Mastering Cisco UCS

Innovations, Best Practices and Troubleshooting

Chris Dunk
Principal Engineer

cisco Live !

Session ID: Session ID: BRKCOM-2456

Cisco Webex App

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with the speaker after the session

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4. Enter messages/questions in the Webex space

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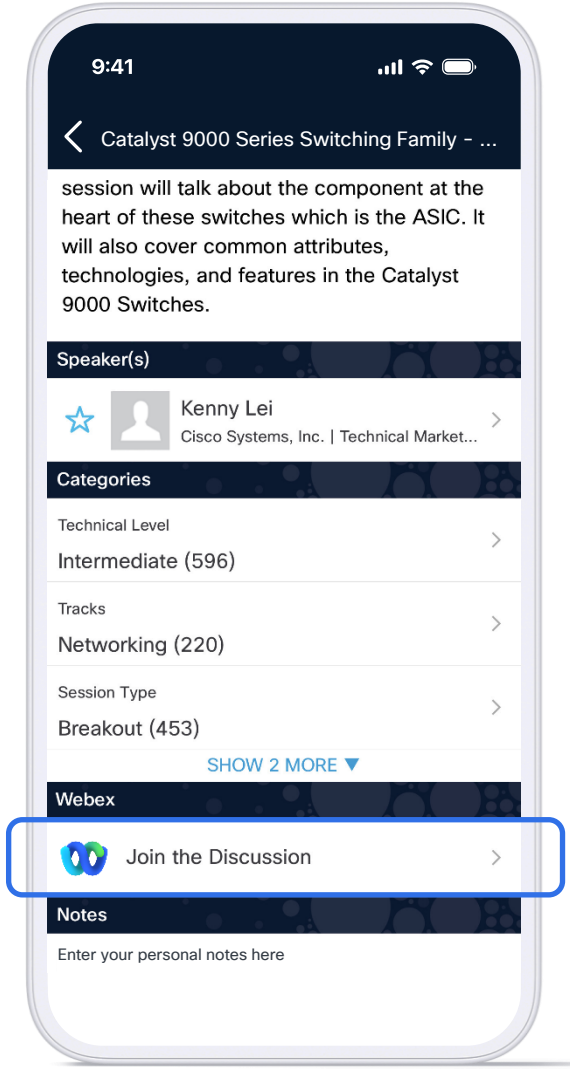

https://ciscolive.ciscoevents.com/
ciscolivebot/**#BRKCOM-2456**

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Agenda

01 UCS Intersight Operations

02 UCS Hardware Innovations

03 Best Practices for reliable and secure infrastructure

04 Troubleshooting and Tools

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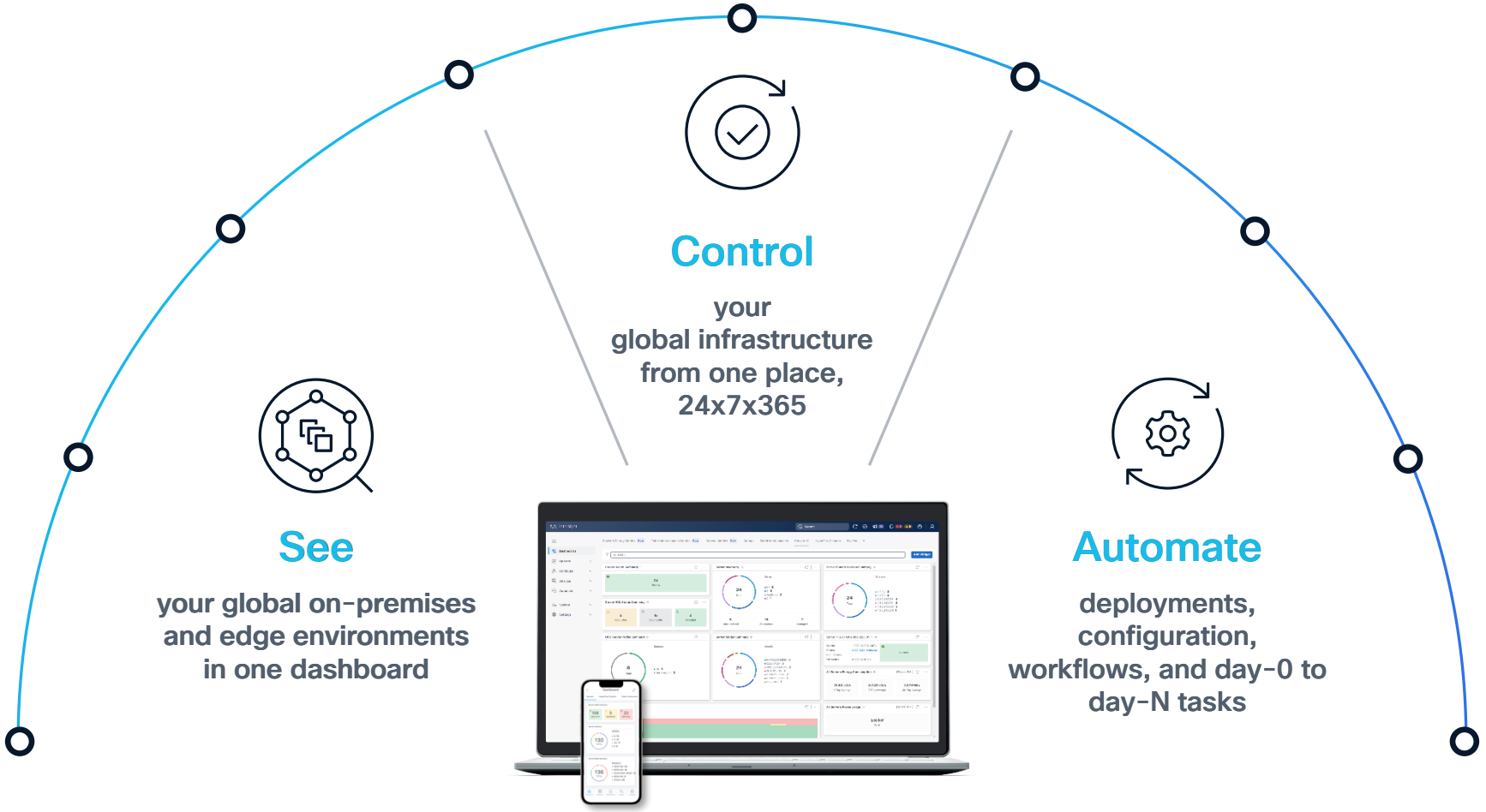
Intersight

IT operations, simplified

Cisco Intersight



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Cisco Intersight Significant Customer Value Capabilities

Intersight Simplifies Operations

- Consistent Cloud managed experience anywhere, any Cisco platform type
- Cloud-Based Continuous Feature Delivery Latest features all the time
- Policy-based Management and Abstraction
- FW Patching, Maintenance etc.
- Security Advisories
- Full stack Orchestration and automation
- Hardware Compatibility List
- 3rd Party Integration (storage, network, software vendor partners)
- Continuous Monitoring and Metrics: customization and historical
- Connected support, auto log upload, proactive RMA

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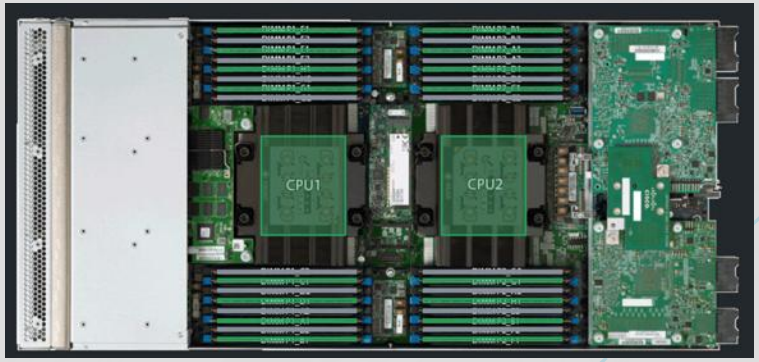
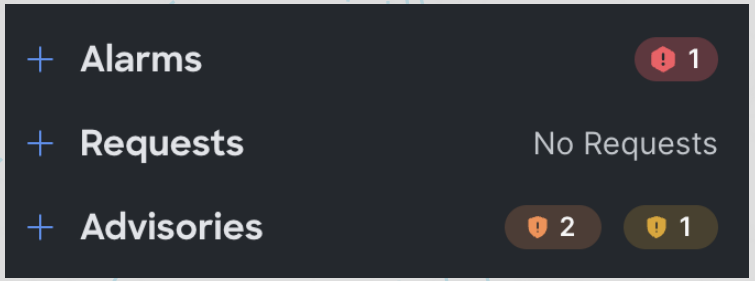
See

CISCO INTERSIGHT

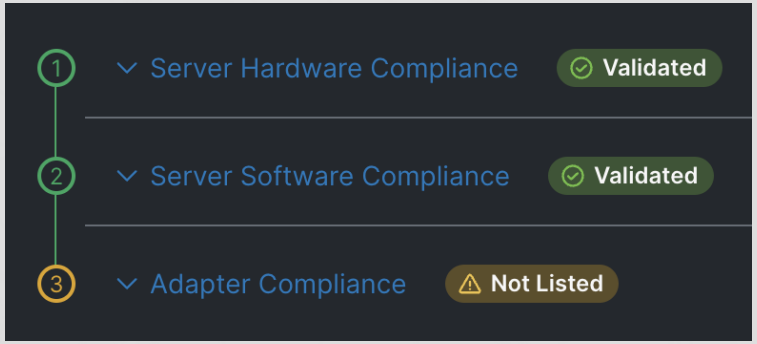
Inventory



Alarms/Advisories

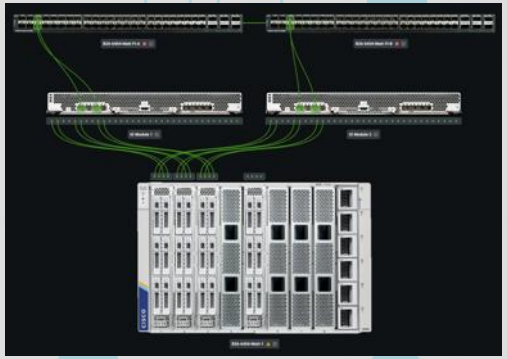


HCL

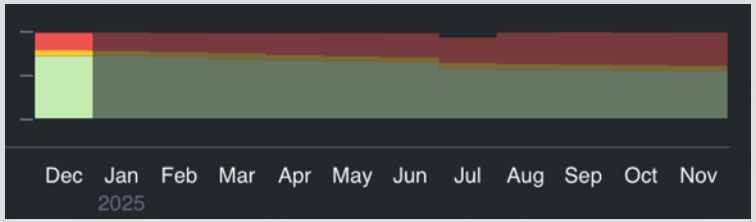


Metrics

Topology



Contract Status



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cisco

Control

CISCO INTERSIGHT

Pool

List of identities

(IP, MAC, WWN,...)

LAN Connectivity

Storage

BIOS

...and many more

Policy

Bucket of settings with a specific focus

Template

Blueprint for one or more Profiles

Profile

Contains all settings and identifiers for a server

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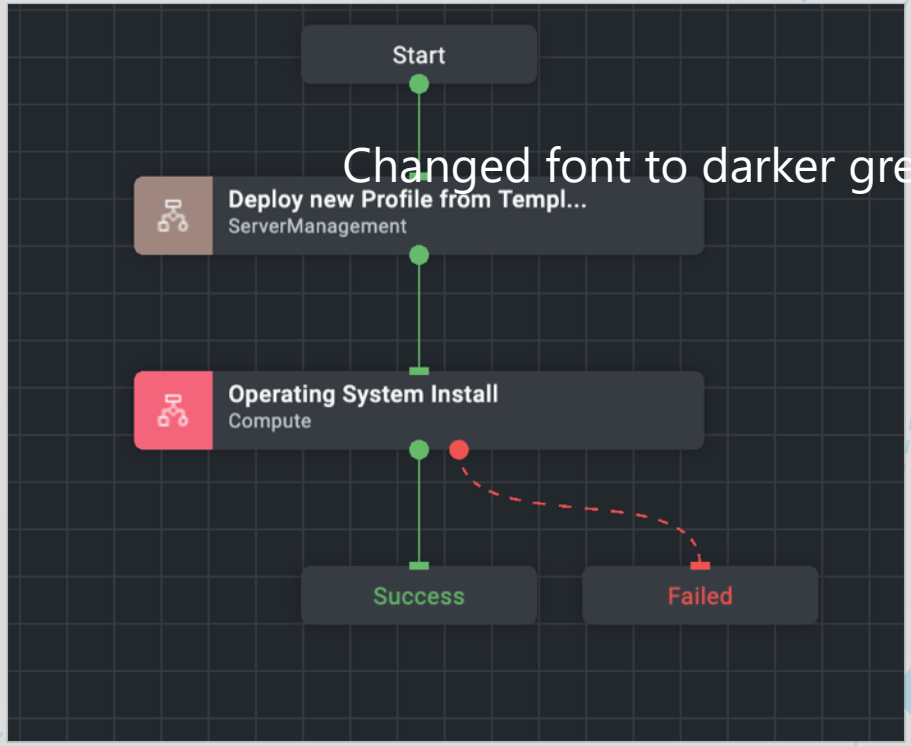
Automate

CISCO INTERSIGHT

Built-in Workflow Automation



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API and Tool Support

REST APIs for all Intersight objects

Tool Support:

- Ansible
- PowerShell
- Python
- Terraform

CVDs with code samples

Intersight.com/apidocs

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What's new in the last year

Enhanced Topology view
OpenShift Assisted Installer
Navigation rework
VMware Cloud Foundation (VCF) Operations Management Pack for Cisco Intersight
Dynamic assignment of IMM and standalone servers to resource pools
Cross-launch of IMC for M7+
Nutanix Prism Central device connector for inventory and alarm monitoring
Bare Metal Provisioning Workflow
IMM server integration with Nutanix Life Cycle Manager (LCM)
LDAP authentication on the Fabric Interconnect device console
Port Policy sharing across organizations including all attached policies
Nutanix support for UCS-X in IMM
EtherChannel pinning for IMM and standalone servers to improve VIC performance
Auto-detection of remote targets in OS install
Option for multiple Ethernet Network Group Policy associations
Memory Policy for blocklisting of DIMMs for IMM and standalone servers
Environment Variables support for orchestration
Scrub policy support in IMM
Server policy cleanup upon policy detachment
VLAN import into Ethernet Network Group Policy from CSV or VLAN Policy
Server configuration reset to default during first-time discovery and recommission
Validation checks to confirm that vNIC VLANs are present on at least one uplink
FEC support for breakout ports in Ethernet Uplink/FCoE Uplink/Appliance Port Channels
Environmental Metrics collection for UMM domains
Manual key configuration for drive security setup
Option to reset DIMM error counters to zero
Power Restore setting for IMM and standalone UCS C-Series servers
Transceiver metrics for IMM domains
Node expansion for existing Nutanix clusters
Partial default values for orchestration workflows
Scheduling for orchestration workflows
Library of code samples for different tools/languages
Improved firmware image download speed through CDN
Fabric Interconnect reboot in IMM mode
IO Path monitoring during firmware upgrade
Deep cloning of Server Profile Templates across organizations
Standalone server integration with Nutanix Life Cycle Manager (LCM)
Improved filtering and searching in list views
SPAN support for IMM
Domain, Product Family, Generation, Tags as attributes for metrics
Error metrics collection for IMM IO Module uplink ports
Cleared Alarms can be included in E-Mail notifications
Ready-to-use BIOS configurations provided by Cisco
Automatic VCF deployment for IMM servers
Assignment of individual servers to resource groups
VIF Path information in Server view
Nutanix support for M6 and M7 standalone servers
Chassis and Domain Templates
vNIC and vHBA Templates
Thales Cipher Trust KMIP support for SED on IMM and standalone servers
Manual Fabric Interconnect Traffic evacuation action
VMware vCenter plugin
ServiceNow Incident Management Integration plugin
FlexMMC boot option for M6 and M7 standalone servers
Single Fabric Interconnect Upgrade
IO Module reset from peer
OAuth 2.0 Support
API Key lifecycle management
New Pure Storage orchestration tasks
Pure Storage Alarms in Intersight
New Advisories

...and more

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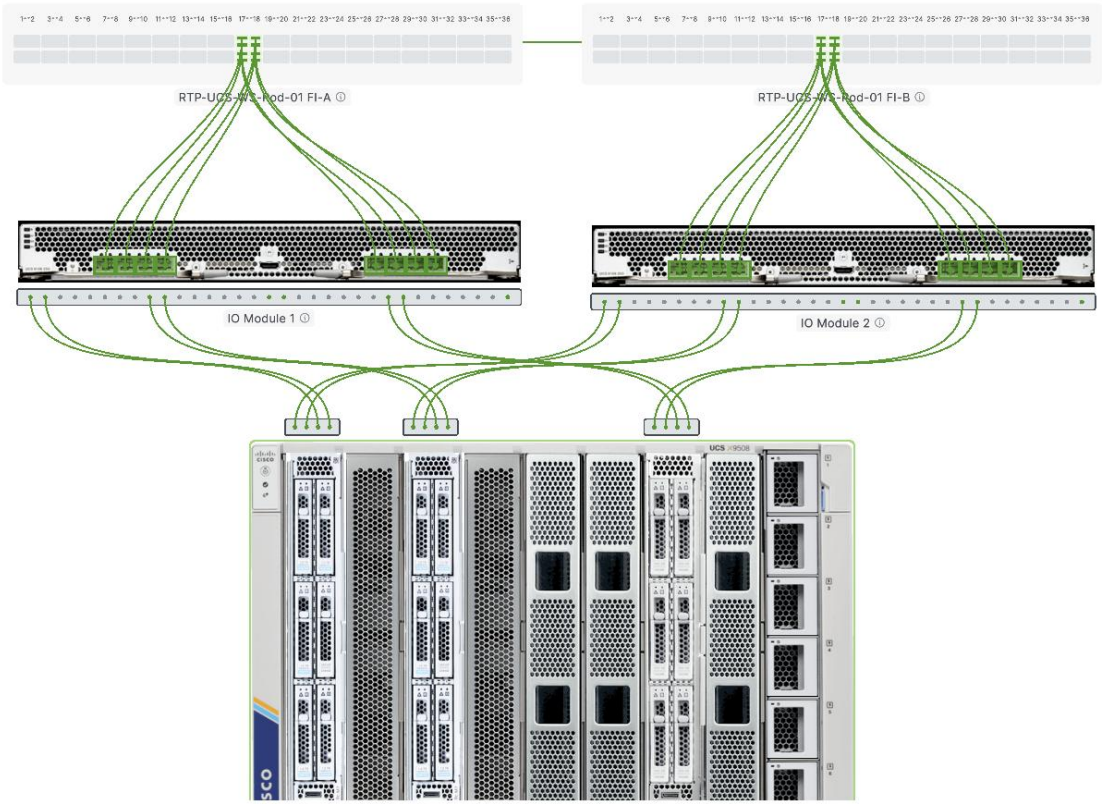
Topology

- Visual representation of components in Intersight-managed UCS Domain.
- Display connections and relationships between components.
- Interconnected topology views for FIs, chassis and servers.
- Device view of CDP and LLDP neighbors
- Overlay of port and connection level health status.
- Easily navigate the health of the environment.



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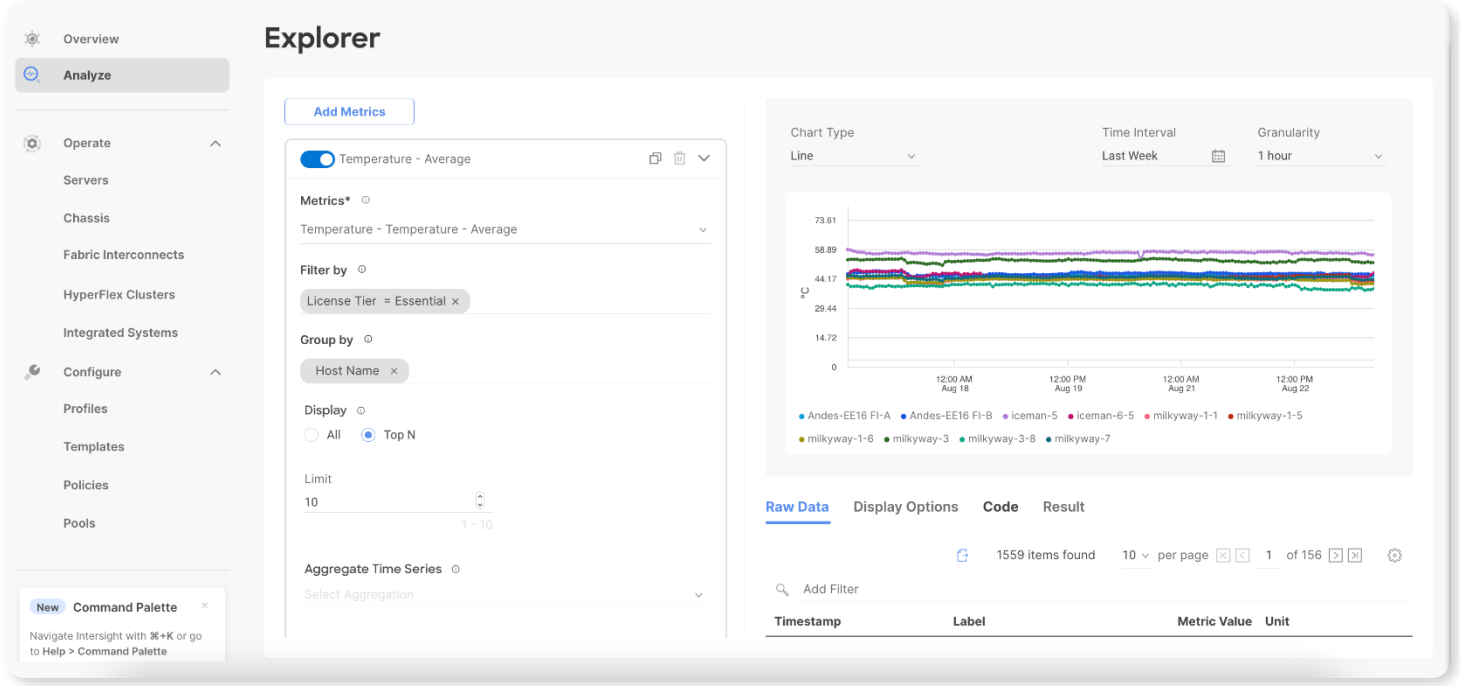
Metrics Explorer

- Aggregate and visualize metrics collected for fabric interconnects and servers.
- Monitor devices, optimize performance, identify bottlenecks and address any potential issues.



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Key features

Customizable metric queries

Create customer curies to focus on metrics that matter most to you.

Interactive data visualization

Transform raw data into interactive charts and graphs to help identify patterns, anomalies to gain deeper insights.

Real-time data

Insights into performance metrics. Track metrics such as network power consumption, CPU temperature, resource utilization, etc.

Historical data

Analyze the historical data to identify long term historical trends.

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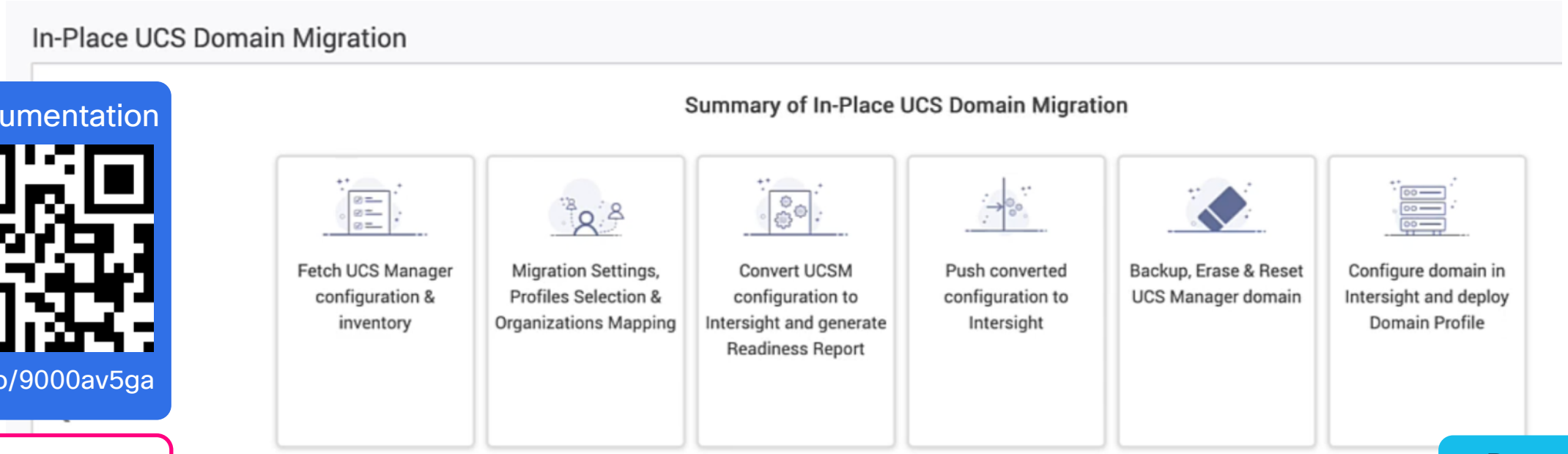
IMM migration tool simplified transition



Documentation

cs.co/9000av5ga

YouTube Demo

cs.co/9007av5nZ

The migration tool was improved over the past year and now also supports in-place migration

Download

cs.co/9009avgKf

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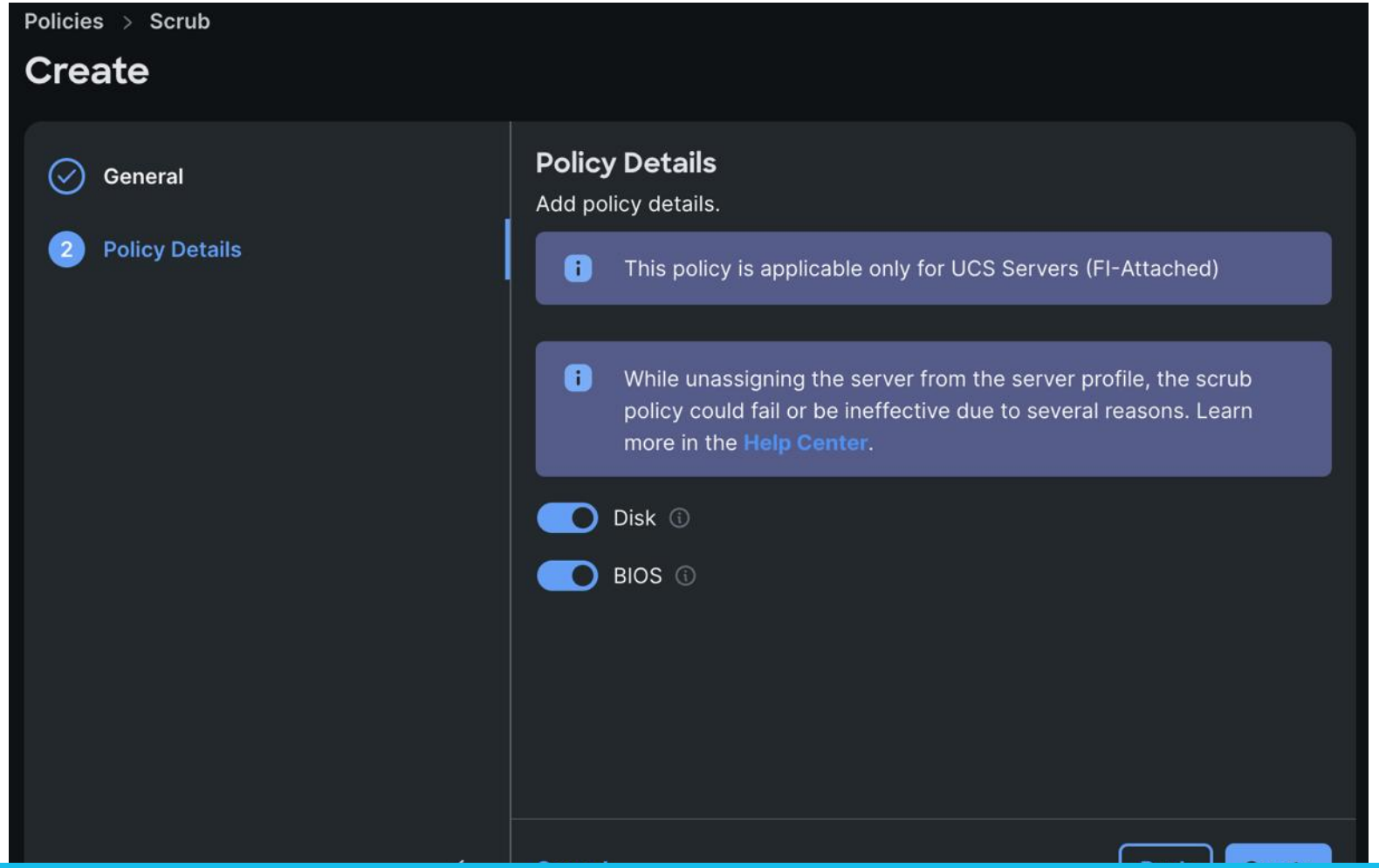
What's new highlights: Scrub Policy



Partially deletes data on local drives, and resets BIOS settings upon profile undeployment

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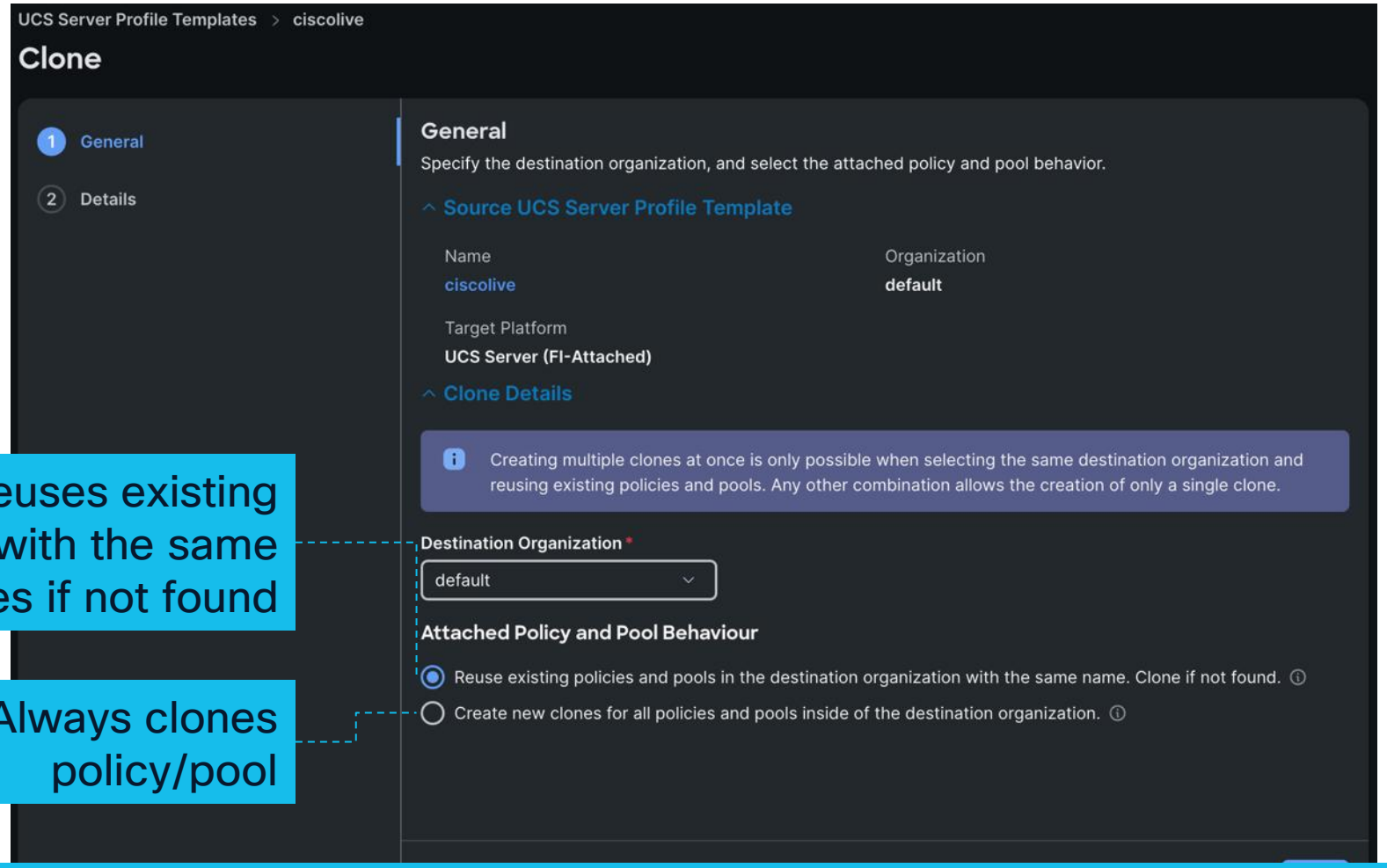
What's new highlights: template deep clone



Reuses existing policy/pool with the same name, clones if not found

Always clones policy/pool

Note: for pools the identifier blocks will not be created when cloned

Clones of Templates can now also clone attached policies and sub-policies

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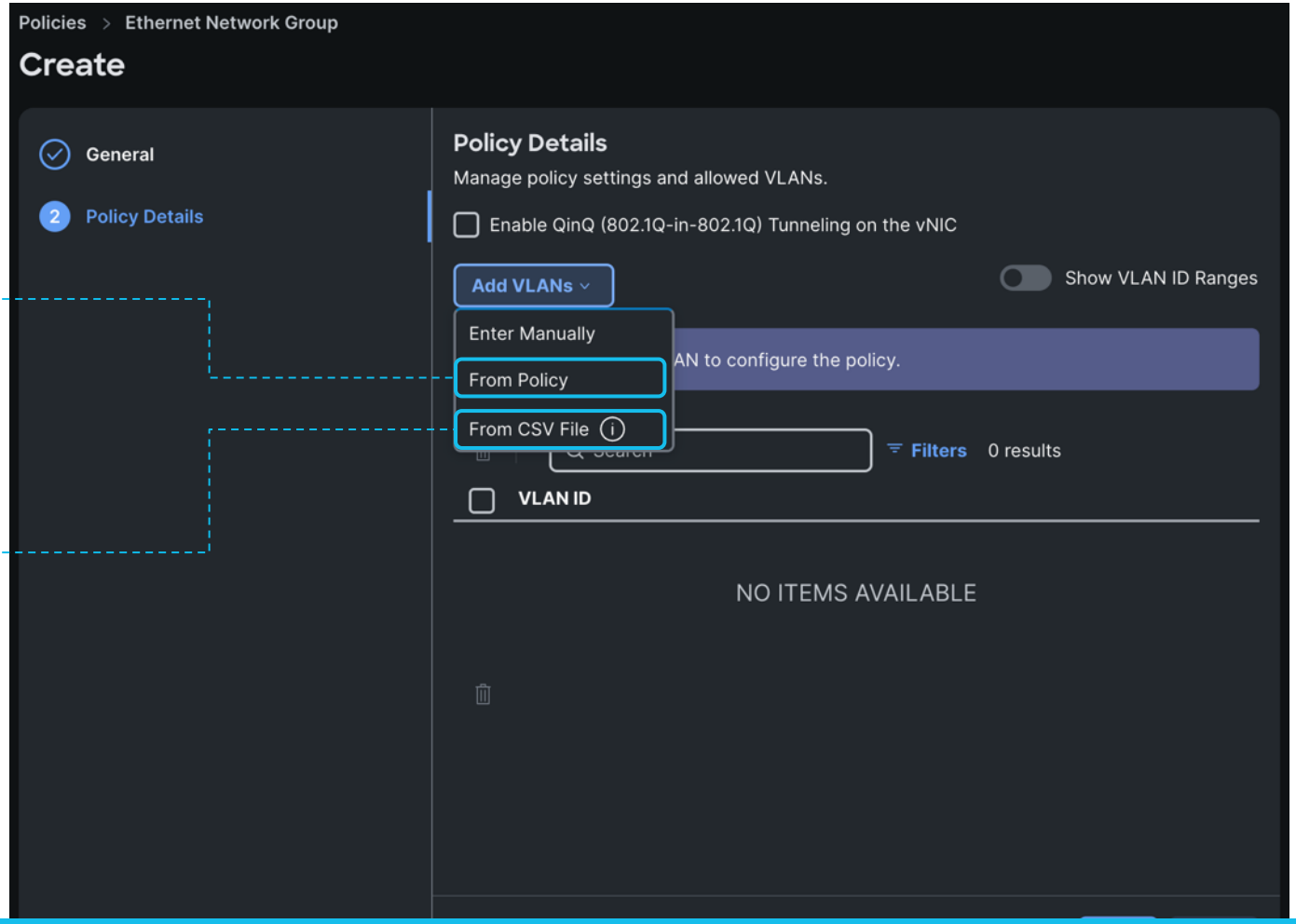
What's new highlights: VLAN import

