

Technical Support Reference Guide for Cisco Nexus Products

February 2021

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Introduction

This document describes the procedure for obtaining Technical Support through your newly adopted case management system through the Cisco® Technical Assistance Center (TAC). This document covers the Cisco.com user ID registration process, how to contact technical support, as well as how to manage your support case online.

We want you to know that this is only a change in the process through which you receive technical support. We at Cisco are committed to delivering the same high level of quality service that you are accustomed to receiving.

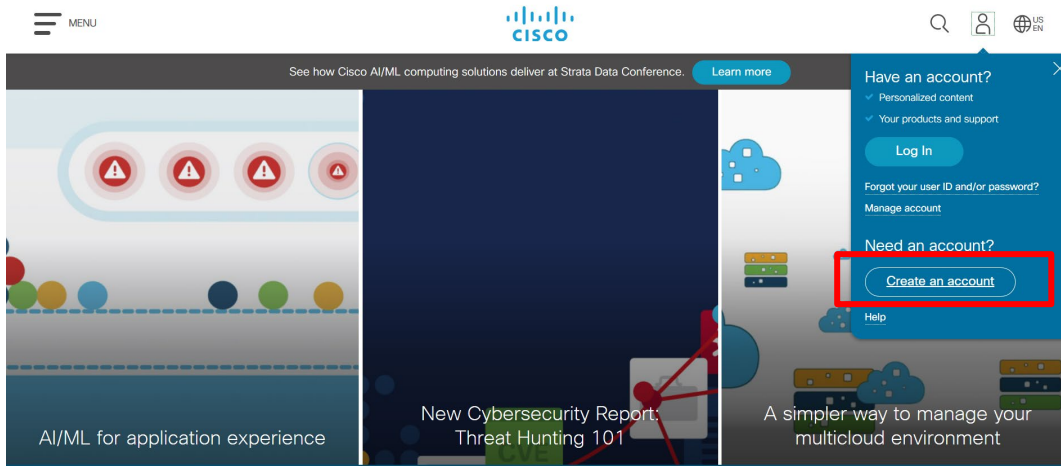
The Cisco TAC will allow you to:

- Open support cases by phone, web, or email 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
- Download software updates (maintenance and minor releases) for your covered software
- Access Cisco's online support, including database of product and service information, support case tracking, and a robust set of tools that help facilitate knowledge transfer to your staff and help answer questions more quickly

Registration for a Cisco.com User ID

To contact Cisco Technical Support for questions or issues with your Cisco Collaboration products, you first need to register for a Cisco.com user ID. If you already have a Cisco.com user ID, go to step 4, as you do not need to reregister.

1. Navigate to www.cisco.com and click “Create an account.”



2. Fill out the information on the Cisco.com Registration form.
3. Upon clicking “Submit” you will receive an email sent from Cisco. From the link provided in this email, you will be directed to the Cisco.com Registration confirmation page. This step is to verify, confirm, and activate your Cisco.com registration.

Note: This step in the registration process for a Cisco.com user ID is critical.

You will need to select “Associate your user ID” to update your Cisco Account Profile.

4. You will be directed to the [Cisco Account Profile](#). Click the “Add Access” button, then select the “TAC and RMA case creation, Software Download, support tools, and entitled content on Cisco.com” radio button on the pop-up screen, and then click “Go” to manage your Service Contract online.

← Back to Profile Management Choose Language : English

Access

Services & Support | Smart Accounts | CCIE | Smart Services | Partners

Do you need additional access to services and support? Associate your Cisco Account with your company service contracts, Bill-to IDs, or product serial numbers for either full support or downloads only access.

