there is a link that is down, it color codes it to indicate that you need to pay attention there, among other things. Those are my favorites.

Vijaya Mandadi

Senior Network Engineer at Wells Fargo

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“The feature I appreciate most about Cisco Nexus Dashboard is the ability to control everything in one centralized place.

“This centralized place feature benefits my organization because most of our devices are Cisco, so I can see if something is going on with the device, if something is going wrong with the port, and other issues. It is literally a centralized place where I can see everything..”

Rafael Cabrera

Systems Administrator at San Mateo Health Commission

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“I can tell several advantages of Cisco Nexus Dashboard like centralized management that allows managing and monitoring multiple Nexus switches and data center fabrics from one platform. It provides multi-site visibility because of the visibility across multiple data center sites. There are plenty of parameters, and the automation is more advanced than it was earlier, which has reduced manual work in automation. Real-time monitoring, health performance, and network status visibility, as well as analytics, both historical and real-time telemetry, help identify performance issues.

“End-to-end visibility refers to the reliability from the application to the end user. This is a major benefit, as it includes application to networking visibility, traffic flow visibility, fabric-wide health monitoring, interface error and packet drops, latency and performance monitoring. Cisco Nexus Dashboard also provides multi-site visibility and proactive identification of network issues..”

Karthik Shivaram

Technical Director at STI INFOTECH PVT LTD

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“Regarding data center networking, I am working with Cisco Nexus Dashboard and Cisco switches, and Nexus completely falls under my responsibility.

“Cisco Nexus Dashboard is in use today, and we are proposing it to many customers.

“Speaking about the end-to-end visibility that Cisco offers, my impression is that any kind of visibility comes from historical telemetry data, which is a time-series database. The same principle applies whether it is Cisco DNA Center or Cisco Nexus Dashboard, which also stores historical telemetry data. For example, if a certain service running has a crash, I can review the network conditions from approximately ten to fifteen minutes prior to the crash using the time-series database historical telemetry data. Cisco Nexus Dashboard also has certain machine learning capabilities that detect unexpected patterns, such as when CPU utilization exceeds eighty percent. It can provide alerts for deviations beyond baseline patterns. Additionally, it supplies detailed flow telemetry, including source and destination IP, which aids in connective analysis..”

Bharath_Kumar

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

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“The biggest benefits are the scalability, the granularity, and the modularity. The design it prefers and the out-of-the-box capabilities and features that it provides are all really good advantages of Cisco Nexus Dashboard.

“In terms of features, the orchestration is valuable. The one feature that I really appreciate the most is the day-to-day operations, which is a very smart fault analysis and fault troubleshooting feature called Nexus Insights. That is a very good feature which only VMware has something of that quality. Nexus Insights, which sits along with Cisco Nexus Dashboard, is really good.

“End-to-end visibility across the devices and across the sites is really good.

“The deployment model is mostly hybrid, but I would say more on-premise and less hybrid.

“Cisco Nexus Dashboard is very scalable. Even if you have to scale in or scale out one device or one site or 100 devices and 100 sites, it is just a matter of plug-and-play. When we were turning on 100 devices, they were all happening in parallel. That is exactly how it happens with the sites. If you want to add a site, just make sure they are physically connected to a cable which can pass on the message to Cisco Nexus Dashboard. Cisco Nexus Dashboard can take care of everything from there.

“Cisco Nexus Dashboard is very advanced and very smart, and it has a Cisco brand name to it. I have seen HPE's, Arista, and Juniper orchestrators, and all these vendors have their own. I would not say that they are not smart enough, but they are not as smart as Cisco because Cisco has solved the biggest challenge of the multi-site data center better than anyone else. Over the past 10 years, Cisco has been a pioneer in leading all these advanced design solutions. Everyone is doing it now, but Cisco started it. Everyone copies it at this point and does the same thing, but Cisco is still doing it better because Cisco has been doing this for at least a decade, maybe more than that. Cisco is definitely way ahead. Sometimes people say Cisco ACI or Cisco Nexus Dashboard is hard and complex, but I feel Cisco is way more advanced and way ahead of its market. It has given a NASA-level of technology to normal enterprise corporate networks. It is way advanced..”

