# 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 2948-G (EoL & EoS) | | | | Cisco Catalyst 9300 Series*1 |
| | | Cisco Catalyst 2950 (any) (EoL & EoS) | | | | |
| | | Cisco Catalyst 2960-C (EoL & EoS) | — | — | Cisco Catalyst 2960-CX Series | Cisco Catalyst 9300 Series*1 Cisco Catalyst 3560-CX Series |
| | | Cisco Catalyst 2960 (any) (EoL & EoS) | | | Cisco Catalyst 2960-X Series | Cisco Catalyst 3650 Series |
| | | Cisco Catalyst 2970 (EoL & EoS) | | | | Cisco Catalyst 9300 Series*1 |
| | | Cisco Catalyst 3500XL (EoL & EoS) | | | Cisco Catalyst 3650 Series | Cisco Catalyst 9300 Series*1 |
| | | Cisco Catalyst 3500 (any) (EoL & EoS) | | | | Cisco Catalyst 3850 Series |
| | | Cisco Catalyst 3560-C (EoL & EoS) | | | Cisco Catalyst 3560-CX Series | — |
| | | Cisco Catalyst 3560 (any) (EoL & EoS) | | | Cisco Catalyst 3650 Series | Cisco Catalyst 9300 Series*1 |
| | | Cisco Catalyst 3750 (any) (EoL & EoS) | | | | Cisco Catalyst 3850 Series |
| | | Cisco Catalyst 4500 non-E (EoL & EoS) | | | Cisco Catalyst 3850 Series | Cisco Catalyst 9300 Series*1 |
| | | Cisco Catalyst 4500 without Supervisor 7L-E or 8-E (any) (EoL & EoS) | | | Cisco Catalyst 4500E (Supervisor 8L-E) | Cisco Catalyst 9400 Series*2 |
| | | 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) | Standalone | Cisco Catalyst 3850 10G Fiber | Cisco Catalyst 9500 Series*3 Cisco Catalyst 3850 Fiber |
| | | | | Modular | Cisco Catalyst 6500-E (Supervisor 2T) | Cisco Catalyst 9400 Series*2 |
| | | | Medium Density (1/10 Gbps) | Standalone | 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
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*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.

**More Related:**
Competitive Switching Comparison: Cisco vs. HPE/Aruba vs. Huawei vs. Dell vs. Netgear vs. Dlink vs. Meraki
Mapping between Catalyst 3850, Catalyst 4500E/4500X, Catalyst 6800 and Catalyst 9000
Cisco SMB Switching Portfolio Transition
Quiz for Cisco Nexus Product Family & Evolution of Data Center Architecture
See More Cisco Switch Topics