

# Guidelines for Cisco Wireless Software Release

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## Types of software releases

Cisco® Wireless Software provides the types of releases listed in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Cisco wireless LAN controller software release description

Software release	Description	Benefit
<b>Maintenance Deployment (MD) releases</b>	Software releases that provide bug-fix support and ongoing software maintenance. These releases are categorized as Maintenance Deployment (MD).  These are long-lived releases with ongoing software maintenance.	Provide customers with a software release that offers stability and long support duration with periodic Maintenance Releases (MRs).
<b>Early Deployment (ED) releases</b>	Software releases that provide new features and new hardware platform support in addition to bug fixes. These releases are categorized as Early Deployment (ED). These are short-lived releases.	Allow a customer to deploy the latest features and new hardware platforms or modules.

## Product migration options and release recommendations

Customers are encouraged to migrate their software according to the guidelines below.

### Cisco AireOS Software releases

#### Maintenance Deployment (MD) releases

Release 8.10 is the last MD release train for long life support with 8.10.19x.0 as the targeted MD release.

- Release 8.5 was the last recommended software for the following controller platforms - WLC2504, WLC5508, WLC7510, WLC8510, WiSM2. These controllers have now all reached End of Support.
- Release 8.10 is recommended for the following controller platforms - WLC3504, WLC5520 and WLC8540.
- Federal customers (FIPS, UCAPL) are advised to use the latest 8.10 release

#### Early Deployment (ED) releases

- For all customers currently in 8.1, 8.2, 8.3 or 8.4 migration to 8.5 is recommended.
- For all customers current in 8.6 through 8.10, migration to the latest 8.10 release is recommended.

#### Note:

- No more CCO releases for codes from 8.0 to 8.10
- Above recommendation also apply for Cisco Mobility Express software

**Table 2.** Upcoming and recommended releases

Software release	Status	Recommended release
<b>Release 8.10</b> (MD Release train)	<a href="#">EoL</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8.10.185.0</li><li>• Last release train for 8540, 5520, 3504</li></ul>
<b>Release 8.5</b> (MD release train)	<a href="#">EoL</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Last release train for 8510, 7510, 5508, 2504, and WISM2 (8.5.X.0)</li></ul>

**Table 3.** EOL and deferred releases

Software release	Status	Recommended release
<b>Release 8.9</b> (deferred)	<a href="#">EOL</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Migration to 8.10 is recommended</li></ul>
<b>Release 8.8</b>	<a href="#">EOL</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Migration to 8.10 is recommended</li></ul>
<b>Release 8.7</b>	<a href="#">EOL</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Migration to 8.10 is recommended</li></ul>
<b>Release 8.6</b> (deferred)	<a href="#">EOL</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Migration to 8.10 is recommended</li></ul>
<b>Release 8.5</b>	<a href="#">EOL</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Migration to 8.10 is recommended</li></ul>
<b>Release 8.4</b> (deferred)	<a href="#">EOL</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Migration to 8.5 is recommended based on HW dependency</li></ul>
<b>Release 8.3</b>	<a href="#">EOL</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Migration to 8.5 is recommended based on HW dependency</li></ul>
<b>Release 8.2</b>	<a href="#">EOL</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Migration to 8.5 is recommended based on HW dependency</li></ul>
<b>Release 8.1</b> (deferred)	<a href="#">EOL</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Migration to 8.5 is recommended based on HW dependency</li></ul>
<b>Release 8.0</b> (MD release train)	<a href="#">EOL</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Migration to 8.5 is recommended based on HW dependency</li></ul>

For up-to-date recommendations, please refer to:

<https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/support/docs/wireless/wireless-lan-controller-software/200046-tac-recommended-aires.html>

# Cisco IOS XE Software releases

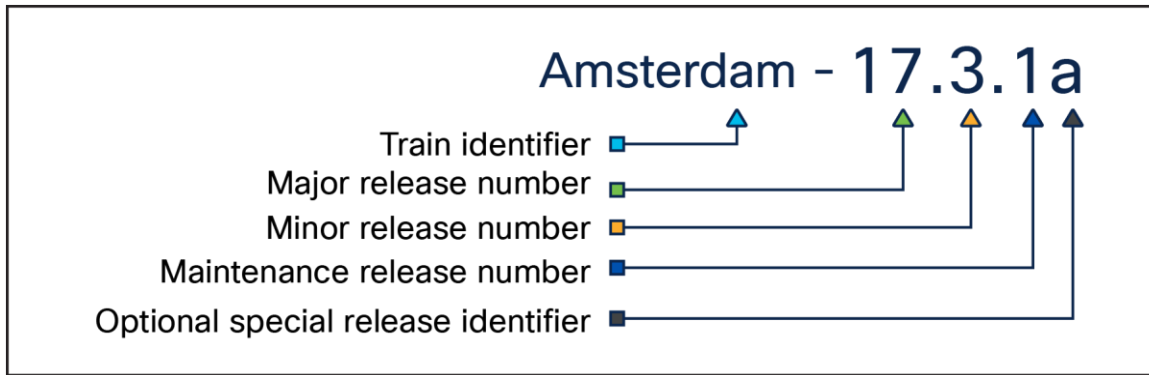
## Overview

The Polaris Release Model consists of three (3) releases per year: One (1) Extended Maintenance (EM) release every July and two (2) Standard Maintenance releases, one in March and one in November. The Cisco IOS® XE Software support product bulletin describes the support timeline and EOL guidelines for Cisco IOS XE Software.