Add Access (highlighted)

Your Current Access | Your Access Requests

Not shown: Contracts with downloads only access Grant Access for Users From Other Companies

Contract Number | Bill-to ID | Administrators

- Find Access - | - Find Access -

No data available in table

Showing 0 to 0 of 0 entries

For Access Issues

Email

Your Current Access

For covered products, you have full support access:

[Open a Support Case](#)

[Downloads](#)

Contract Management

View and manage contracts:

[Software Subscriptions & Services \(CCW-R\)](#)

← Back to Profile Management Choose Language : English

Access

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Add Access

Your Current Access

Contract Number | Bill-to ID | Administrators

- Find Access -

Showing 0 to 0 of 0 entries

Add Access (dialog box)

What type of access are you requesting?

Software Download, support tools, and entitled content on Cisco.com

TAC and RMA case creation, Software Download, support tools, and entitled content on Cisco.com (highlighted)

Your entitlement to services is defined by your contract's coverage terms.

If you are an end customer who purchased a Partner-Branded Service support contract, you are only entitled to Software Download, support tools, and entitled content on Cisco.com, and must contact your Reseller in the event that TAC support or RMA is needed.

Go

Grant Access for Users From Other Companies

For Access Issues

Email

Your Current Access

For covered products, you have full support access:

[Open a Support Case](#)

[Downloads](#)

Contract Management

View and manage contracts:

[Software Subscriptions & Services \(CCW-R\)](#)

5. Enter your Service contract number.

In order to receive Full Support Access to products covered by your service contract(s), associate your Cisco Account to the service contract either directly, or through the Bill-to ID.

Bill-to ID(s)

Choose this option if you are a partner, or if your company purchased service directly from Cisco. Bill-to ID requests are sent to your company contract administrator for review. If approved, you will be authorized to obtain support on all of the contracts under that Bill-to ID.

OR

Specific Contract(s)

Choose this option if you purchased service through a partner, or if you only need support access to specific service contracts.

Enter service contract number(s) if you have it.

By Service Contract Number(s)

OR

If you don't know your service contract number, you can enter

By Serial Number

All submitted requests will be reviewed by an administrator.

By clicking Submit you acknowledge that you have reviewed and agree to comply with the terms of any applicable [Cisco Service Descriptions](#)

If you have any problems with this web registration process, you may send an email to Cisco at web-help@cisco.com. If you are located in North America, you may call 1-800-553-2447 for assistance to reach Cisco's TAC support organization. For the rest of the world, it is recommended you consult the worldwide toll-free number list at www.cisco.com/en/US/support/tsd_cisco_worldwide_contacts.html, and one of the support agents will assist you in completing the registration process.

Service Access Management Tool

The Service Access Management Tool is an application that enables Partners or Customer Administrators to determine which of their service contract numbers are present in Cisco.com user profiles. It is ideal for organizations that want to manage and associate multiple Cisco.com profiles.

By using the Service Access Management Tool, Cisco partners and customers can manage access to the services provided by their contracts (e.g., TAC support, hardware replacement). This management can be done either using Bill to ID or contract number. To manage access by Bill to ID, the Bill to ID must be in an individual's Cisco.com profile and selected (enabled) for support access. This will ensure that all the contracts under the Bill to ID can be utilized for service. To manage access by contract number, a contract number must be in an individual's Cisco.com profile in order for that individual to be able to obtain service. Access the [Service Access Management Tool](#), training, and related content for more information.

Opening a Support Case by Phone

Support Numbers

1-800-553-2447 U.S.

For worldwide support numbers, refer to Cisco worldwide contacts:

www.cisco.com/en/US/partner/support/tsd_cisco_worldwide_contacts.html

When you want to report a case, make sure you have the following information available:

- Cisco.com user ID that has been associated to the service contract
- Service contract number
- Business effect (case severity)

Cisco entitles customers by contract number and Cisco.com ID. You must know your Cisco.com user name and have the contract number of the product when you are calling for support.

Once the agent has all the appropriate information he/she will open a case, provide you with a case tracking number and route your case to a support engineer. They will contact you to provide technical assistance.

Defining the Severity of a Support Case

Severity 1 and 2 Support Cases must be opened by phone.