Import from VLAN Policy

Import from CSV file with individual numbers or ranges



One-time VLAN import into Ethernet Network Group from Policy or CSV File

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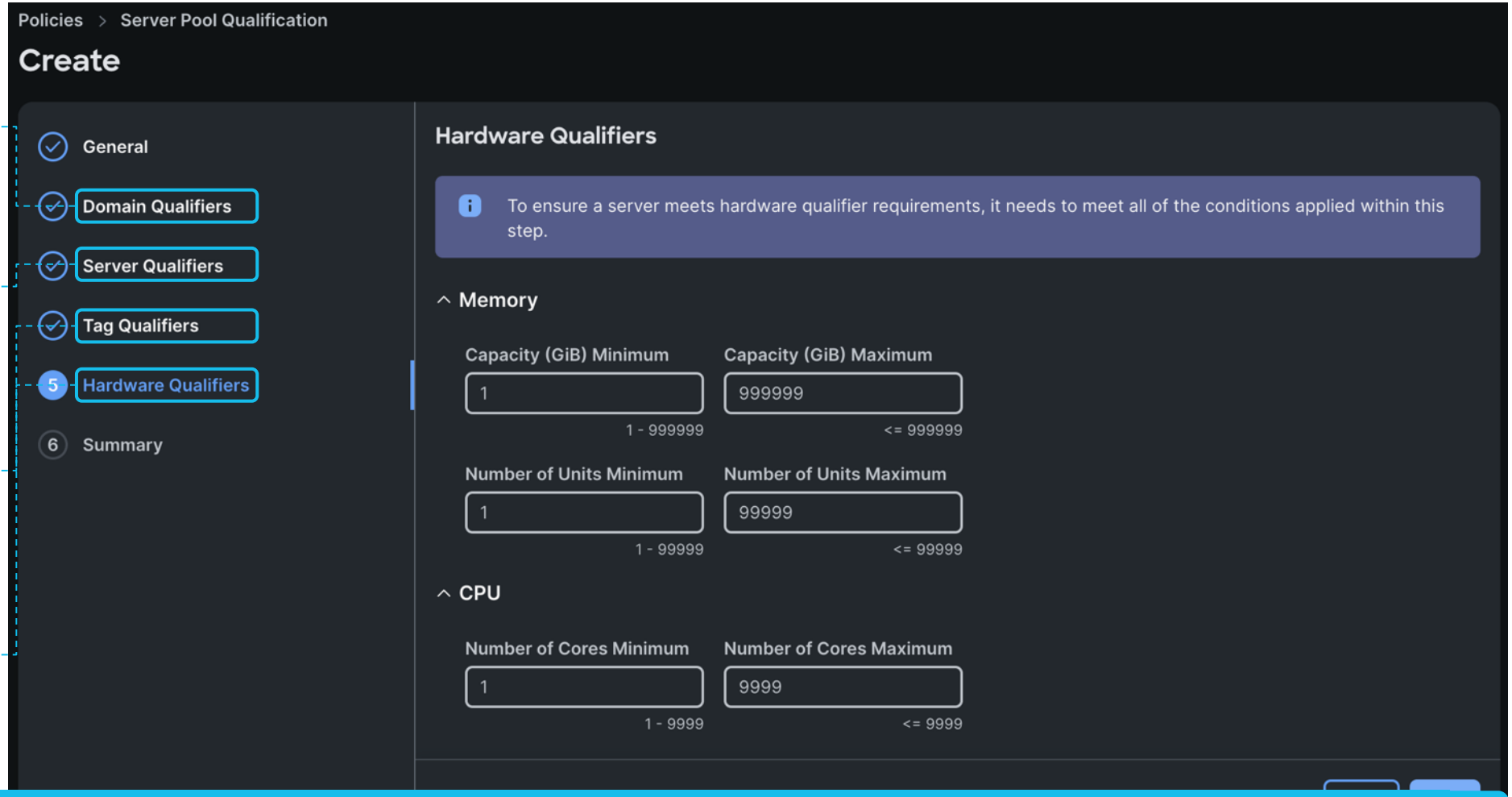
What's new highlights: pool qualification policy

Domain PID or Name

Server PID or identifier

Tags on domain, chassis, server

Hardware components



Adds servers to resource pools, based on various hardware and configuration qualifiers

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What’s new highlights: faster firmware download

Essentials

Update your proxy and firewall settings to allow

NA Cloud	cdn.intersight.com
EU Cloud	cdn.eu-central-1.intersight.com

Configuring your network to allow CDN connectivity can speed up downloads

Note: not all locations are shown in this slide

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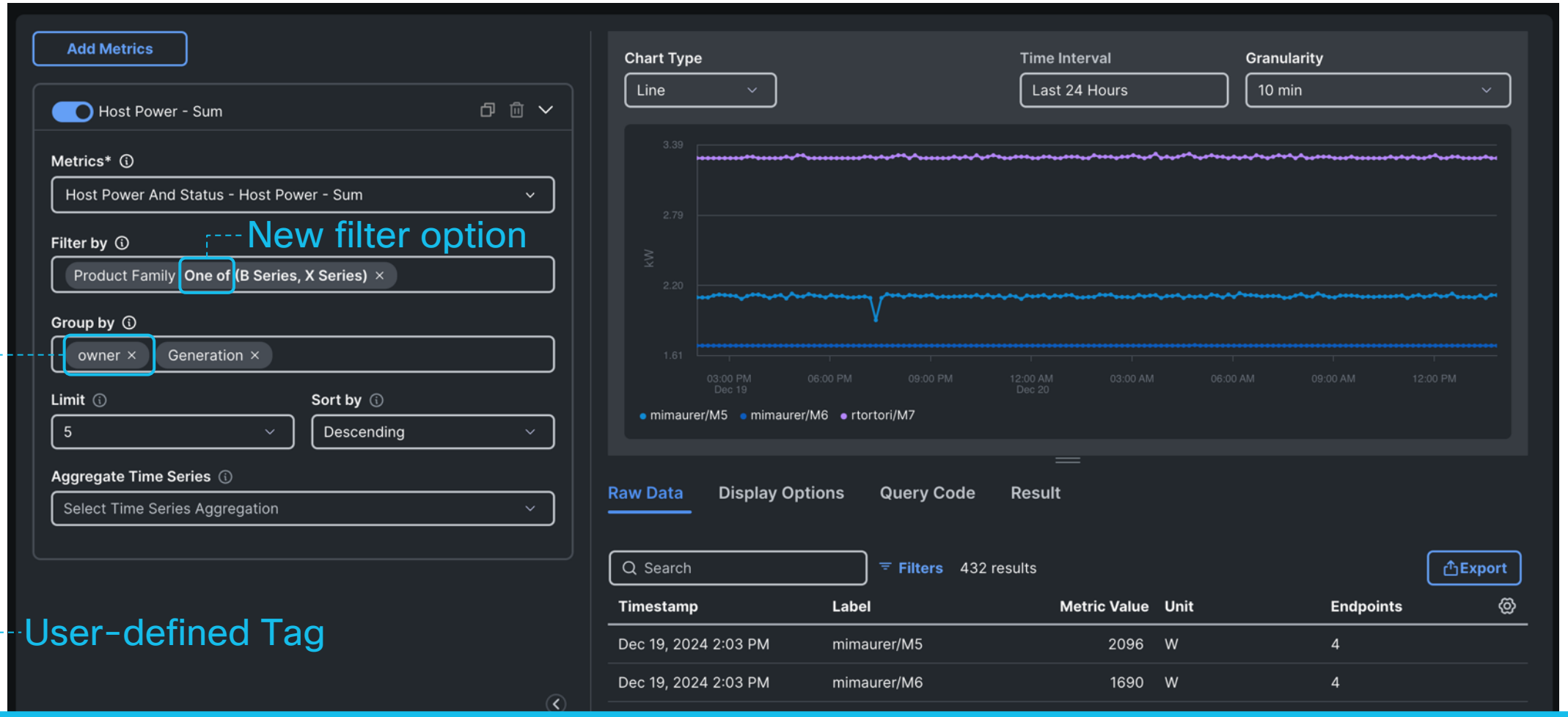
What's new highlights: more metrics attributes



Use Domain Name, Product Family, Generation, and Tags to filter/group metrics

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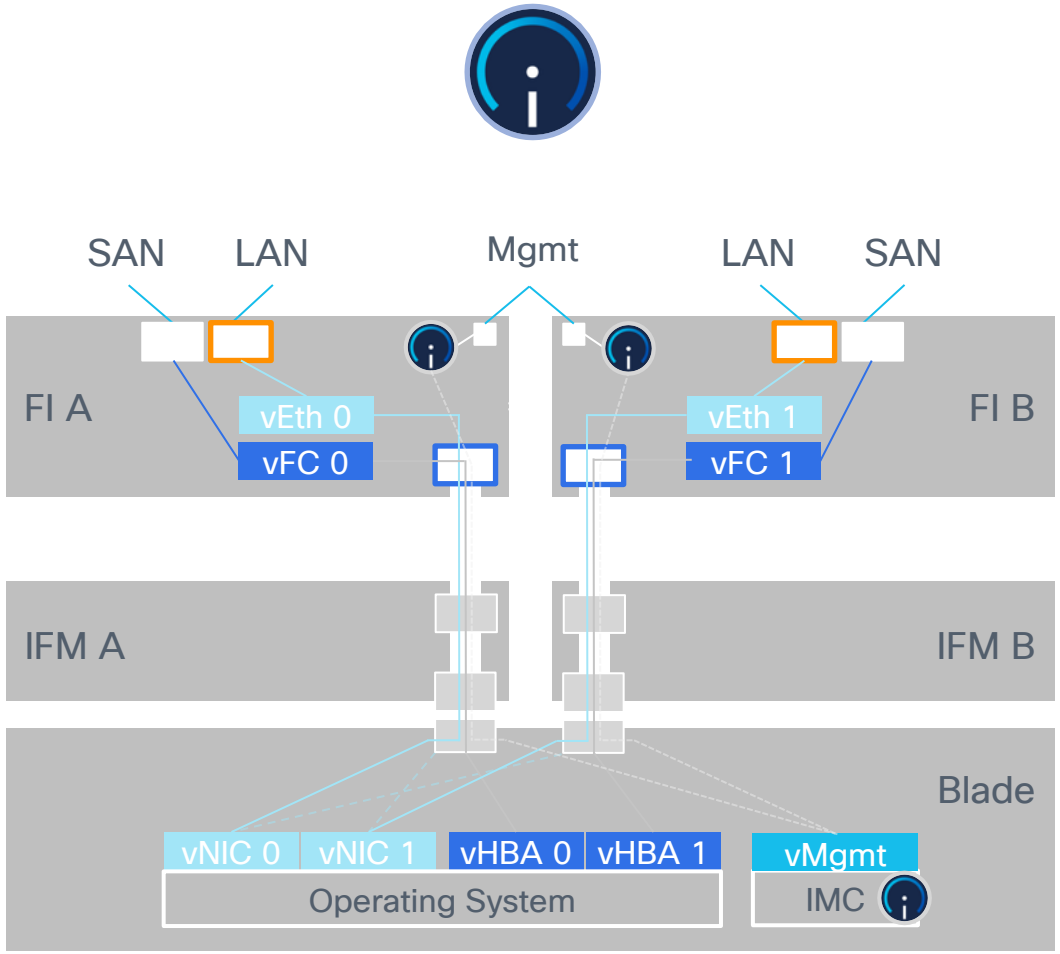
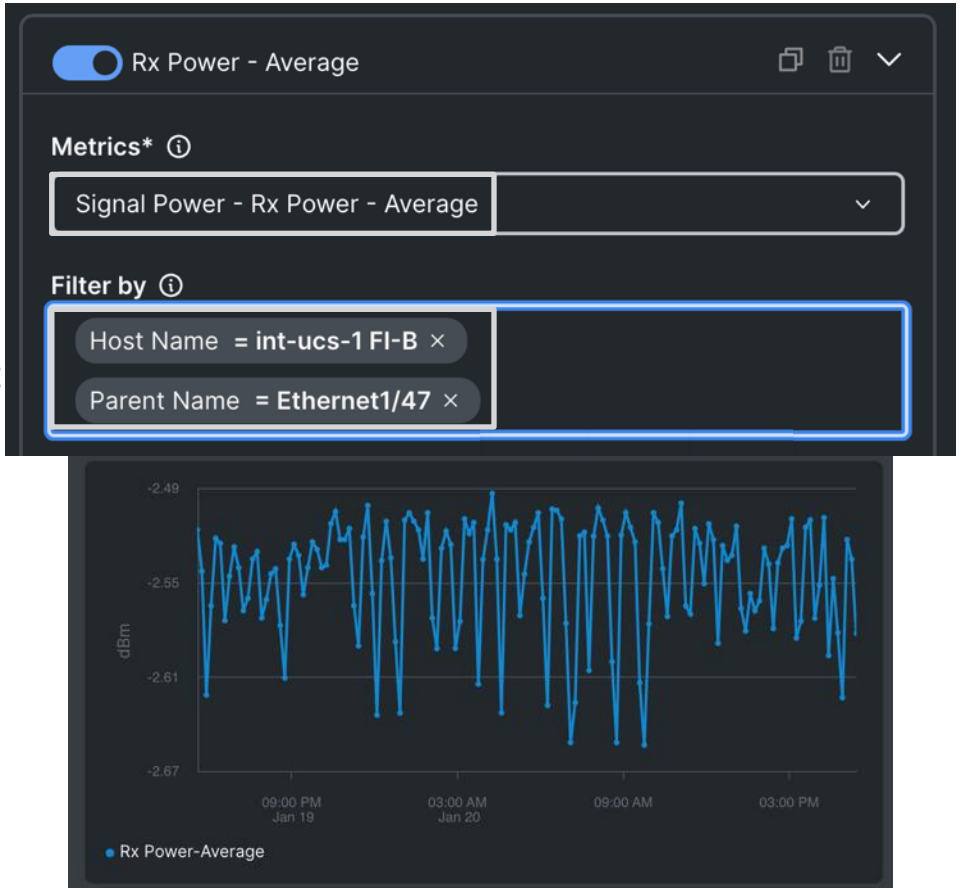
What's new highlights: transceiver metrics



Select one of the metrics

Filter/Group by :
Host Name = Device
Parent Name = Port



Note: Metrics are only collected for Ethernet SFP with DOM!

Metrics	
	Signal Power → RX Power → Avg
	Signal Power → TX Power → Avg
	Electric Current → Electric Current → Avg
	Temperature → Temperature → Avg
	Voltage → Voltage → Avg

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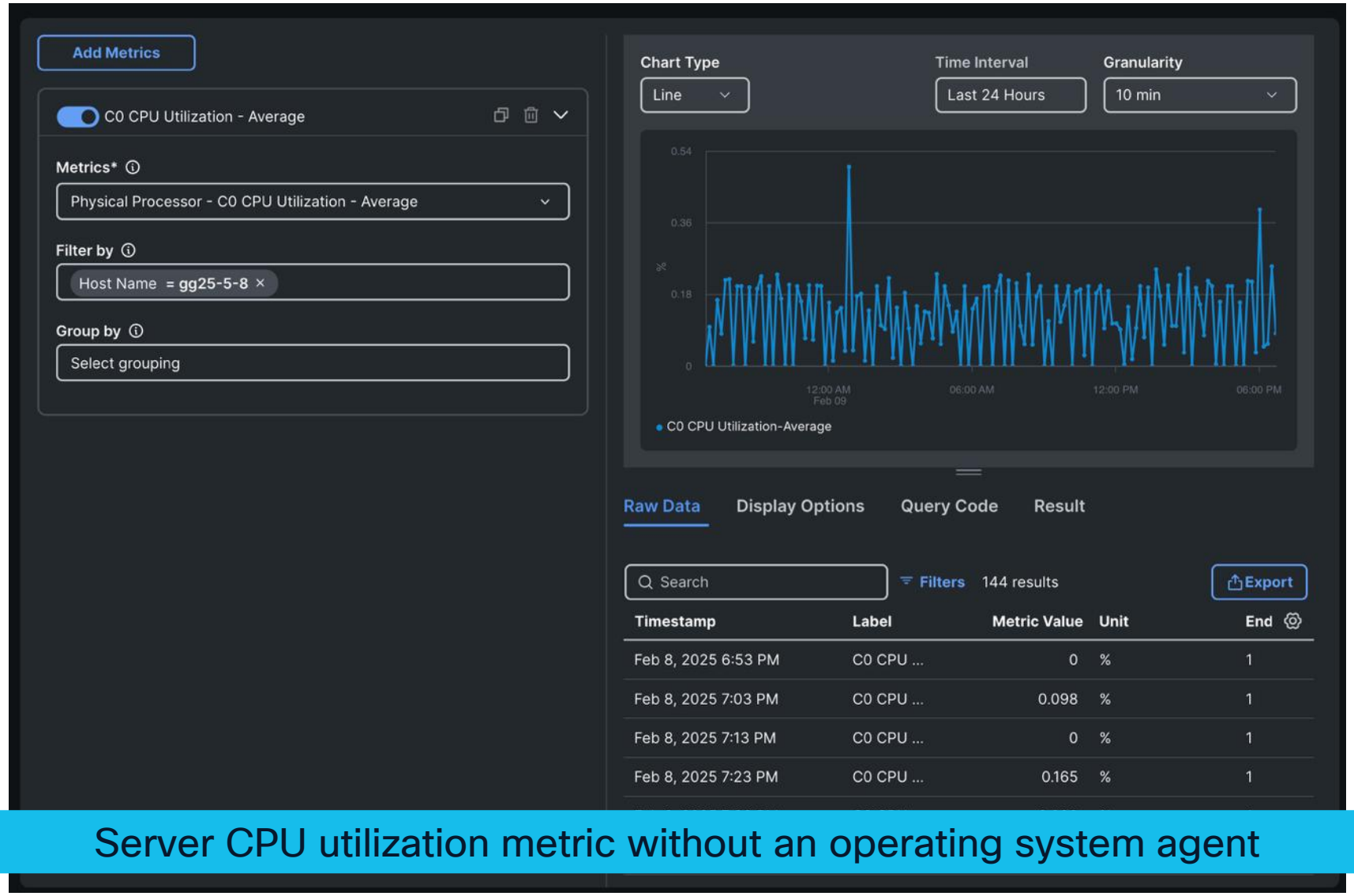
What's new highlights: CPU utilization metric



Server CPU utilization metric without an operating system agent

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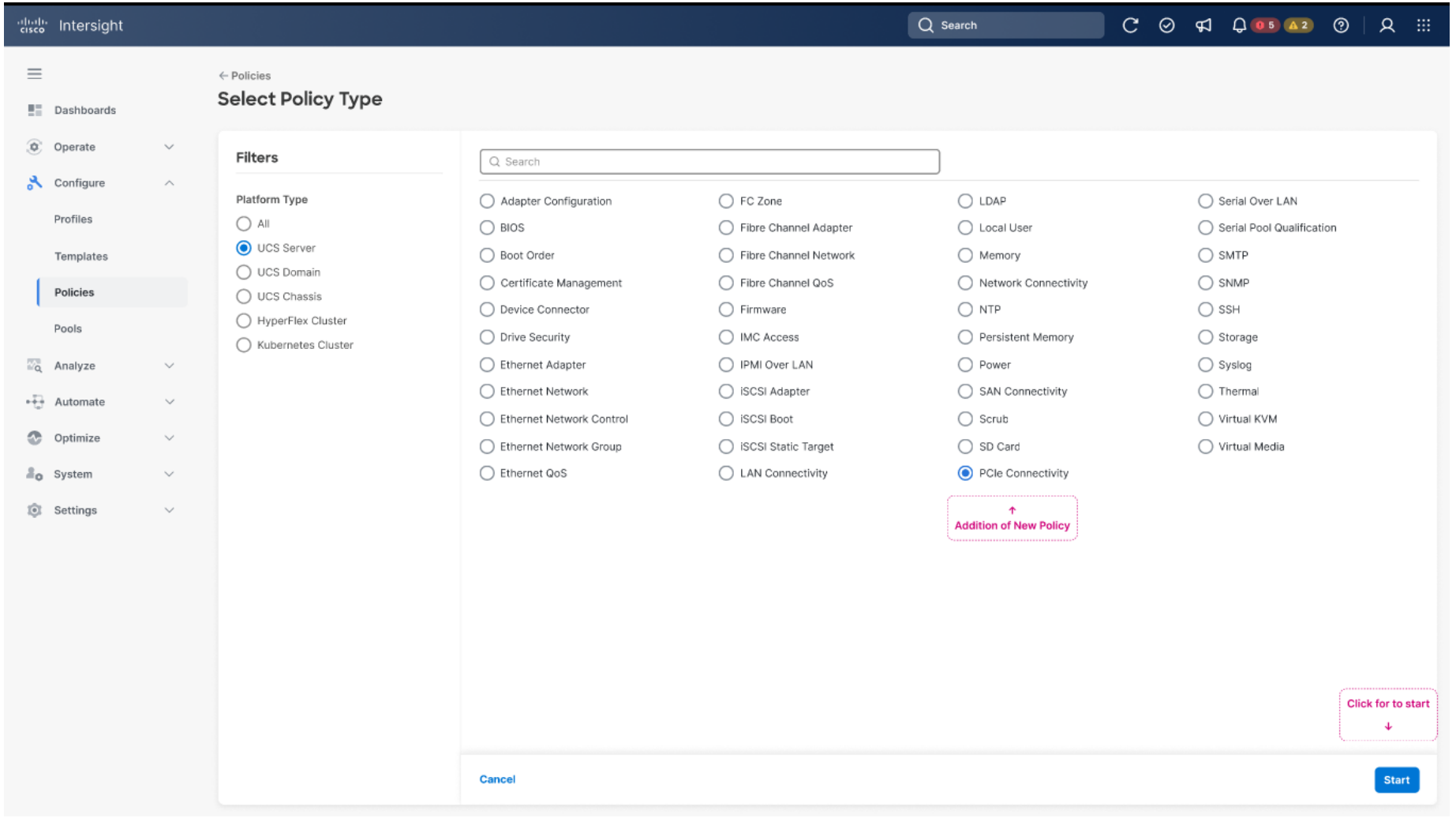
Intersight PCIe connectivity policy creation



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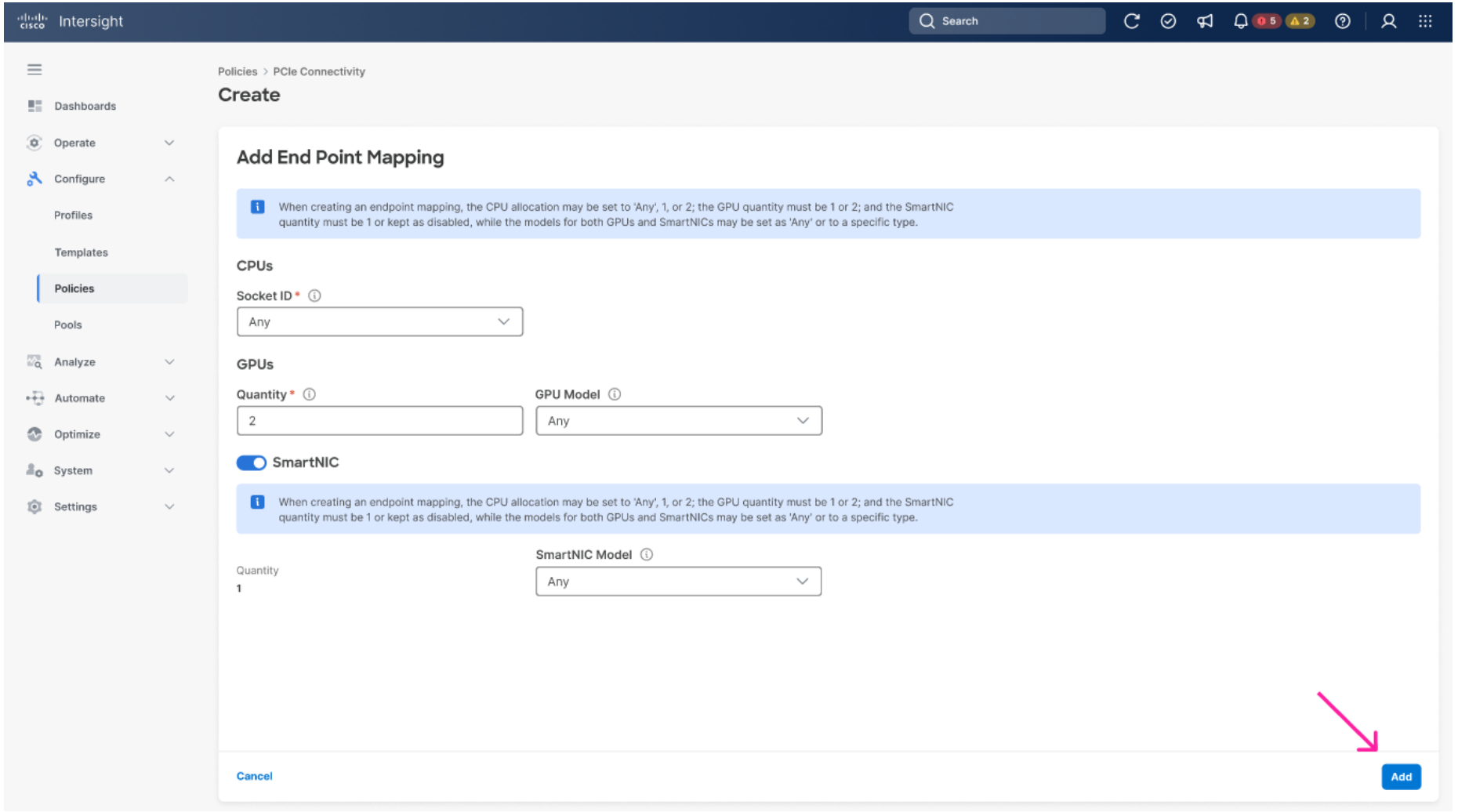
Intersight UCS server profile configuration



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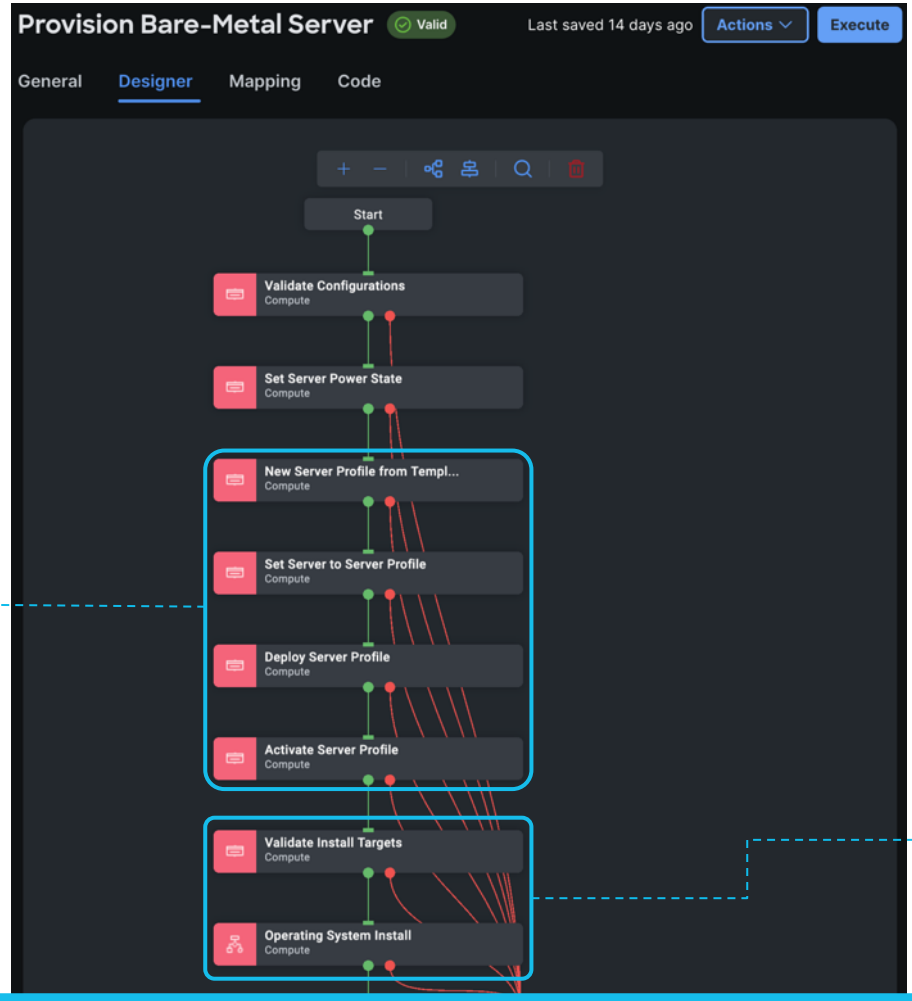
What's new highlights: server provisioning WF

Derives a Server Profile from a Template and deploys it



Installs the operating system on the server

Full bare metal server deployment workflow on local disks, including profile and OS

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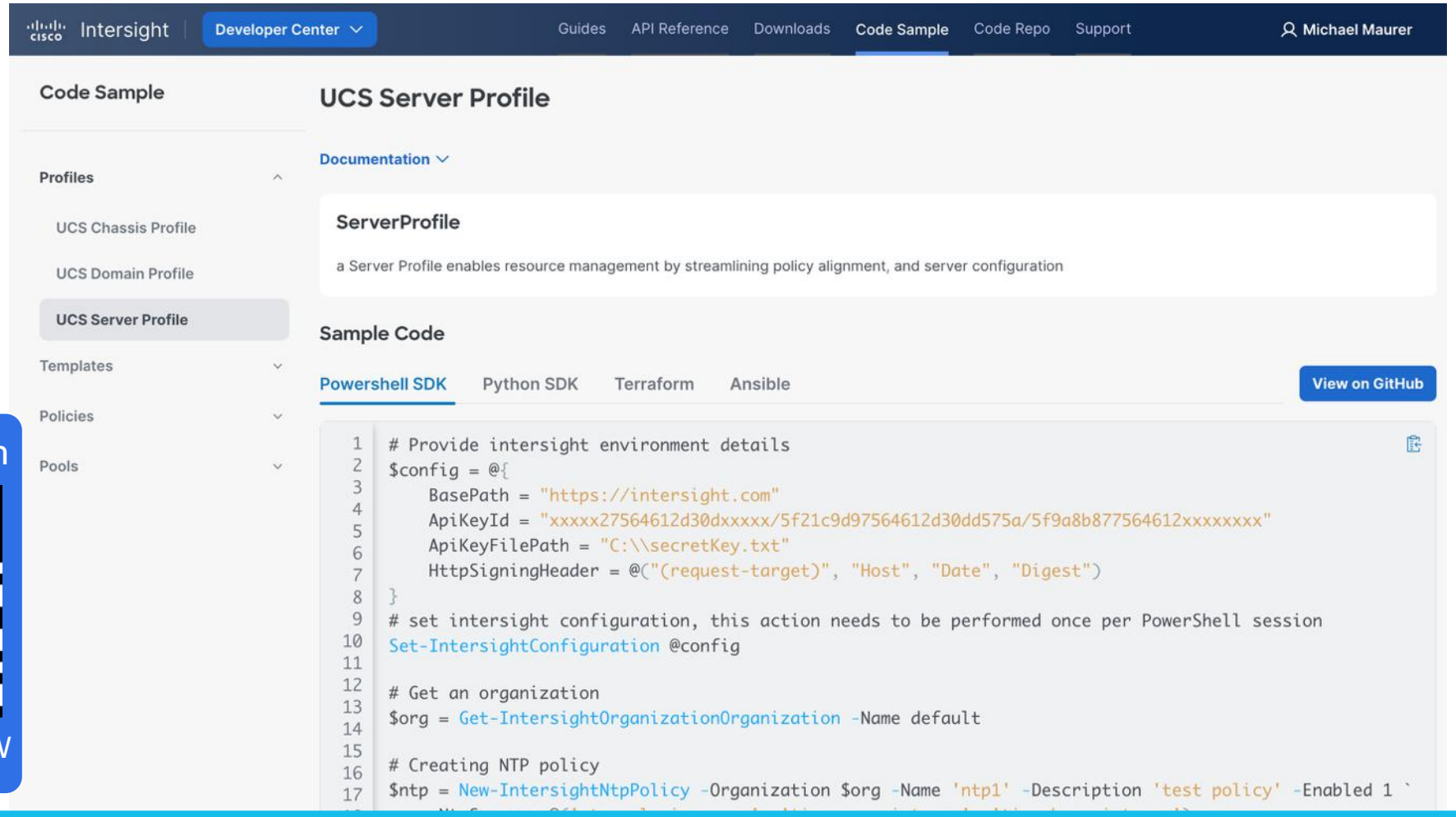
What's new highlights: automation samples



Documentation

cs.co/9009vPVbW

Code Sample Library based on common use cases in multiple languages

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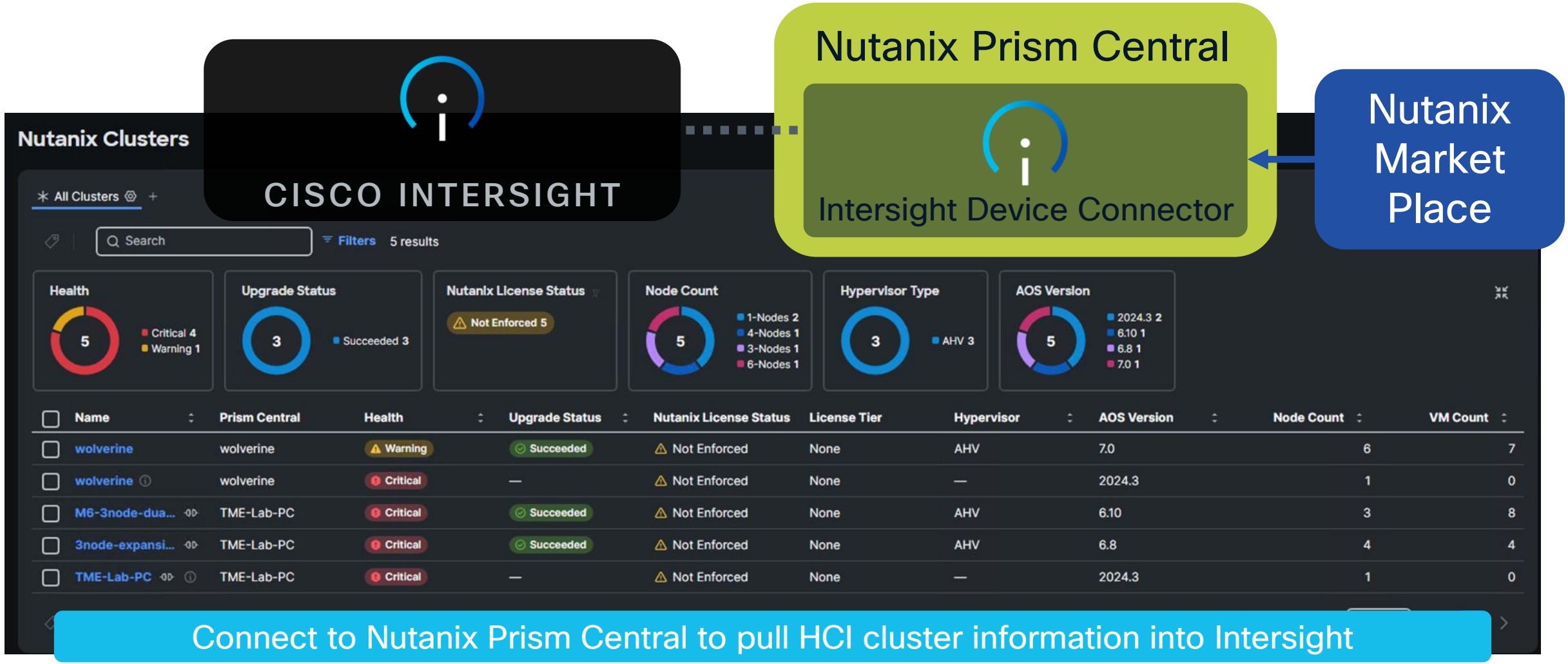
What's new highlights: Nutanix integration