“The best features that I encounter in Cisco Nexus Dashboard include managing everything with Cisco Intersight if I have invested in Cisco equipment, such as Catalyst or IOS for WAN connectivity, and using Nexus for my data center. That is the first main benefit. The second benefit is the configuration since things are moving from a specialist to a generalist approach, so I don't need to put a lot of effort during my operations. There is now a transition into a graphical user interface where I have templates and options defined. I simply select the right template and configure things properly without worrying about how the configuration will apply. These advantages are applicable to all Cisco devices in my data center.

“Regarding end-to-end visibility that Cisco offers with Cisco Nexus Dashboard, my impression is that visibility is very good and top-notch because of the extended packet visibility we have now. With Cisco Nexus Dashboard, I can go beyond having visibility. There is a feature called Cisco Live Protect, which utilizes a Tetragon agent, but I need to be on the correct NX-OS firmware. Once I integrate with Cisco Nexus Dashboard and configure the proper telemetry, I can identify any threats happening to my Nexus switch and immediately prevent those threats due to the deep visibility provided by Cisco Nexus Dashboard.

“The advantages of Cisco Nexus Dashboard in data center networking need us to consider two things: classical Ethernet and three-tier topology versus spine-leaf topology. The moment we look into spine-leaf topology, it becomes very complex because of the VXLAN configuration, and I need to have a network which supports zero packet loss for the environment. From a configuration point of view, it is very complex as I need to build a Layer 3 overlay and then do the VLAN segmentation. With Cisco Nexus Dashboard, I have prepopulated templates for that configuration. For example, if I need to build an AI training infrastructure, I need to ensure my back-end network, responsible for carrying GPU to GPU traffic or GPU to GPU communication, has an RDMA-backed lossless fabric. Cisco Nexus Dashboard provides template definitions that I can use, and I just need to map it to the right interface or port channel. If Cisco Nexus Dashboard did not exist, configuring it would be highly complex with a high chance of misconfiguration affecting bandwidth.

“Apart from that, Cisco Nexus Dashboard gives me visibility since it has deep integration with Nexus telemetry and Cisco's acquisition of Isovalent, a company providing a container network interface called Cilium. With the EBPF extended Berkeley Packet Filtering capability, I can now look into Nexus switch traffic, and this feature is integrated with Cisco Nexus Dashboard. If I am running the Advantage license, I can look into the packet ingress and egress of the switch and determine if the configuration is done appropriately or if I need to fine-tune my fabric. These are the core benefits I get from Cisco Nexus Dashboard..”

AbhinavSingh

Technical Marketing Engineer Hybrid Cloud Infrastructures at NetApp

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Other Solutions Considered

“I did not consider any other solutions before selecting Cisco Nexus Dashboard because I always have Cisco equipment, so I am not going to any other provider..”

Rafael Cabrera

Systems Administrator at San Mateo Health Commission

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“We are selling HP along with Cisco for servers, as Cisco servers are already obsolete. They have been discontinued, and there are no Cisco servers available in the market any longer. The highest market share is held by HP and Dell. Dell is also part of what we sell..”

Karthik Shivaram

Technical Director at STI INFOTECH PVT LTD

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“VMware, which is now Broadcom, stopped supporting VMM integration with Cisco ACI and Cisco Nexus Dashboard just for the reason that Cisco was able to manage VMware's world to a large extent and people were really loving it. They stopped supporting it with no good reasons just to make customers' lives harder and Cisco's life harder..”

AadishBahati

Principal Solution Architect at EchoStor

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“Prior to adopting Cisco Nexus Dashboard, I was using a solution called Splunk to address similar needs.

“I considered the change to Cisco Nexus Dashboard because at the time I got Splunk, it was more command line oriented, with people doing coding and other technical tasks. Cisco Nexus Dashboard provides GUI visibility, so you can see what is actually going on through an interface rather than through commands..”

Rafael Cabrera

Systems Administrator at San Mateo Health Commission

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ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

“Regarding the return on investment for Cisco Nexus Dashboard, I believe it is 100 percent effective because of the capabilities it offers. Configuring a VXLAN-based fabric is not easy and requires a lot of expertise due to its complexity. With Cisco Nexus Dashboard, I can simply go and configure what I need. This is one of the biggest unique selling points or ROI as it saves me time on operational aspects, and deployment can be seamless..”