Severity 3 and 4 Support Cases should be opened online or by email, but may be opened by phone.

- **Severity 1 (S1)** – shall mean reported Error(s) in Covered Software that causes all or substantially all of a system to be functionally inoperative severely affecting delivery to Customers and requiring immediate corrective action, regardless of time of day or day of the week.
 - Product and/or covered software are in operable for 100% of Customers
 - Loss of service >0.5% of Customers
- **Severity 2 (S2)** – shall mean reported Error(s) in covered products causing the loss of one or more major functions of the system, causing perceptible degradation or interruption of services delivery to Customers or seriously affecting Customer’s ability to operate, administer, or maintain their system and requiring immediate attention. Urgency is less than Severity 1 situation because of a lesser immediate or impending effect on system performance, Customer’s operation and revenue.
 - Management system failure
 - No backup is available
- **Severity 3 (S3)** – shall mean reported Error(s) in covered products disabling specific noncritical functions of the system that do not significantly affect delivery services to Customers. The lost or degraded functionality impairs Customer’s ability to operate, administer, or maintain the system, but does not significantly affect services delivery to Customers.
 - System functionality or performance is reduced
 - System is working on backup
 - Loss of service <0.5 % of Subscribers
- **Severity 4 (S4)** – shall mean reported Error(s) in covered products which is an irritant only and has no significant effect on the functionality or operation of the system and requests for informational support assistance, including product information requests and configuration assistance.
 - Conditions that do not significantly impair the function of the system
 - Documentation
 - System enhancement/functionality request

Opening a Support Case by Email

Open new support cases by email using the Cisco support email address: tac@cisco.com. If you are opening a new support case, include the product type as the subject line of your email; for example, “Cisco Nexus 3550 Series.” This will help the agent processing the incoming email to determine the correct support case queue to route your support request.

Include the following information in your email:

- Company name
- Contact name
- Contact phone number
- Cisco.com User ID
- Contact email address
- Contract number
- Product type (e.g. Cisco Nexus)
- Business effect (support case severity – as defined previously)
- Brief problem description
- Equipment location (e.g., address)
- Alternate contact name
- Alternate contact phone number

Providing this information will help expedite the processing of the support case through the Cisco TAC agent.

Once the agent has processed the email, he/she will open a support case and you will receive a support case number by email. A support engineer will contact you shortly regarding your support case.

Opening a Support Case Online

The online support case management tool, called Support Case Manager (SCM), allows users to open a support case, assign a severity (level 3 or 4), receive information through the web or email, maintain and track support cases online, and upload files.

SCM allows you to create Cisco TAC support cases for issues covered under the terms of your Cisco support contract(s). At this time, SCM can assist you only with products currently covered by a Cisco service contract. If you would like assistance with a product that is not covered by a contract or is covered under warranty, contact the Cisco TAC by phone.

Before you use SCM, you must be logged in with your Cisco.com user ID and password, and your Cisco.com ID must contain all of your appropriate Cisco support contracts in order for you to access the services covered by those contracts. You can use the [Cisco Profile Manager](#) to associate all of your Cisco service contracts to your profile.

Note: If you have a Service Access Management Administrator, you can ask them to make sure that all of your service contracts are associated with your Cisco.com user ID. If you are unsure of your contract number(s), your Cisco Partner, Reseller, or Service Account Manager can provide you with a complete list of your service contracts.

