Introduction to Cisco Smart Software Licensing

Quick Reference Guide

April 2024
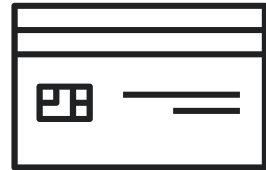
This presentation will cover:

1 Smart Licenses Overview

2 Benefits of Smart Licenses

3 How to Access Smart Licenses
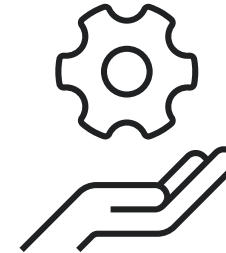
4 How to Manage Smart Licenses

What is a Smart License?

Smart Software Licensing is NOT a traditional licensing system. Instead, it is like a Software Asset Management System (SAM) that answers two questions:
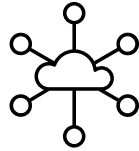
What is it that I have purchased?
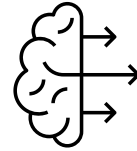
What is it that I am using?

Benefits

Organize and manage licenses by business unit, geo or other company designation, and delegate admin duties

Greater visibility of Cisco software licenses, entitlements and users across the organization

Centralized management of software licenses and entitlements to improve asset utilization

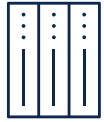Drive down costs and improve ROI by making better informed purchase and renewal decisions

Easy | Fast

Cisco Software Licensing – Comparison

Traditional Licensing (PAK)

Physical /Electronic delivery
Causes confusion

PAK Registration
Manually register each device

Device Specific
Licenses are limited to only one device

Locked
Licenses were node locked

Limited View
Difficult to know what you own

Smart Licensing (SL)

