

IACCCA- Implementing & Administering Cisco Catalyst Center for Assurance



Days: 5

Prerequisites: Practical experience with LAN/WAN management and familiarity with Cisco IOS-XE concepts.

Audience: The primary audience for this course is as follows: Engineering and Planning team evaluating WAN evolution; personnel involved in SD-WAN Design, Implementation and Operation; Network Operations team with SD-WAN solution; Cisco partners who sell and support SD-WAN solutions.

Description: Cisco Catalyst Center (formerly DNA Center) is the next-generation intent-based networking platform, providing centralized automation and assurance for enterprise networks. Version 3.x introduces advanced AI-driven analytics, improved telemetry, Energy Management capabilities, and deeper integrations with Cisco Secure Access DNS Security and Splunk for observability. This course focuses on Catalyst Center Assurance, enabling proactive, predictive, and real-time monitoring of network, client, and application health.

Catalyst Center Assurance delivers significant business value by reducing operational complexity, accelerating troubleshooting, and enabling proactive network management. By leveraging AI-driven insights, predictive analytics, and real-time telemetry, organizations can ensure optimal application and client experience, minimize downtime, and align network performance with business intent. This approach transforms IT operations from reactive to predictive, improving efficiency and resilience.

Course Objectives: Upon completing this course, the learner will be able to meet these overall objectives:

- Explain Catalyst Center architecture, features, and workflows (Design, Policy, Provision, Assurance)
- Install and configure Catalyst Center appliance
- Discover and provision devices using Catalyst Center templates and profiles
- Implement Assurance services for network, client, and application health, including Energy Management
- Integrate Catalyst Center with Cisco ISE, Cisco Secure Access DNS Security, ThousandEyes, and Splunk
- Utilize AI Analytics and ML capabilities for predictive insights
- Perform maintenance tasks including reporting, backup, and software image management (SWIM)

OUTLINE

MODULE 1: INTRODUCTION TO CISCO CATALYST CENTER ASSURANCE

- Catalyst Center architecture and components
- Intent-based networking principles
- Catalyst Center Assurance use cases
- Integration with Cisco ISE
- Energy Management overview and benefits

MODULE 2: DESIGN

- Enterprise hierarchy and site design
- Network settings and IPAM
- Software Image Management (SWIM) workflows
- Wireless profiles and guest portals
- AAA, SNMP, Syslog configuration
- Energy Management configuration in design phase

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MODULE 3: DISCOVERY AND PROVISION

- Device discovery protocols (CDP, LLDP, SNMP)
- Plug and Play onboarding
- Template-based provisioning (Day-0 and Day-N)
- Assigning devices to sites and applying profiles
- Energy telemetry activation during provisioning

MODULE 4: MONITORING DEVICE, CLIENT, AND APPLICATION HEALTH

- Telemetry and Assurance dashboards
- Wired/wireless client health analysis
- Application performance monitoring
- Energy Management telemetry and reporting
- Custom health score tuning

MODULE 5: APPLICATION VISIBILITY AND CISCO SECURE ACCESS DNS SECURITY INTEGRATION

- Application visibility workflows
- Cisco Secure Access DNS Security overview
- Integration steps and policy mapping
- Use cases for DNS-layer protection

MODULE 6: TROUBLESHOOTING AND INSIGHTS

- Detecting issues and trends
- Root cause analysis with Assurance
- Integration with external monitoring tools

MODULE 7: ASSURANCE TROUBLESHOOTING TOOLS

- Sensor tests and configuration
- Intelligent Capture workflows
- Spectrum Analysis for RF troubleshooting

MODULE 8: CATALYST CENTER AND THOUSANDEYES

- ThousandEyes integration for end-to-end visibility
- Application path visualization
- Use cases for SaaS and WAN monitoring

MODULE 9: AI ANALYTICS AND MACHINE LEARNING

- Predictive insights and anomaly detection
- Endpoint Analytics enhancements
- AI-driven recommendations for remediation

MODULE 10: SPLUNK INTEGRATION FOR ASSURANCE

- Catalyst Center API integration with Splunk
- Telemetry export and visualization
- Dashboards and alerting in Splunk
- Use cases for advanced observability

MODULE 11: CATALYST CENTER MAINTENANCE

- Reports and compliance
- Backup and restore procedures
- SWIM operations and image compliance
- System health checks and upgrade planning

LAB OUTLINE

- Discovery Lab 1: Navigate Cisco Catalyst Center
- Discovery Lab 2: Integrate Cisco ISE with Cisco Catalyst Center
- Discovery Lab 3: Design Cisco CATC Network
- Discovery Lab 4: Discover Wired Device Manually in the Inventory, Assign to Site, and Provision

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- Discovery Lab 5: Discover Wired Device using Plug and Play (PnP) using Template Hub
- Discovery Lab 6: Discover and Provision C9800 WLC, Configure Wireless SSIDs and Network Profiles
- Discovery Lab 7: Configure C9800 WLC Using Template Hub
- Discovery Lab 8: Configure Cisco Catalyst Center Assurance Telemetry Profiles and Apply to Devices
- Discovery Lab 9: Generate and Monitor Application Traffic on CATC for Clients
- Discovery Lab 10: Application Visibility and Control on CATC
- Discovery Lab 11: Assurance Dashboards – Health, Issues and Wi-Fi 6 on CATC
- Discovery Lab 12: Intelligent Packet Capture
- Discovery Lab 13: 1800s AP as Sensor
- Discovery Lab 14: Application Visibility with ThousandEyes and CATC
- Discovery Lab 15: AI Endpoint Analytics on CATC
- Discovery Lab 16: Reporting on Cisco CATC
- Discovery Lab 17: CATC Integration with Umbrella
- Discovery Lab 18: IOS-XE Device Upgrade / Downgrade Using SWIM via CATC
- Discovery Lab 19: CATC Configuration Backup on External Server
- Discovery Lab 20: Energy Management
- Discovery Lab 21: Splunk-CATC Integration