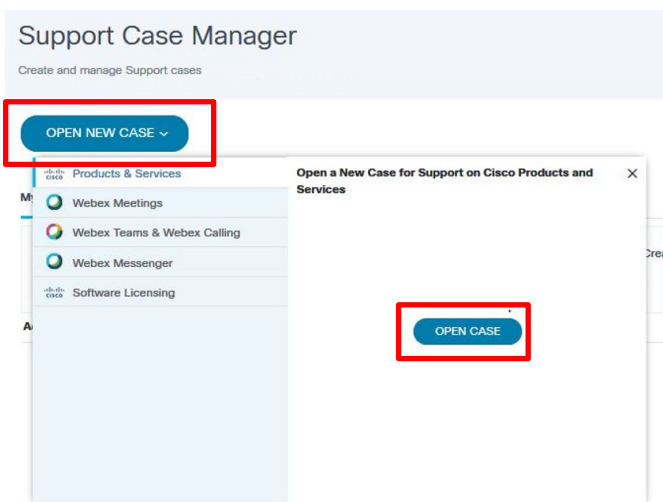
The main steps for opening a support case using SCM include:

1. Check Entitlement – verify the product is covered by a service contract
2. Describe the Problem – enter details about the product
3. Submit Your Support Case – confirm information and edit accordingly

You can access the online support case tool using this link: mycase.cloudapps.cisco.com/case

You will be required to log in with your Cisco.com ID and Password. Please make sure that you have your service contract number available with your Cisco.com ID.

To open a new support case, click on **Open New Case** and then click on **Open Case** in the pop up screen and then follow the instructions that follow.



Check Entitlement

Identify the type of support case.

Support Case Manager

Open a new support case

OPEN NEW CASE
Products & Services

Need help with your case? [Chat Now](#)

1 Check Entitlement 2 Describe Problem 3 Review & Submit

Request Type

Diagnose and Fix Request RMA Ask a Question

Find Product by Serial Number

Find Product by Service Agreement

Product Name (PID) Product Description Site Name Service Contract

Smart Account Subscription Number

Virtual Account Find Subscription Number()

Advanced Options [SEARCH](#)

Complete these steps in order to open a support case:

1. Choose one of the Request Type options:
 - **Diagnose and Fix (S3)**
 - **Request RMA (S3)**
 - **Ask a Question (S4)**
2. Under “Find Product by Service Agreement,” enter the Service Contract number and click the SEARCH button to select for the product requiring support.

Note: At any time during the process, you can click the Save draft and exit link in order to save a draft of your support case. See the Save a Draft section in this document for the steps required to delete or continue submitting a saved support case.

Describe Problem

Identify the severity of the problem, loss of service (if applicable), case details and whether you would like the engineer to contact you. In addition, you can review and change your contact information.

The screenshot shows the 'Describe Problem' step in the Support Case Manager. The progress bar indicates three steps: 1. Check Entitlement, 2. Describe Problem (current step), and 3. Review & Submit. The 'Severity' section has four radio button options: Network Down (S1), Severely Degraded (S2), Network Impaired (S3) (selected), and Ask a Question (S4). The 'Loss of Service' section has a checkbox for 'Extended loss of 15 seconds or more' which is checked. There is a 'Title' input field and a 'Description' text area. At the bottom, there are 'CISCO SUGGESTIONS' and a 'Manually select a Technology...' dropdown menu.

1. Choose the severity from the Severity options. The Severity is automatically populated based on the type of support case:

- Network Impaired = Severity 3
- Ask a Question = Severity 4

NOTE: If you need to open a severity 1 or 2 network-down emergency support case, you must call the Technical Assistance Center (TAC) nearest you.

2. Check the box if users are experiencing a loss of service for more than 15 seconds.
3. Enter a Case Title and Description.

Keep these guidelines in mind when describing your problem:

- Include a meaningful case title that states the problem accurately. A meaningful title permits assignment of the case to the appropriate technical resources.
 - Describe the problem and symptoms (only one per support case).
 - Include a history of the problem and any troubleshooting steps you completed.
 - Describe your network topology.
 - Include any recent changes to your network or data center environment.
 - Include output from the **show tech** command (if applicable) and all other relevant output.
 - Include software versions and types of equipment.
4. Click on “Manually select a Technology” and select the Technology from the pop up menu.
- For Exablaze choose the following technology and sub-technology category:
 - **Data Center and Storage Networking** > **Cisco Nexus 3550 Series Switch (Exablaze)**
 - **Data Center and Storage Networking** > **Cisco Nexus Smart NICs (Exablaze)**
 - **Data Center and Storage Networking** > **Cisco Nexus FDK (Exablaze)**

5. Select the Problem Area.
6. Review your contact information in the Contact Preference section. Your contact information is automatically provided based on the Cisco.com user name you used to log in to the tool.
7. Click **Review** to review your case before you submit.

