Licensing Glossary

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Licensing Glossary

This is a glossary of terms and concepts related to Cisco's licenses, licensing models, and licensing tools and applications. Concepts are accompanied by definitions. Abbreviations, acronyms, and synonymous terms are called out where applicable.

The terms are not for a particular product, rather, they are defined in the context of specific tools, applications, or licensing features, and these distinctions are called-out. So if the application, feature or tool is supported on a product, the term applies to that product.

Use the glossary as a ready reference for clarification of terms when you are reading about licensing on cisco.com.

Be sure to bookmark this page, to easily access updates and revisions.

Document Revision History

Date	Change Description
10 September 2024	First version of the glossary.

Glossary

A | C | E | H | L | M | O | P | R | S | T | V | W

A

authorization code

    A code that authorizes the use of certain licenses. For example, a Specific License Reservation (SLR) authorization code, a Permanent License Reservation (PLR) code, or a Smart Licensing Authorization Code (SLAC).

authorized

    A license status in Smart Licensing.

    Indicates that a device is in-compliance and is authorized to use the requested type and count of licenses.

    In Smart Licensing, the `authorized` state has a lifetime of 90 days. At the end of 30 days, the device sends a new entitlement authorization request to Cisco SSM, to renew authorization.

C

Cisco Commerce Workspace
    CCW

    An integrated end-to-end platform to register deals, quote, configure, price, and order Cisco products, software, and services.

    This was previously in the form of three separate tools, a Pricing Tool, a Status Tool, and an Ordering Tool.

CCO ID

    A personal username, ID, or email address that is used to access a Cisco.com account. The account provides access to register for trainings, events, programs and promotions and access additional tools and content.

Cisco Digital Network Architecture Software
    Cisco DNA Software

Software subscriptions that are available in the switching, wireless, and SD-WAN and Routing suites.

One or more tiers such as Cisco DNA Essentials, and Cisco DNA Advantage, and Catalyst Routing Essentials are available in each suite.

Cisco IOS XR Flexible Consumption Model
Cisco IOS XR FCM

A commercial offer that permits customers to pay incrementally to expand capacity as demand for their consumer and business services rises.

Cisco Smart License Utility
CSLU

A Windows-based reporting utility that provides aggregate licensing workflows such as collecting usage reports, handling authorization code requests, and so on.

It is one of the options available for license usage reporting in the Smart Licensing Using Policy solution.

Cisco Smart Software Manager
Cisco SSM

A portal that enables you to manage all your Cisco software licenses from a centralized location. It helps manage current requirements and review usage trends to plan for future license requirements.

Cisco Smart Software Manager On-Prem
Cisco SSM On-Prem

A license server that enables you to administer licenses from a server on your premises, instead of having to connect directly to Cisco SSM.

Cisco Software Central

A Cisco website that provides access to various applications and tools to enable products, manage entitlements, renew, and upgrade software.

E

enforcement type

Indicates if a license requires authorization before use, or not.

Used in the context of the Smart Licensing Using Policy solution and distinguishes between these three types of enforcement for a license: unenforced, enforced, and export-controlled (also called export -restricted).

entitlement

What Cisco customers and partners are entitled to: right to use, right to technical support, right to software download, right to manage licenses, right to software version upgrade, right to hardware replacement, right to content, and more.

eval mode

A license status in Smart Licensing.

It means that license usage is in a trial period and that the license must be registered with the Cisco SSM within 90 days of device usage.

evaluation period expired

A license status in Smart Licensing.

It means that the 90-day evaluation period is complete and device is not registered.

export status

Indicates if a license is export-controlled or not. The status value can be one of these: RESTRICTED - ALLOWED, RESTRICTED - NOT ALLOWED, NOT RESTRICTED.

H

High Security license
   HSECK9

An export-controlled license that authorizes the use of cryptographic functionality or throughput over and above a certain rate, on certain Cisco products. This license is a requirement of U.S. export control laws.

L

legacy licensing

See traditional licensing.

license duration

Period of time or term for which a purchased license is valid.

Licenses can either have perpetual validity, with no expiration date (called perpetual licenses), or be subscription-based and valid for a specified term (called subscription licenses).

license status

Compliance status of a license that is being used. Status values vary depending on the licensing solution that is implemented.

In the context of Smart Licensing Using Policy, a license can have one of these statuses: In-Use, Not In-Use, Not Authorized.

In the context of Smart Licensing, a license can have one of these statuses: Enabled, Waiting, Registered, Authorized, Out of Compliance, Eval Mode, Evaluation Period Expired.

M

Managed Service License Agreement
   MSLA

A buying program agreement, designed for service providers. Provides the option of billing based on usage, instead of prepaying for licenses.

O

out of compliance

A license status in Smart Licensing.

Indicates that one or more licenses are not authorized for use. Additional licenses may have to be bought, to resolve the shortage. Compare with status

P

Permanent License Reservation
   PLR

Enables the use an unlimited count of any license on the product instance.

Has an associated authorization code called the PLR code, which authorizes PLR request.

This license is suited to a high-security deployment or entirely air-gapped networks where a product instance cannot communicate online, with anything outside its network.

perpetual license

A license, which does not have an expiration date.

Compare with

policy

Provides a product instance with reporting instructions. For instance, by when the first RUM report must be sent, the reporting frequency, whether an acknowledgement is required, if a RUM report must be sent when there is a change in license consumption.

Cisco SSM determines the policy that is applied to a product instance. Only one policy is in use at a given point in time. The policy and its values are based on a number of factors, including the licenses being used.

Used only in the context of the Smart Licensing Using Policy solution.

