

Guidelines for Cisco Wireless Software Release Migration

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Types of Software Releases

Cisco Wireless Software provides the types of releases listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Cisco Wireless LAN Controller Software Release Description

Software Release	Description	Benefit
Maintenance Deployment (MD) releases	Software releases that provide bug-fix support and ongoing software maintenance. These releases are categorized as Maintenance Deployment (MD) and may be part of the Assure Wave program. These are long-lived releases with ongoing software maintenance.	Provides customers with a software release that offers stability and long support duration with periodic maintenance releases (MRs).
Early Deployment (ED) releases	Software releases that provide new features and new hardware platform support in addition to bug fixes. These releases are categorized as Early Deployment (ED). These are short-lived releases.	Allows a customer to deploy the latest features and new hardware platforms or modules.

* Assure Wave is a Cisco program that focuses on satisfying customer quality requirements in key industry segments in the mobility space. This program links and expands on product testing conducted within development engineering, regression testing, and systems test groups within Cisco. The Assure Wave program has established partnerships with major device and application vendors to help ensure broader interoperability with our new release. The Assure Wave certification marks the successful completion of extensive wireless LAN controller and access point testing in real-world use cases with a variety of mobile client devices applicable in a specific industry.

Product Migration Options and Release Recommendations

Customers are encouraged to migrate their software according to the guidelines below.

Maintenance Deployment (MD) releases

- Release 7.4 is the next MD release train (a release in this train will be qualified as MD).
- Release 7.0 is the current MD release train and is the minimum recommended MD release.

Early Deployment (ED) releases

- Release 7.4.121.0 is the minimum recommended ED release.
- Customers deploying earlier ED release versions of 7.2, 7.3, or 7.4 should upgrade to 7.4.121.0.
- Release 7.6 is recommended for customers with 802.11ac deployments. Customers using Release 7.5 are advised to upgrade to Release 7.6 to take advantage of new features and multiple software fixes in the release.

Table 2 summarizes the current MD and ED release recommendations.

Table 2. Cisco Wireless LAN Controller Software MD and ED Release Recommendations

Software Release	Deployed Release	Recommended Release
Maintenance Deployment (MD) release	7.0 MD release train	7.4 MD release train
Early Deployment (ED) releases for pre-802.11ac deployments	7.2 ED releases 7.3 ED releases	7.4 MD release train (7.4.121.0 is the minimum recommended release)
Early Deployment (ED) releases for 802.11ac deployments	7.5 ED release	7.6 ED release

For future planning, Release 8.0 (in CY14) is planned¹ to be an MD release train and, when available, will be the recommended MD release train for 802.11ac deployments.

Table 3 provides detailed information on upcoming software releases.

Table 3. Detailed Software Release Guidance

Software Release	Upcoming Releases	Recommended Release
Release 7.0 (MD release train)	1 additional MR planned in Q1CY14 ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.4 MD release train 8.0 MD release train (2HCY14)¹
Release 7.2	1 additional MR ¹ only if required for Federal Information Processing Standards [FIPS] updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 802.11ac deployments to 7.6 ED Non-802.11ac deployments to 7.4 MD release train FIPS customers: 8.0 MD release train (2HCY14)¹
Release 7.3	No more MRs planned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 802.11ac deployments to 7.6 ED Non-802.11ac deployments to 7.4 MD release train
Release 7.4 (MD release train)	MR3 (Q2CY14) ¹ MR4 (Q4CY14) ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 802.11ac deployments to 7.6 ED 8.0 MD release train (2HCY14)¹
Release 7.5	No more MRs planned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 802.11ac deployments to 7.6 ED 8.0 MD release train (2HCY14)¹
Release 7.6	MR1 (Q2CY14) ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8.0 MD release train (2HCY14)¹

¹ Represents the current plan for upcoming releases. This roadmap is subject to change at the sole discretion of Cisco, and Cisco will have no liability for delay in the delivery or failure to deliver any of the products or features set forth in this document.

For More Information

For more information about these releases, go to:

http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps10315/prod_release_notes_list.html.

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