AbhinavSingh

Technical Marketing Engineer Hybrid Cloud Infrastructures at NetApp

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Use Case

Our main use case for Cisco Nexus Dashboard is to ensure that all devices have the correct code and to identify any configuration changes between the leaves. If they are not in sync, we try to have that notify us so that we can go and rectify it.

Vijaya Mandadi

Senior Network Engineer at Wells Fargo

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“I have been dealing with Nexus switching for more than four to five years. I have been using Cisco Nexus Dashboard since approximately one and a half years ago, and I am currently pitching it mostly to my existing customers who have Nexus infrastructure and who did not want to pursue an ACI environment..”

Bharath_Kumar

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

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“I acknowledge that some of our customers are using Cisco Enterprise routers. I have been dealing with this product for more than a decade. I generally recommend Cisco Enterprise routers for types of companies that almost only require enterprise routers, which is about 2% to 3%, not more than that. These are very rare cases we are providing. I am not that much familiar with routers in general, and I am only talking about Cisco routers..”

Karthik Shivaram

Technical Director at STI INFOTECH PVT LTD

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“I have been working with Cisco Nexus Dashboard for 15 years in different roles. Sometimes I was directly at Cisco, some years I was in Cisco TAC in the support team, and I have been working with multiple partners for professional services, managed service providers, and resellers. So I have been in many companies..”

AadishBahati

Principal Solution Architect at EchoStor

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“The major use case for Cisco Nexus Dashboard is for developing the solution. Since I am part of FlexPod, I use Cisco Nexus Dashboard to configure Nexus switches. This could be a standard workload or it could be an AIML workload..”

AbhinavSingh

Technical Marketing Engineer Hybrid Cloud Infrastructures at NetApp

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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.

“Regarding the installation side for Cisco Nexus Dashboard, I can say it is not overly complex, as my team has not encountered significant challenges during deployment..”

Bharath_Kumar

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

“I describe my experience with deploying Cisco Nexus Dashboard as slightly complicated when compared to other products. Cisco has different algorithms and terminologies. With 100 brands available in the market, 99 of them have the same templates to deploy, but Cisco has different algorithms. Only certified Cisco engineers can do it easily; otherwise, it can be quite difficult for an average user..”

Karthik Shivaram

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Technical Director at STI INFOTECH PVT LTD

“The deployment of Cisco Nexus Dashboard is usually straightforward; I have options to deploy directly on servers as bare metal or also on a VMware-based environment. It is straightforward, but I need to understand what features I want to use from Cisco Nexus Dashboard. Based on that, I select my appliance. Customers may first want to see the capabilities, so they can deploy a single instance to have telemetry or visibility of their Nexus environment. If all advanced features are desired, there is a recommended guide indicating how many servers to deploy. I think it is straightforward as I just need to follow the guide..”

AbhinavSingh

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Technical Marketing Engineer Hybrid Cloud Infrastructures at NetApp

“In terms of zero-touch provisioning or plug-and-play feature, let us say you have 100 switches and you want to set them all up. To bootstrap those switches, you would need at least 40 minutes per device. That is very aggressive, and it is always more than that. Imagine 40 minutes times 100. You can see how many days you are counting. With Cisco Nexus Dashboard, you simply plug in the cables. The bootstrap, if you really want to count the bootstrap time, is reduced to 15-20 minutes. If you count the time that you are spending, that is nearly one minute. Imagine 40 minutes down to one minute. What was 4,000 minutes is now down to 100 minutes. Not even 100 minutes, because now all the switches are getting bootstrapped in parallel. So it is 4,000 minutes down to one minute. That is amazing..”

AadishBahati

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Principal Solution Architect at EchoStor

Customer Service and Support

On a scale of one to ten, I would rate technical support at a ten because if you do not know something, the TAC guys are going to walk you from end-to-end.

Vijaya Mandadi

Senior Network Engineer at Wells Fargo

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“Some regions in Cisco TAC, like the Sydney region, is really good. The US region is really good, the San Jose one and the other ones. The Indian region, also the Bangalore one, is pretty good, but a few regions in India and some other Asian zones need some better training so they can troubleshoot the issues faster. They take way too long..”

AadishBahati

Principal Solution Architect at EchoStor

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“I would give Cisco Nexus Dashboard support a rating of 7.5 out of 10 as I did for technical support.

“The reason I give such a rating is that it relates to where the case is getting landed, which is region-specific. However, since I need to rate it globally, this is why I am giving 7.5..”