Product Activation Key
PAK

A license that requires the use of a license key file, to activate the software features on the device. A PAK license is as paper-based, with the device, or via email. The PAK is then registered on Cisco's licensing portal to generate the actual license key file needed to activate the software features on the device.

Product Identifier
PID

Model number of a product instance.

product instance

A single instance of a Cisco product, identified by a Unique Device Identifier (UDI). The products may be physical or virtual instances.

Product Instance Registration Token

A token that is generated in Cisco SSM and used differently depending on the licensing solution.

In Smart Licensing, a token is used to register a product and associate it with a Virtual Account. Registering, enables the use of licenses from that Virtual Account. Tokens may be generated with or without the export-controlled functionality being enabled.

In Smart Licensing Using Policy, registration is not applicable. The token is used to establish a direct and trusted connection from a product instance, to Cisco SSM.

R

registered

A license status in Smart Licensing.

Indicates that the device is able to communicate with Cisco SSM, and is authorized to initiate requests for license entitlements.

Resource Utilization Measurement report
RUM report

A license usage report in plain text XML format, which fulfils reporting requirements as specified by a policy, in the Smart Licensing Using Policy solution.

RUM reports are generated by the product instance and consumed by Cisco SSM. The product instance records license usage information and all license usage changes in an *open* RUM report. At system-determined intervals, open RUM reports are closed and new RUM reports are opened to continue recording license usage. A closed RUM report is ready to be sent to Cisco SSM.

Right to Manage
    RTM

A type of license that grants the user the authority to manage and administer a specific software product or system. This license typically includes permissions to configure, monitor, and maintain the software, ensuring it operates effectively and meets the organization's needs.

Right to Use
    RTU

A type of software license that grants the user the legal right to use a specific software product. This license outlines the terms and conditions under which the software can be used, including any limitations on usage, distribution, and modification.

RUM Report acknowledgement
    RUM ACK,**ACK**

A response from Cisco SSM, which provides information about the status of a RUM report.

Once the ACK for a report is available on the product instance, it indicates that the corresponding RUM report is no longer required and can be deleted.

S

Service Provider Networking Agreement
    SPNA

A buying program built for the Service Provider (SP) Routing portfolio and Data Center Networking. SPNA is targeted to the SP Production Network but not limited to Web Scalers, Large Enterprise and Government Agencies. SPNA contracts can be for a three or five-year term and provide set pricing throughout the term.

Smart Account

A container to help structure an organization's Cisco assets (licenses, devices, and general terms). Smart Accounts are set-up with role-based user access, to help control access to these assets.

Smart Licensing

A flexible software licensing deployment and management model that simplifies the way you activate and manage licenses across your organization. It has these advantages.

- Easy Activation: Smart Licensing establishes a pool of software licenses that can be used across the entire organization—no more PAKs (Product Activation Keys).

- Unified Management: My Cisco Entitlements (MCE) provides a complete view into all of your Cisco products and services in an easy-to-use portal, so you always know what you have and what you are using.

- License Flexibility: Your software is not node-locked to your hardware, so you can easily use and transfer licenses as needed.

Smart Licensing Authorization Code
    SLAC

An authorization code that is used in the context of the Smart Licensing Using Policy solution. It allows activation and continued use of a license that is export-controlled or enforced.

Installing SLAC on the device enables the use of the HSECK9 license.

Smart Licensing Using Policy

A licensing solution, which is an enhanced version of Smart Licensing, and that does not interrupt the operations of your network, rather, one that enables a compliance relationship to account for the hardware and software licenses you purchase and use

With this solution one can purchase licenses through the existing channels and use the Cisco SSM portal to view product instances and licenses. Most licenses are unenforced, not requiring licensing-specific operations, such as registering or generating keys before one starts using the software and the licenses that are tied to it. Only certain enforced and export-controlled licenses need authorization before use.

License usage is recorded on the device. The policy on the device provides reporting instructions. To remain compliant, one of the many options available for time series reporting must be implemented.

Smart transport

A mode of transport where a Smart Licensing JSON message is contained within an HTTPS message.

A product instance can use this transport method, to exchange messages and communicate with Cisco SSM.

Smart transport is the recommended transport method for product instances that are directly connected to Cisco SSM.

Software Innovation Access

A license that provides access to the latest software upgrades which contain new features, bug fixes, and security enhancements for devices on your network. It enables the consumption of Advantage and Essential RTU licenses on your device, and allows portability of these RTU licenses from one device to another.

Specific License Reservation
SLR

Enables users in highly secure networks to use Smart licenses without communicating the license information to Cisco SSM.

Has an associated authorization code called the SLR authorization code, which authorizes the reservation of specific licenses.

Stock Keeping Unit
SKU

A unique, individual part number used to track and monitor inventory.

subscription ID

An ID associated with a postpaid license.

subscription license

A license, which is valid for a specified term or period of time.

Compare with , which does not expire.

T

traditional licenses

An umbrella term used to refer to licenses that are not *Smart* licenses. Also referred to as classical licenses.

trust code

A UDI-tied public key, which the product instance uses to

• sign a RUM report, to prevent tampering and ensure data authenticity, and

• enable secure communication with Cisco SSM.

While a trust code may be factory-installed for some products, only a trust code generated in and obtained from Cisco SSM can be used for communication with Cisco SSM.

V

Virtual Account

Sub-accounts that reside within a Smart Account, and enable further organization of assets by department, product, geography, and so on.

W

waiting

A license status in Smart Licensing.

The initial state of a device, after it has made a license entitlement request. The device establishes communication and registers itself with Cisco SSM.

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