Digital Fulfillment
Automatic license provisioning

Easy Registration
No PAKs, easy activation and ready to use

Company-Specific
Flexible licensing to use across devices

Unlocked
Add users and licenses as needed

Complete View
Software, services, and devices

Types of Cisco Software Licenses and Tools

Smart Accounts are used to establish your account, and to set up virtual accounts, users, groups and access levels.
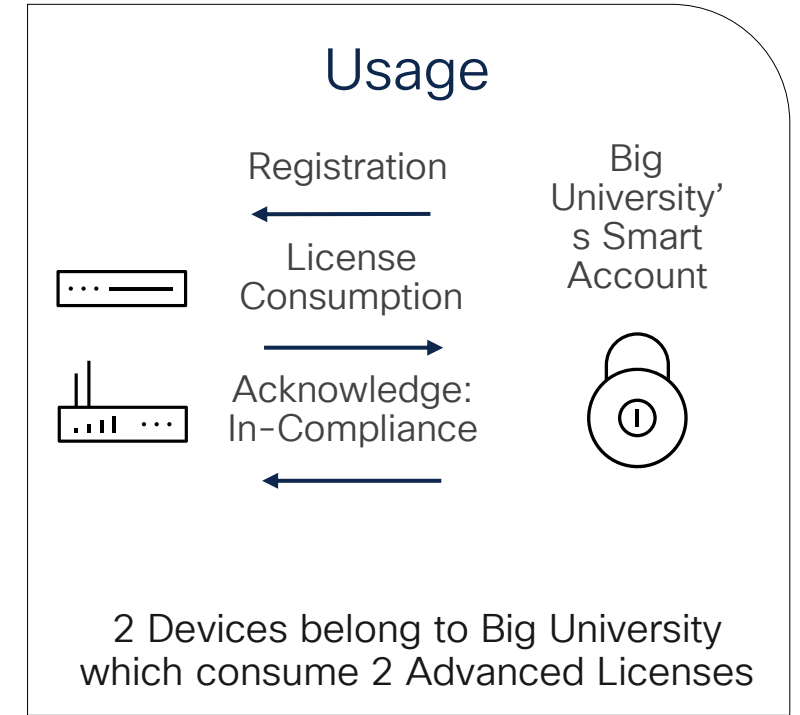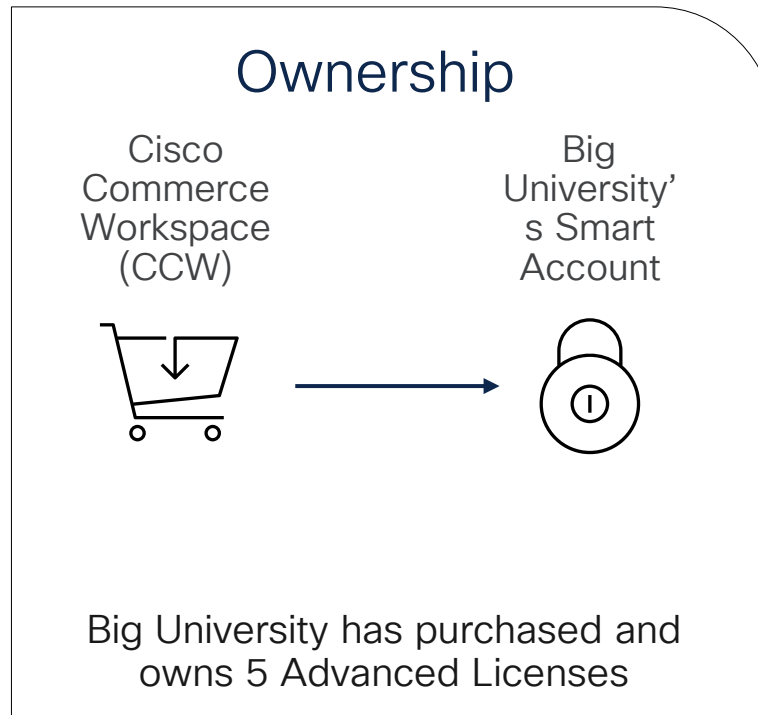
Type of license	PAK Licenses	Smart, SLP and/or Hybrid Licenses	RTU Licenses
Use this tool	LRP	CSSM/MCE	Customer System
To do this	• Generate license • Port licenses • Convert PAK to smart • Reassign to different virtual accounts/user/ device/access	• Generate token • Covert hybrid to smart • Reassign to different virtual accounts/users/ device/access • Portability and node lock	• Locally managed, honor–based software license on customer system

Use Ask Licensing found [here](#) and in all our licensing applications at [Cisco Software Central](#)