Connect to Nutanix Prism Central to pull HCI cluster information into Intersight

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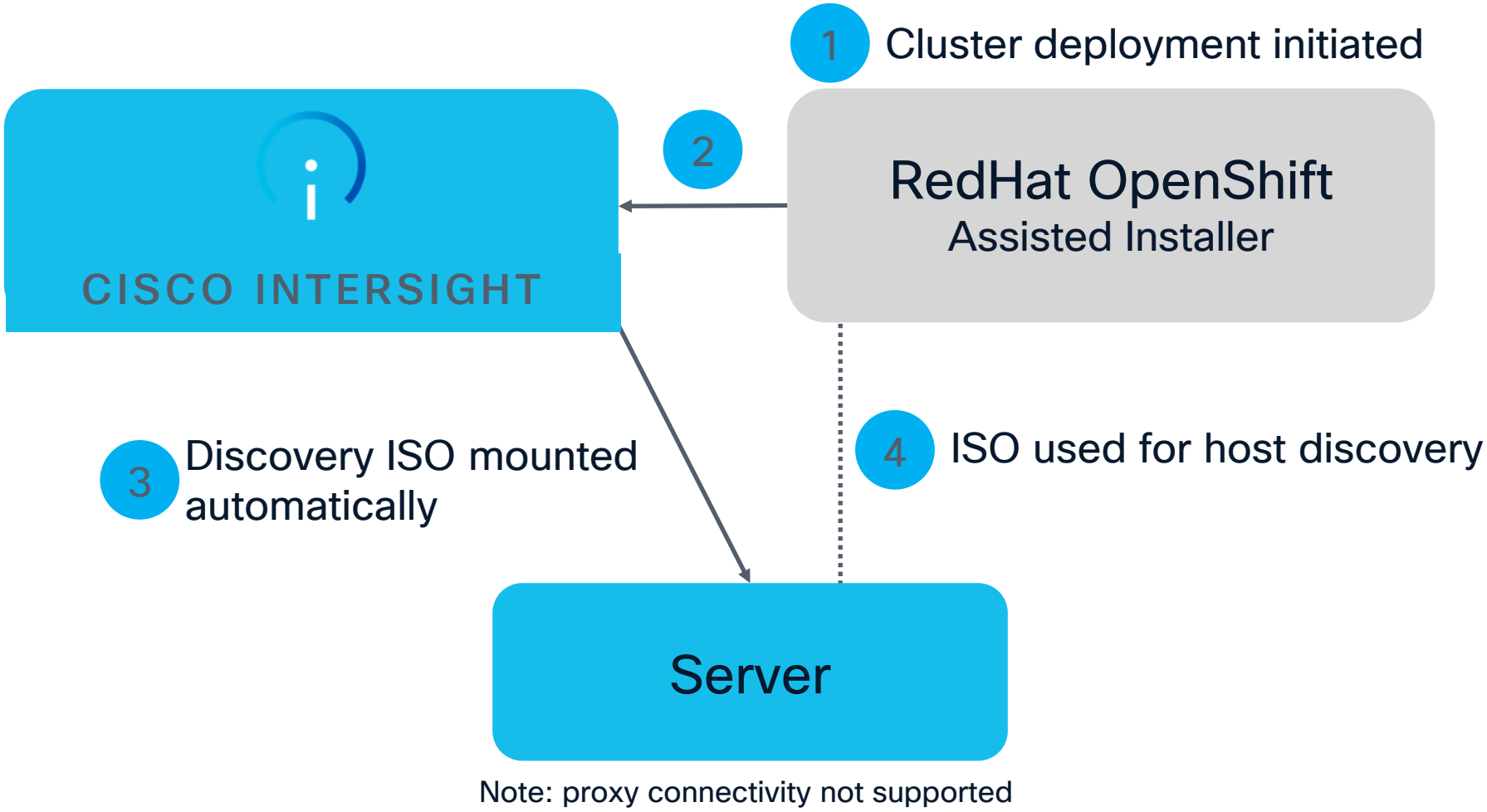
What's new highlights: OpenShift integration

Documentation

cs.co/9001l6wz1

YouTube Demo

cs.co/9002l6wuG



Note: proxy connectivity not supported

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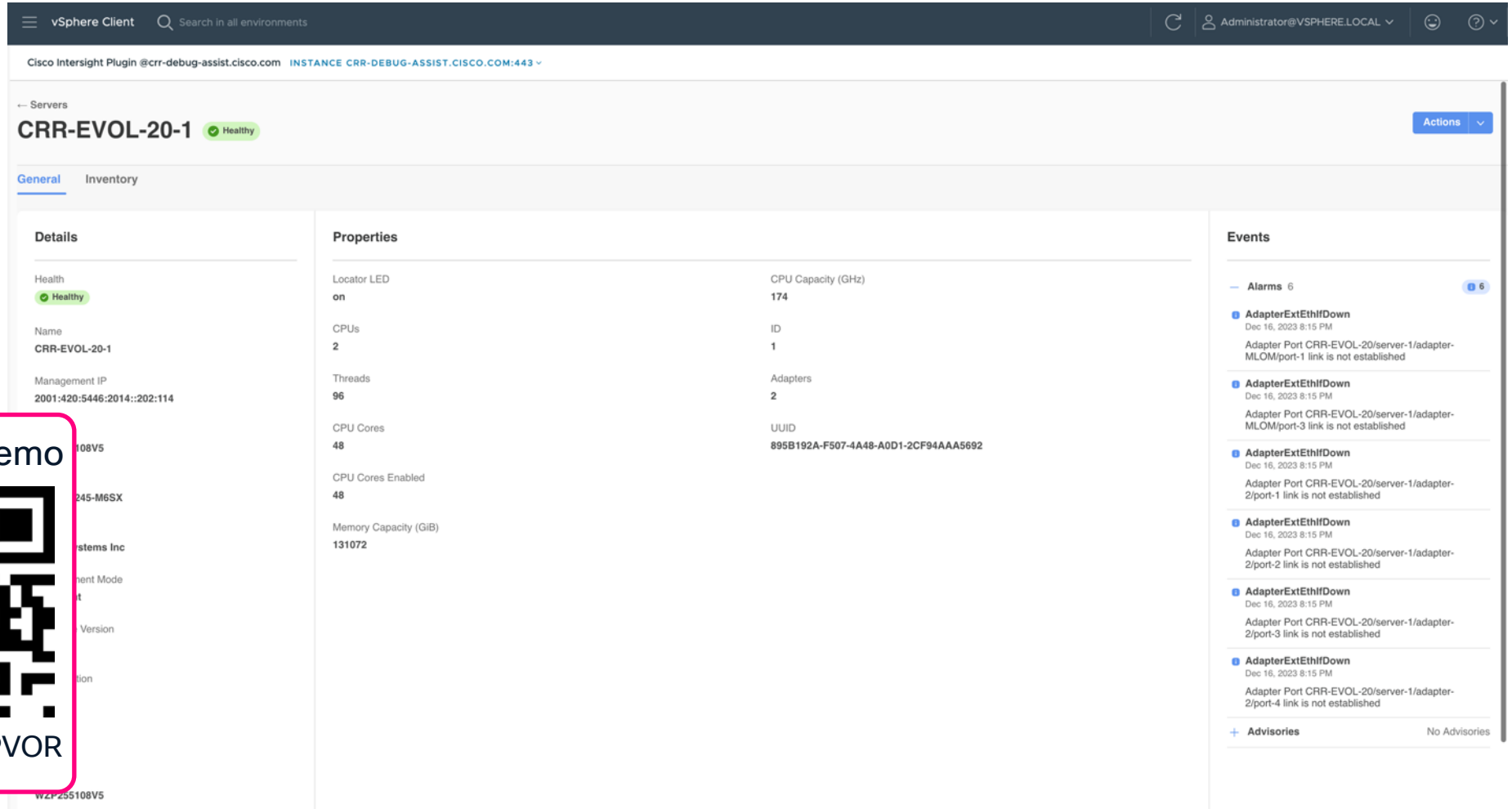
What's new highlights: vCenter plugin

Advantage



YouTube Demo

cs.co/9001vPVOR

View Intersight inventory in vCenter and integrate with Proactive HA

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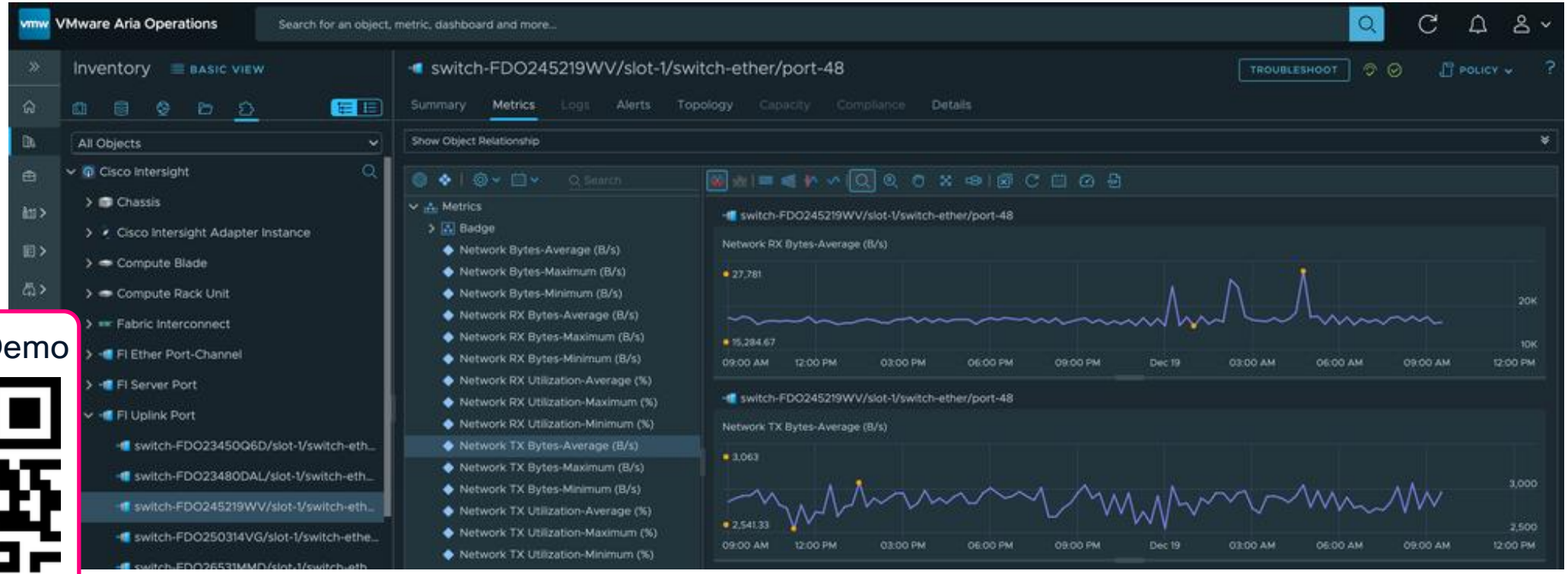
What's new highlights: VCF plugin



YouTube Demo

cs.co/9006IEwt6

Import inventory and metrics into VMware Aria Operations

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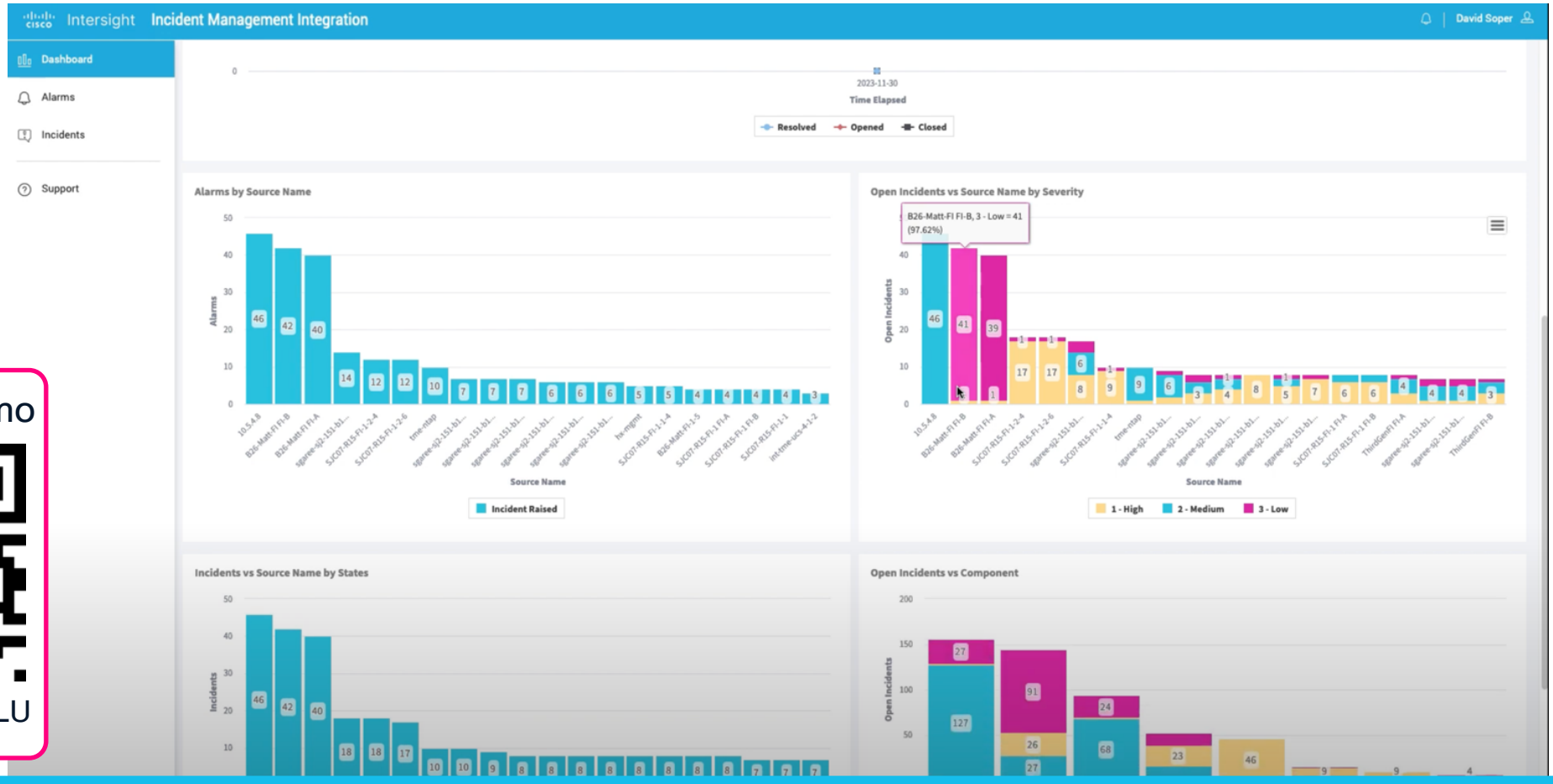
What's new highlights: ServiceNow Incident Management Integration



YouTube Demo

cs.co/9005vPpLU

Import alarms and advisories into ServiceNow Incident Management

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What's new highlights: Splunk plugin

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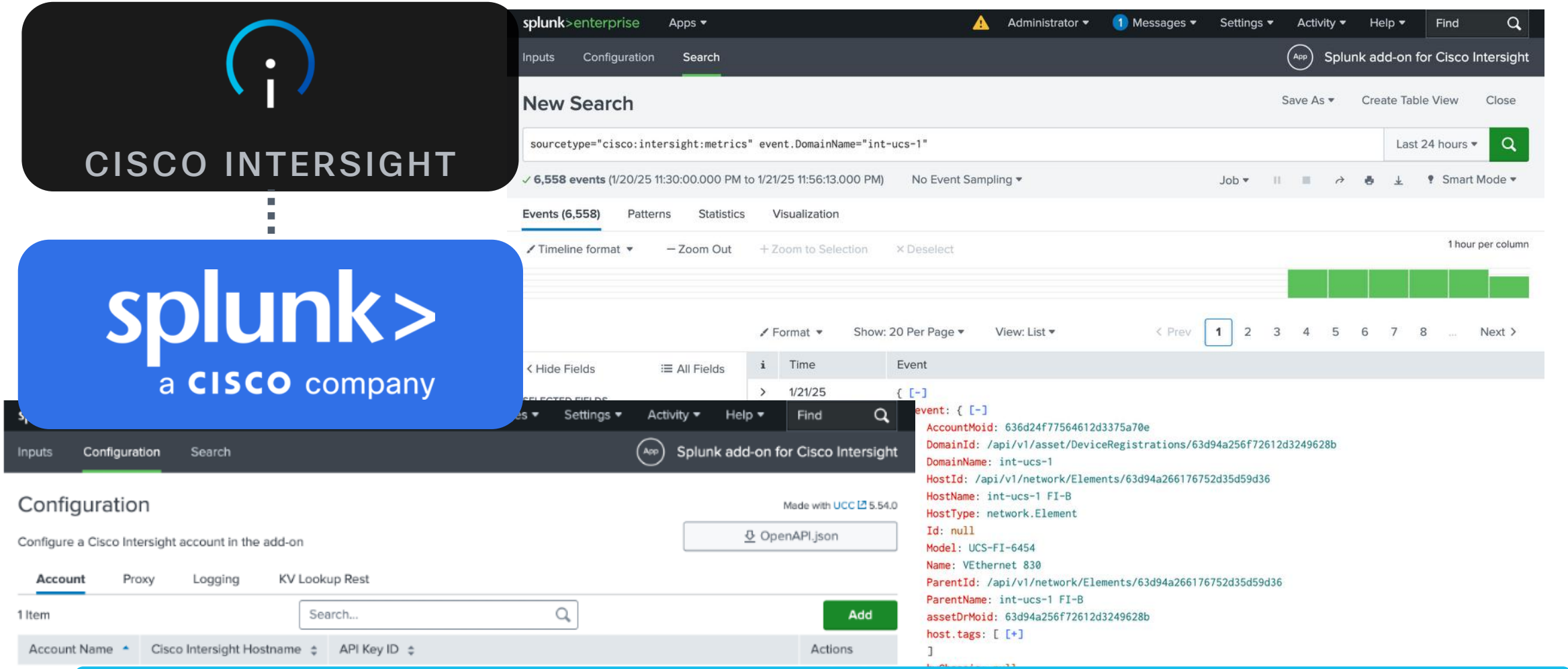
splunk>

a cisco company



Exports Intersight inventory and metrics into Splunk

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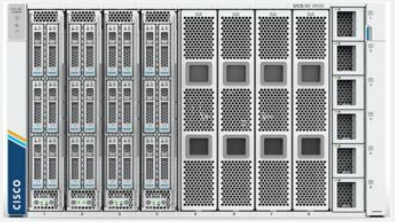
UCS Hardware

Cisco UCS compute portfolio

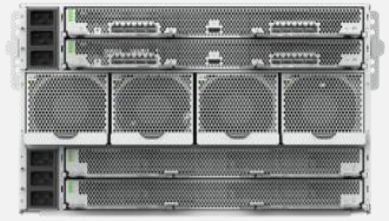
MAINSTREAM ENTERPRISE SERVERS

UCS X-Series
X9508 Chassis

IFM Module



UCS X-Series Direct



UCS X210c M8 — New

UCS X215c M8 — New

UCS X410c M7

UCS X210c M7

UCS B200 M6

UCS C240 M8E3S
36 EDSFF E3.S1T — New

UCS C240 M8SX
28 HDD/SDD/NVMe — New

UCS C240 M8L
16 LFF + 4 SFF — New

UCS C240 M7SN
28 NVMe

UCS C240 M6S
14 SSD/HDD Media drive

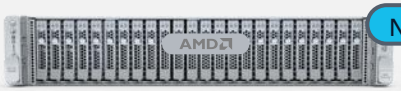
UCS C240 M6N
14 NVMe Media Drive

UCS C220 M8E3S
16 EDSFF E3.S1T — New

UCS C220 M8S
10 HDD/SSD/NVMe — New

UCS C220 M7N
10 NVMe

UCS C245 M8SX
28 HDD/SDD — New



UCS C225 M8S
10 HDD/SSD — New

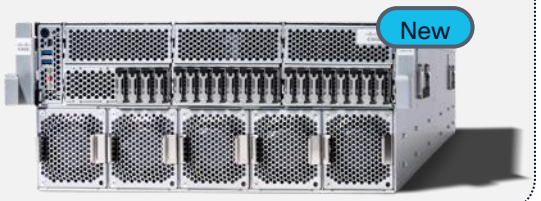
UCS C225 M8N
10 NVMe — New

AI SERVERS

UCS C885A M8
8RU Dense GPU
Server — New

UCS C880A M8
8RU Dense GPU
Server — New

UCS C845A M8
4RU MGX Server — New



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X-Series portfolio

COMPUTE

X210c Compute Node

- 2-Socket, single slot servers
- **Three Generations: M6, M7 and M8**
- Intel 3rd Gen (Ice Lake)
  4th Gen (Sapphire Rapids)
  5th Gen (Emerald Rapids) and
  6th gen (Granite Rapids) Xeon CPUs

X410c Compute Node

- 4-Socket, dual slot servers
- Intel 4th Gen Xeon CPU
- Up to 64 DDR5 DIMMs

X215c Compute Node

- 2-Socket, single slot servers
- M8 with AMD 4th gen EPYC CPU

FABRIC

4th,5th and 6th Gen FI

- 25/100G ports
- Unified ports: 32G FC (6536). 64G FC (66xx)
- Supports VIC 1400, 14000 and 15000 series

UCS X-Series Direct

- Scale at the edge
  with X-series advantage
  for 1-16 servers

25/100G IFM

- 8 x 25/100G connectivity

4th and 5th Gen VIC

- 25/100G connectivity
  for both blades and racks

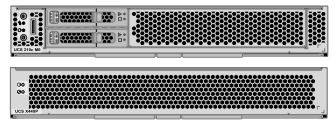
X-FABRIC AND PCIE NODE

X-Fabric

- Based on native PCIe Gen 4 and Gen 5
- Provides GPU acceleration to enterprise application
- No backplane or cables = Easy upgrades

GPU Node and Front Mezz GPUs

- Nvidia A16, Nvidia L40S, Nvidia L4, AMD MI210 and Nvidia H100-NVL
  X580p with 4 DW GPUs



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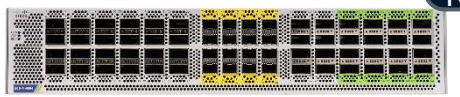
UCS Fabric portfolio

	4th Gen	5th Gen	6th Gen
Fabric Interconnect	FI 6454 FI 64108	FI 6536 UCSX-S9108-100G	New  FI 6664
IOM/IFM/ FEX	IOM 2408 (B-series) IFM 25G (X-series) 93180YC-FX3	IOM 2408 IOM 2304 IFM 25G IFM 100G 93180YC-FX3	IFM 25G IFM 100G 93180YC-FX3
Converged Adapters	VIC 1400 / 14000 Series (10G/25G/40G/100G)	VIC 15000 Series (10/25/40/50/100/200G)	VIC 15000 Series (10/25/40/50/100/200G)

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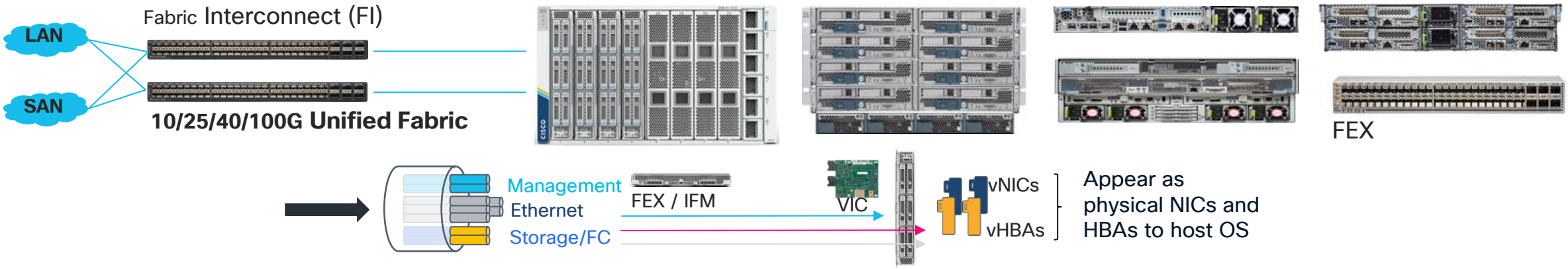
UCS Fabric innovations = simplicity

Simplicity

Resiliency

TCO Reduction



TRADITIONAL RACK

Ad Hoc and Inconsistent

TRADITIONAL BLADE

Structured, but Siloed and Complicated

CISCO UCS

Simplified, Optimized and Automated

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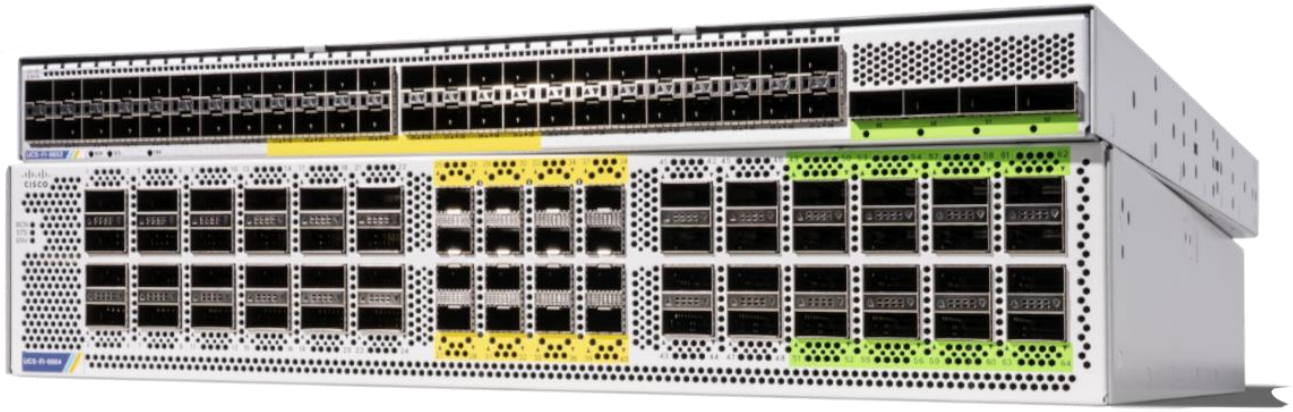
6th Generation UCS Fabric Interconnects

Redefining Compute Connectivity

- Industry's first 64G Fibre Channel for modular servers
- Simplified rack and modular server transition to 64G Fibre Channel
- Densest 25/50G or 100G converged fabric POD for x86 compute
- Comprehensive storage protocol support for compute
- Cloud scale management and visibility

UCS Manager



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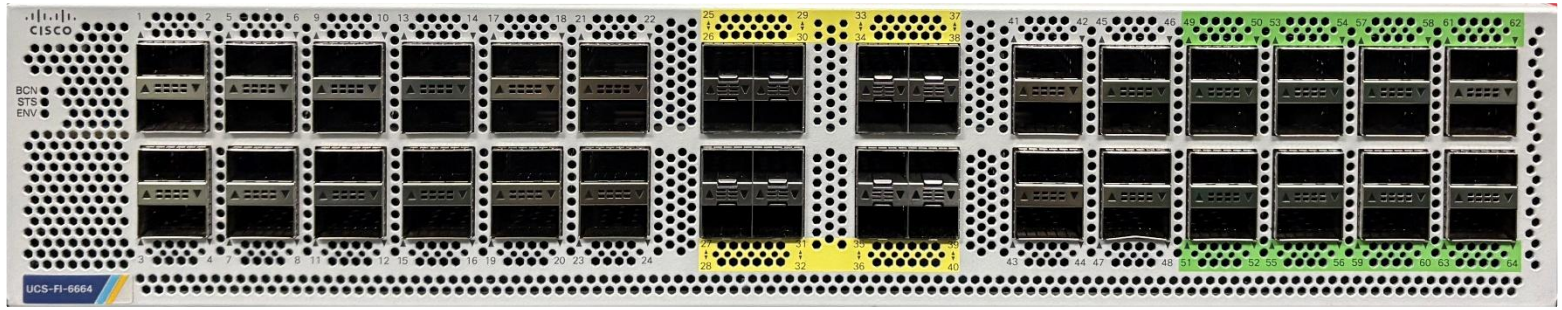
6th Gen UCS Fabric Interconnect 6664

Based on Next Gen Cisco Cloud Scale ASIC

- 11.65 Tbps Switching Performance
- 100G Ethernet
- 64G Fiber Channel
- Enhanced Telemetry



Features:
- 2 Rack Unit/High Density
- 64 Ports
  - 48 QSFP 40/100G Ethernet
  - 16 SFP 10/25G Ethernet or 16/32/64G Fiber Channel
- Supports both UCSM and IMM
- MACSec on Uplink Ports
- Perpetual Software License
- FC end-host and switch-mode

Interoperability:
- X series and C series server connectivity
- Support for M6, M7, M8+ generation Intel/AMD servers
- Support for Cisco MDS and Brocade SAN switch connectivity
- Support for IFM-100G, IFM-25G, Nexus 93180YC-FX3 FEX connectivity

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Fabric Interconnect 6664 port layout (back)

40/100G Eth/FCoE
10/25GbE by QSA or QSA28
QSFP Ports 1-24

10/25G Eth/FCoE or
16/32/64G FC
SFP Ports 25-40

40/100G Eth/FCoE
10/25GbE by QSA or QSA28
QSFP Ports 41-64

Unified Ports
(FC/Eth/FCoE)

MACsec capable
Recommended Uplinks

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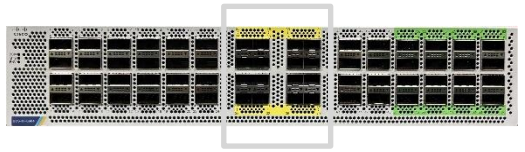
Fiber channel connectivity



FI 6664

+

16/32/64G FC SFP
Cisco PIDs (64G)
- DS-SFP-FC64G-SW
- DS-SFP-FC64G-LW

+

MMF or SMF LC cable

+

16/32/64G FC SFP

SAN switch or Storage Array

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Feature Comparison

Feature	FI 6300 Series	FI 6400 Series	FI 6536	FI 6664
NXOS Release	7.x	9.x , 10.x*	9.x, 10.x*	10.x
End host & switch mode	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported
FC/FCoE NPV & switch mode	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported
NetFlow	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported
PVLAN	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported
Port-security	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported
IOM	2200 / 2300 series	220x / 2408	2408 / 2304	-
IFM	-	IFM-25G	IFM-25G/ IFM-100G	IFM-25G/ IFM-100G
Servers	Upto M6 B-/ C- /S- series	M4/M5/M6/M7/M8 B-/ C-/ S-/ X- series	M4/M5/M6/M7/M8 B-/ C-/ X- / S- series	M6/M7/M8 C-/ X- series
VIC	1200/ 1300/ 1400/15000	1300/ 1400/ 15000	1300/ 1400/ 15000	1400/ 15000
Management	UCSM	UCSM / IMM	UCSM / IMM	UCSM / IMM
NVMeoF, SR-IOV, VIC QinQ Tunneling	Supported*	Supported	Supported	Supported
Congestion monitoring, MACSEC, ERSPAN		Supported	Supported	Supported

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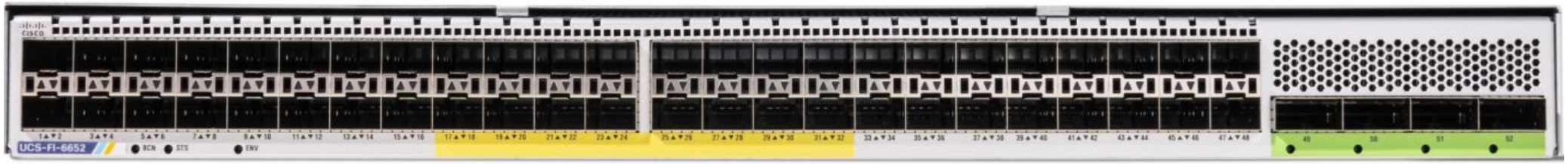
6th Gen UCS Fabric Interconnect 6652

Based on Next Gen Cisco Cloud Scale ASIC

8.44 Tbps Switching Performance

6454 Refresh

64G Fiber Channel



Features:
- 1 Rack Unit
- 52 Ports
  - 32 SFP 10/25/50G Ethernet
  - 16 SFP 10/25G Ethernet or 16/32/64G Fiber Channel
  - 4 QSFP-DD 40/100/400GbE Ethernet Uplinks
- Supports both UCSM and IMM
- MACSec on Uplink Ports
- Perpetual Software License
- FC end-host and switch-mode

Interoperability:
- X/B series (Blade) and C series (Rack) server connectivity
- Support for M5, M6, M7, M8+ generation Intel/AMD servers
- Support for Cisco MDS and Brocade SAN switch connectivity
- Support for IOM-2408, IFM-25G, Nexus 93180YC-FX3 FEX connectivity

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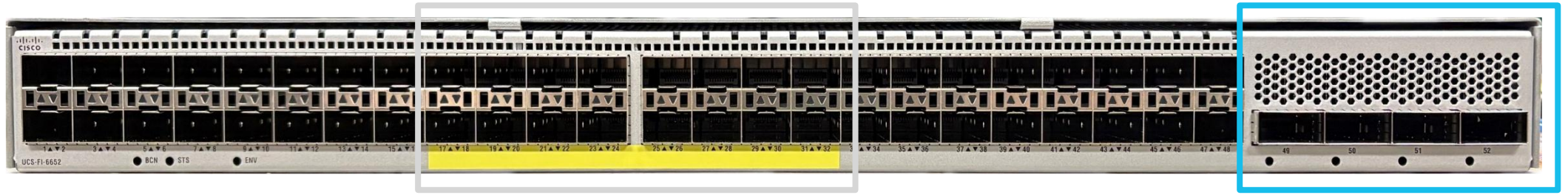
FI 6652 – rear view

SFP Ports 1-16:
10/25/50G Eth/FCoE

SFP Ports 17-32:
10/25/50G Eth/FCoE
or 16/32/64G FC

SFP Ports 33-48:
10/25/50G Eth/FCoE

QSFP Ports 49-52:
40/100/200/
400G Eth/FCoE



Unified Ports (FC/Eth/FCoE)

MACsec capable Recommended Uplinks

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6th gen FI licensing

4th Gen FI / 6400 Series

Pricing Model

Two Components
- Base HW Purchase (20 port default license)
- Add-on Port licenses

Port based licensing. Host attach to licensed ports

Port license price based on port type, host type etc.

PAK licensing: Bound to FI serial number, tied to FIs

5th Gen Fabric (Perpetual License)

Pricing Model

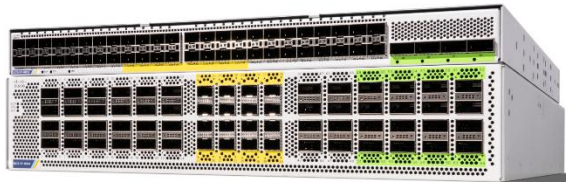
One component
- Base HW Purchase
  - Default perpetual SW license line item

All ports included in SW license. Host attach to any port

All the ports and SW is licensed for the life of FI 6536. No license installation is required and its auto-included.

License is non-transferable and can't be ordered a la carte

6th Gen FI / 6600 Series (Perpetual License)



Pricing Model

One component
- Base HW Purchase
  - Default perpetual SW license line item

All ports included in SW license. Host attach to any port

All the ports and SW is licensed for the life of FI 6600 series. No license installation is required and its auto-included.