The screenshot shows a form with the following sections:

- Problem Area:** A dropdown menu with the text "Choose problem area..." and a blue callout circle containing the number 5.
- Additional Case Details:** A dropdown arrow.
- Contact Information and Preference:** A section with a blue dot icon. It contains three radio button options: "Business Phone" (with an "edit" link), "Mobile Phone" (with an "edit" link), and "Email" (which is selected and has a blue callout circle containing the number 6). The "Email" option is followed by a partially visible email address and another "edit" link.
- Email Confirmation:** Two radio button options: "Yes" (selected) and "No".
- CC Recipients (optional):** A text input field with a placeholder "eg: name2@cisco" and a "m" character. Below the field is a character count "0/255 characters" and a note "Enter email addresses separated by comma or semicolon".
- Buttons:** At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Submit" (disabled) and "Save draft and exit" (active), with a blue callout circle containing the number 7 positioned over the "Save draft and exit" button.

The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Select Technology" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. It features a search bar at the top containing the text "Cisco Nexus" and a blue callout circle containing the number 4. Below the search bar, the results are grouped under the heading "Data Center and Storage Networking". The results list three items:

- Cisco Nexus 3550 Series Switch (Exablaze)
- Cisco Nexus FDK (Exablaze)
- Cisco Nexus Smart NICs (Exablaze)

At the bottom of the dialog box, there are two buttons: "SELECT" (disabled) and "CANCEL" (active).

Review & Submit

Review your information and submit your support case.

Support Case Manager
Open a new support case for TROY.MHALJEVICH (troyhaljevich)

OPEN NEW CASE
Products & Services

Need help with your case?

1 Check Entitlement 2 Describe Problem 3 Review & Submit

19 REQUEST TYPE Edit

REQUEST TYPE: Diagnose and Fix CONTRACT NUMBER: 202613174

DESCRIBE PROBLEM Edit

SEVERITY: 3 LOSS OF SERVICE: No

TITLE: Sample Case SMART ACCOUNT NAME: Spark NZ telco

DESCRIPTION: This is a sample case description VIRTUAL ACCOUNT: BSFT BroadCloud

TECHNOLOGY: Collaboration and Conferencing > BroadWorks PROBLEM AREA: Configuration > Software Failure

PREFERRED CONTACT METHOD: +1408551111 EMAIL CONFIRMATION: Yes

CC REQUESTS CASE ORIGIN: Email

VIRTUAL LEVEL: Virtual Account

[SUBMIT CASE](#)

1. Review the summary of your support case. If you need to update a section, click the **Edit** link.
2. Click **Submit** in order to submit your support case.

Your support case number will appear at the top of the page.

Save as Draft

During your process to open a support case, you can click the **Save Draft and Exit** link located at the bottom of the page in order to complete the process at a later time. When you click the Save Draft and Exit link, all information you entered is saved, and you are redirected to your open support cases page. Each saved draft has an expiration date, after which it will be automatically deleted.

To continue submitting a saved draft, click the title of the support case.

To delete a saved draft, click the checkbox located next to the support case, and click the Delete button.

Managing Your Support Case

After you have created your support case, you can view the status, update the notes, upload files, turn automatic updates on or off, and request case closure.

Navigate to www.cisco.com/c/en/us/support/index.html and then select “View Open Cases” from the “My Support” menu. Or you may go directly to: mycase.cloudapps.cisco.com/case.