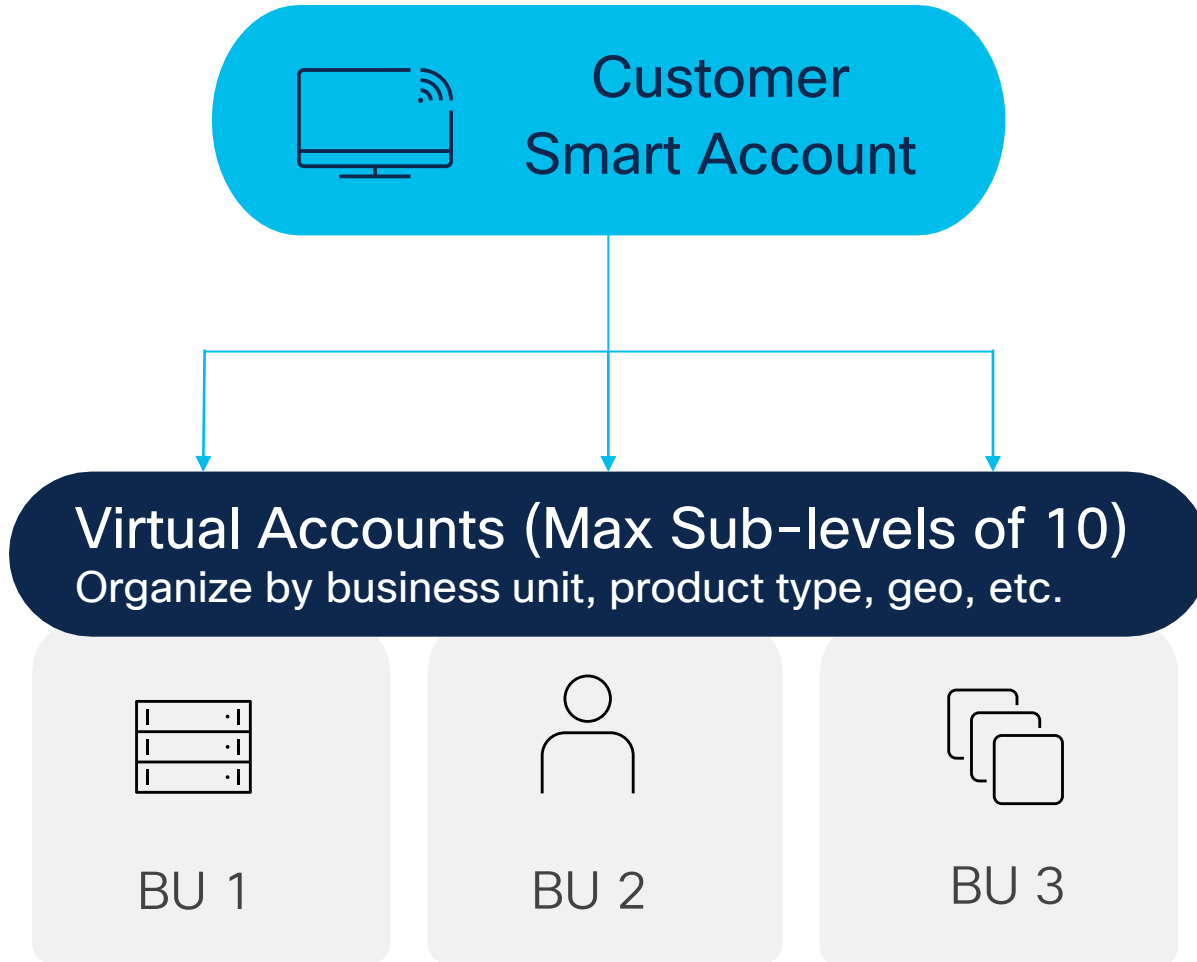# Manage Smart Licensing and Smart Accounts

Example Scenario

1. The Customer is a Big University
2. Big U has set up their Smart Account
3. In CCW they purchased 5 Advanced Licenses
4. Licenses are deposited in their Smart Account
5. Big U is currently using 2 licenses on their devices
6. 3 Licenses are still available to be used
7. They are in compliance

Ownership

Cisco Commerce Workspace (CCW) → Big University's Smart Account

Big University has purchased and owns 5 Advanced Licenses

Usage

Registration

License Consumption

Acknowledge: In-Compliance

Big University's Smart Account

2 Devices belong to Big University which consume 2 Advanced Licenses

Big University owns 5 licenses...+5

2 licenses are being consumed......................................–2

Licenses are available to be used..................................+3

Big University is in Software Compliance

Setting up your Smart Account

Users, Virtual Accounts, Other Settings

Customer Smart Account

Virtual Accounts (Max Sub-levels of 10)
Organize by business unit, product type, geo, etc.

BU 1

BU 2

BU 3

Organize software licenses using Virtual Accounts

Virtual Accounts can be set-up by business unit, product, geography or any other destination – you decide what works best for your organization

The result: Better utilization and more efficient planning

Smart Licensing / Smart Licensing using Policy (SLP)

Benefits

- ✓ No Day 0 Friction
- ✓ No Eval Mode
- ✓ Less Cisco Connectivity
- ✓ Supports Closed Networks
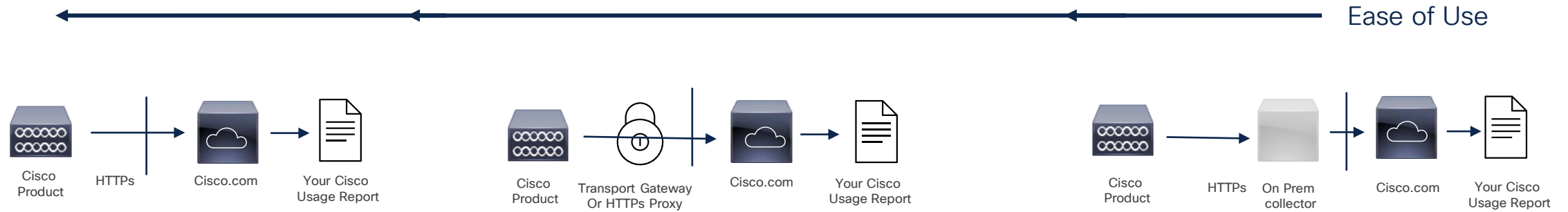- ✓ Maintains Regulatory Compliance