License is non-transferable and can't be ordered a la carte

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UCS X-Series Direct: update

Original Released Support

Up to 8 compute nodes

- X210c M6, X210c M7, X215c M8
- X410c M7
- Support of X-Fabric + X440p
- 4th & 5th Gen VIC
- Full config support of X-series compute Node

Now Available

Up to 16 X-Series compute nodes

- IFM-100G for 2nd Chassis
- Plus: Up to 4 rack server

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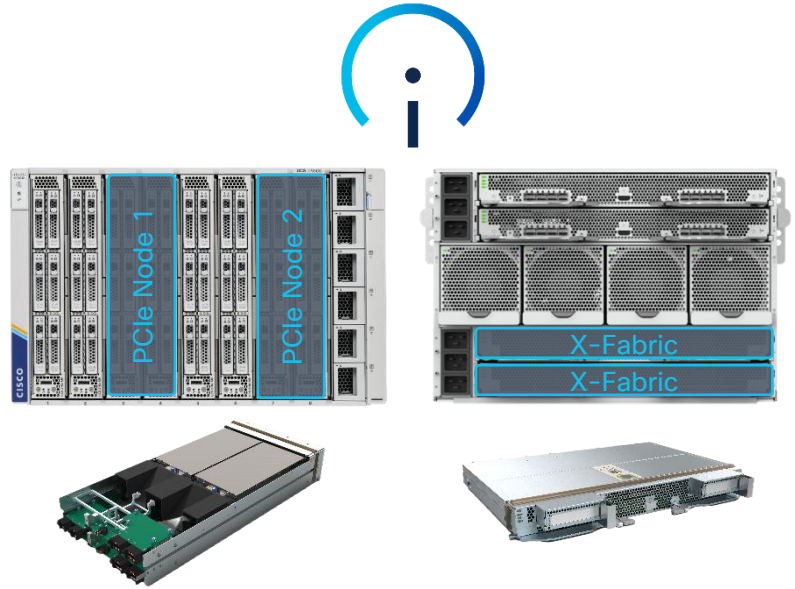
Dual wide PCIe node and switched X-Fabric

Solution for customer
who need higher GPU density

Supports wide range of workloads

Intersight managed solution

Competitive differentiation
with X-Fabric and X-Series



- PCIe Switching with PCIe Gen 5 connectivity
- 4x FHFL or HHHL GPUs per PCIe node
- Intra-host GPU interconnect with NVLink
- Intersight policy-based Management
- Inter-host scaling with RDMA over AI Fabric

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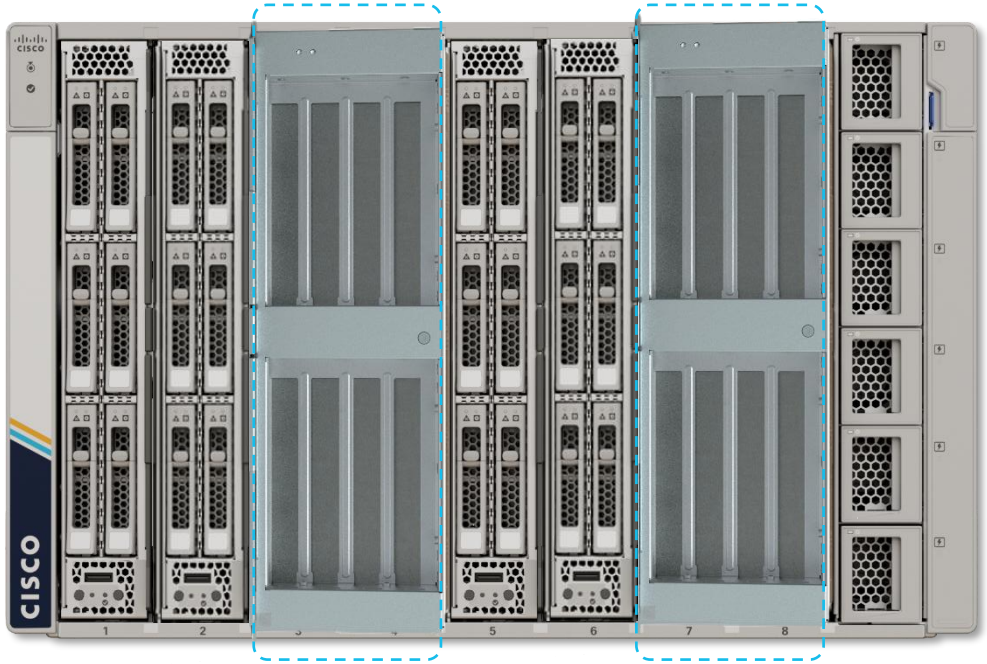
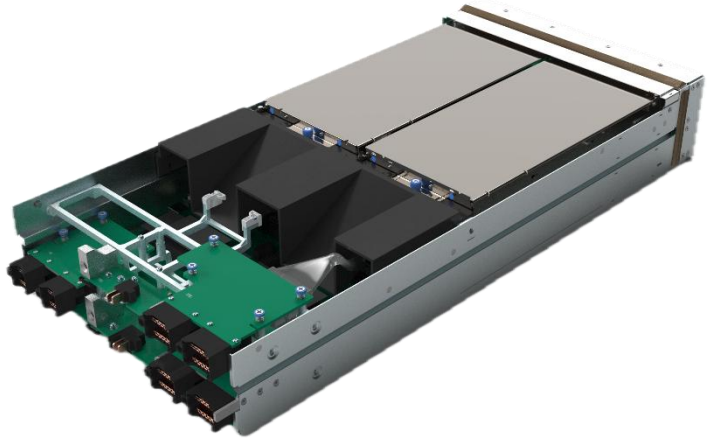
X580p PCIe node

- Double wide PCIe node for up to 4x PCIe Gen 5 FHFL GPUs
- NVLink Bridge support
- Support up to 600W FHFL GPUs
- Managed PCIe node with BMC support
- Policy based GPU management
- Ability to support assigning up to 4x GPUs per compute node





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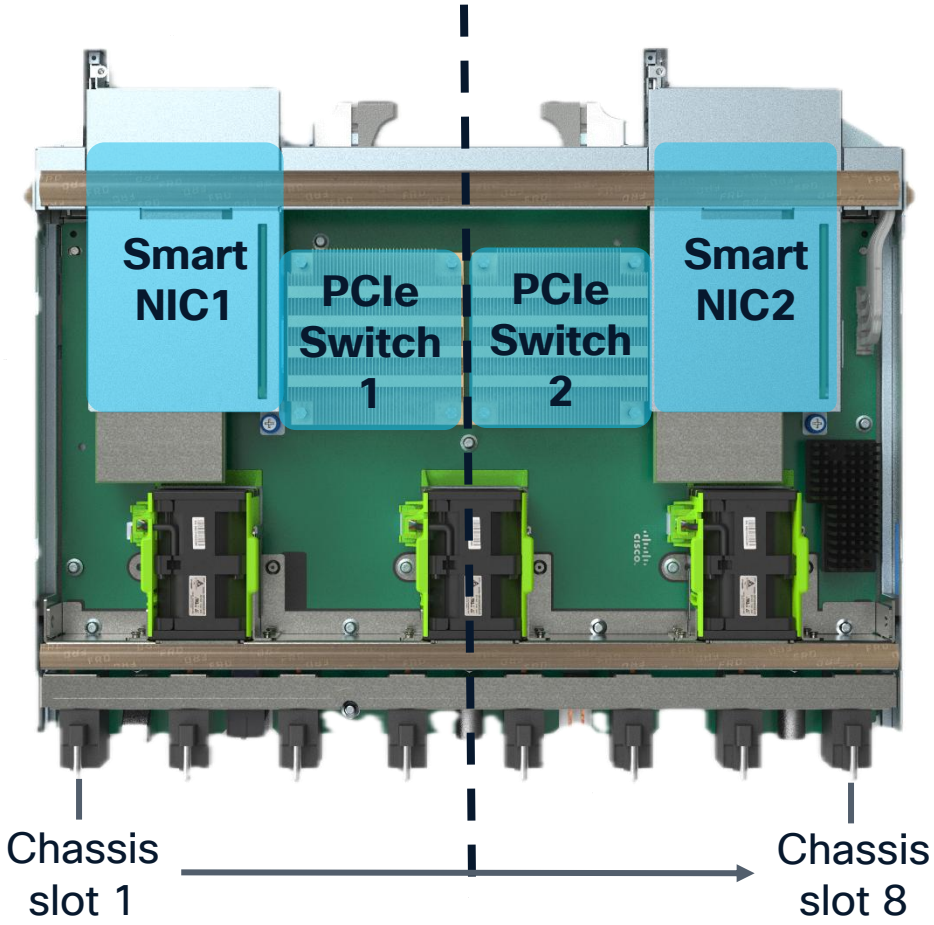
X-Fabric X9516

- PCIe Gen5 Switching
- 2x CEM Slots to support HHHL NIC cards
- Managed XFM Modules with BMC support
- GPU Direct Support over RDMA
- GPU Backend (East-West Traffic) network support
- Ability to support assigning up to 2x NICs per compute node



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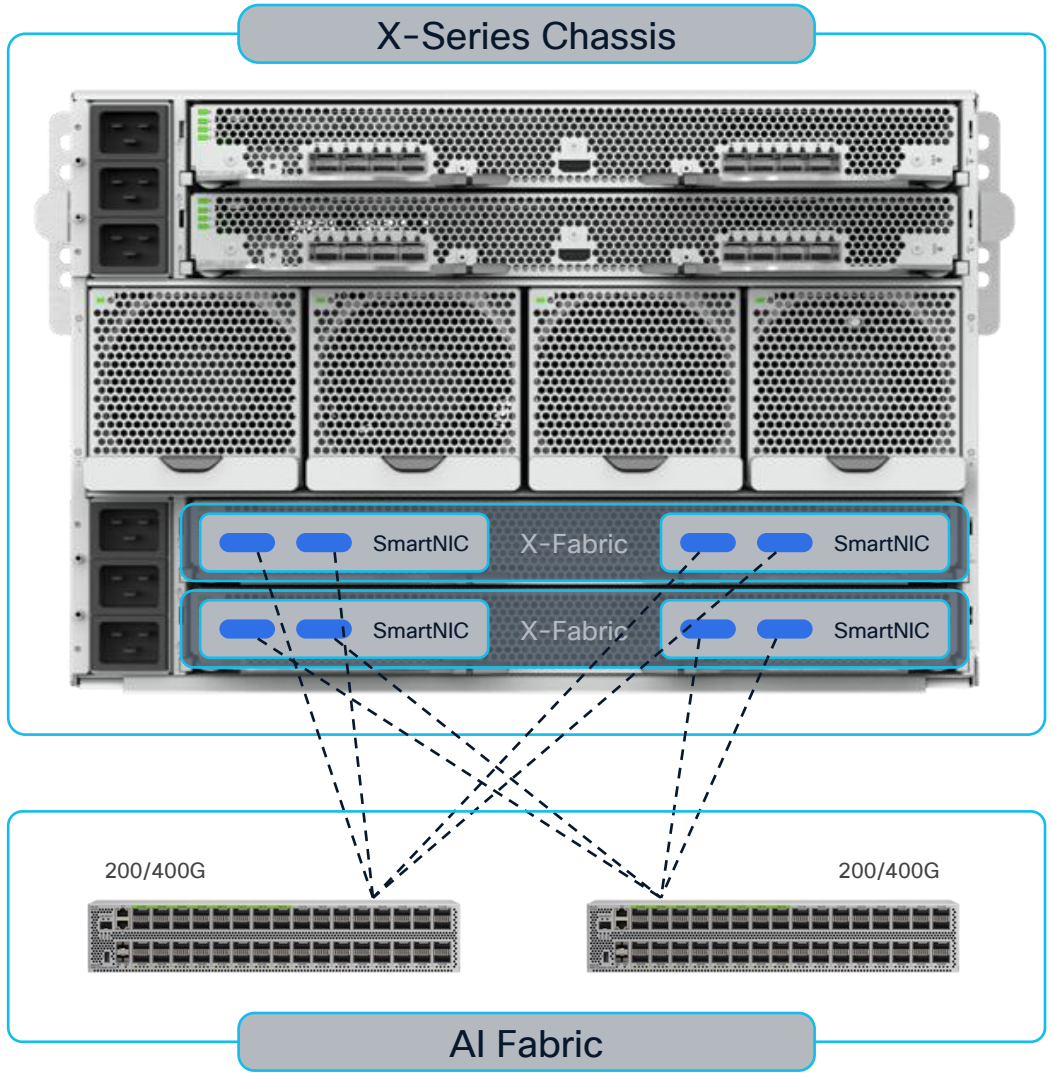
AI cluster expansion

GPU-to-GPU connectivity

with XFM external ports

- X-Fabric Module with Gen5 PCIe switch
- SmartNIC Adapter for GPU East-to-West traffic
- 1 or 2 external ethernet ports based on adapter



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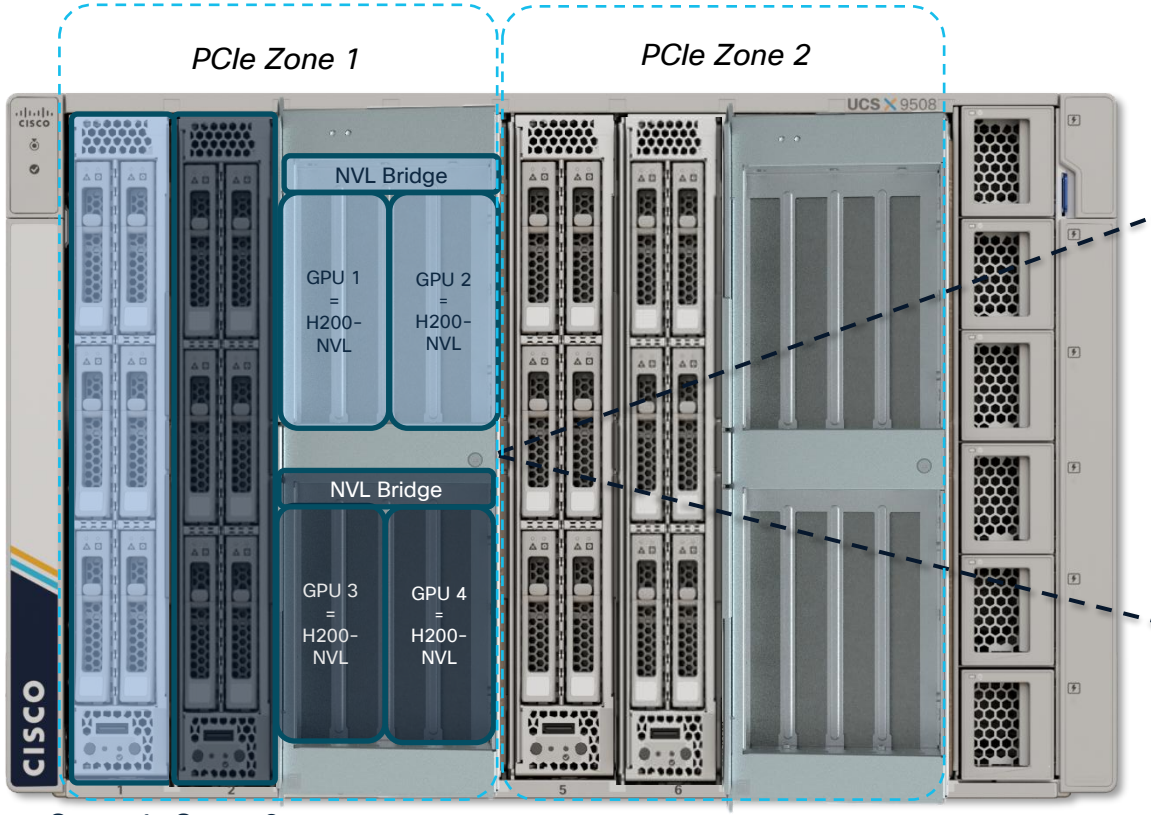
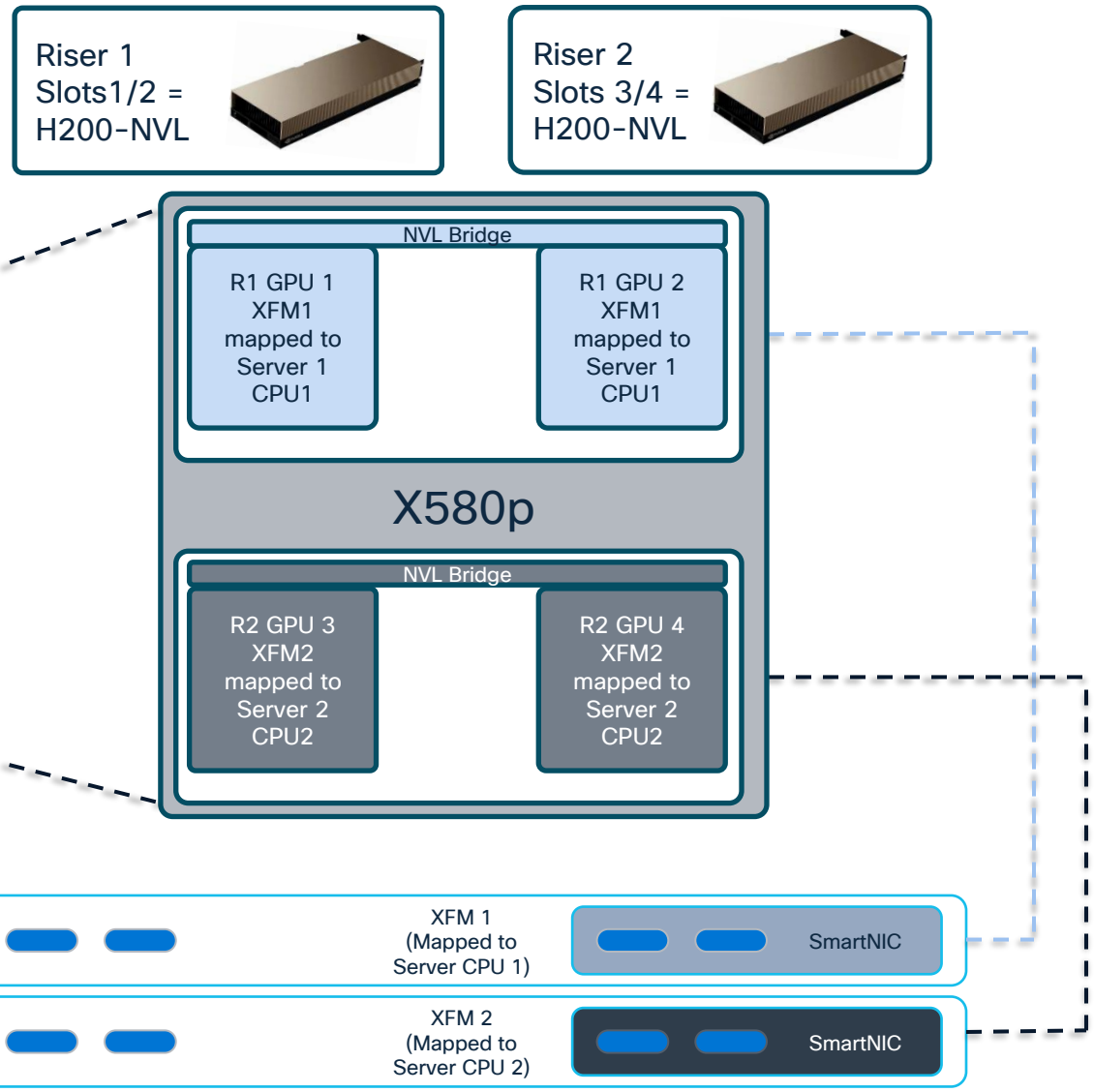
Example 1: X580p – 2x GPUs Allocated to Server 1 and 2x 2 w/NVL Bridge

(1x NIC mapped to each server)



Server 1: 2x GPU 1x NIC

Server 2: 2x GPUs 1x NIC



Note: X580p default in 3/4 or 7/8 and is not supported in slots 2/3 and 6/7. It can be installed in slots 1/2 or 5/6 as well.

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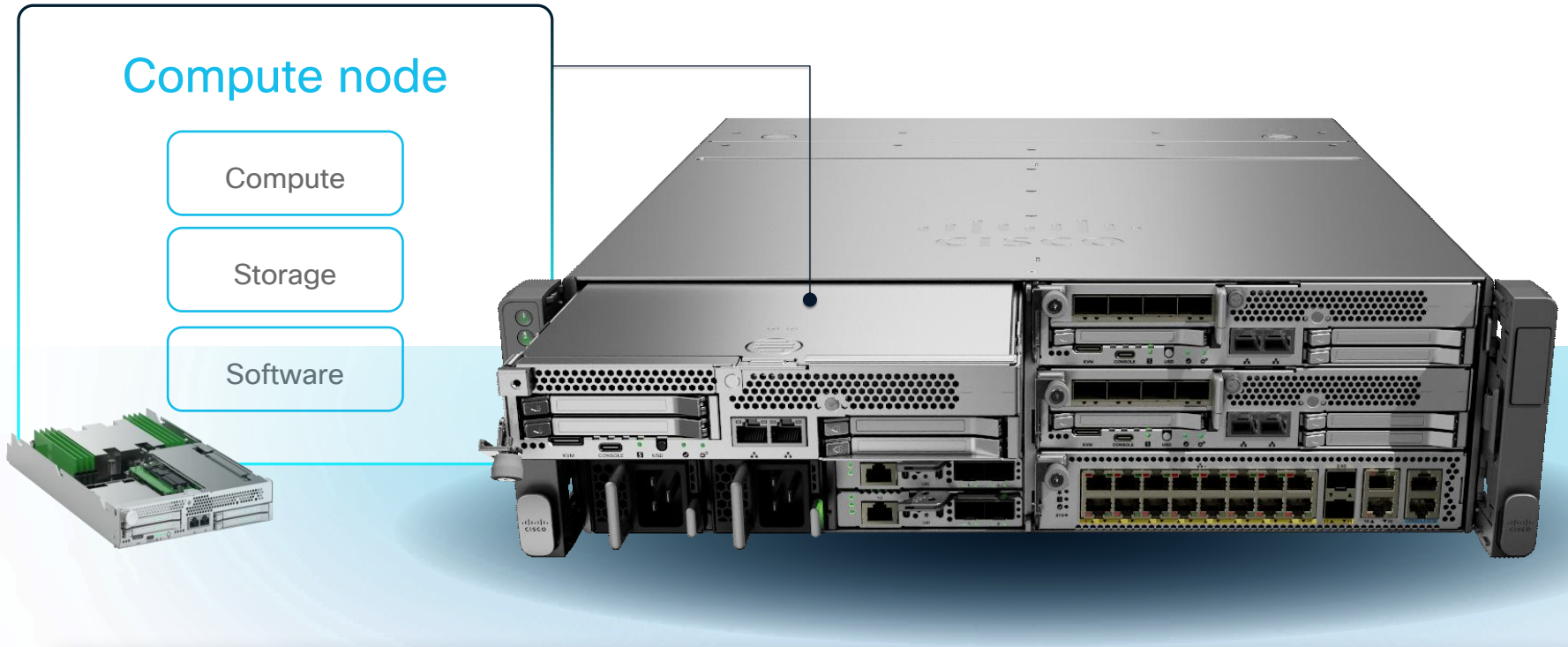
Unified Edge

Cisco Unified Edge: Future-Ready Performance

Integrates compute, networking, storage, and security



NUTANIX	Red Hat	vmware by Broadcom	intel.	cisco	RANCHER BY SUSE
Nutanix Stack for Edge	Red Hat Edge Stack	VMware Edge Compute Stack	Intel Tiber	Virtual Networking	SUSE Edge

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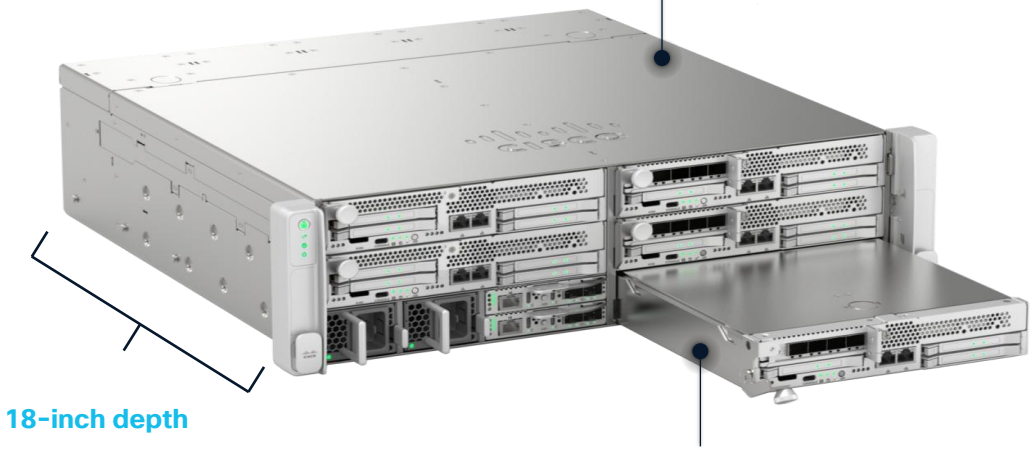
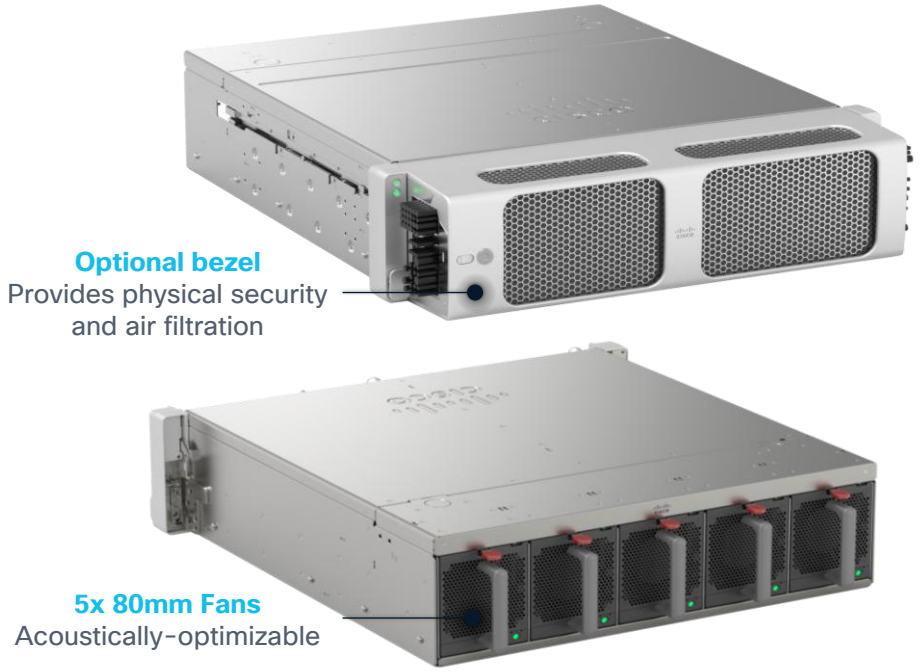
Agile edge system

Serviceable

Modular





Secure by design
(physical and digital)

Investment protection
over multiple generations

Consolidation of power,
cooling and cabling

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Agile edge system

Serviceable

Modular

Status LEDs

Easy-to-read simplified health and status indicators

2x 2400W PSUs

N+N redundancy capable

2x Chassis

Management controllers fully redundant

Tool-less, hot swappable modules

Automated configuration upon replacement

Built-in redundancy and resiliency

Real-time health monitoring

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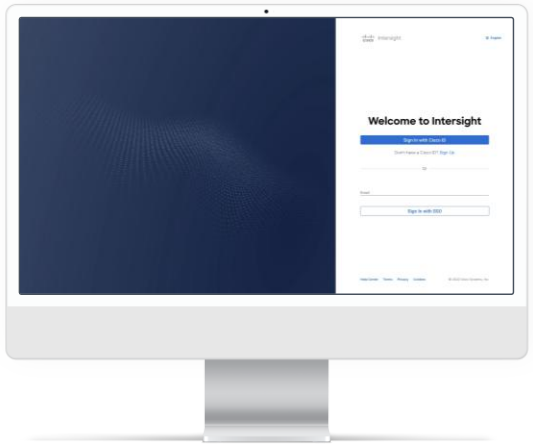
Day 0: Zero touch provisioning

Unified operations

Consistent, repeatable AI-ready infrastructure deployments across multiple sites



Cisco Intersight

Cisco edge blueprints

- Application
- Cluster
- O S
- Network configuration
- Server configuration
- GPU configuration
- Storage configuration
- Security configuration

Golden configurations base on Cisco validated designs

Faster deployments with fewer errors

Supported by Cisco TAC

Available in a marketplace

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AI Servers

Enterprise GPU server strategy

Address AI workloads with visibility, consistency, and control

Validated solutions for AI with compute, network, storage, and software

Build the model | Training | **Optimize the model | Fine-tuning and RAG** | **Use the model | Inferencing**

Cisco UCS® GPU-dense servers

Cisco UCS blade (with GPU extensions) and rack servers

Enterprise AI edge

Dense compute for demanding AI

Full-stack AI with compute and networking

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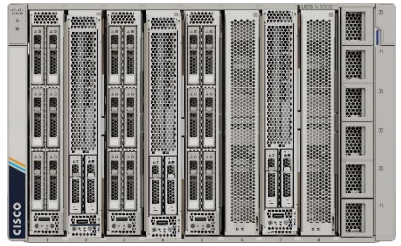
AI platform selection: UCS M8 GPU options

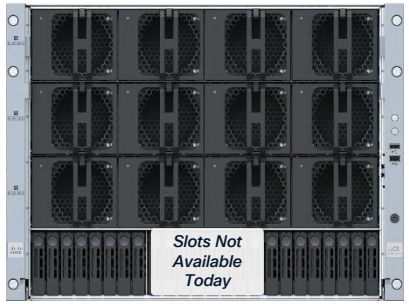
Potential Workload Type

- Entry Tier & Edge
- Universal AI, Text to Image/Video
- AI Training / Inferencing (PCIe)
- AI Training, HPC, Data Analytics

GPUs are subject to change as new peripherals are added to the portfolio

	UCS C220/C225	UCS C240/C245	UCS X-Series	UCS C845A	UCS C885A
NVIDIA RTX Pro 6000*	✓	✓	✓	✓	
AMD MI210*	✓	✓	✓	✓	
NVIDIA H100 NVL*	✓	✓	✓	✓	
NVIDIA L40S*	✓	✓	✓	✓	
NVIDIA H100 / H200 SXM					✓
NVIDIA L4	✓	✓	✓	✓	
AMD MI300X OAM					✓
Max GPUs	3	2-8*	2-8*	8	8





** NOTE: GPU Form Factor and GPU model support may vary between AMD and Intel Platforms (i.e. c220/c225, c240/c245, and x210c/x215c). Check the spec sheet for each platform to determine maximum GPU support based on GPU selection*

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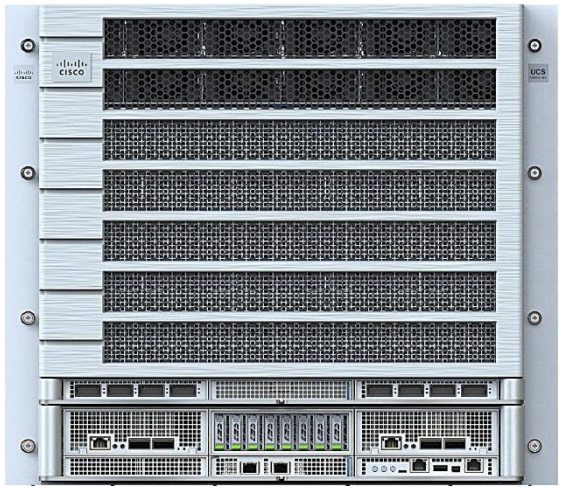
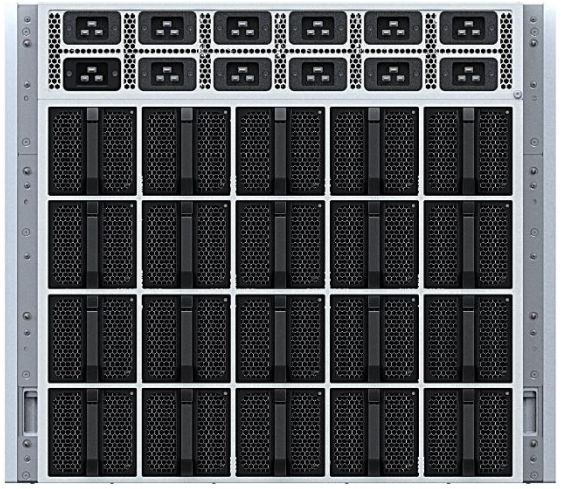
UCS C880A specifications





Product Specifications	
Form Factor	10RU 19” Rack Server (Based on NVIDIA’s HGX reference architecture)
Compute + Memory	• 2x 6th Gen Intel Xeon CPUs (select SKUs for AI and HPC workloads) • Up to 32x DDR5 RDIMMs
Storage	• 2x M.2 SATA Boot Drives along with RAID controller • Up to 8x PCIe Gen5 x4 E1.S NVMe SSDs (Data)
GPUs	• 8x NVIDIA HGX B300 NVL8 air-cooled GPUs
E-W Networking	• 8x Integrated ConnectX-8
N-S Networking	• 4x PCIe Gen5 x16 FHHL slots • 1x OCP TSFF Gen5 x8
Cooling	• 12 Hot swappable fans
Physical IO	• 1 USB 3.0 A, 1 mDP, 1 ID Button, 1 System Power Button, 1 USB 2.0 A UART (for debugging), 1 RJ45 (OOB mgmt.), 1 System ID LED/button
Power Supply	• 12x 50V 3.2kW (N+N redundancy)

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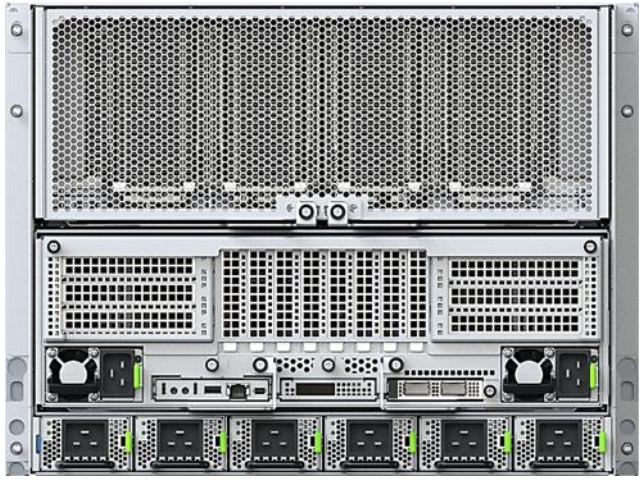
UCS C885A specifications



Product Specifications	
Form Factor	• HGX 8RU 19” Rack Server
Compute + Memory	• 2x 4th Gen AMD EPYC 9554 (360W, 64 core, up to 3.75GHz) or • 2x 5th Gen AMD EPYC 9575F (400W, 64 core, up to 5GHz) • 24 DDR5 RDIMMs • Up to 6,000 MT/S
Storage	• 1 PCIe3 x4 M.2 NVMe (Boot Device) or Mirrored Boot Disks • Up to 16 PCIe5 x4 2.5” U.2 NVMe SSD (Data Cache)
GPUs	• Nvidia: 8 x H100 (700W) or 8 x H200 (700W) • AMD: 8 x MI300X (750W)
E-W Networking	• 8 PCIe x16 HHHL for East-West NIC ConnectX-7 or BF3 B3140H • 1 PCIe x16 FHHL for North-South NIC BF3 B3220 • 1 OCP 3.0 X710-T2L for North-South or host management
N-S Networking	• 12 Hot swappable (N+1) fans for system cooling • 4 fans for SSD cooling
Cooling	• 2 USB 2.0, 1 ID Button, 1 Power Button
Physical IO	• 1 USB 3.0 A, 1 USB 3.0 C, mDP, 1 ID Button, 1 Power Button, 1 USB 2.0 C (for debugging), 1 RJ45 (mgmt.)
Power Supply	• Up to 6 54V 3kW and 2 12V 2.7kW MCRPS/CRPS, N+1 redundancy

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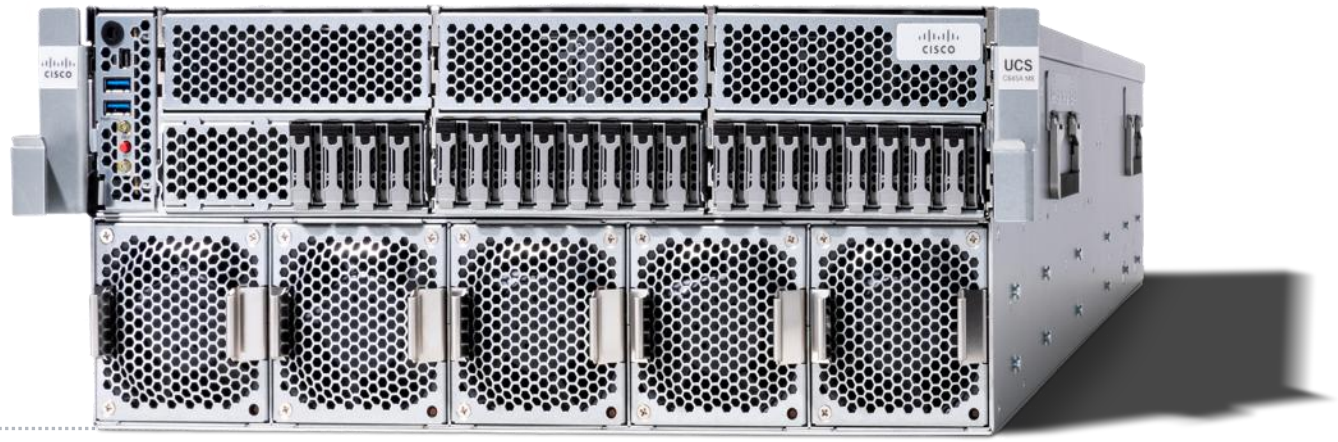
Introducing a new member to Cisco's AI server family

Flexible, modular design for organizations looking to "start small and scale up" with AI



Announced February 2025, Orderable NOW

UCS Accelerated Cisco UCS C845A M8

Nvidia MGX reference design

Configurations with NVIDIA or AMD GPUs

Included as an option in Cisco Hyperfabric

High performance in a compact form factor

Enhanced power delivery, fewer PCBs, and better cable routing for optimal airflow and thermal management

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UCS C845A Dense GPU Server Specifications

Product Specifications

Form Factor	• MGX 4RU 19” Rack Server
Compute + Memory	• 2x 5th Gen AMD EPYC CPUs (400W, up to 96 cores, up to 5GHz per core) • Up to 32x DDR5 RDIMM slots (5200 MT/s, 1 DPC - 4400 MT/s, 2 DPC) • 8 Memory Channels per CPU
Storage	• Up to 2 M.2 SATA SSDs for boot (hardware RAID Option Available) • Up to 20 E1.S NVMe SSDs for cache and data
GPUs	• Up to 8x NVIDIA or AMD PCIe GPUs
E-W Networking	• 4 PCIe Gen5x16 FHHL for East-West (EW) NIC ConnectX-7 (1x400G) or BF3 B3140H SuperNIC • 1 PCIe Gen5x16 FHHL for North-South (NS) NIC ConnectX-7 (2x200G) , BF3 B3220 • OCP 3.0 X710-DA2 (dual port 10GBaseT) for x86 management
N-S Networking	• 10 hot-swappable fans for front-to-rear cooling
Cooling	• 2 USB 3.0, 1 ID Button, 1 Power Button, 1 Reset Button, 1 miniDP port
Physical IO	• 1 USB 3.0 A, 1 USB 3.0 C, 1 mDP, 1 ID Button, 1 Power Button, 1 USB 2.0 C (for debugging), 1 RJ45 (mgmt.)
Power Supply	• Mandatory 4x 3200W (AC), Titanium hot-swappable power supplies (N+1)

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Cisco UCS C845A M8 rack server

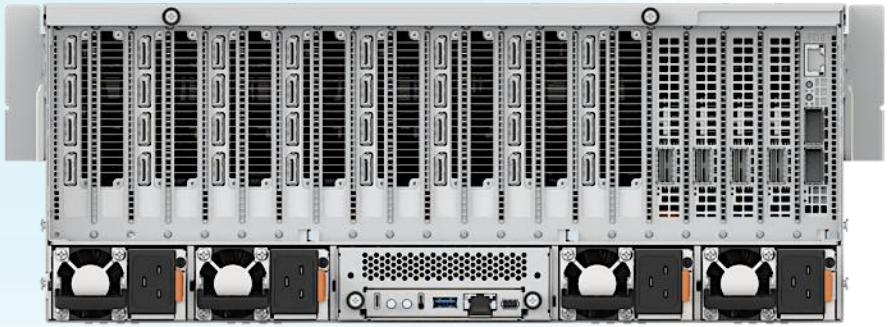
Versatile, accelerated, 4 RU rack server for broad set of AI use cases

NVIDIA MGX™ platform with

2/4/6/8 NVIDIA RTX Pro 6000 H100/H200/L40S GPUs

2 AMD 5th Gen EPYC™ Processors

H100+B3220+B3140H*4



L40S+B3220+CX7*4

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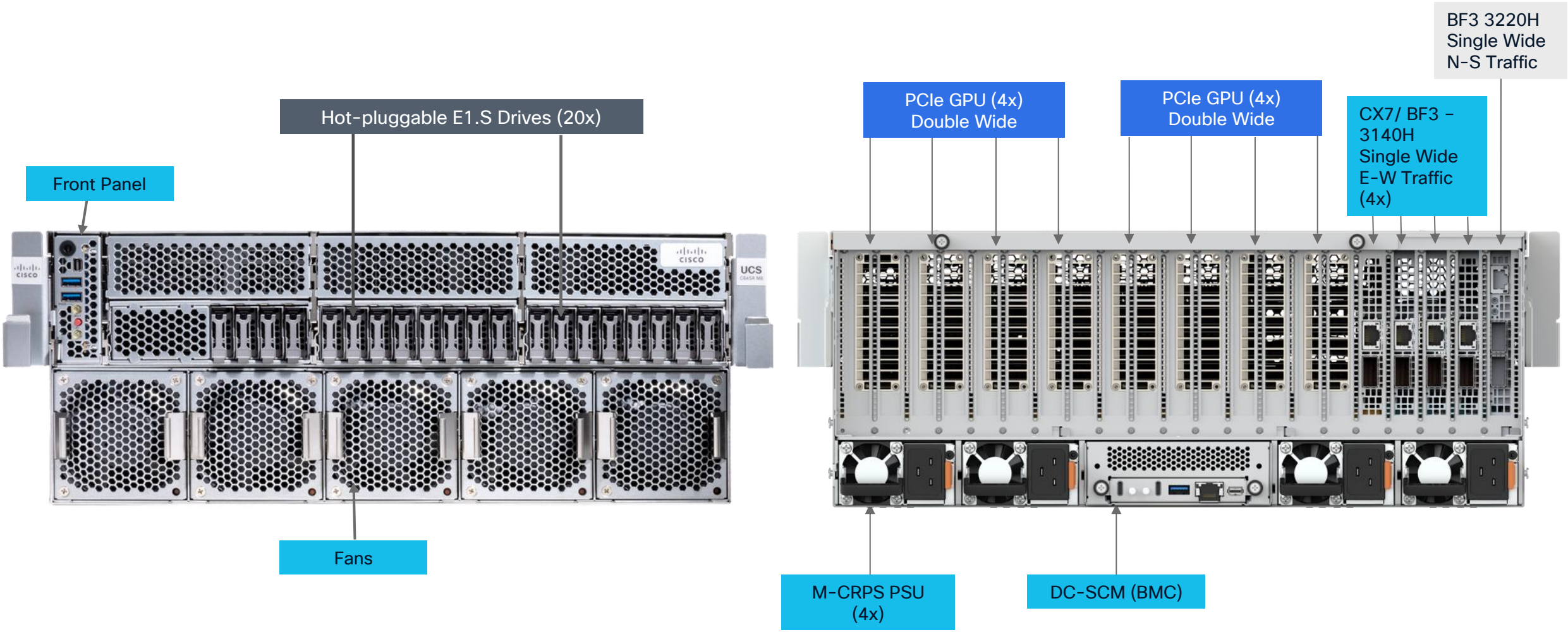
C845A M8 front and back views



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Best Practices

Ensuring Appliance Availability

Slow, but important!