## Standard Maintenance and Extended Maintenance releases

Each Cisco IOS XE Software release is classified as either a Standard-Support release or an Extended-Support release.

- Standard Maintenance release details
  - A sustaining support lifetime of 12 months from First Customer Shipment (FCS) with scheduled rebuilds
  - Rebuilds are typically released at 6-month intervals after FCS
- Extended Maintenance release details
  - A sustaining support lifetime of 36 months from FCS with scheduled rebuilds
  - These rebuilds are at 3, 4, 4 and 7-month intervals after FCS or via SMU support. The last 12 months of support will be via SMU.



**Figure 1.**  
Cisco IOS XE Software release versioning

**Table 4.** Catalyst 9800 software release support

Support model	Cisco IOS XE Software release
Standard Support	16.10, 16.11,17.1, 17.2, 17.4, 17.5, 17.7, 17.8,17.9, 17.10, 17.11
Extended Support	16.12, 17.3, 17.6, 17.9, 17.12, etc

**Table 5.** Upcoming and recommended releases

Software release	Recommended release	Upcoming release
16.12	16.12.8	No upcoming release
17.3	17.3.8	No upcoming release
17.6	17.6.5	17.6.6
17.9	17.9.4	17.9.5
17.12	17.12.1	17.12.2

**Table 6.** EOL and deferred releases

Software release	Status	Recommended release
Release 16.10	<a href="#">EOL</a>	Migration to 17.3.7 is recommended
Release 16.11	<a href="#">EOL</a>	Migration to 17.3.7 is recommended For more features, migrate to 17.9.4
Release 16.12	<a href="#">EOL</a>	Migration to 17.3.7 is recommended For more features, migrate to 17.9.4
Release 17.1	<a href="#">EOL</a>	Migration to 17.3.7 is recommended For more features, migrate to 17.9.4
Release 17.2	<a href="#">EOL</a>	Migration to 17.3.7 is recommended For more features, migrate to 17.9.4
Release 17.3	<a href="#">EOL</a>	Migration to 17.9.4 is recommended
Release 17.4	<a href="#">EOL</a>	Migration to 17.9.4 is recommended
Release 17.5	<a href="#">EOL</a>	Migration to 17.9.4 is recommended
Release 17.6	<a href="#">EOL</a>	Migration to 17.9.4 is recommended
Release 17.7	<a href="#">EOL</a>	Migration to 17.9.4 is recommended
Release 17.8	<a href="#">EOL</a>	Migration to 17.9.4 is recommended
Release 17.9	17.9.4	Migration to 17.9.4 is recommended

Software release	Status	Recommended release
Release 17.10	<a href="#">EOL</a>	Migration to 17.12.1 is recommended
Release 17.11	<a href="#">EOL</a>	Migration to 17.12.1 is recommended

**Note:**

- Above recommendations also apply for Cisco Embedded Wireless Controller (EWC) software
- For Software Defined Access (SDA) - Always refer to the [SDA Compatibility Matrix](#) for code combination recommendations that work best for SDA. It lists specific combinations of code on Cisco DNA Center, the Identity Service Engine (ISE), switches, routers and Wireless LAN Controller codes that have been tested by the SDA Solution Test team at Cisco.
- For Interoperability with Prime/ISE/CMX, please refer to the [Software Compatibility Matrix](#)

Read before upgrading: Any access point that is upgraded to Release 17.6 will be unable to join controllers running AireOS prior to 8.10.171.0, or 8.5.182.104 (IRCM). For more information, see [CSCvx98176](#).

For up-to-date recommendations, please refer to <https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/support/docs/wireless/catalyst-9800-series-wireless-controllers/214749-tac-recommended-ios-xe-builds-for-wirele.html>.

**Note:** This represents the current plan for upcoming releases. This roadmap is subject to change at the sole discretion of Cisco, and Cisco will have no liability for delay in the delivery or failure to deliver any of the products or features set forth in this document.

## For more information

For more information about these releases, go to:

[https://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps10315/prod\\_release\\_notes\\_list.html](https://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps10315/prod_release_notes_list.html).

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