

Guide to Upgrade Cisco Access and Backbone Switch

How to identify the right Cisco switch for your needs?

When you're upgrading an old one, just read check a few simple questions and get your results.

1. Are you purchasing a new switch or upgrading an old one?	2. What's the purpose of the new switch?	3. Which Cisco switch are you upgrading?	4. What are your connectivity needs?	5. What type of switch do you prefer?	Baseline Switch	Full-Featured Switch				
→ Upgrade	→ Access	Cisco Catalyst 2900XL (EoL & EoS)	—	—	→	Cisco Catalyst 2960-X Series	Cisco Catalyst 3650 Series Cisco Catalyst 9300 Series*1			
		Cisco Catalyst 2948-G (EoL & EoS)				Cisco Catalyst 2960-CX Series	Cisco Catalyst 9300 Series*1 Cisco Catalyst 3560-CX Series			
Cisco Catalyst 2950 (any) (EoL & EoS)		Cisco Catalyst 2960 (any) (EoL & EoS)				Cisco Catalyst 2960-X Series	Cisco Catalyst 3650 Series Cisco Catalyst 9300 Series*1			
Cisco Catalyst 2960-C (EoL & EoS)		Cisco Catalyst 2970 (EoL & EoS)				Cisco Catalyst 3650 Series	Cisco Catalyst 9300 Series*1 Cisco Catalyst 3850 Series			
Cisco Catalyst 2960 (any) (EoL & EoS)		Cisco Catalyst 3500XL (EoL & EoS)				Cisco Catalyst 3560-CX Series	—			
Cisco Catalyst 2970 (EoL & EoS)		Cisco Catalyst 3500 (any) (EoL & EoS)				Cisco Catalyst 3650 Series	Cisco Catalyst 9300 Series*1 Cisco Catalyst 3850 Series			
Cisco Catalyst 3500XL (EoL & EoS)		Cisco Catalyst 3560-C (EoL & EoS)				Cisco Catalyst 3850 Series	Cisco Catalyst 9300 Series*1			
Cisco Catalyst 3560 (any) (EoL & EoS)		Cisco Catalyst 3750 (any) (EoL & EoS)				Cisco Catalyst 4500E (Supervisor 8L-E)	Cisco Catalyst 9400 Series*2			
Cisco Catalyst 3750 (any) (EoL & EoS)		Cisco Catalyst 4500 non-E (EoL & EoS)								
Cisco Catalyst 4500 without Supervisor 7L-E or 8-E (any) (EoL & EoS)		Cisco Catalyst 6500 (any) (EoL & EoS)								
Cisco Catalyst 6500 (any) (EoL & EoS)										
		→ Backbone				Cisco Catalyst 6500 non-E	High Density (10/40/100 Gbps)	—	Cisco Nexus 7000 Series (Recommended Product)	Cisco Nexus 9500 Series (Alternative Product)
Medium Density (1/10/40 Gbps)							Cisco Catalyst 6500-E (Supervisor 2T)		Cisco Catalyst 9500 Series*3 Cisco Catalyst 6807-XL (Supervisor 6T)	
Medium Density (1/10 Gbps)	Cisco Catalyst 4500E (Supervisor 8-E)		Cisco Catalyst 9400 Series*2							
Cisco Catalyst 6500-E without Supervisor 2T	High Density (10/40/100 Gbps)		Cisco Nexus 7000 Series (Recommended Product)	Cisco Nexus 9500 Series (Alternative Product)						
	Medium Density (1/10/40 Gbps)		Cisco Catalyst 6500-E (Supervisor 2T)	Cisco Catalyst 9400 Series*2						
	Medium Density (1/10 Gbps)		Cisco Catalyst 4500E (Supervisor 8-E)	Cisco Catalyst 9400 Series*2						
Other Backbone Switches (e.g., Catalyst 3750, Cisco Catalyst 45xx)	High Density (10/40/100 Gbps)		Cisco Nexus 7000 Series (Recommended Product)	Cisco Nexus 9500 Series (Alternative Product)						
	Medium Density (1/10/40 Gbps)		Cisco Catalyst 3850 10G Fiber	Cisco Catalyst 9500 Series*3 Cisco Catalyst 3850 Fiber						
			Cisco Catalyst 6500-E (Supervisor 2T)	Cisco Catalyst 9400 Series*2						
	Medium Density (1/10 Gbps)		Cisco Catalyst 3850 Fiber	Cisco Catalyst 9500 Series*3 Cisco Catalyst 3850 10G Fiber						
			Modular	Cisco Catalyst 4500E (Supervisor 8-E)	Cisco Catalyst 9400 Series*2					
	Modular		Cisco Catalyst 4500E (Supervisor 8-E)	Cisco Catalyst 9400 Series*2						

Note:

*1. Cat9300:

Advantages Over Baseline Switch:

- 2x stacking bandwidth (960 Gbps)
- 2.5 G and mGig
- Encrypted Traffic Analytics
- x86 CPU for containers

*2. Cat9400:

Advantages Over Baseline Switch:

- Cisco DNA Center and SD-Access
- 2.5 G and Multigigabit Ethernet
- Enhanced security
- Built-in wireless controller
- up to 9Tbps bandwidth capacity
- Support for ISSU in 7 and 10-slot chassis
- Enhanced Limited Lifetime Warranty (E-LLW)

*3. Cat9500:

Advantages Over Baseline Switch:

- 2x the capacity with 960Gbps total bandwidth
- 48 x mGig and 2 x 40-Gbps uplinks
- Encrypted Traffic Analytics

Looking for other types of switches?

View more brand network switches, [Cisco Campus / Data Center Switches](#), [HPE / Aruba / Data Center / ProCurve Switches](#), [Huawei Campus Switches / 5700 / 5720, 2700 / 3700 Switches](#), etc.