Configuration Backup

Backup of configuration files to an external server

- Operational interruption
- Appliance data lost
- No configuration loss

VM Backup

VM Backup of Appliance Node(s)

- Operational interruption
- No data loss
- No configuration loss

VM High Availability

Hypervisor HA Features for instant recovery

- No interruption
- No data loss
- No configuration Loss

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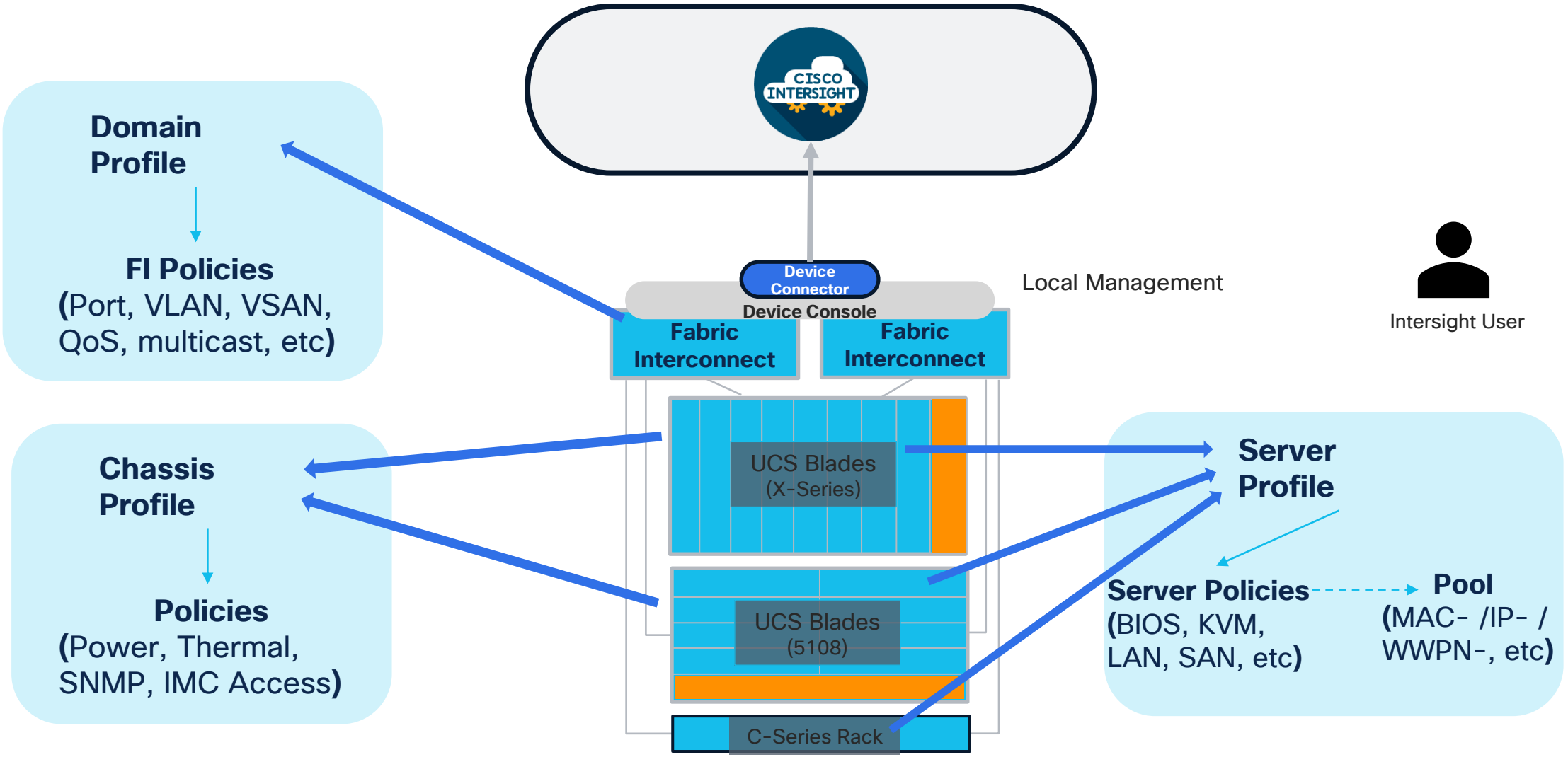
IMM configuration model



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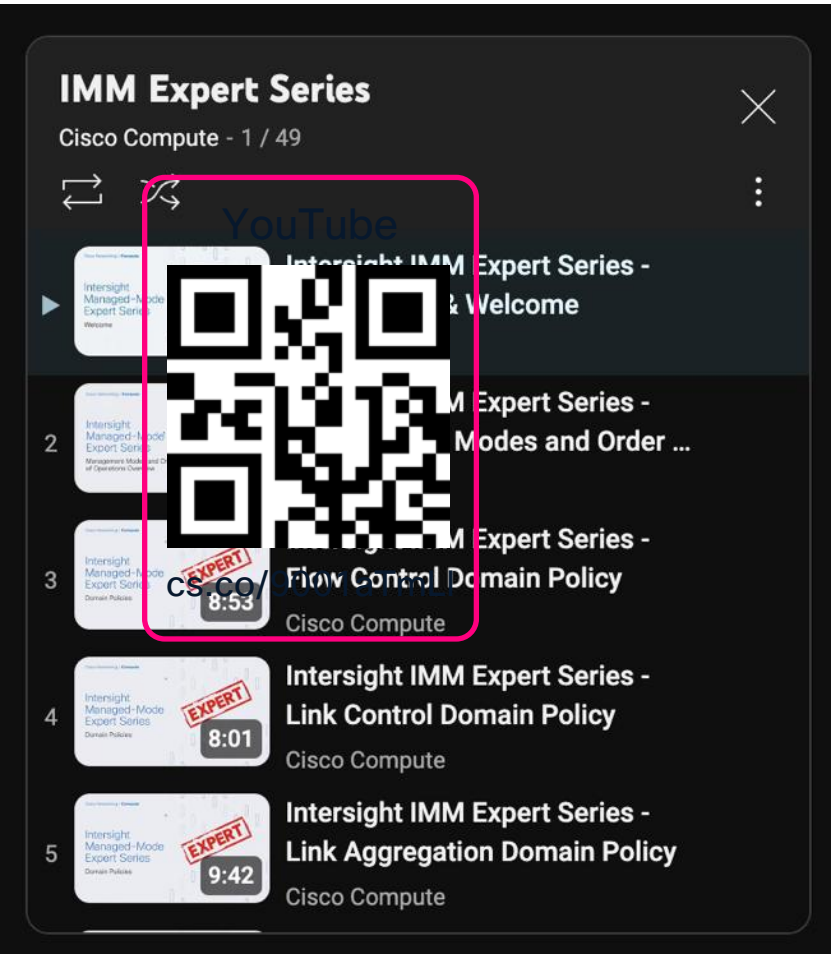
IMM Expert Series Deep Dive Best Practices and Training



Video series with in-depth explanations of...

- Domain Policies & Domain Profile
- Server Policies & Server Profile
- ID Pools
- Use Cases

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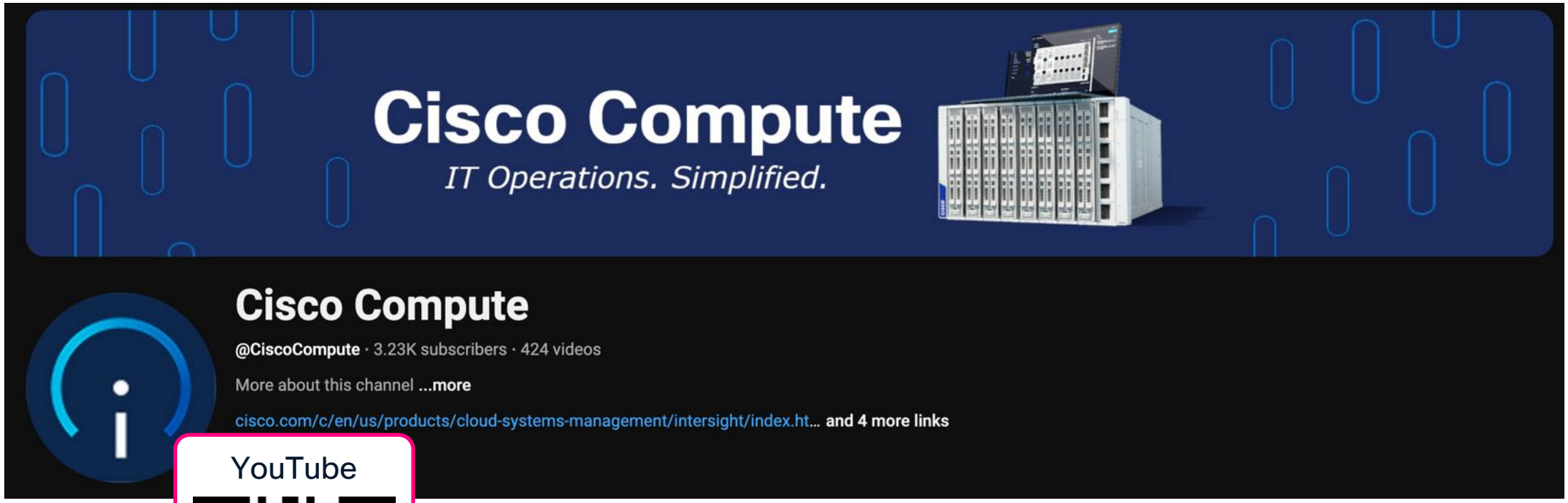
Cisco Compute YouTube Channel



YouTube

youtube.com/
@CiscoCompute

Subscribe to the Channel to receive notifications about new videos

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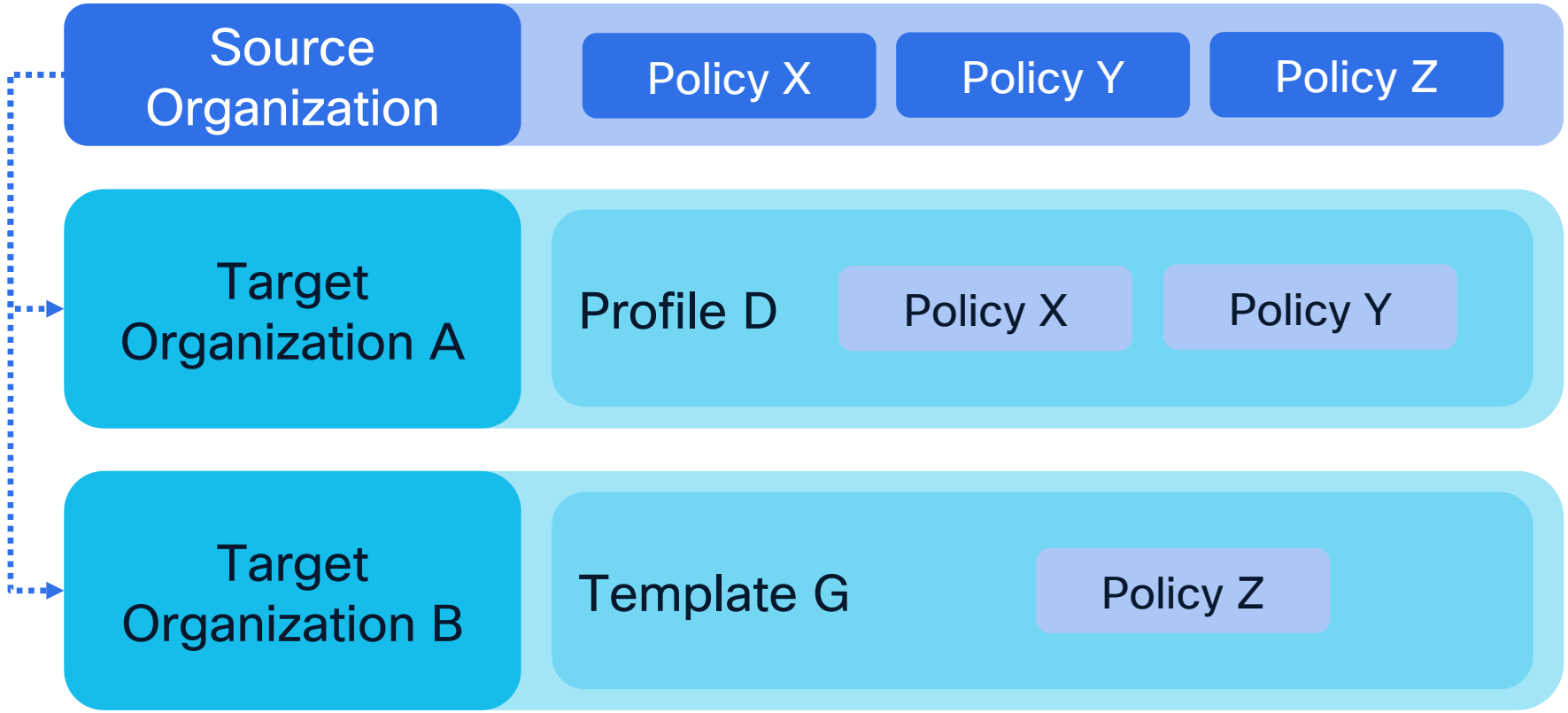
Configuration Sharing

White Paper

cs.co/9003veKBx



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Intersight security hardening

White Paper

cs.co/9009veKzZ

Intersight Hardening Guide

Pillars of UCS Security

- CSDL
- Server Operations
- Supply Chain
- Application Operations
- Certifications
- Data Ingestion and Integrity

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Setting up proactive RMA

Hello [redacted]

I am writing to let you know that Cisco has received a fault message from your Cisco UCS server connected by Cisco Intersight. The fault indicates that a memory DIMM module has failed and needs replacing. I have automatically created a TAC Case for you (SR [redacted]) and have created the RMA to ship you the replacement DIMM. I just need you to click the RMA link and verify your shipping address so the replacement part can be shipped out to you: https://ibpm.cisco.com/rma/home/?RMANumber=[redacted]
If entitled a Cisco Field Engineer can be requested on the above RMA form to complete the replacement.

Note: If you have difficulty loading the link above, please contact Logistics Support Center at one of the following manners:
www.cisco.com/c/en/us/buy/logistics-support-center.html

Some more information about the failed DIMM and the server it's installed in:
Name: [redacted]
IP Address: [redacted]
Serial Number: [redacted]
Name: [redacted]
Service Profile: [redacted]
User Label: [redacted]
Description: DIMM DIMM_M2 on server 5/7 operability: inoperable
Device in Intersight: https://intersight.com/an/compute/physical-summaries/[redacted]/server/
Fault in Intersight: https://intersight.com/an/cond/alarms/?Moid=[redacted]

The replacement guide available here:
https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/td/docs/unified_computing/ucs/hw/blade-servers/B200M5/B200M5_chapter_011.html#concept_a3p_vfl_kz

For more information on this feature of Intersight see:
https://intersight.com/help/features#proactive_support_enabled_through_intersight
https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/support/docs/servers-unified-computing/intersight/215172-proactive-rma-for-intersight-connected-d.html

Guide

cs.co/9008aptOn

Guide explains how to set up recipients for Proactive RMA Case E-Mails

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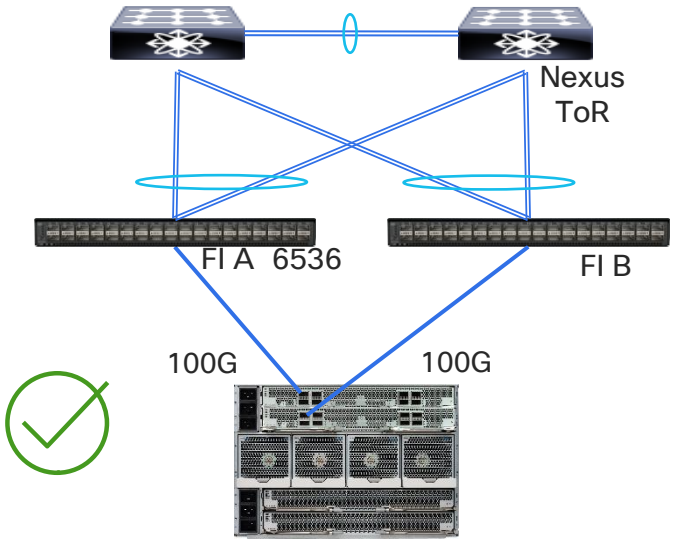
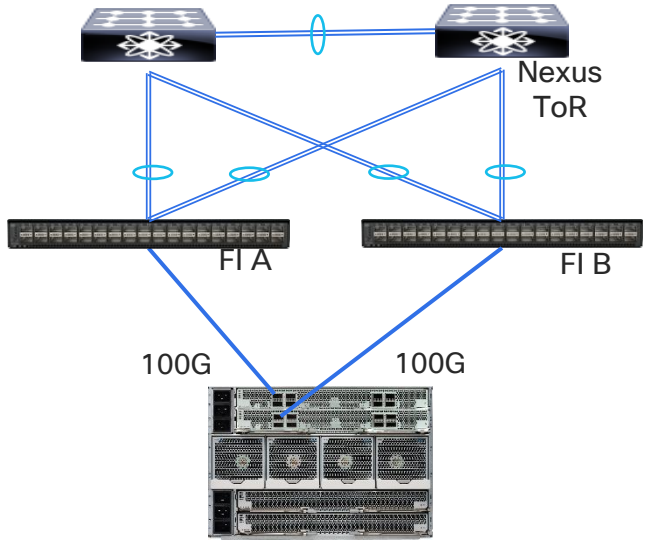
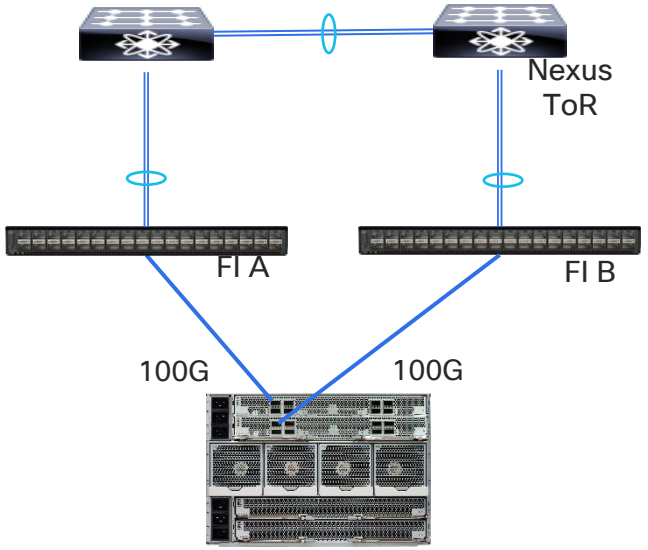
LAN connectivity with FI 6664 in end-host mode



- Recommended configuration
- Port-channel from FI to Nexus-9K in VPC or a ToR in multi-chassis trunking (MCT)
- ToR switch ports should be STP edge-port
- Provides redundancy for FI, ToR and uplinks
- FI uplink BW aggregation via port-channel
- Avoids ToR to ToR L2 switching
- ToR fabric could be 3-tier, EVPN-VxLAN, IP-fabric, CLOS



- Recommended with non-VPC/non-MCT
- Supported but not recommended with VPC/MCT
- vNICs gets pinned to one uplink & are distributed across multiple uplinks.
- ToR & uplink redundancy is available but will have re-pinning failover time



- Supported but not recommended
- No ToR level redundancy

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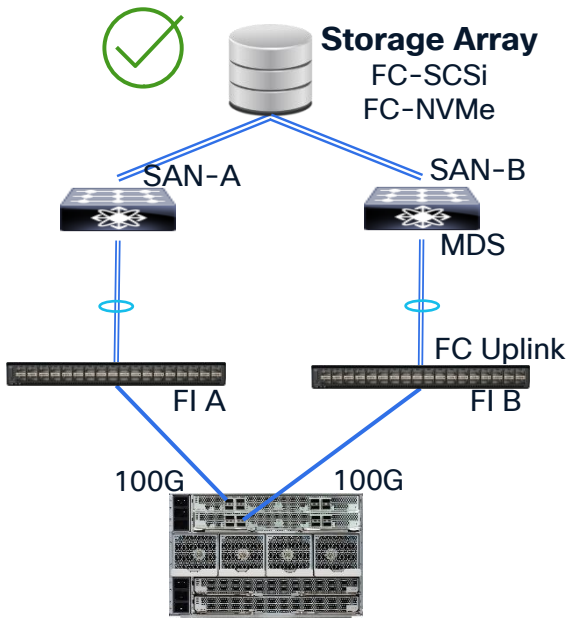
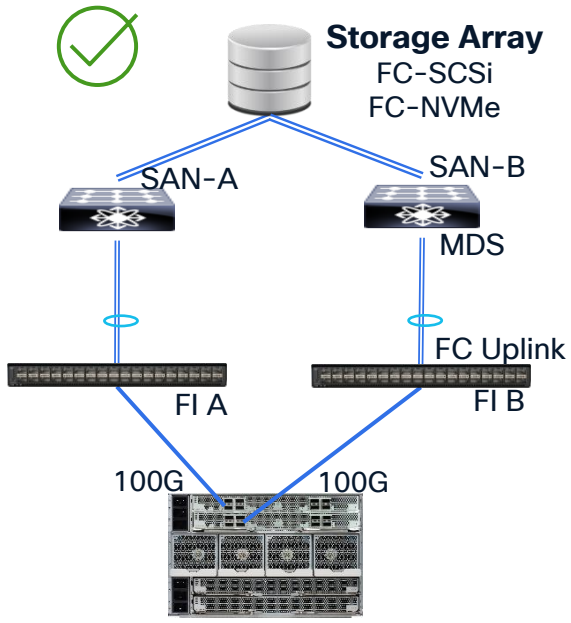
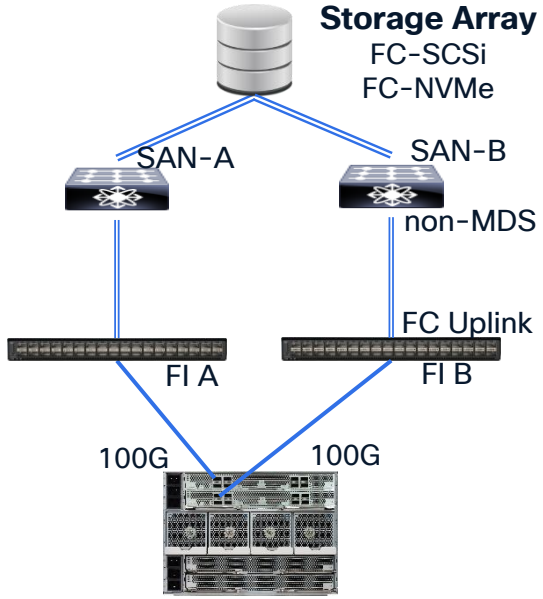
FC-SAN connectivity with FI 6664



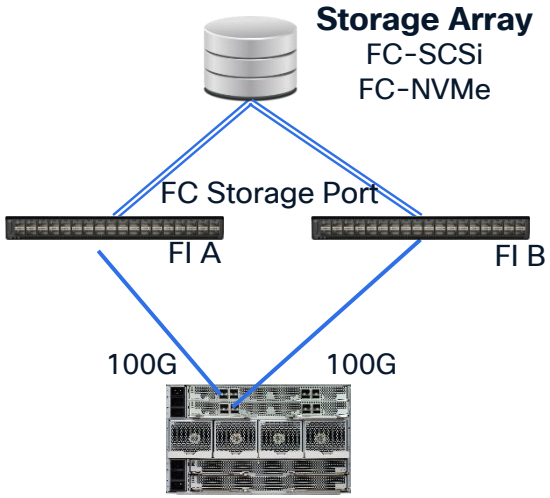
- FC end-host mode (N-port on FI & F-port on MDS)
- Port-channel from FI to MDS
- Port-channel for HA & BW aggregation
- VSAN is carried into MDS SAN with VSAN trunking
- 4 vHBA per server for higher redundancy
- Bigger SAN domain



- FC switch-mode (E-port on both)
- Port-channel from FI to MDS
- Provides HA & BW aggregation
- VSAN is carried into MDS SAN
- 4 vHBA per server for higher redundancy
- SAN domain is limited to 255
- Can have storage array connected to FI along with MDS SAN connectivity



- FC end-host mode
- Recommended for non-MDS
- No port-channel with non-MDS
- VSAN virtualization is not available on non-MDS
- 4 vHBA per server for higher redundancy



- FC switch mode
- 4 vHBA per server for higher redundancy

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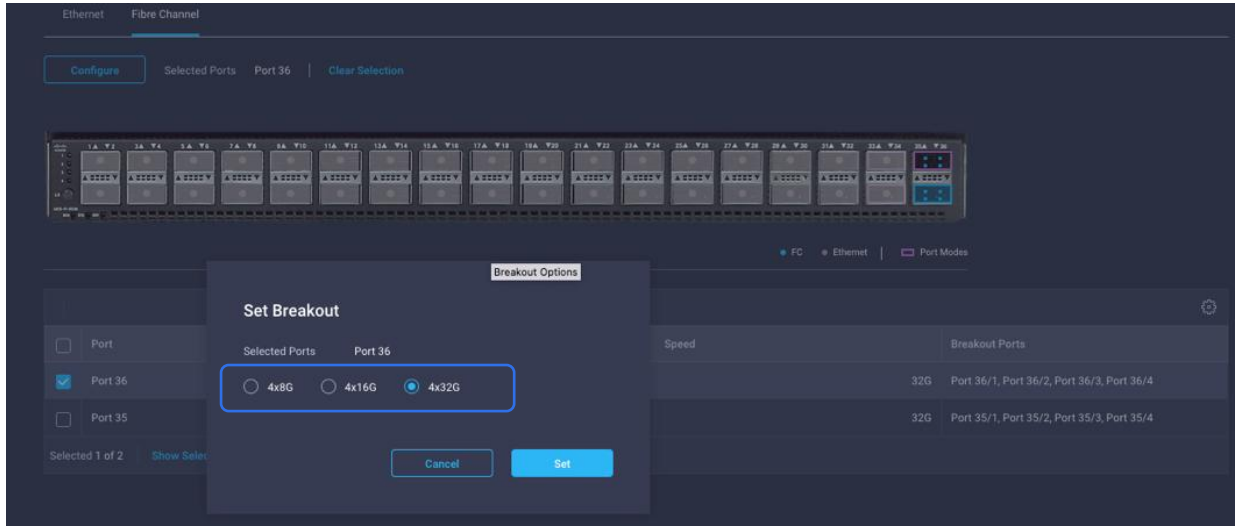
FC port configurations

- Slider bar for FC port selection
  - Contiguous ports from right to left
  - Select port 36 thru 33 in increments of 1
  - Require system Reboot on deploy

- Unified ports selected
  - Configure unique FC break-out mode of “4x 8/16/32G” per unified port
  - All breakout port members operate at same FC speed
  - Each breakout member operates as individual FC port like in previous FI generations



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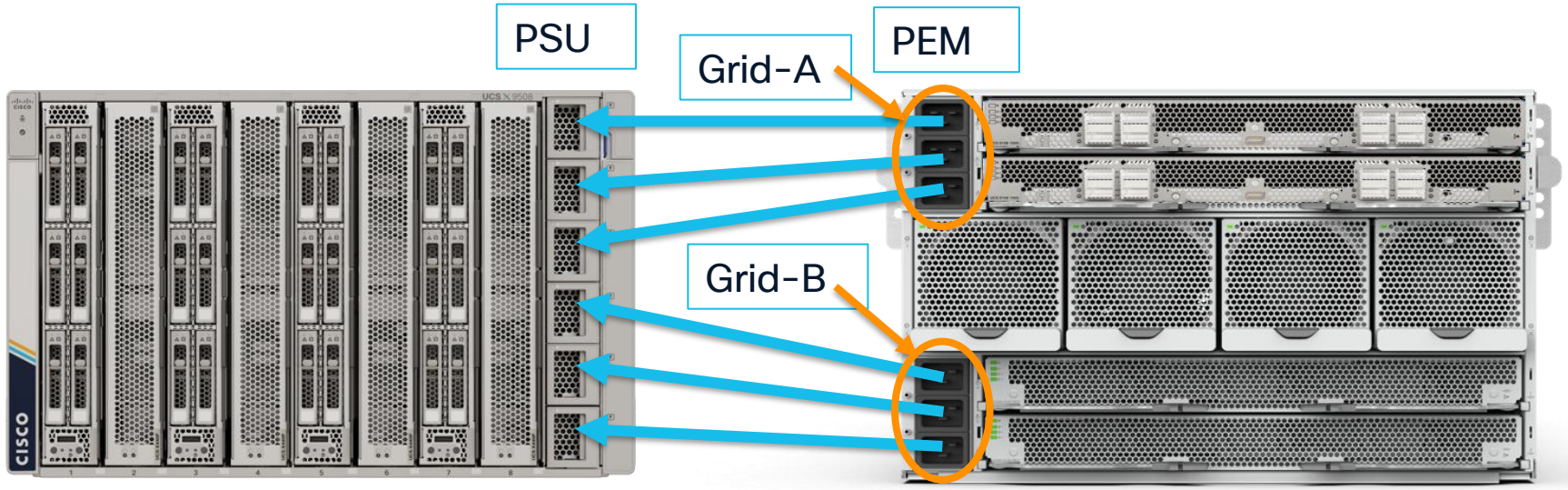
Chassis power architecture

- Power entry modules (PEM) provide cable sockets for up to 6 power supplies (PSU)
- Power and thermals are monitored by the CMC on the IFMs
- PEMs also group input connections and PSUs per grid source for N+N redundancy
- Populate PSUs evenly across PEMs



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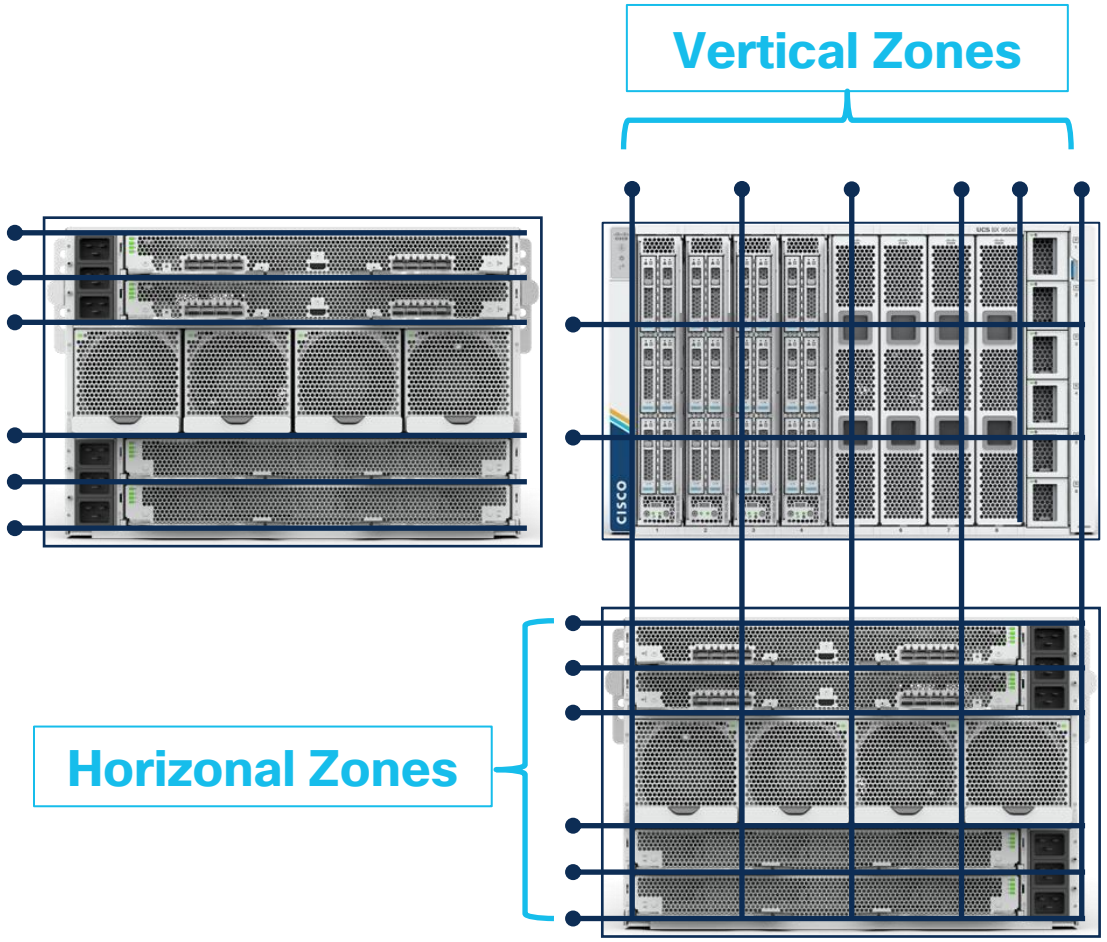
Zoned based cooling: dealing with 350W CPUs

- Vertical and horizontal zones
- Intelligent, independent fan speed control based on sensors participating in each zone
- Reduces fan power consumption by right-sizing air flow on a per-zone basis, and increases overall power efficiency



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Power redundancy

- The PSU population and redundancy modes determine how much total power can be consumed without power faults due to PSU output loss. Power allocation will have implicit cap at max value
- Power is reserved to meet redundancy requirement
- Total power is still **shared across all populated PSUs**

Total and per-PSU maximum power by population and redundancy mode, with none in standby						
Mode	1 PSU	2 PSU	3 PSU	4 PSU	5 PSU	6 PSU
N	2800/2800	6087/2800	8400/2800	11200/2800	14000/2800	16800/2800
N+1	N/A	2800/1400	5600/1867	8400/2100	11200/2240	14000/2333
N+2	N/A	N/A	2800/933	5600/1400	8400/1680	11200/1867
N+N (Grid)	N/A	N/A	N/A	5600/1400	N/A	8400/1400

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Extended power mode

- When operating with redundant supplies the total power allocation/consumption can be increased by 15%.
- Since load is always shared across all active PSUs (including redundant supplies) the per-PSU load is always less than the maximum when redundancy is intact. e.g. 50% for all PSUs at 100% load in N+N mode.
- If a PSU fails, or a grid fails when in N+N, the system will immediately reduce the allocation back to 100% of the non-redundant load.
- If load was greater than 100% blades will be power capped to bring the load to 100% or less.
- Examples
  - Six PSU in N+N: Normal limit is 8400W. Extended power will allow 9660W load.
    - 9660W / 6 PSU = 1610W/PSU = 4830W/Grid
  - 6 PSU in N+2: Normal limit is 11,200W. Extended power will allow 12,880W load.
    - 12880W / 6 PSU = 2147W/PSU. If one PSU fails the limit will be reduced to 8400 * 1.15 = 9660W

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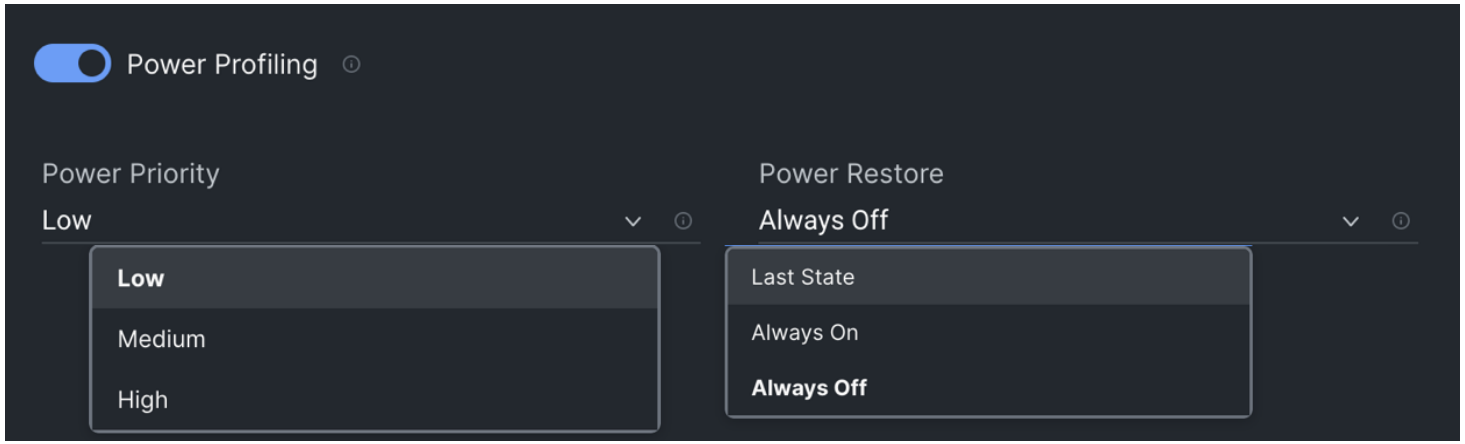
Power policy - server



- Recommend profiling on all servers. PCIe node included with server.
- Highest priority servers are allocated any power available above minimum.
- Once higher priority servers have their max allocation, lower priority servers are allocated what is left.
- Power restore refers to chassis power restoration. Last State recommended.

