

Selecting Cisco Switches-Campus, Branch, Digital Building

How to identify the right Cisco switch for your needs?
Whether you're acquiring a new switch, 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. Where will you deploy the new switch?	4. Do you need converged wired and wireless support?	5. What are your connectivity needs?	6. What type of switch do you prefer?	Baseline Switch	Full-Featured Switch	
New Switch	Access	Branch	Yes	Multigigabit Ethernet	Modular	Cisco Catalyst 4500E (Supervisor 9-E)	Cisco Catalyst 9400 Series ^{*2}	
					Stackable	Cisco Catalyst 3650 Series	Cisco Catalyst 9300 Series ^{*1} Cisco Catalyst 3850 Series	
				Multigigabit Ethernet	Modular	Cisco Catalyst 4500E (Supervisor 9-E)	Cisco Catalyst 9400 Series ^{*2}	
			Stackable		Cisco Catalyst 3650 Series	Cisco Catalyst 9300 Series ^{*1} Cisco Catalyst 3850 Series		
			No	Gigabit Ethernet	Modular	Cisco Catalyst 4500E (Supervisor 8L-E)	Cisco Catalyst 9400 Series ^{*2}	
					Stackable	Cisco Catalyst 2960-X Series	Cisco Catalyst 3650 Series Cisco Catalyst 9300 Series ^{*1}	
		Non-stackable			Cisco Catalyst 2960-L Series	Cisco Catalyst 2960-CX Series Cisco Catalyst Digital Building Series		
		Cloud Managed	Cisco Meraki MS Series	—				
		Fast Ethernet	—	—				
		Campus	Yes	Multigigabit Ethernet	Yes	Modular	Cisco Catalyst 4500E (Supervisor 9-E)	Cisco Catalyst 9400 Series ^{*2}
						Stackable	Cisco Catalyst 3650 Series	Cisco Catalyst 9300 Series ^{*1} Cisco Catalyst 3850 Series
				Gigabit Ethernet	Modular	Cisco Catalyst 4500E (Supervisor 9-E)	Cisco Catalyst 9400 Series ^{*2}	
	Stackable				Cisco Catalyst 3650 Series	Cisco Catalyst 9300 Series ^{*1} Cisco Catalyst 3850 Series		
	No			Multigigabit Ethernet	Modular	Cisco Catalyst 4500E (Supervisor 8L-E)	Cisco Catalyst 9400 Series ^{*2}	
					Stackable	Cisco Catalyst 3650 Series	Cisco Catalyst 9300 Series ^{*1} Cisco Catalyst 3850 Series	
			Gigabit Ethernet		Modular	Cisco Catalyst 4500E (Supervisor 8L-E)	Cisco Catalyst 9400 Series ^{*2}	
	Stackable			Cisco Catalyst 2960-X Series	Cisco Catalyst 3650 Series Cisco Catalyst 9300 Series ^{*1}			
	Non-stackable		Cisco Catalyst 2960-L Series	—				
	Cloud Managed		Cisco Meraki MS Series	—				
	Digital Building		—	—	—	—	Cisco Catalyst 2960-Plus Series	—
						—	Cisco Catalyst 3560-CX Series	—
		—				Cisco Catalyst 2960-CX Series	Cisco Catalyst Digital Building Series Cisco Catalyst 2960-L Series	
		—	—	—	—	Cisco Catalyst 2960-C Series	Cisco Catalyst 3650 Series	
					—	Cisco Nexus 7000 Series (Recommended Product)	Cisco Nexus 9500 Series ^{*3} (Alternative Product)	
—					Cisco Catalyst 6500-E (Supervisor 2T)	Cisco Catalyst 9400 Series ^{*2} Cisco Catalyst 6807-XL (Supervisor 6T)		
Backbone	—	—	—	High Density (10/40/100 Gbps)	—	—		
				Medium Density (1/10/40 Gbps)	Modular	Cisco Catalyst 3850 10G Fiber	Cisco Nexus 9500 Series ^{*3} Cisco Catalyst 6840-X	
					Standalone	Cisco Catalyst 4500E (Supervisor 8-E)	Cisco Catalyst 9400 Series ^{*2}	
	Medium Density (1/10 Gbps)	Modular	Cisco Catalyst 3850 Fiber	Cisco Nexus 9500 Series ^{*3}				
		Standalone	—	Cisco Catalyst 3850 10G Fiber				
		—	—	—				

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.

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](#)