The screenshot shows the Cisco Support & Downloads interface. At the top, there's a header with 'Support & Downloads' and a language selector 'Worldwide - English'. Below this, there are sections for 'Product Support' (with a 'Select a Product' dropdown) and 'Downloads' (with a search box). The main content area is divided into 'Products by Category' (a grid of product categories like Switches, Security, Routers, etc.) and 'My Support' (a vertical menu). The 'My Support' menu has several items: 'View Open Cases' (highlighted with a red box), 'Download History', 'Devices', and 'Recently Viewed Products'. There is also a 'Feedback' link at the bottom of the menu.

On your Support Case Manager home page, you can filter your support cases.

The screenshot shows the Cisco Support Case Manager interface. At the top, there's a header with 'Support Case Manager' and a user profile 'ANIL BATRA (anil.batra)'. Below this, there's a button 'OPEN NEW CASE' and a search box 'Case or Customer Reference Number'. The main content area is divided into 'My Cases' (with tabs for 'All Cases' and 'Favorites') and a list of cases. The list has columns for 'Actions', 'Case', 'Created', 'Sev', 'Status', and 'Summary'. The 'Open Cases' filter is selected. The list shows five cases, all with 'Closed' status and 'ASK THE BOT' as the creator. The first case is 'Cisco CUC 12.5 VM on ESXI 6.7 showing 100% Memory usage alarm'. The second case is 'Cisco Informacast Basic Paging Server - Paging by phone'. The third case is 'Cisco Paging Server - unable to login'. The fourth case is 'Unable to open Calling Admin Portal for all customers and getting certificate ex'. The fifth case is 'Webex calling: Phones are not coming up. Showing "Call Pull" at the left bottom'. There are also buttons for 'EXPORT CASES', 'APPLY FILTERS', and 'More Options'.

Here are the available options:

- Open Cases
- Draft Cases
- Closed Cases
- More Options

If you click More Options link, additional fields appear.

The screenshot shows the 'Support Case Manager' interface. At the top, there is a header with the title 'Support Case Manager' and a sub-header 'Create and manage Support cases for ANIL BATRA (anil.batra)'. Below this is a navigation bar with 'OPEN NEW CASE' and a settings icon. The main area is divided into sections for filtering cases. On the left, there are tabs for 'My Cases', 'All Cases', and 'Favorites'. Below these are checkboxes for 'Open Cases', 'Draft Cases', and 'Closed Cases'. A 'Show' section includes radio buttons for 'Created' (selected) and 'Updated', and a dropdown for 'Any Time'. The central part of the interface contains several input fields for filtering: 'Contract Number(s)', 'Subscription Reference ID(s)', 'Smart Account', 'Virtual Account', 'PICA ID(s)', 'Serial Number(s)', 'Node Name(s)', and 'Webex Account'. Each of these fields has a small search icon and a note 'Use commas to enter more than one'. To the right of these fields is a 'Status' section with a list of status options: 'Customer Pending', 'Cisco Pending', 'Closure Pending', 'Cisco Release Pending', 'Service Order Pending', and 'Closed'. Below the status section is a 'Severity' section with radio buttons for 'Severity 1', 'Severity 2', 'Severity 3', and 'Severity 4'. At the bottom right, there are 'From' and 'To' date pickers, and checkboxes for 'Linked Bugs' and 'RMAs'. An 'APPLY FILTERS' button is located at the bottom right of the filter area, with a 'Fewer Options' link below it.

Select an option from the Filter menu and enter additional information in the remaining fields in order to further filter your support cases. Here are the Advanced Filter menu options:

- Status
 - New
 - Customer Pending
 - Cisco Pending
 - Bug/Defect Required
 - Closure Pending
 - Customer Requested Closure
 - Customer Updated
 - Release Pending
 - Restoration of Service
 - Service Order Pending
- Severity
 - Severity 1
 - Severity 2
 - Severity 3
 - Severity 4
- Linked Bugs
- RMAs
- Contract Number
- PICA ID
- Serial Number
- Node Name
 - From and To Date

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