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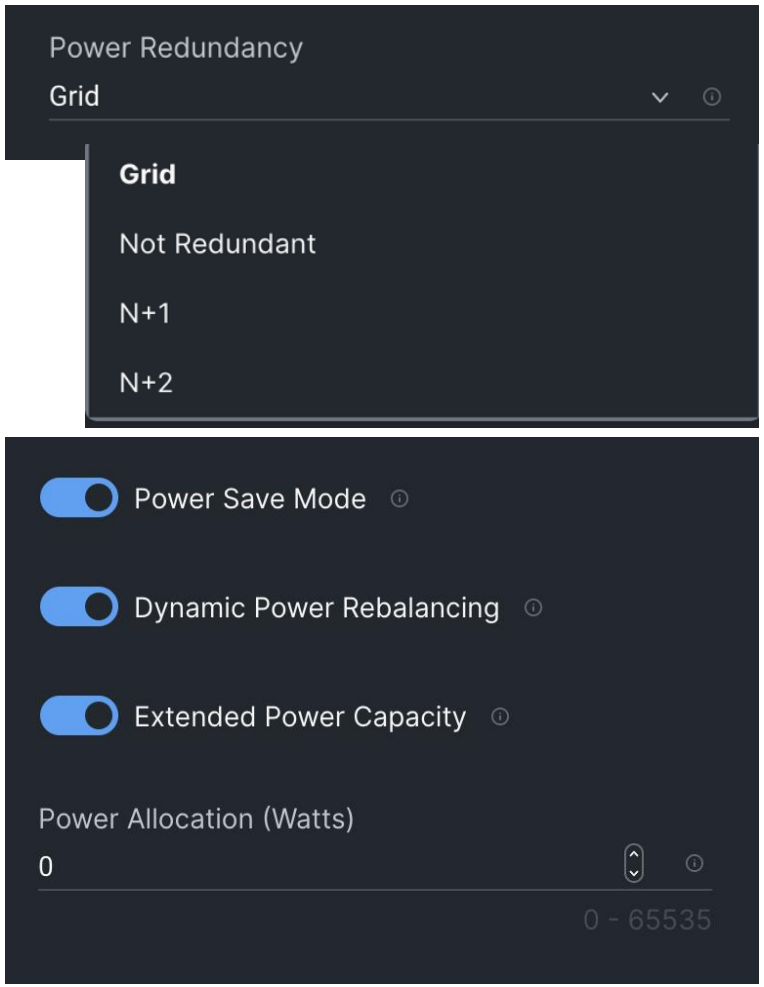
Power policy - chassis



- Redundancy per customer requirements
- Default options recommended for others
- Dynamic power rebalancing will re-allocate power between servers if competing for power in power constrained environments.
- Power allocation sets an input power limit. Throttling is used to stay within the limit.

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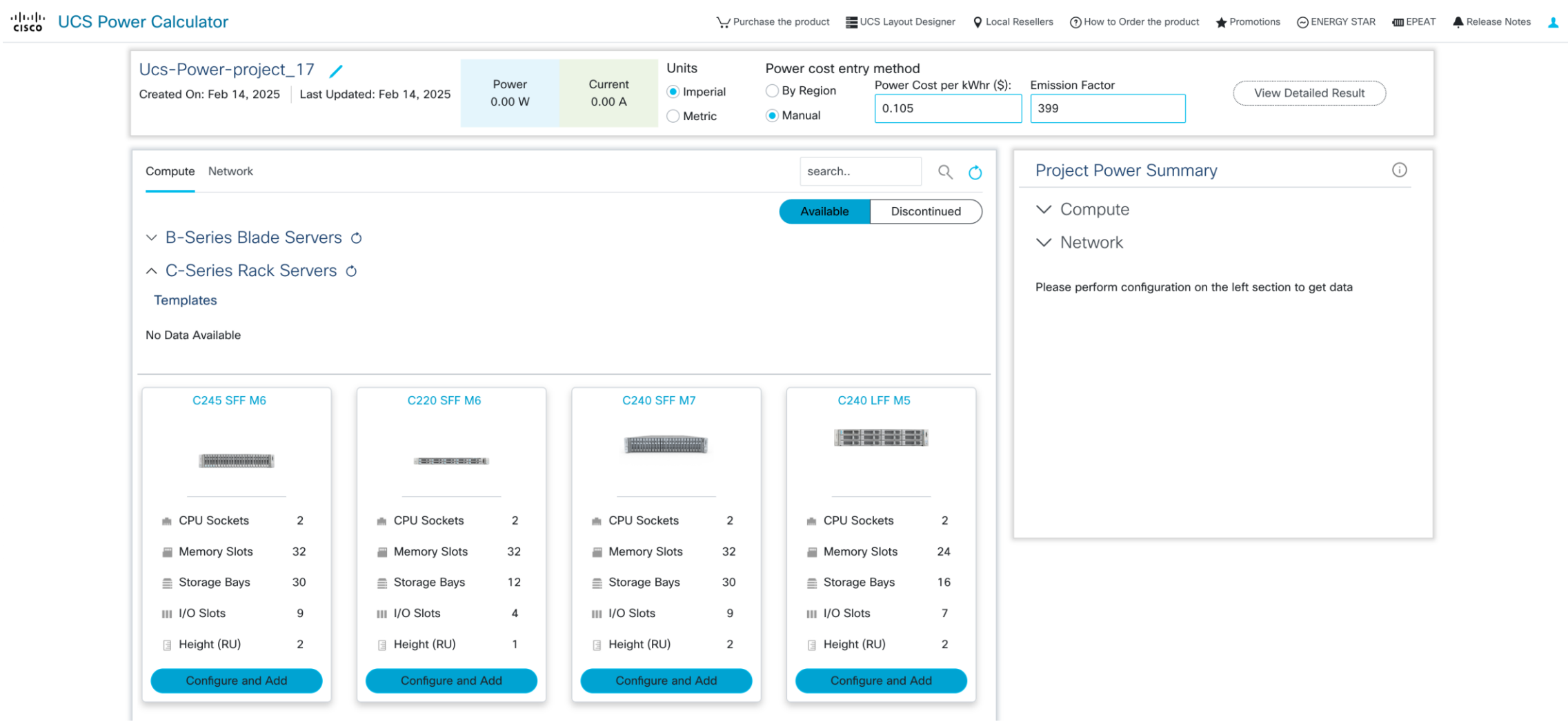

- What is the UCS Power Calculator
  - Tool for estimating power consumption across UCS Servers and general infra
  - Aids with facilities planning

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Join Cisco experts and your industry peers as an **Intersight Insider**

- Direct interaction with Intersight technical experts and product team
- Access to Intersight Insider user community forum
- Live sessions on new features, how-to's, roadmaps, and much more
- Participate in feedback sessions to shape future of Intersight

Scan QR code and follow instructions to join!

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Troubleshooting

Intersight Managed Mode Troubleshooting

What we will talk about...

1. Troubleshooting Options for Intersight
2. Example: IMM Chassis Cooling
3. Support Bundles and how to collect them
4. TAC Support for IMM

Want more? We will share a guide in the Webex Space

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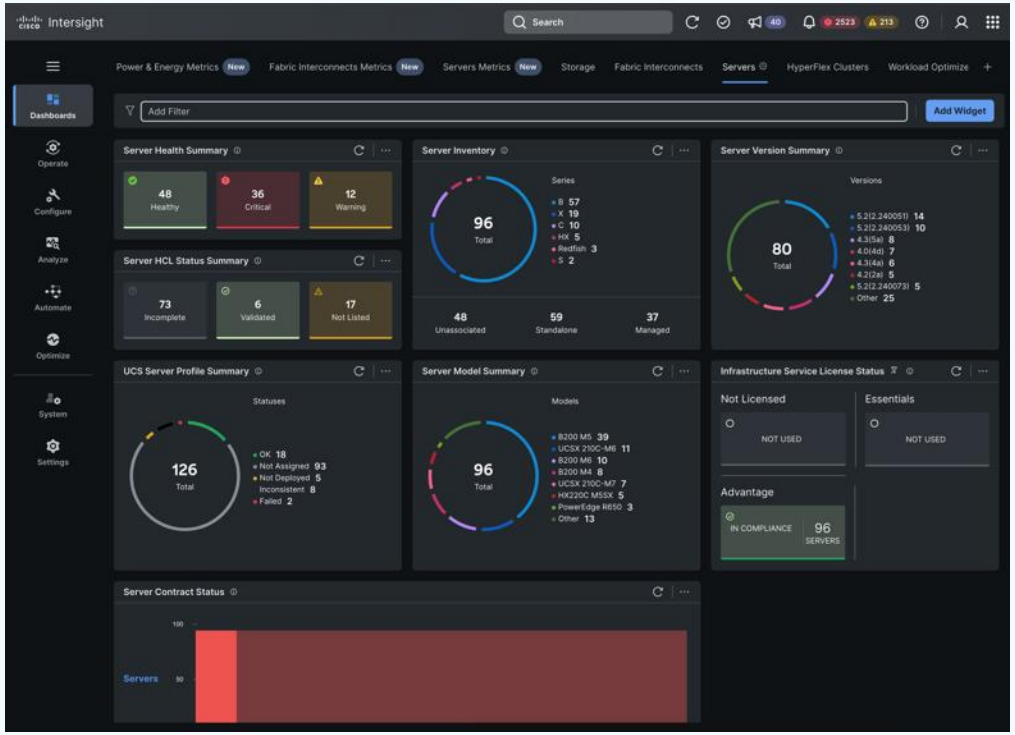
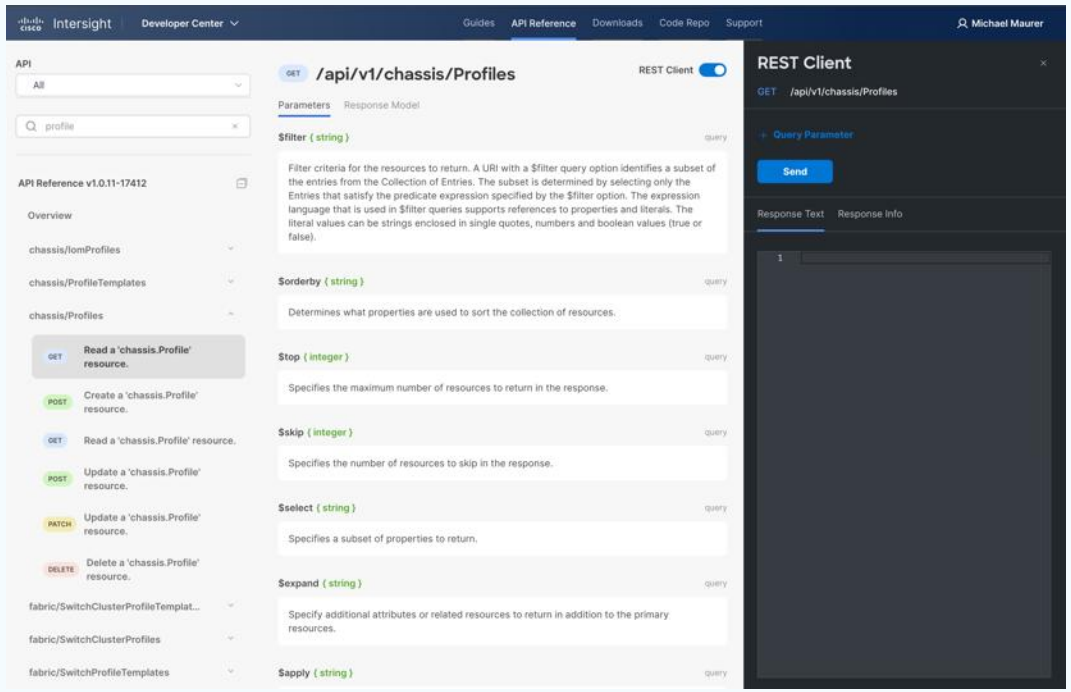
Troubleshooting options: Intersight

Intersight UI



Device Status, Alarms, Metrics, and more...

Intersight API Reference



Access all Intersight APIs via
intersight.com/apidocs/apirefs

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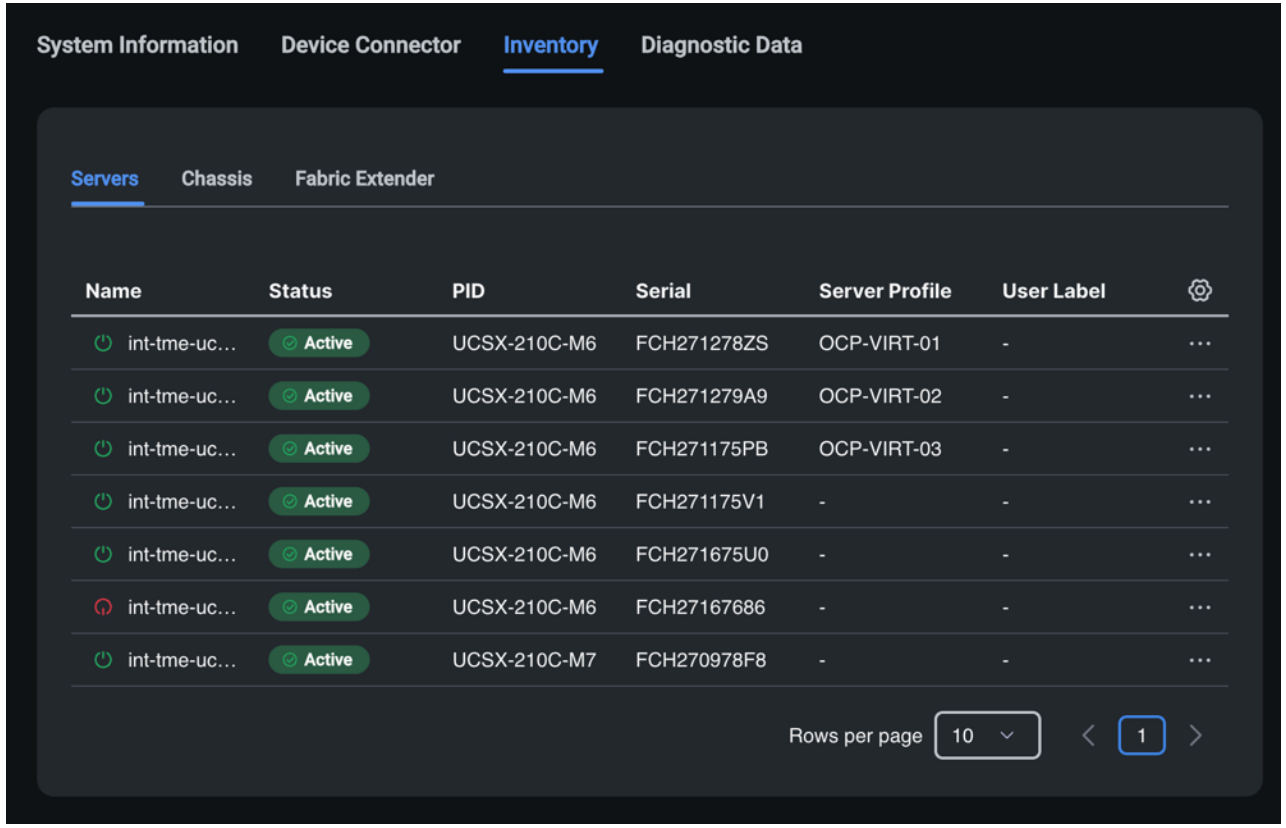
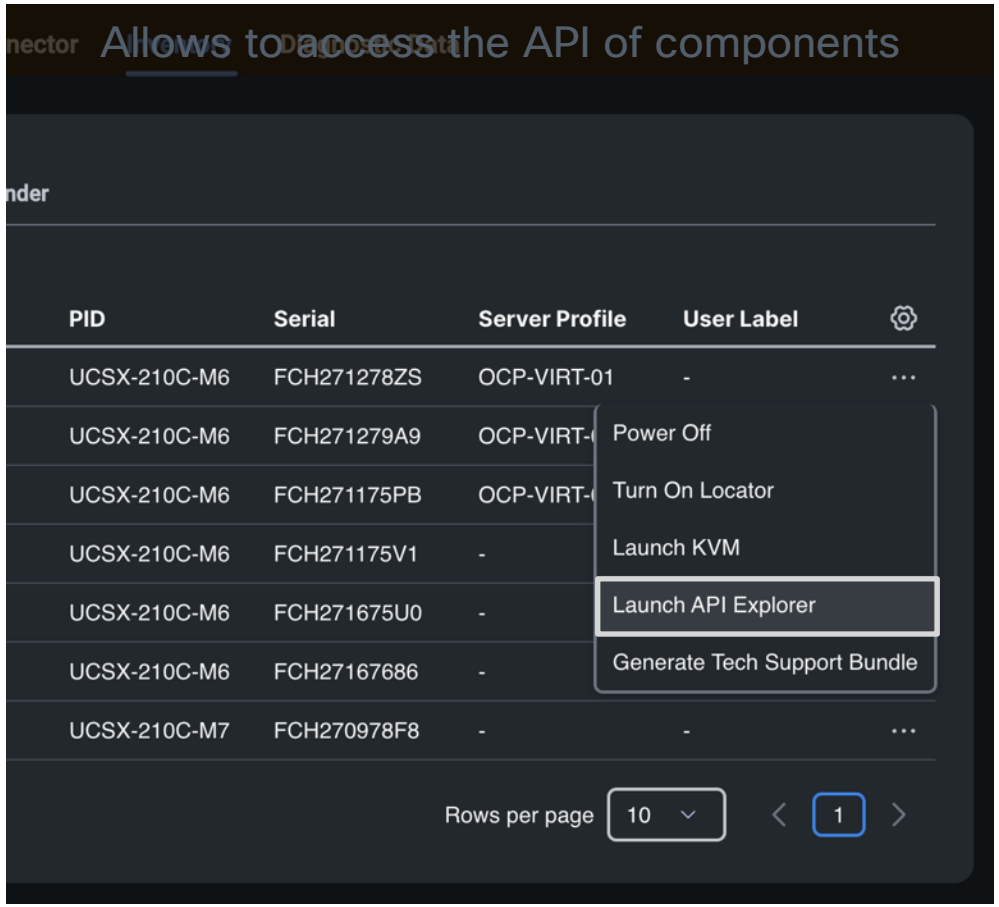
Troubleshooting options: Device Console

Accessed via https://<FI-IP>





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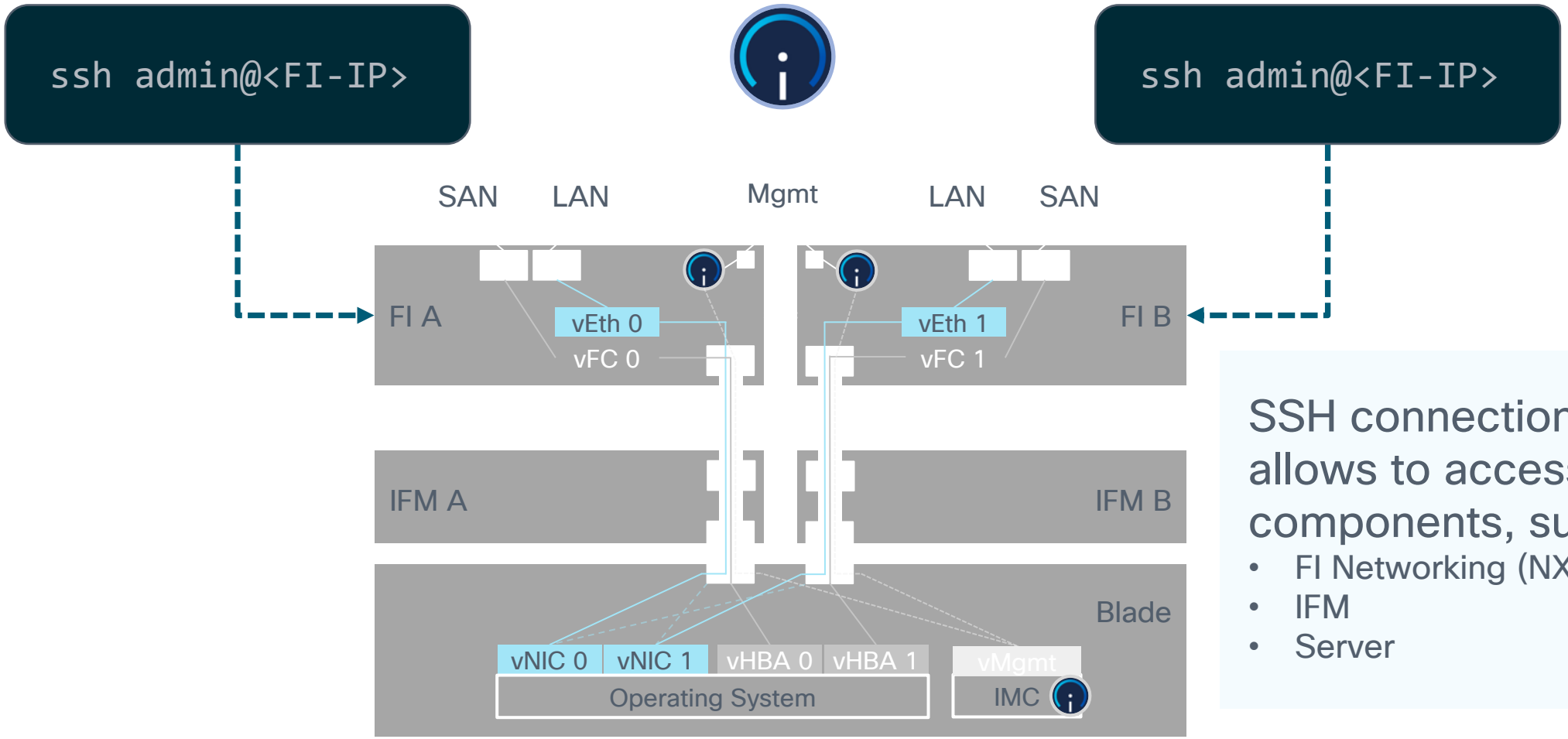
Troubleshooting options: SSH



SSH connection per FI allows to access FI and components, such as:

- FI Networking (NXOS)
- IFM
- Server

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Troubleshooting options: RedFish API

Accessed via

curl -k -u <user>:<password> https://<Server-Mgmt-IP>/redfish/v1/...

Defined via Local User Policy (required!)

Defined via IMC Access Policy (required!)

You can use your preferred tool to make HTTP requests

You can check all available APIs in the Device Console API browser for the server

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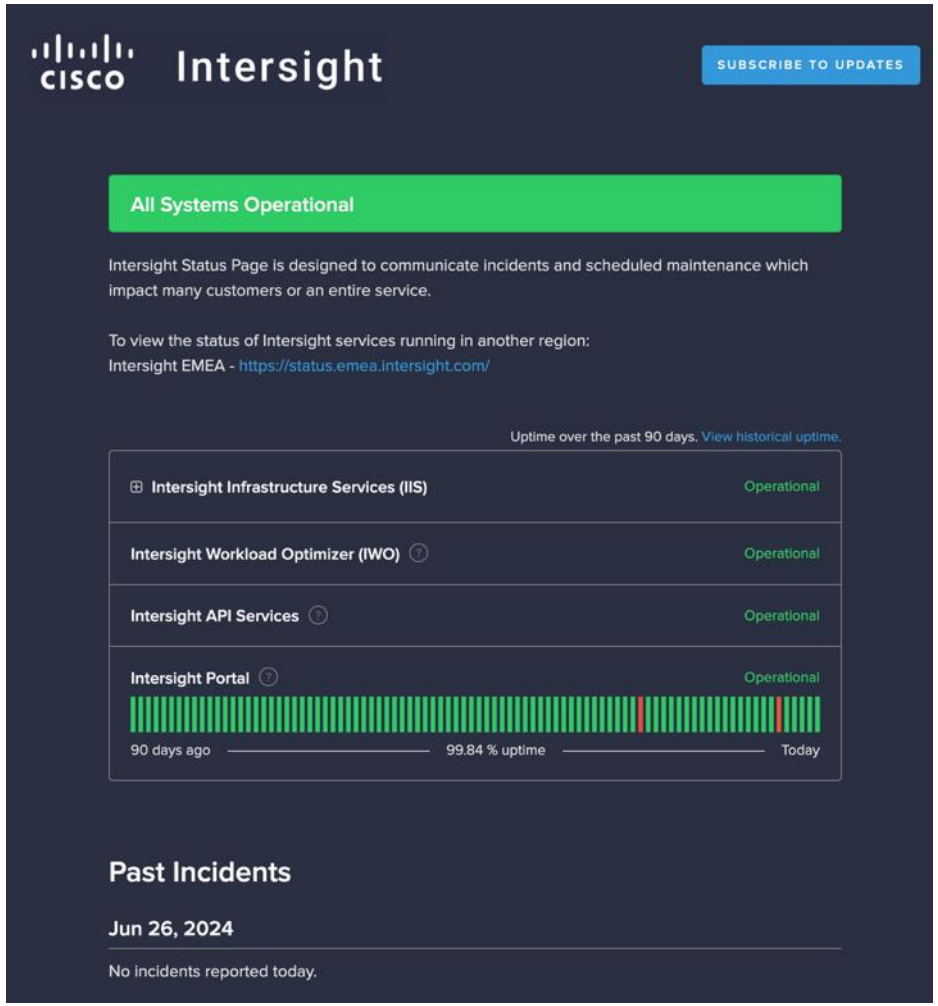
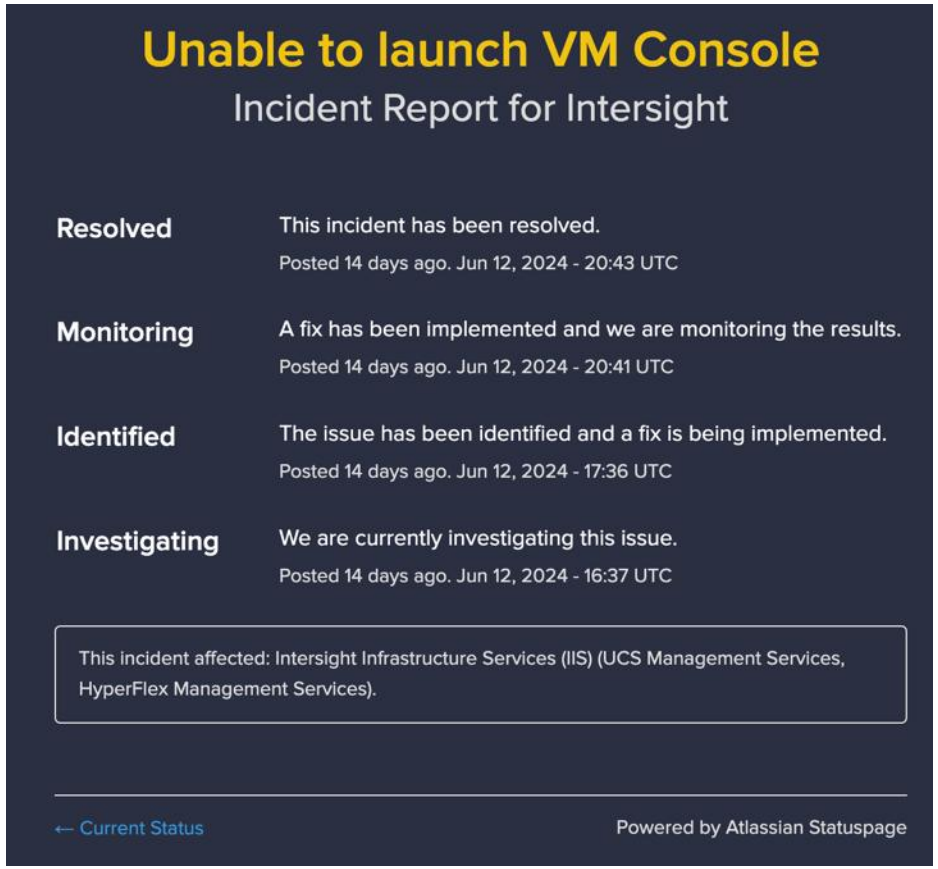
Intersight SaaS status page

Available at: status.intersight.com





Status impacts are updated manually – right after discovering an issue the page may not reflect it yet

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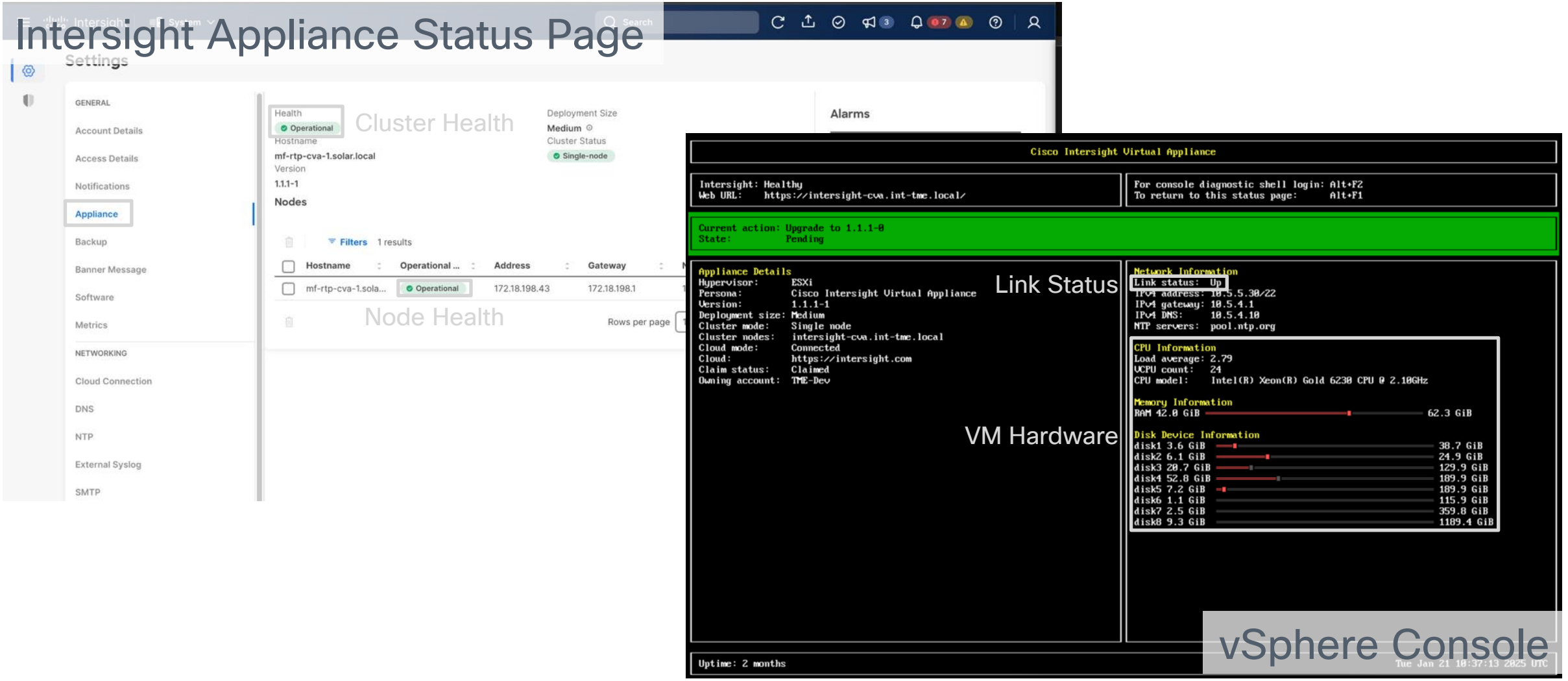
Intersight appliance status



Note: screenshots from two different appliances

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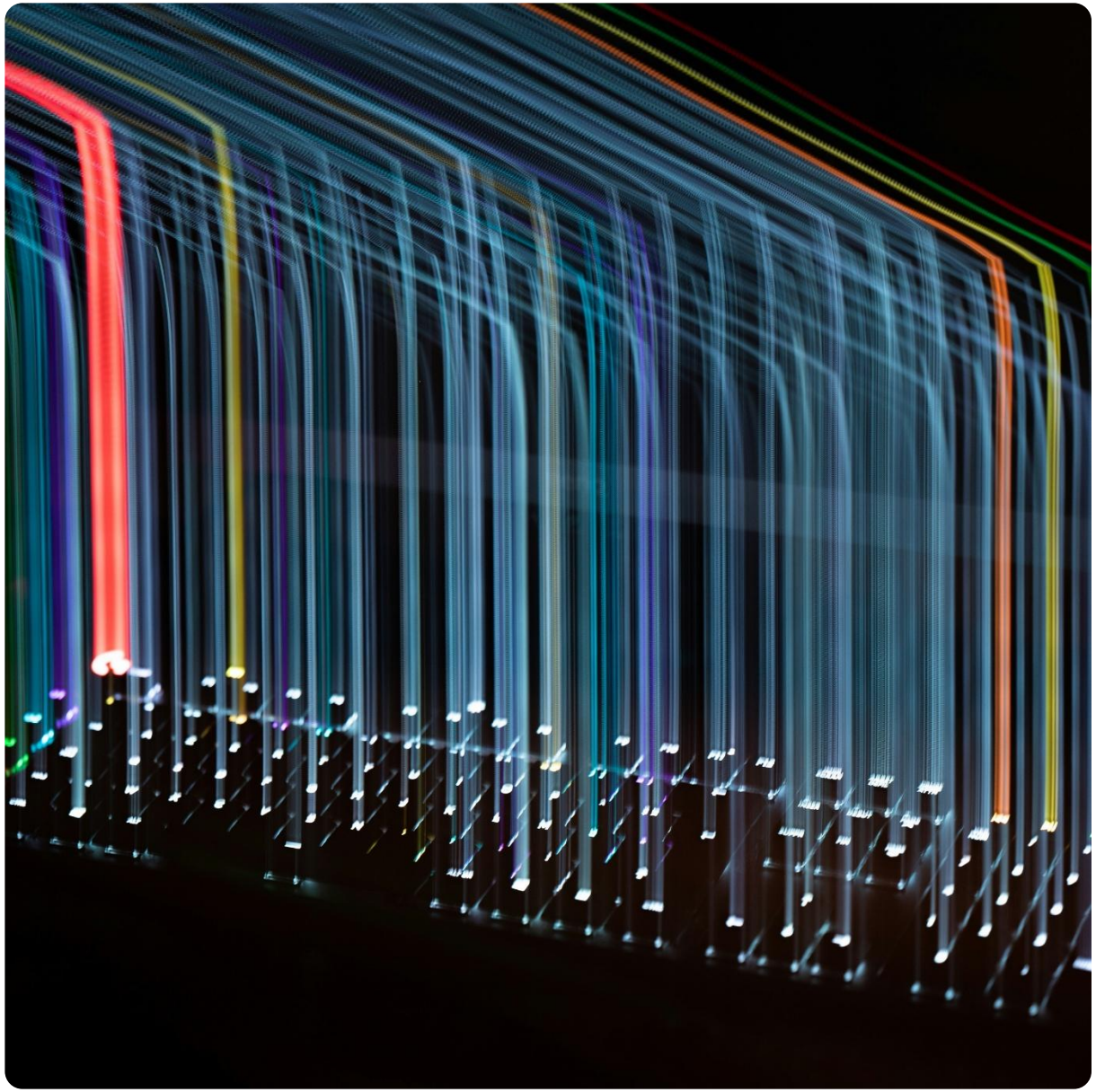
Use case: Checking for UCS domain network issues



IT administrator has noticed issues with a workload. The administrator must identify if this is a UCS networking problem. The administrator needs to verify the single/multiple links between the server and Fabric Interconnect, as well as between the Fabric Interconnect and upstream network.

