What Is the Value of the Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series ASA Services Module?

Designed for datacenters that require an integrated security solution that combines full-featured switching with best-of-breed security, the Cisco® ASA Services Module delivers superior technology that seamlessly integrates with Cisco Catalyst® 6500 Series switches. Based on the Cisco ASA platform, the most widely deployed firewall in the industry, the Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series ASA Services Module reliably delivers exceptional scalability to meet the growing needs of today's most dynamic organizations.

In today's Borderless Networks, throughput is not the only valid measurement of performance. Connection speed, number of concurrent connections, and power consumption are essential components as well. The Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series ASA Services Module excels in each of these areas to meet the growing needs of today's most dynamic organizations — all in a single blade architecture. The module delivers 20 Gbps of maximum firewall throughput and 16 Gbps of multi-protocol firewall throughput. Up to four blades can be installed in a single chassis, providing scalability to 64 Gbps per chassis. In addition, the Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series ASA Services Module provides large enterprises and service providers with unmatched security, reliability, and performance.

What Problems Does It Help Solve?

Over the full deployment lifecycle of a network, the upfront cost of buying the equipment accounts for only 20 percent of the total cost of ownership, with the ongoing operational costs accounting for the remaining 80 percent. Beyond these hard costs, there are additional opportunity costs due to "service lockouts" that occur if a business has not invested in the necessary enabling technologies. The operational costs and lost opportunity costs far outweigh the savings realized by purchasing a less expensive switch with less functionality and fewer service capabilities.

The Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series ASA Services Module helps businesses maximize their effectiveness and efficiency in protecting their networks and applications, while delivering exceptional protection of their investment in the Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series platform — all while lowering operating costs and addressing these intangible opportunity costs.

What Are the Features of the Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series ASA Services Module?

The Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series ASA Services Module includes advanced features that help reduce costs and operational complexity, while enabling organizations to manage multiple firewalls from the same management platform. These include:

- **Resource Manager:** Helps limit the resources allocated to any security context at any time, to help avoid security context resource contention
- **Transparent firewall feature:** Configures the Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series ASA Services Module to act as a Layer 2 bridging firewall, resulting in minimal changes to network topology

What Are the Benefits?

The Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series ASA Services Module allows customers to benefit from industry-leading innovations, including:

- Advanced scalability and performance, delivering up to 300,000 connections per second and 10 million concurrent connections
- Exceptional security protection at Layers 2–7:
  - Advanced firewall capabilities, including application and protocol inspections
- Works in tandem with other modules in the chassis to deliver robust security throughout the entire chassis, effectively making every port a security port
- Maximizes return on network investment by:
  - Building on the existing network: All Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series ASA Services Modules take advantage of the infrastructure to deliver new services
  - Simplifying maintenance and management: Integration of services modules into one chassis allows for ease of use and support for network administrators
  - Reducing environmental costs: Lower overall power and cabling costs
- Reduces the total cost of network ownership through:
  - Infrastructure simplification
  - Maximized return on network investment
  - Pervasive security
  - Services innovation

Why Cisco?

The Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series ASA Services Module uses the Cisco ASA platform, the most widely deployed firewall in the industry. Other benefits of the ASA Services Module include:

- **An integrated module:** Installed inside a Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Switch, the Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series ASA Services Module allows any port on the device to operate as a firewall port and integrates firewall security inside the network infrastructure.
- **Compatibility with future versions:** The Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series ASA Services Module can handle up to 16 Gbps of traffic, providing unsurpassed performance to meet future requirements – without requiring a system overhaul. Up to three additional ASA Services Modules can be added to the Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series to scale to 64 Gbps of real-world throughput.
- **Low total cost of ownership:** The ASA Services Module offers the best price-to-performance ratios of any firewall. Since the ASA Services Module is based on Cisco ASA, the most widely deployed firewall in the industry, the cost of training and management is lower; and because it is integrated in the chassis, there are fewer boxes to manage.

For More Information

For more information, contact your Cisco account manager or visit: http://www.cisco.com/go/asasmc