Smart Licensing

- Day 0 Registration is required
- Mandatory evaluation mode
- Regular interval Licenses reporting
- Acquire before use model
- SLR/PLR for off-line customers

Smart Licensing using Policy (SLP)

- Day 0 Registration not required
- Eliminates evaluation mode
- Usage reports are stored on the device and reported later
- Acquire before use only for export control Licenses
- No SLR/PLR required due to flexible policy model

The Smart Licensing using Policy is an evolved version of Smart Licensing
Starting with IOS-XE 17.3.2 and 17.4.1 all products running these versions or higher will support Smart Licensing using Policy

Smart Licensing Deployment Methods – Connected

Ease of Use

Cisco Product — HTTPs — Cisco.com — Your Cisco Usage Report

Cisco Product — Transport Gateway Or HTTPs Proxy — Cisco.com — Your Cisco Usage Report

Cisco Product — HTTPs — On Prem collector — Cisco.com — Your Cisco Usage Report

Direct cloud access

Cisco product sends usage information directly over the internet, no additional components needed.

Direct cloud access through an HTTPs proxy

Cisco Products send usage information over the internet via a Proxy Server–Smart Call Home Transport Gateway (Free VM Download) or off-the-shelf Proxy (such as Apache).

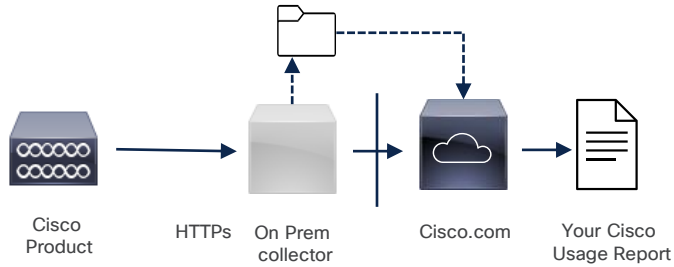## Mediated access through an on-premise collector

Cisco Products send usage information to a local connected collector, which acts as a local license authority. Periodically, an exchange of information will be performed to keep the databases in sync.
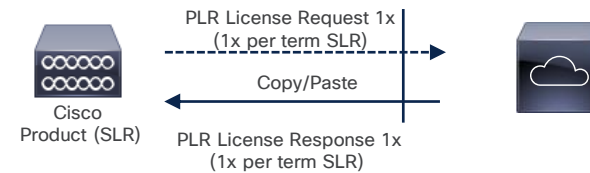
Secure

Smart Licensing Deployment Methods – Disconnected

Ease of Use

Cisco Product → HTTPs → On Prem collector → Cisco.com → Your Cisco Usage Report

PLR License Request 1x
(1x per term SLR)

Copy/Paste

Cisco Product (SLR)

PLR License Response 1x
(1x per term SLR)

Mediated access through an on-premise collector – optional disconnected

Cisco Products send usage information to a local disconnected collector, which acts as a local license authority. Once a month, an exchange of synchronization information will be performed either connected or disconnected to keep the databases in sync.

License Reservation: (PLR/SLR)

Designed for highly secure intelligence and military environments where communications with outside is difficult. Products will operate normally without regular communication to CSSM.
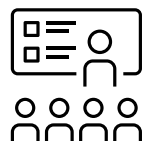
Secure

Smart Account and Licensing Support Contacts

Hardware Support

https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/support/web/tsd-cisco-worldwide-contacts.html

Licensing Support

Open a support case via Support Case Manager (SCM) https://www.cisco.com/go/scm. Click here to learn more!

License Transaction Support

Ask Licensing

Cisco Licensing Hub

CISCO
The bridge to possible