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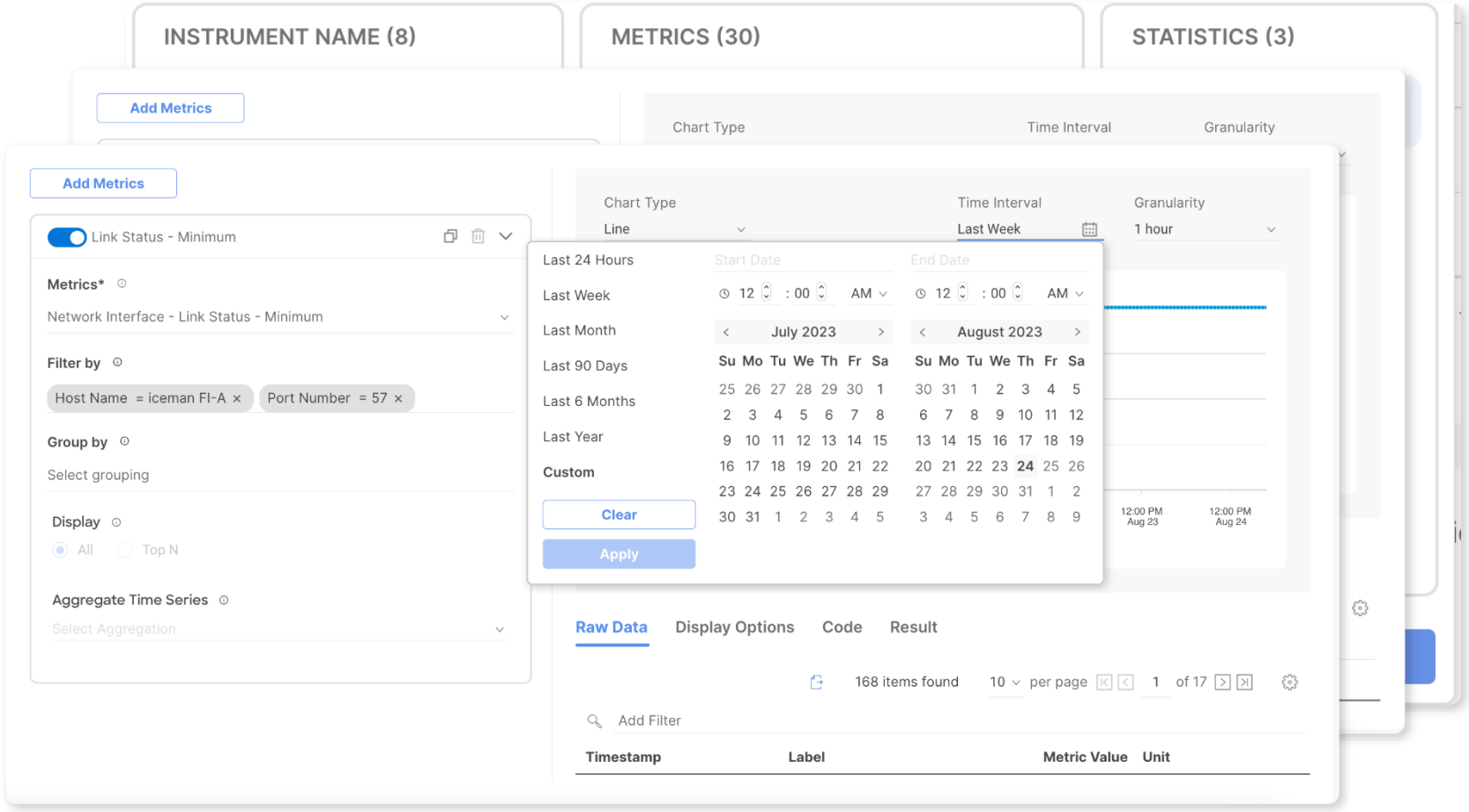
Step 1: Confirm if the link is online

- Check link status using the Network Interface > Link Status metrics.
- Status of 0 implies that the link is down and status of 1 implies the link is up.
- Setting Minimum for the Statistics allows to identify when it is down even for a short period of downtime.
- Choose the FI and the uplink port number.
- Adjust timeframe to accommodate time of the issue.



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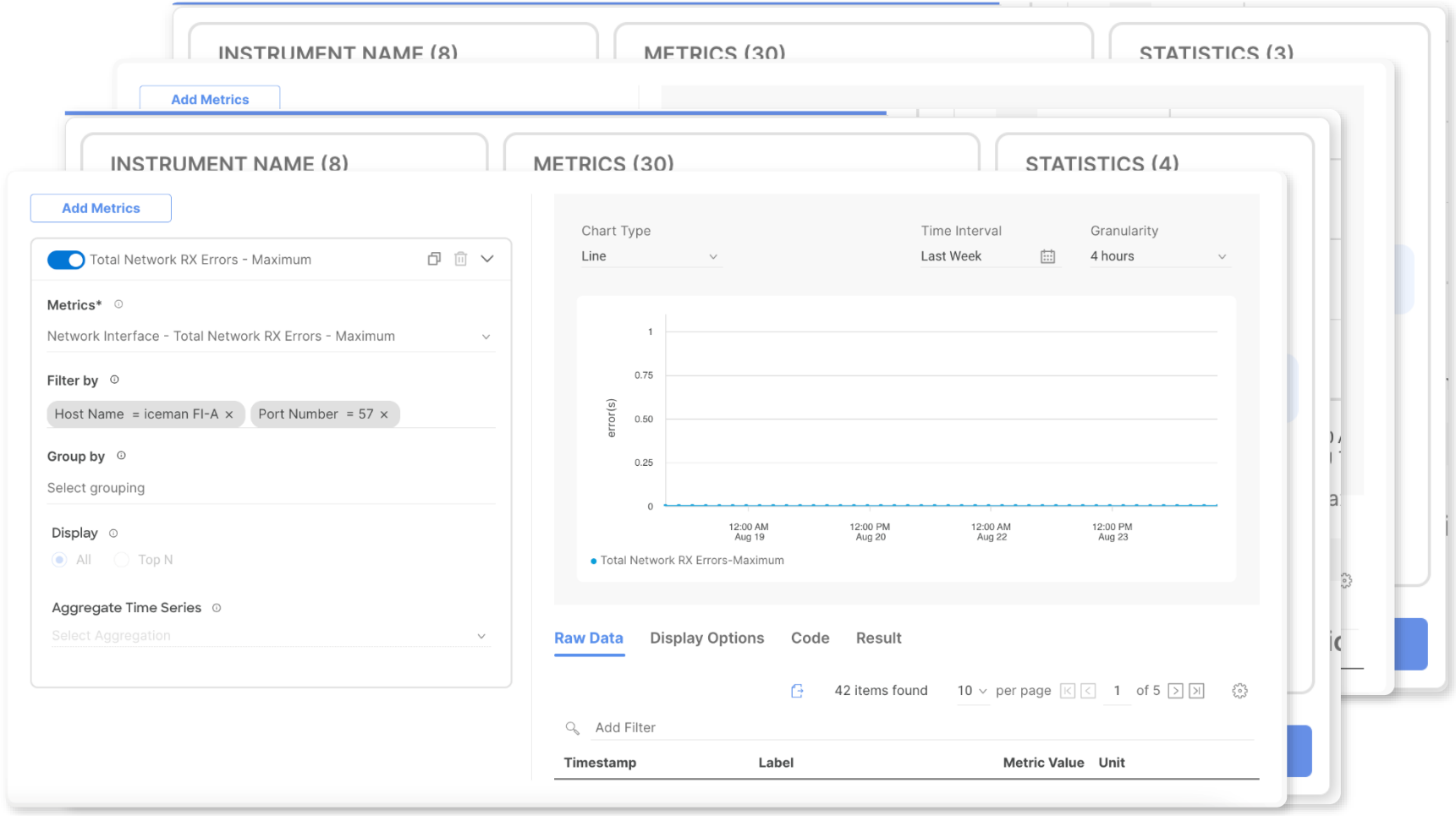
Step 2: Check network utilization (RX and TX)

- Identify if the link is overwhelmed with traffic.
- Check RX Utilization using the Network Interface > Network RX Utilization metrics.
- Setting Maximum for the Statistics allows to see maximum utilization per point on the chart.
- Choose the FI and the uplink port number.
- Repeat this for Network TX Utilization.



NOTE: Total Utilization averages both values and might hide potential problems

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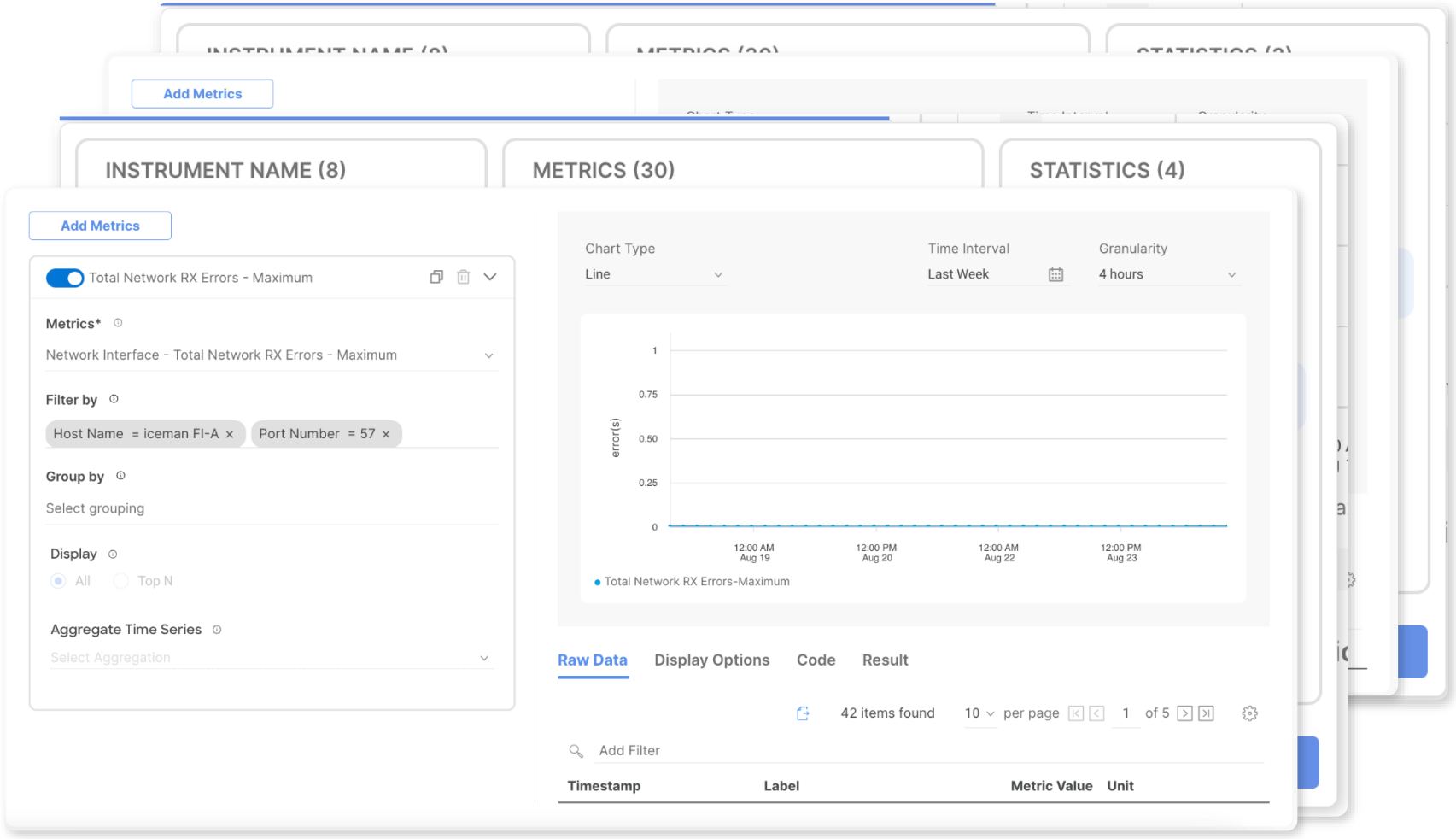
Step 3: Check total network RX and TX errors

- Identify if the link is overwhelmed with errors.
- Check Total RX Errors using the Network Interface > Total RX Errors.
- Setting Maximum for the Statistics allows to see maximum errors per point on the chart.
- Choose the FI and the uplink port number.
- Repeat this for Total Network TX errors.



NOTE: Total Utilization averages both values and might hide potential problems

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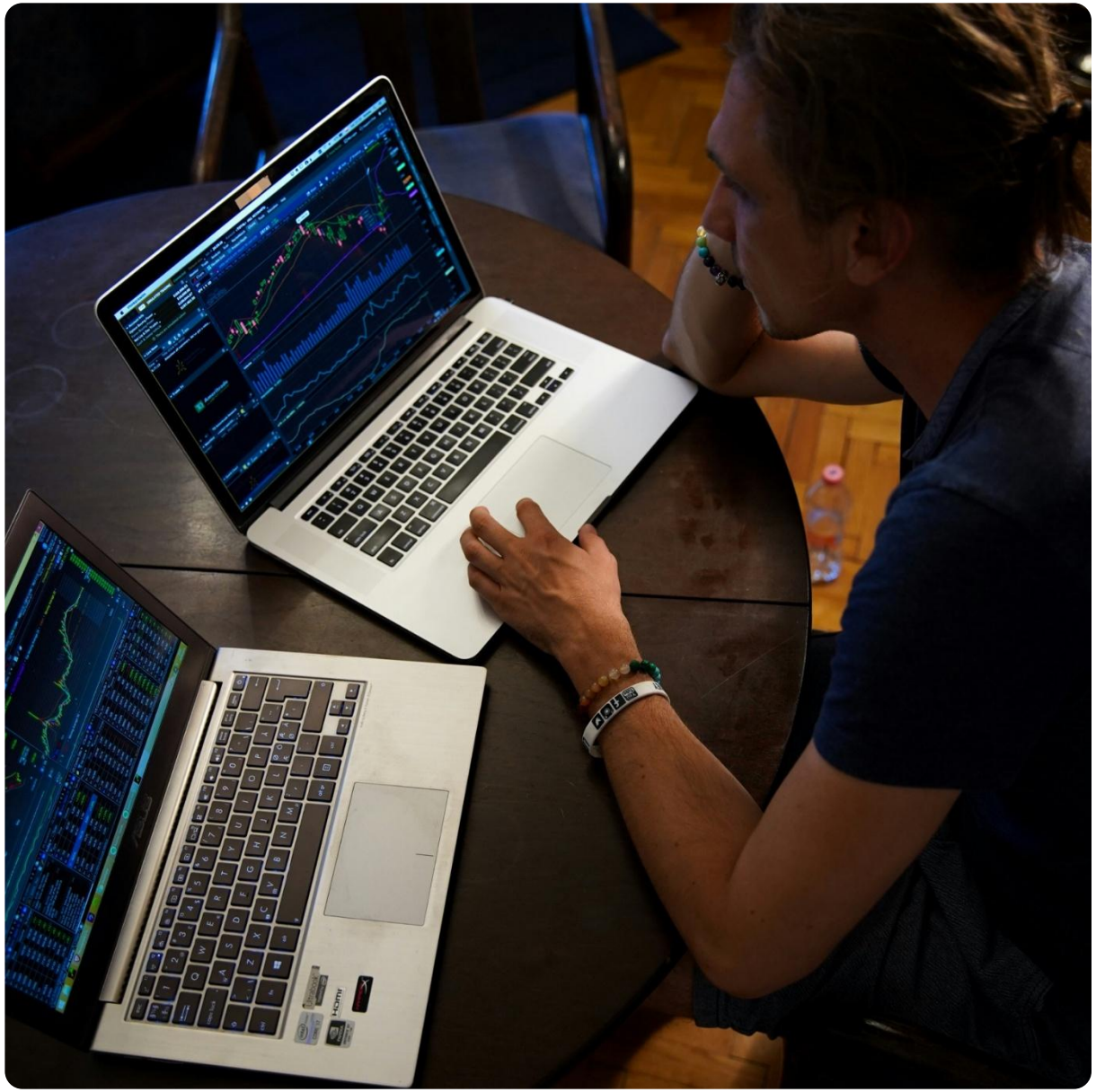
Use case: Capacity planning



With growing workloads there is also a demand for new infrastructure. To adapt to this demand, you may have to increase your UCS environment with a few more chassis. This will lead to increase traffic on the Fabric Interconnect uplinks. The administrator needs to determine if the current uplink capacity will be enough to handle the new infrastructure.

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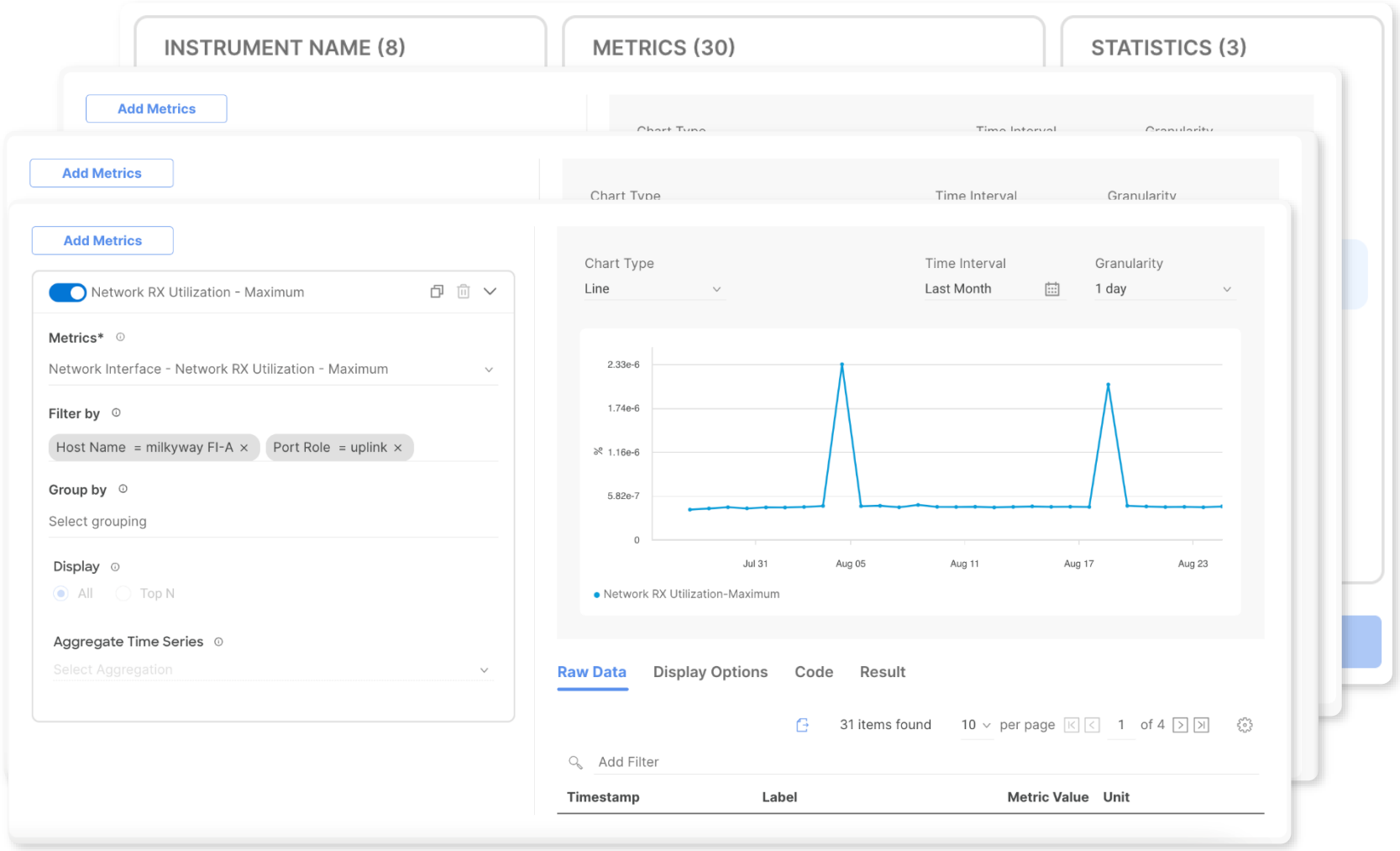
Step 1: Check uplink RX or TX utilization

- Note the uplink ports for your Fabric Interconnect.
- Check the utilization using the metric Network Utilization > Network RX Utilization.
- When using Maximum statistics value, it condenses multiple values down to a single point on the timeline.
- Given the utilization for all devices, filter this this data down to a specific device.
- Choose your time interval for consumption.
- Perform similar analysis for TX utilization and then for the second fabric interconnect.



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Use case: Analyzing energy consumption

Energy consumption in data centers is often a high cost that is overlooked. This consumption may also be a factor for environmental impact. The administrator needs to determine the energy consumption of your environment.

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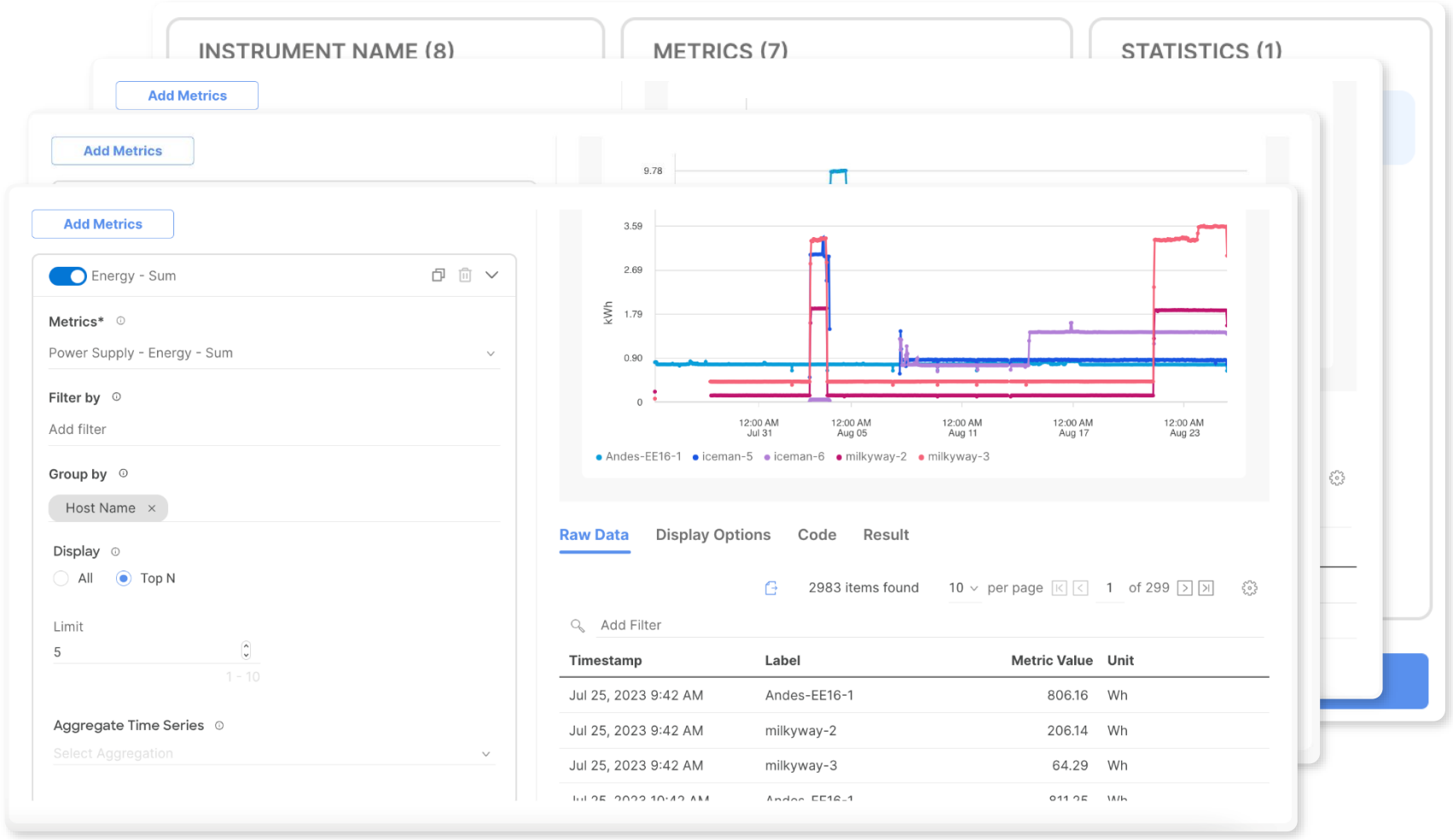
Step 1: check energy consumption

- Power – Consumption at a specific instant in time measured in Watt.
- Energy – Consumption over time measured in kWh.
- Check sum of energy using Power Supply> Energy > Sum metrics.
- Choose your time interval for consumption.
- Get more details by grouping this data by host type or host name.
- Leverage the raw data for further analysis.



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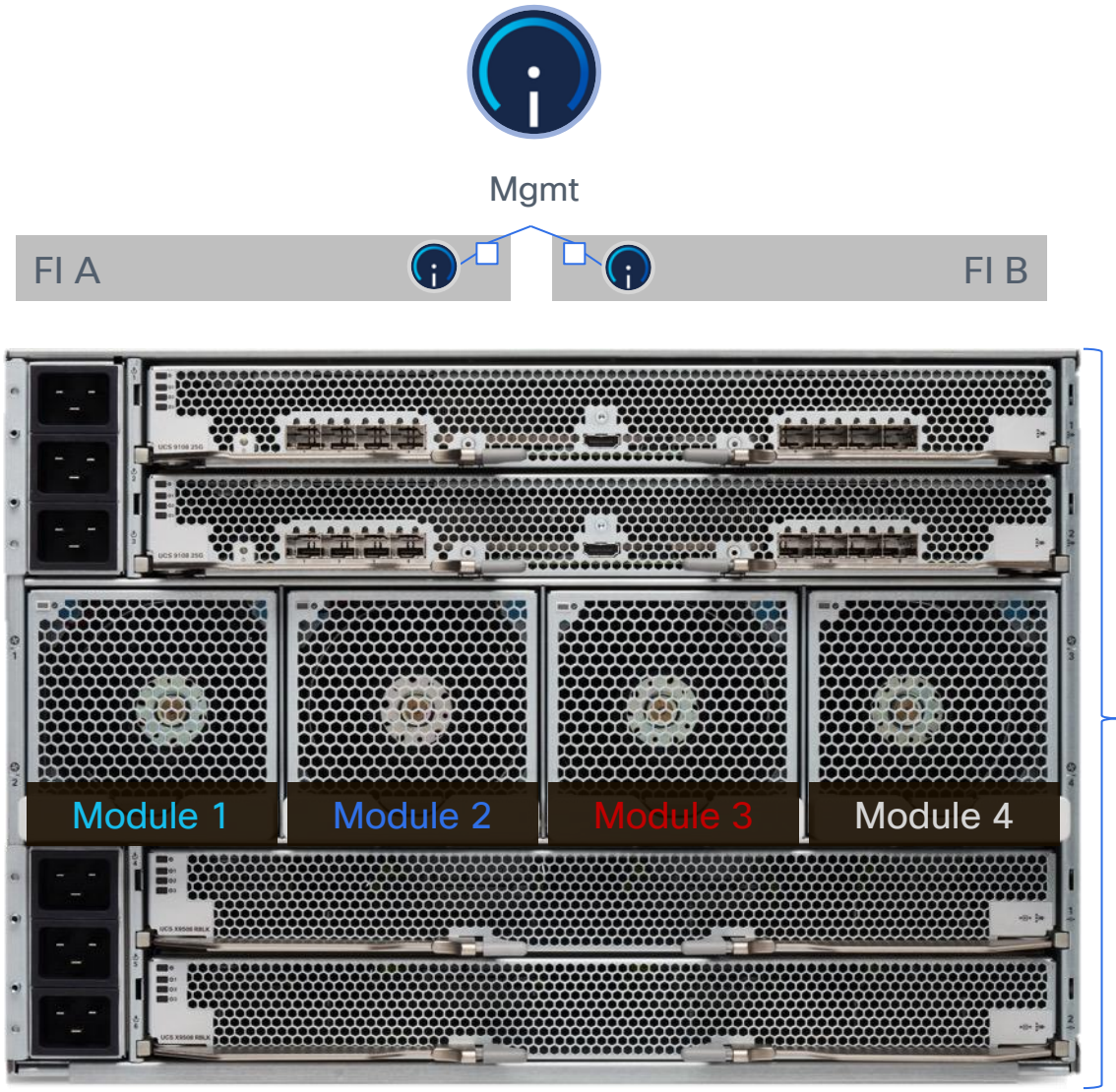
Fan configuration



UCS Chassis Profile

Thermal Configuration

Fan curve logic

Thermal Policy

Determines how the fans respond to thermal changes with tradeoffs between performance, cost, and sound level

High	1	Maximum
Fan Speed	2	High
	3	Balanced
	4	Low
Low	5	Acoustic

Main chassis fans are directly controlled, minor chassis fans operate on an offset

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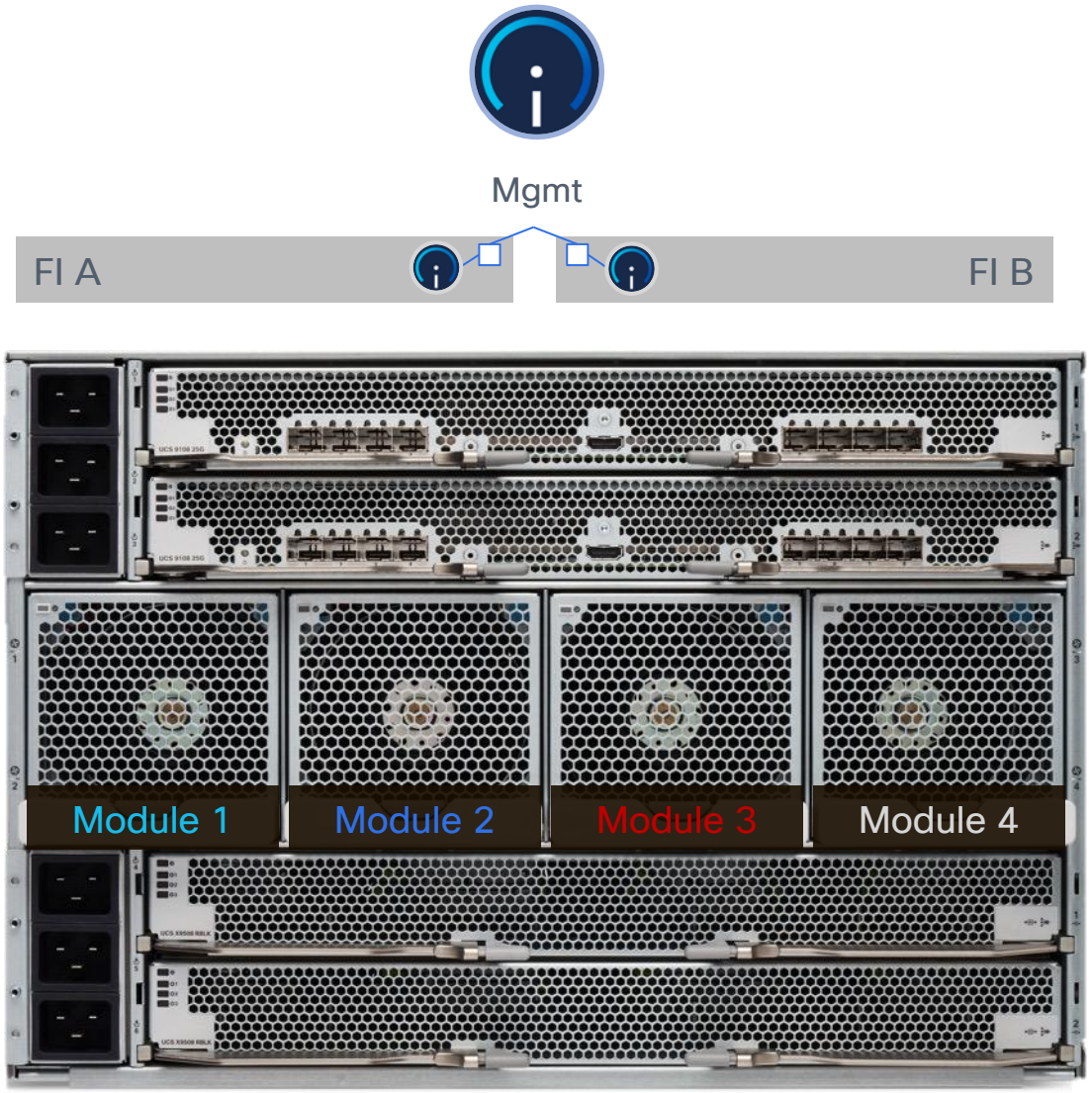
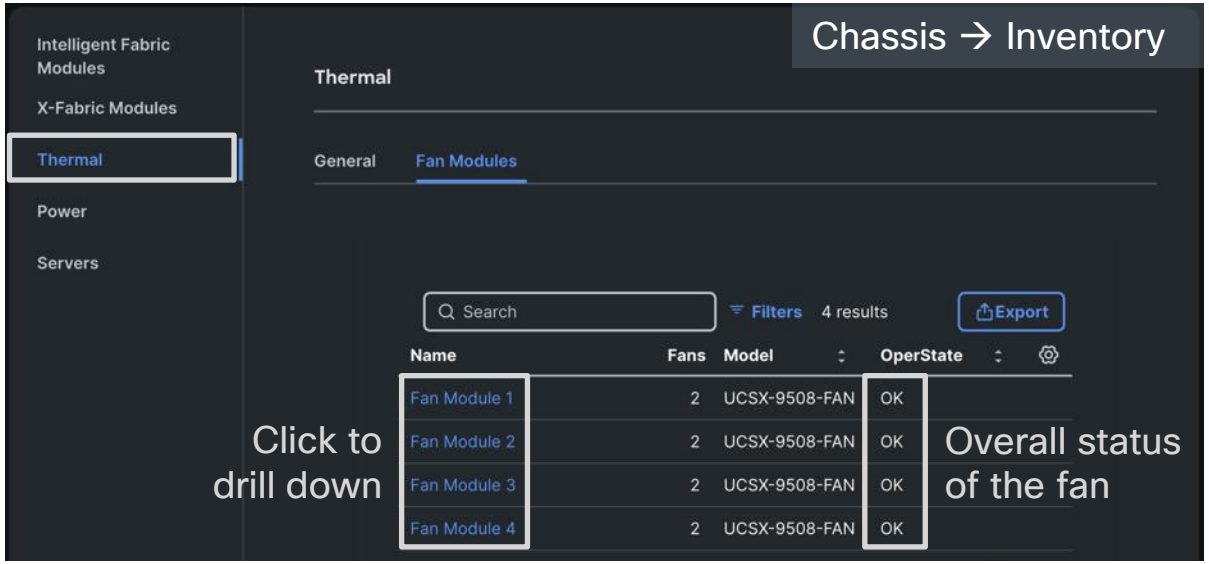
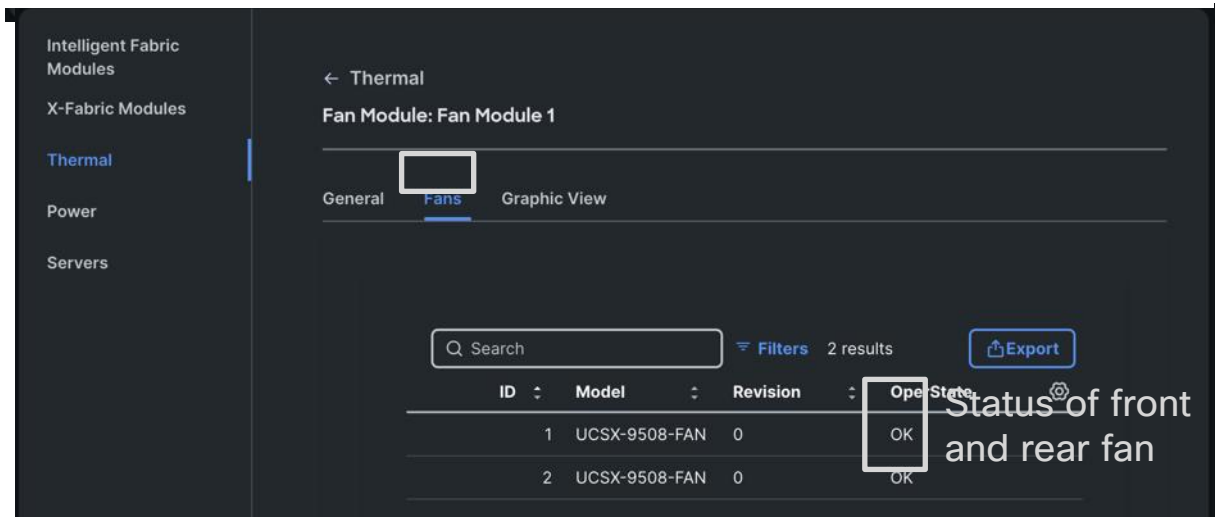
Verify chassis fan status: Intersight