AbhinavSingh

Technical Marketing Engineer Hybrid Cloud Infrastructures at NetApp

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“I give recognition to Cisco for their technical support; they provide very good support. They address issues based on the CON-SNT support that is opted by customers. It is good support if you ask me. I can rate their technical support five out of five.

“That being said, you can take it as 4.5 out of 10, because sometimes there may be delays..”

Karthik Shivaram

Technical Director at STI INFOTECH PVT LTD

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“I evaluate customer service and tech support for Cisco Nexus Dashboard as good, but sometimes it is challenging, and I have to escalate the case.

“When I write a ticket for support, they respond immediately. I have no issues with that. It is just when they need to fix the problem that some people have to escalate because they do not have the knowledge or understanding of what is going on..”

Rafael Cabrera

Systems Administrator at San Mateo Health Commission

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Other Advice

“Cisco Nexus Dashboard has its learning curve, but once you do it at least once or twice, it is very straightforward. End-to-end visibility across the devices and across the sites is really good. I would rate this product a 10 out of 10..”

AadishBahati

Principal Solution Architect at EchoStor

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“As of now, I do not have an idea about whether Cisco optimizes the experience in a hybrid or distributed enterprise setup. Integrating AI would take care of all aspects. A single prompt would be sufficient to enable it, whereas competitors such as Juniper and Aruba have already incorporated AI integration and self-healing networks. I have given Cisco Nexus Dashboard an overall review rating of 7 out of 10..”

Karthik Shivaram

Technical Director at STI INFOTECH PVT LTD

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I have been using Cisco Nexus Dashboard for three to four years initially, and then got switched to Arista, and now it is coming back again as we just deployed the servers for those who are in the process of setting it up. I do not think Cisco optimizes the experience of a hybrid or distributed enterprise setup because we have Arista in our network too. I do not know how end-to-end visibility from Cisco affects my organization's troubleshooting capabilities. The first time when we got Cisco deployed, for some reason, it was not as scalable as how we wanted because

the leaves stopped growing after approximately 150 or something. We needed to be scaled much larger, and that is when we pivoted from Cisco to Arista. However, I think it is coming back as they eliminated that problem. I would rate this review at a nine out of ten.

Vijaya Mandadi

Senior Network Engineer at Wells Fargo

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“Cisco Nexus Dashboard definitely optimizes my experience in a hybrid or distributed enterprise setup. Even until now, I was talking about LAN; in a SAN environment, I can also do MDS configuration and Fiber Channel configuration using Cisco Nexus Dashboard, as it has SAN module support. There is a product called [Cisco Nexus](#) One that enables me to integrate my existing environment and manage everything, including Cisco [ASA](#), Nexus, and Catalyst environments, with a single pane of glass. I gave Cisco Nexus Dashboard an overall review rating of 9 out of 10..”

AbhinavSingh

Technical Marketing Engineer Hybrid Cloud Infrastructures at NetApp

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“I do not have any specific challenges with hybrid and distributed enterprise networks that Cisco addresses, because everything is set up so well that I do not have any problems.

“The end-to-end visibility affects my organization's troubleshooting capabilities in that I do not use it as the main software. I have other software that I use to troubleshoot issues, but it is one of the tools that I can use. Most of the troubleshooting I do is through another software called Splunk, which is also owned by Cisco, and I prefer the coding part because I can track things better than just looking at Cisco Nexus Dashboard.

“I rate this review as a 10..”

Rafael Cabrera

Systems Administrator at San Mateo Health Commission

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“Hypothetically, they could add features in the future, and they might be planning some integrations based on their product documents.

“Customers who have adopted Cisco Nexus Dashboard experience benefits due to their existing Nexus infrastructure, which typically includes twenty to thirty switches arranged in a leaf and spine architecture. After moving from FEX to leaf and spine, one customer wanted greater control instead of managing on a box-to-box basis or through the command line interface, and they benefit from the improved management and visibility that Cisco Nexus Dashboard provides.

“For those customers that have already adopted Cisco Nexus Dashboard, if I want to get full visibility and insights, I need to go for the Premier subscription. Each node type has limitations regarding device quantity management, which is acceptable as long as we are aware of the licensing requirements to access full insights.

“I would rate this product an eight out of ten..”

Bharath_Kumar

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

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