

cisco ise ordering guide

Cisco ISE Ordering Guide: Understanding the Essentials of Cisco Identity Services Engine

Cisco Identity Services Engine (ISE) is a powerful network security policy management platform that enables organizations to enforce security policies across their networks. It provides a comprehensive solution for access control, device profiling, guest access management, and compliance with regulatory requirements. For IT decision-makers and procurement teams, understanding how to effectively order Cisco ISE is crucial for ensuring the right deployment for their organization's needs. This article serves as a detailed ordering guide, outlining the key components, licensing options, and considerations for Cisco ISE.

Understanding Cisco ISE Components

Before diving into the ordering process, it's important to familiarize yourself with the key components of Cisco ISE. The platform comprises several elements that play a critical role in its functionality:

1. ISE Deployment Options

Cisco ISE can be deployed in various configurations, including:

- Physical Appliance: A dedicated hardware appliance designed to run ISE.
- Virtual Appliance: A virtual machine that can be deployed on existing virtualization infrastructure.
- Cloud-Based Deployment: Cisco ISE can also be deployed as a cloud service, allowing for easier scalability and management.

2. ISE Nodes

An ISE deployment typically consists of different nodes, including:

- Policy Service Node (PSN): Handles authentication, authorization, and profiling.
- Administration Node: Centralizes management and reporting functions.
- Monitoring Node: Collects logs and provides monitoring capabilities.

3. Licenses

Cisco ISE operates on a licensing model based on specific feature sets and the number of devices. Understanding these licenses is crucial for proper ordering.

Licensing Models for Cisco ISE

Cisco ISE offers various licensing options tailored to different organizational needs. The primary licensing models include:

1. Base License

This license provides essential functionalities, including:

- Basic authentication and authorization.
- Device profiling.
- Guest access management.

2. Plus License

The Plus License builds upon the Base License, adding features such as:

- Advanced profiling and posture assessment.
- Integration with Cisco TrustSec.
- Support for additional device types.

3. Apex License

The Apex License offers the most comprehensive feature set, including:

- All features available in Base and Plus Licenses.
- Threat intelligence and advanced security features.
- Enhanced visibility and analytics.

Ordering Cisco ISE: A Step-by-Step Guide

To effectively order Cisco ISE, follow these steps:

1. Assess Your Needs

- Determine the number of devices and users that will connect to the network.
- Identify the specific features required based on your organization's security policies.
- Consider future scalability needs.

2. Choose the Deployment Model

- Decide whether a physical, virtual, or cloud-based deployment is best for your organization.
- Assess existing infrastructure for virtual deployments.

3. Select the Appropriate Licenses

- Choose between Base, Plus, and Apex licenses based on your feature requirements.
- Consider the number of licenses needed for concurrent users and devices.

4. Consult with a Cisco Partner

- Engage with a Cisco partner or reseller to get insights into the latest offerings and potential discounts.
- Review any available bundle options that may provide cost savings.

5. Place Your Order

- Once you have all necessary information, place your order through your chosen Cisco partner or reseller.
- Ensure you receive all confirmation details and licensing information.

Considerations for Successful Implementation

Once you have ordered Cisco ISE, successful implementation is key to maximizing its benefits. Here are some considerations:

1. Training and Certification

Invest in training for your IT staff to ensure they are well-equipped to manage and utilize Cisco ISE effectively. Cisco offers various training programs and certification options.

2. Network Assessment

Conduct a thorough assessment of your existing network infrastructure. This will help identify potential integration challenges and ensure a smooth deployment.

3. Pilot Testing

Before a full rollout, consider conducting a pilot test of Cisco ISE in a controlled environment. This allows you to identify issues and fine-tune configurations.

4. Continuous Monitoring and Updates

Once deployed, continuously monitor the performance of Cisco ISE. Regular updates and patch management are crucial for maintaining security and functionality.

Conclusion

Ordering Cisco ISE requires careful consideration of your organization's specific needs, deployment preferences, and licensing options. By following this guide, IT decision-makers can navigate the ordering process confidently, ensuring that they select the right components and configurations for their network security requirements. With the proper deployment and ongoing management, Cisco ISE can significantly enhance your organization's security posture, streamline access control, and ensure compliance with regulatory standards.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Cisco ISE and why is it important for network security?

Cisco Identity Services Engine (ISE) is a security policy management platform that provides secure access control for network devices and users. It is important for network security as it helps organizations enforce security policies, manage user identities, and ensure compliance while offering visibility into who is accessing the network.

Where can I find the latest Cisco ISE ordering guide?

The latest Cisco ISE ordering guide can typically be found on the official Cisco website under the 'Products' section, or through Cisco's partner portals for authorized resellers.

What are the key components included in the Cisco ISE ordering guide?

The Cisco ISE ordering guide includes components such as software licenses, hardware appliances, virtual appliances, and any additional modules or features that may be necessary for deployment.

How do I determine the right Cisco ISE license type for my organization?

To determine the right Cisco ISE license type, assess your organization's size, the number of endpoints, user requirements, and desired features. Cisco offers different licensing models, including Base, Plus, and Apex, each catering to varying levels of functionality.

Can Cisco ISE be deployed in a cloud environment?

Yes, Cisco ISE can be deployed in a cloud environment, offering flexibility for organizations looking to leverage cloud resources for scalability and management while maintaining secure access.

What are the prerequisites for ordering Cisco ISE?

Prerequisites for ordering Cisco ISE include understanding your network architecture, assessing current and future user demands, and determining compliance requirements. Additionally, having a clear plan for deployment and integration with existing infrastructure is essential.

Is there a trial version of Cisco ISE available?

Yes, Cisco typically offers a trial version of Cisco ISE that allows organizations to evaluate its capabilities before making a purchase. This can be found on the Cisco website or through authorized partners.

How can I get support for Cisco ISE after purchasing?

After purchasing Cisco ISE, support can be obtained through Cisco's technical support services, which include access to online resources, community forums, and direct assistance from Cisco support representatives.

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