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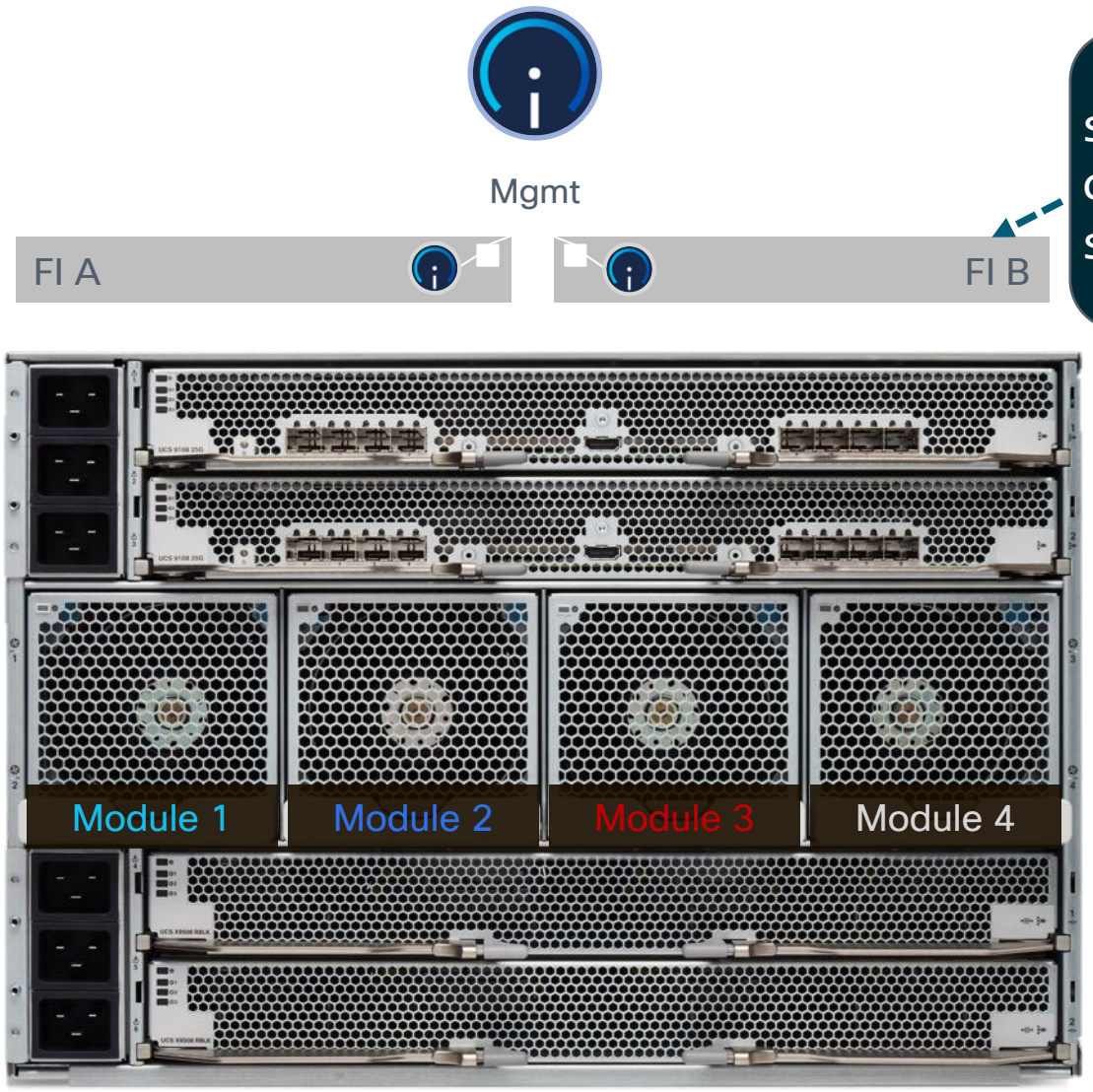
Verify chassis fan status: CLI




```
ssh admin@x.x.x.x
connect iom <chassis>
show platform software cmcctrl fancontrol failed
```

```
SYS_FAN1: status:
        Front: OK
        Rear: OK
SYS_FAN2: status:
        Front: OK
        Rear: OK
SYS_FAN3: status:
        Front: OK
        Rear: OK
SYS_FAN4: status:
        Front: OK
        Rear: OK
```

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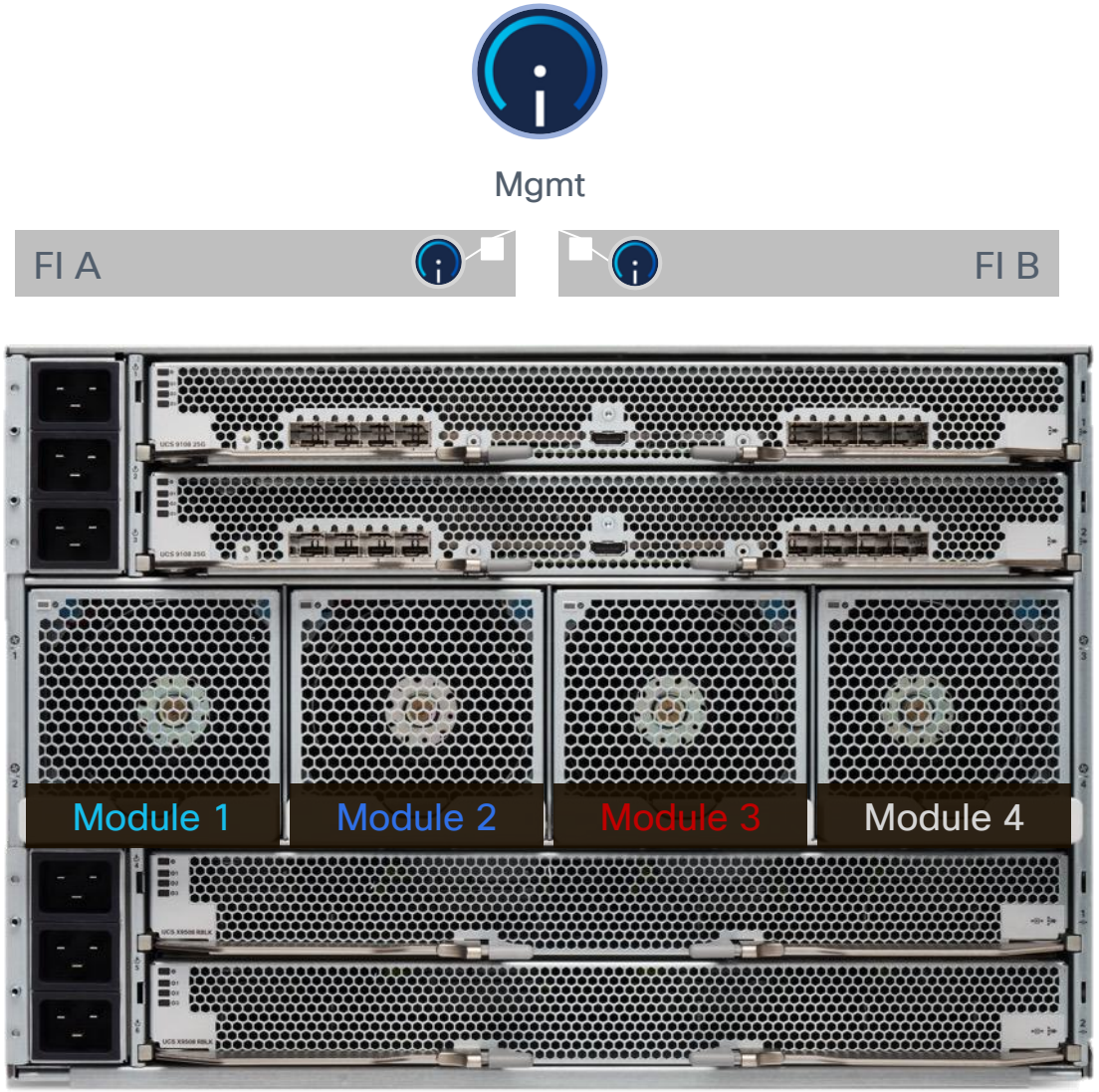
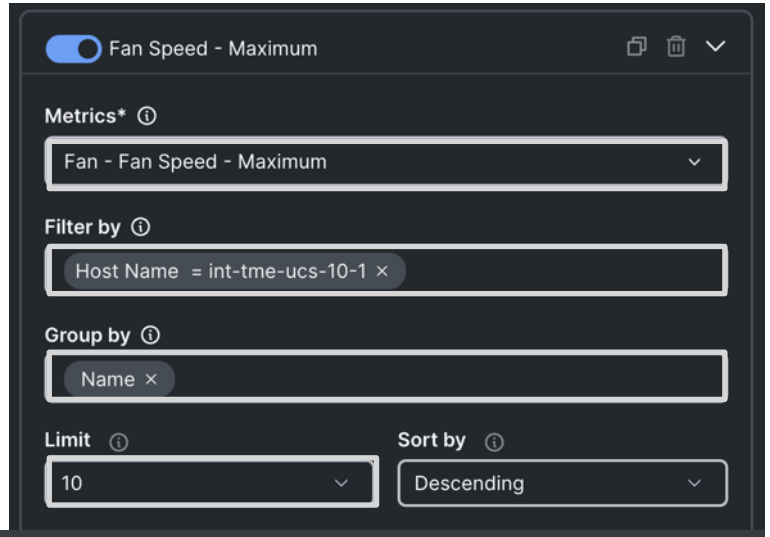
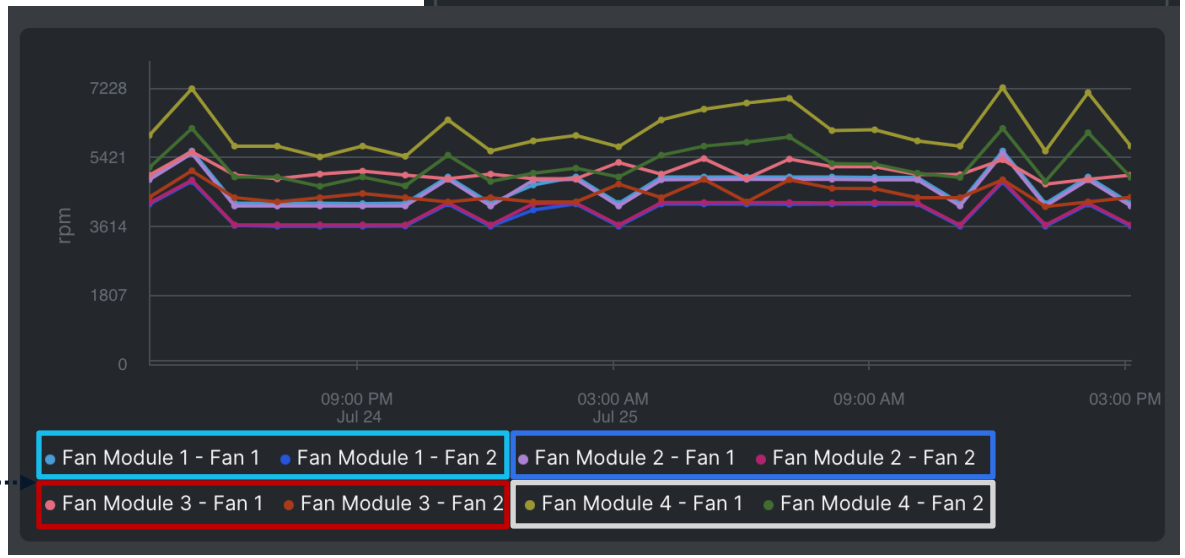
Verify chassis fan speed: Intersight



Per Module:
Fan 1 = Front
Fan 2 = Rear





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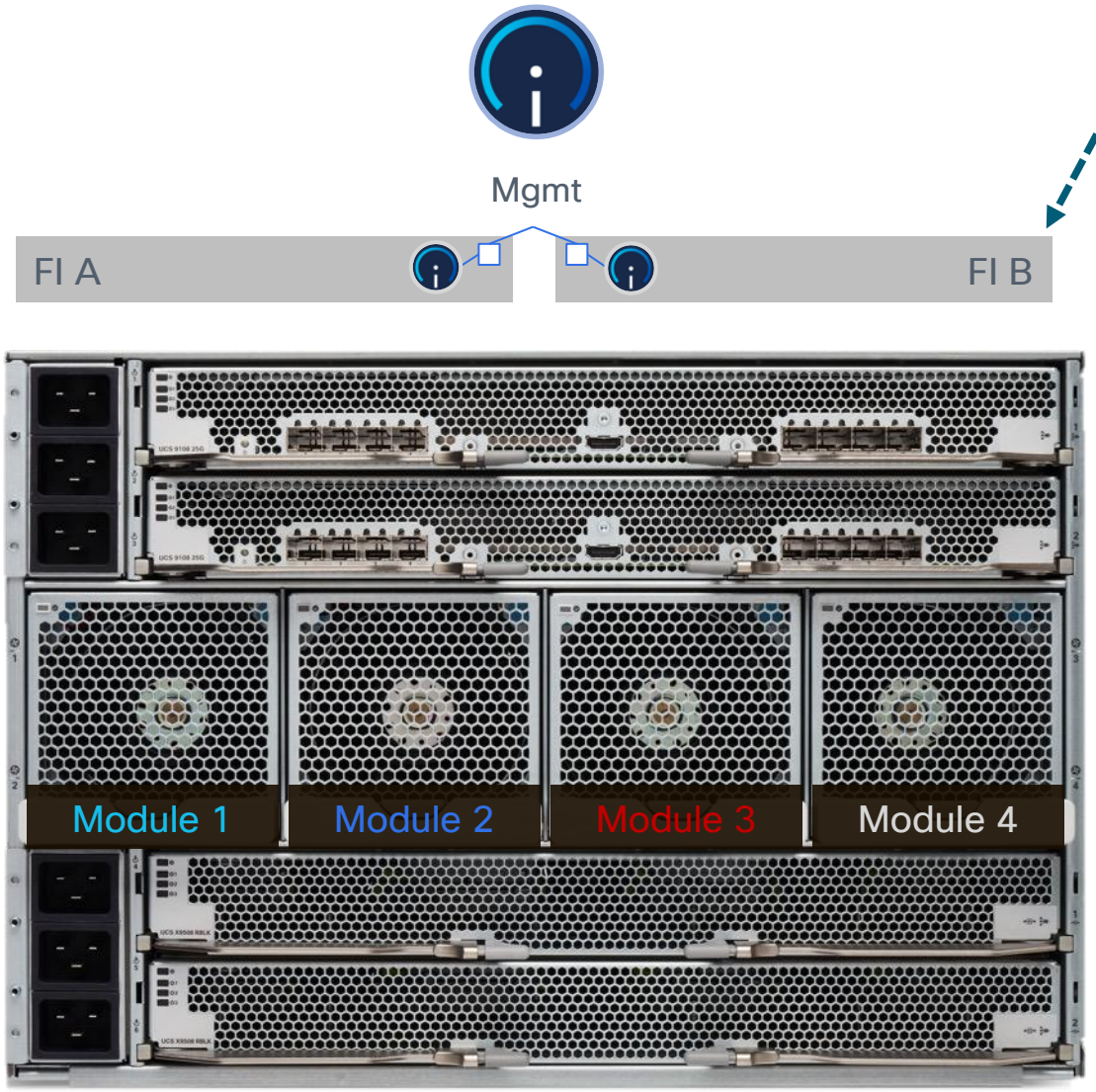
Verify chassis fan speed: CLI




```
ssh admin@x.x.x.x
connect iom <chassis>
show platform software cmcctrl fancontrol all
```

```
SYS_FAN1: Speed (FRONT): 4192
SYS_FAN1: Speed (REAR) : 3600
SYS_FAN1: dutycycle: 35
SYS_FAN2: Speed (FRONT): 4121
SYS_FAN2: Speed (REAR) : 3627
SYS_FAN2: dutycycle: 35
SYS_FAN3: Speed (FRONT): 4237
SYS_FAN3: Speed (REAR) : 3647
SYS_FAN3: dutycycle: 35
SYS_FAN4: Speed (FRONT): 4866
SYS_FAN4: Speed (REAR) : 4183
SYS_FAN4: dutycycle: 39
```

Speed (FRONT): Speed of the front fan in RPM

Speed (REAR): Speed of the rear fan in RPM

dutycycle: How much the fan is active in %

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Power and thermal goodies – power info

- For the even more adventurous…
  - Look in a chassis techsupport for the file
    techsupport_detailed_iocard1/cmc/log/pwrmgrcli.log (or iocard2)
  - **No interface contract! Contents can change without notice.**
- PSU inventory/details/statistics
- Power settings/redundancy status
- Power consumption/estimates/allocation
- Power issue messages

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Power info – actual consumption

```
Chassis power consumption report:
-----------------------------------------------------------------------
       |presence | cur     | avg     | min     | max     | fault   |
-----------------------------------------------------------------------
Blade1  | Present |    530W |    553W |    241W |    938W | No      |
-----------------------------------------------------------------------
Blade2  | Present |   1010W |    429W |    203W |   1097W | No      |
...
FAN4    |         |    283W |         |         |         |         |
-----------------------------------------------------------------------
FEM1    |         |     43W |         |         |         |         |         (FEM = XFM)
-----------------------------------------------------------------------
FEM2    |         |     45W |         |         |         |         |
-----------------------------------------------------------------------
IFM1    |         |    165W |         |         |         |         |
-----------------------------------------------------------------------
IFM2    |         |    168W |         |         |         |         |
-----------------------------------------------------------------------
Chassis |         |   4689W |   3241W |   1970W |   7006W |         |
```

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Power info – consumption limit estimates

```
Chassis power info report:
(BladeX prof_min, prof_max, min_pwr, max_pwr, pwr_limit, host_pwr are collected from BMC)
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
       |presence | prof_min| prof_max|  min_pwr|  max_pwr|pwr_limit| fault   | host_pwr|
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Blade1  | Present |    585W |   1151W |    968W |   1608W |    980W | No      | On      |
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Blade2  | Present |    539W |   1120W |    968W |   1608W |   1139W | No      | On      |
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
...
Blade8  | Present |    569W |   1157W |    968W |   1608W |    786W | No      | On      |
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
SubTotal|         |   4562W |   9144W |   7744W |  12864W |   7762W |         |         |
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
...
IFM2    |         |         |         |         |   300W |         |         |         |
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
SubTotal|         |         |         |         |  2084W |         |         |         |
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Chassis |         |   6646W |  11228W |   9828W |  14948W |         |         |         |
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Chassis Required Power Range          |   6646W |  14948W |         |         |         |
```

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Power info – allocation

```
Chassis power allocation report:
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Chassis powerlimit: 9660                                      |
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Chassis blade available budget: 8683                            |
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Chassis blade allocated budget: 7762                             |
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
ebrake_min_req_psu: 0 | prereq_ebrake =            N/A                    |
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
       |presence | init_pwr| dyn_pwr | ok_to_pwr_on | ok_to_pwr_prof | fault   |
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Blade1  | Present |    980W |    980W | Yes         | No           | No      |
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Blade2  | Present |    944W |   1139W | Yes         | No           | No      |
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
...
Blade8  | Present |    981W |    786W | Yes         | No           | No      |
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
SubTotal|         |   7762W |   7762W |
---------------------------------------
Ch Base |         |   2084W |    977W |
---------------------------------------
Total   |         |   9846W |   8739W |
```

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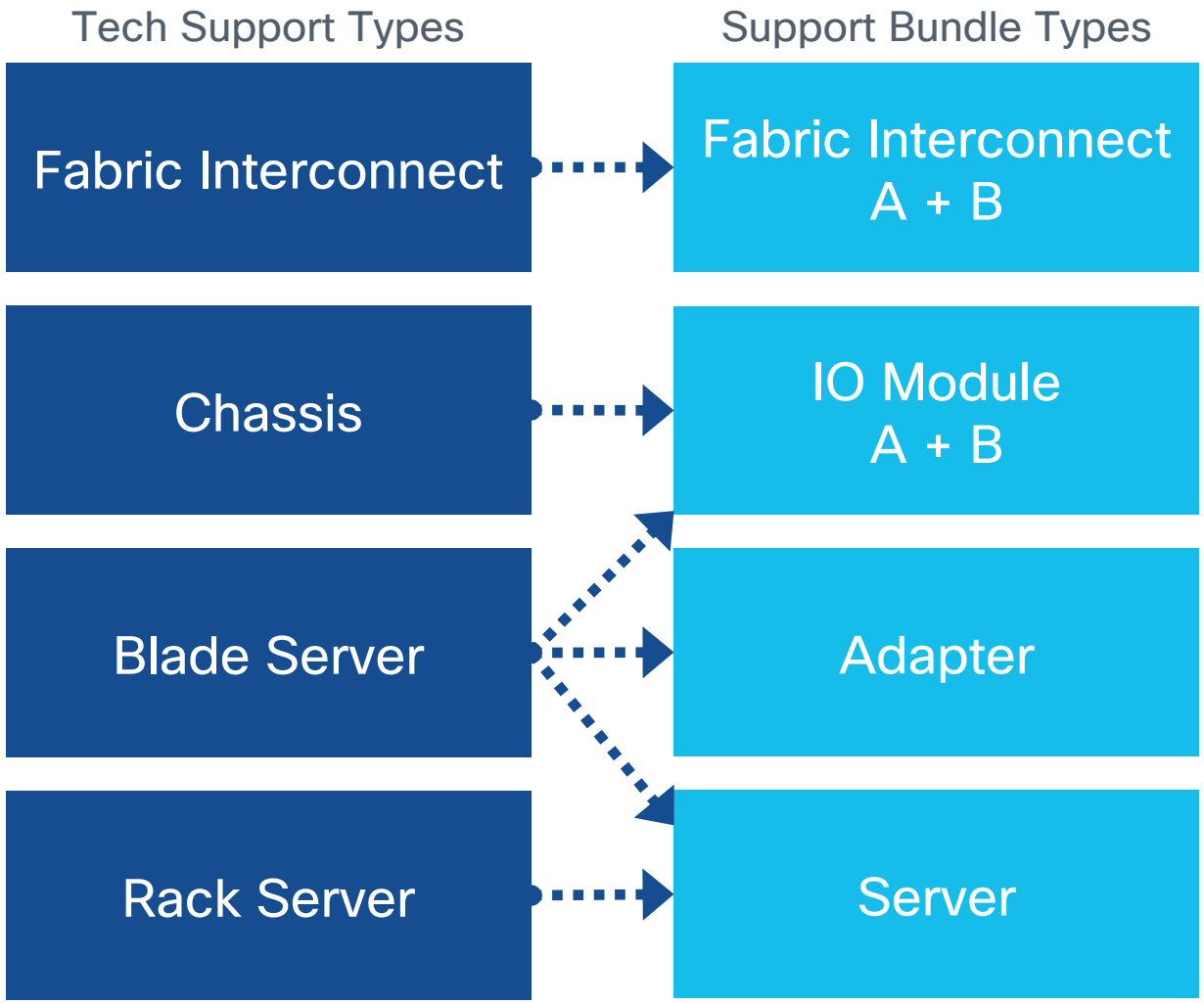
UCS tech support bundles



Note: Depending on the platform, some support bundles might not be present

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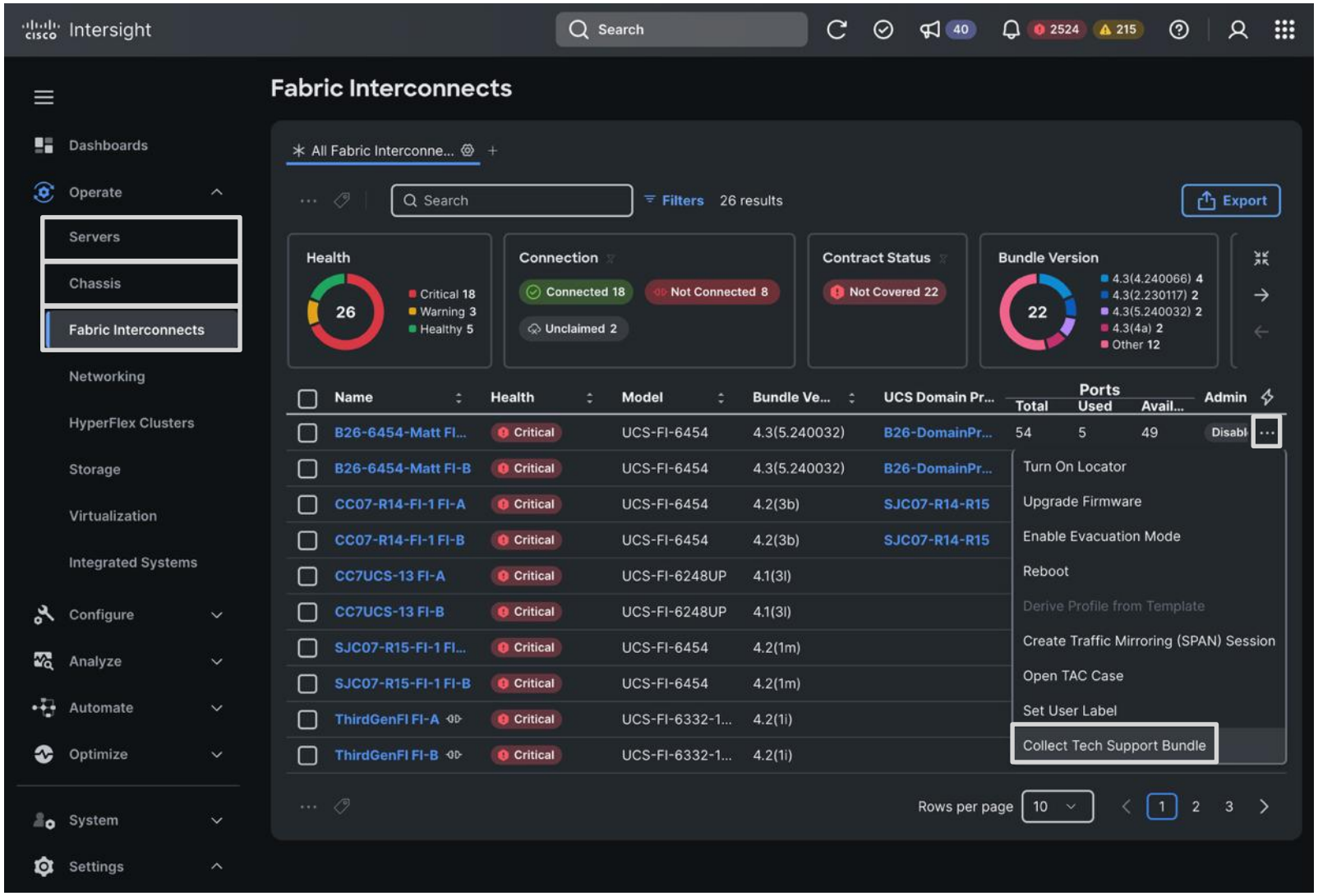
Intersight support bundle collection 1/2



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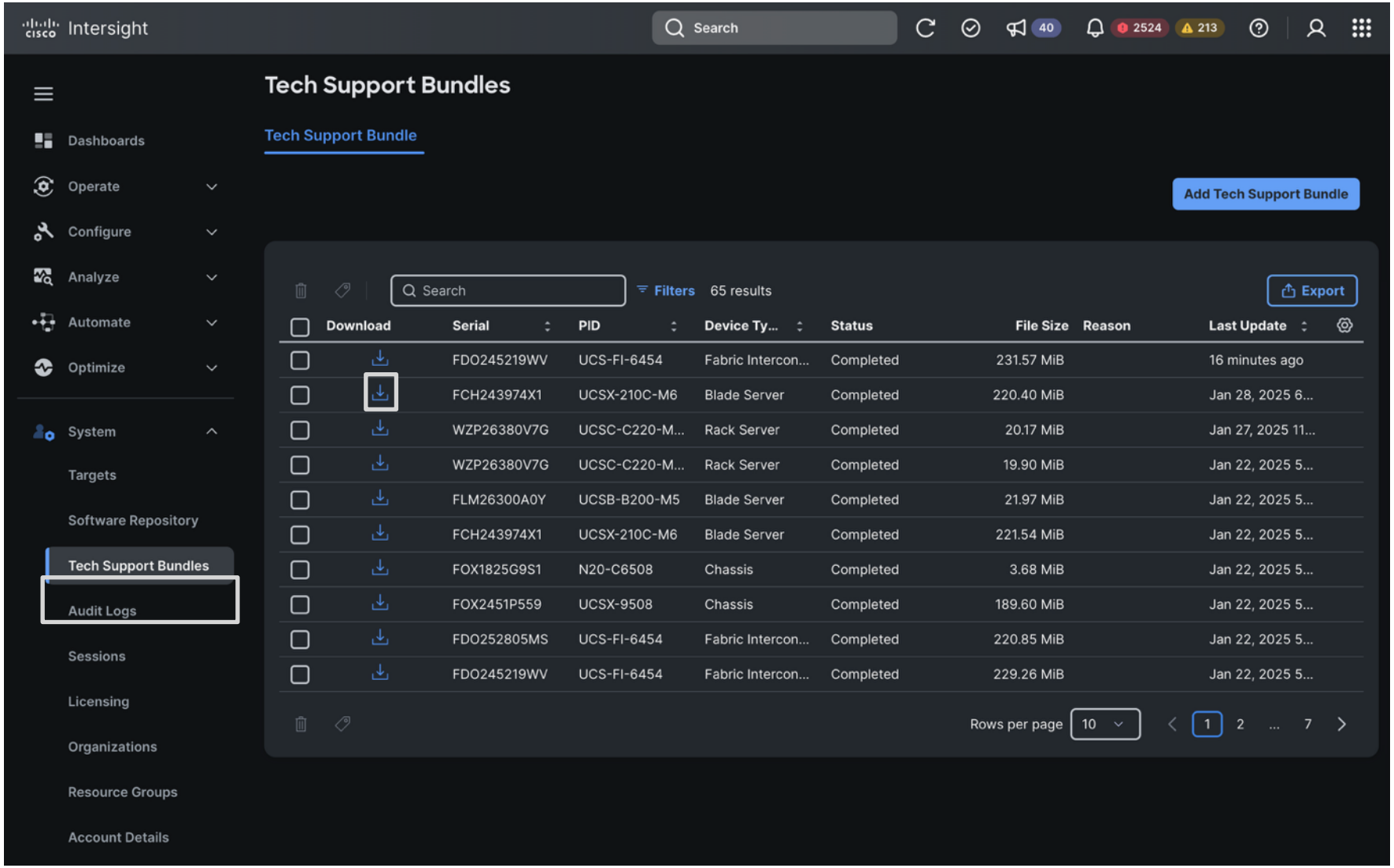
Intersight support bundle collection 2/2



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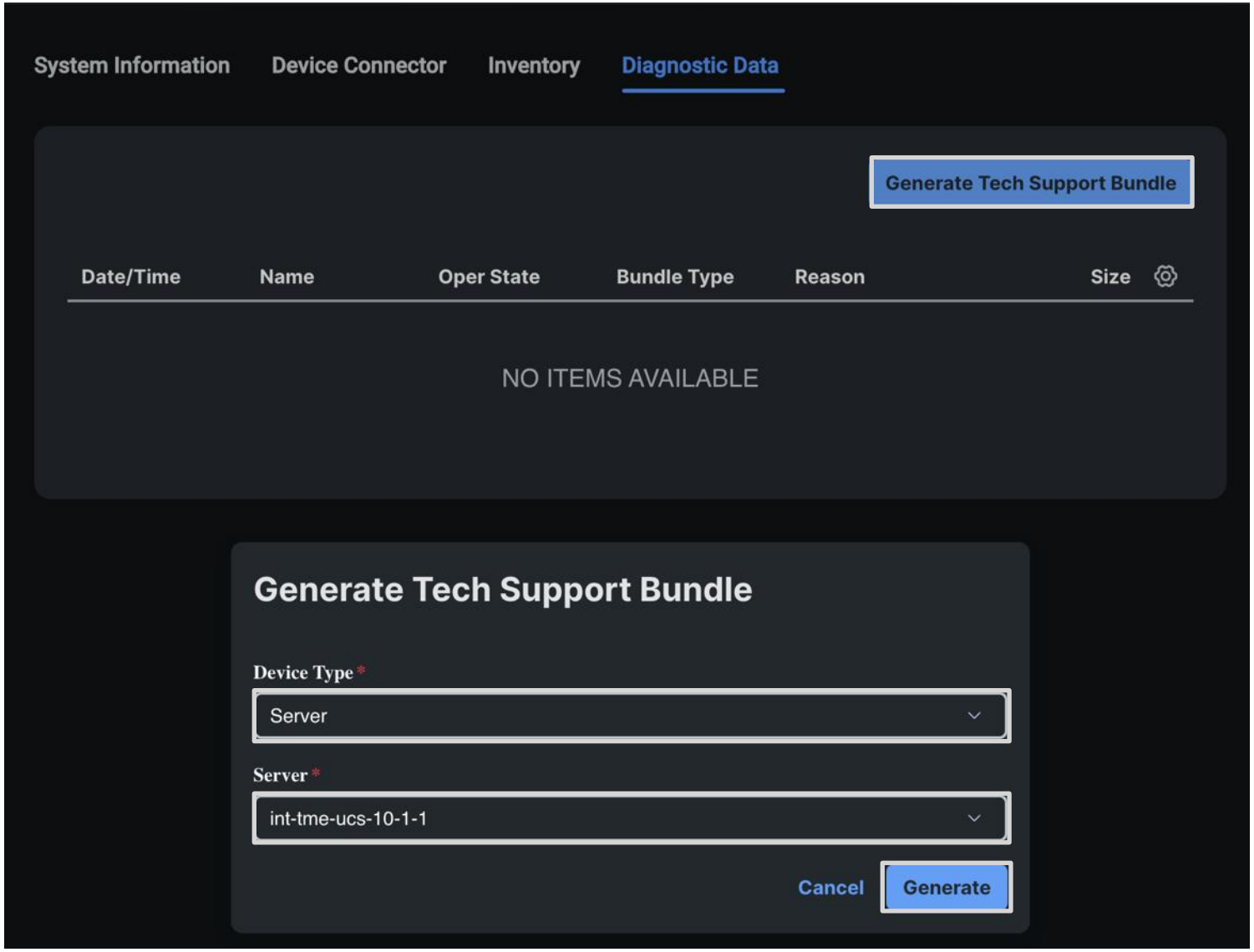
Device console support bundle collection 1/2



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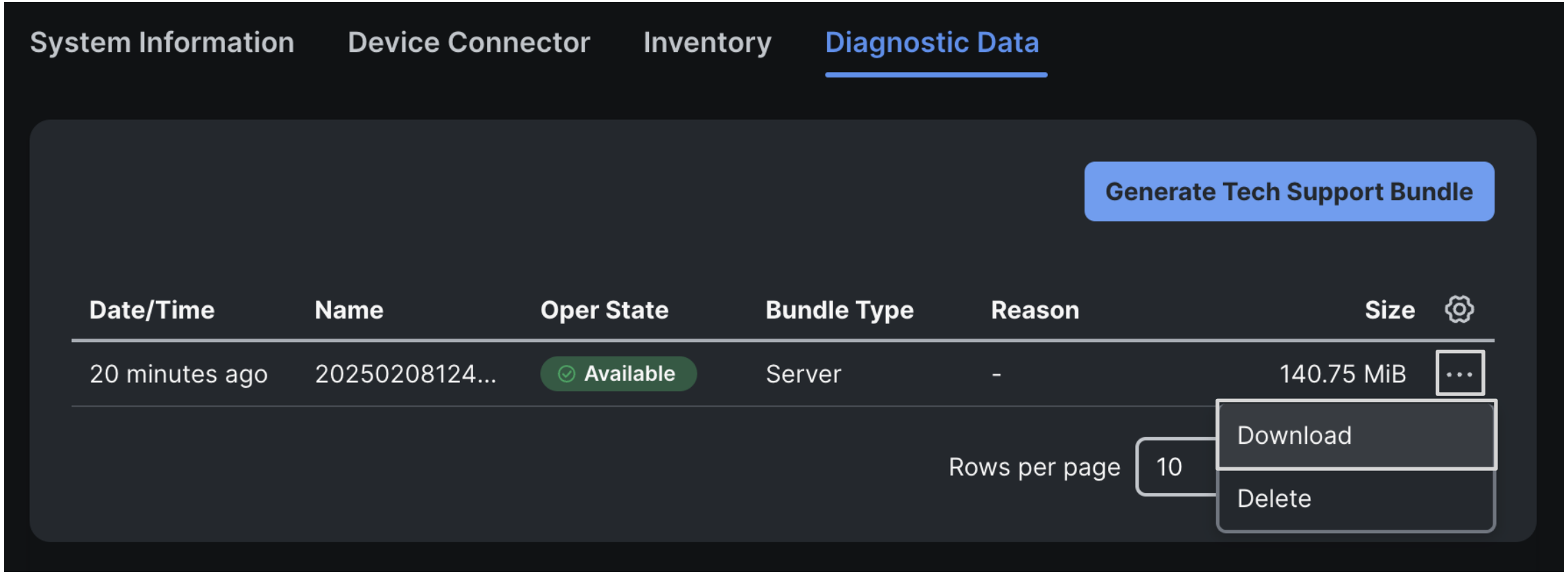
Device console support bundle collection 2/2



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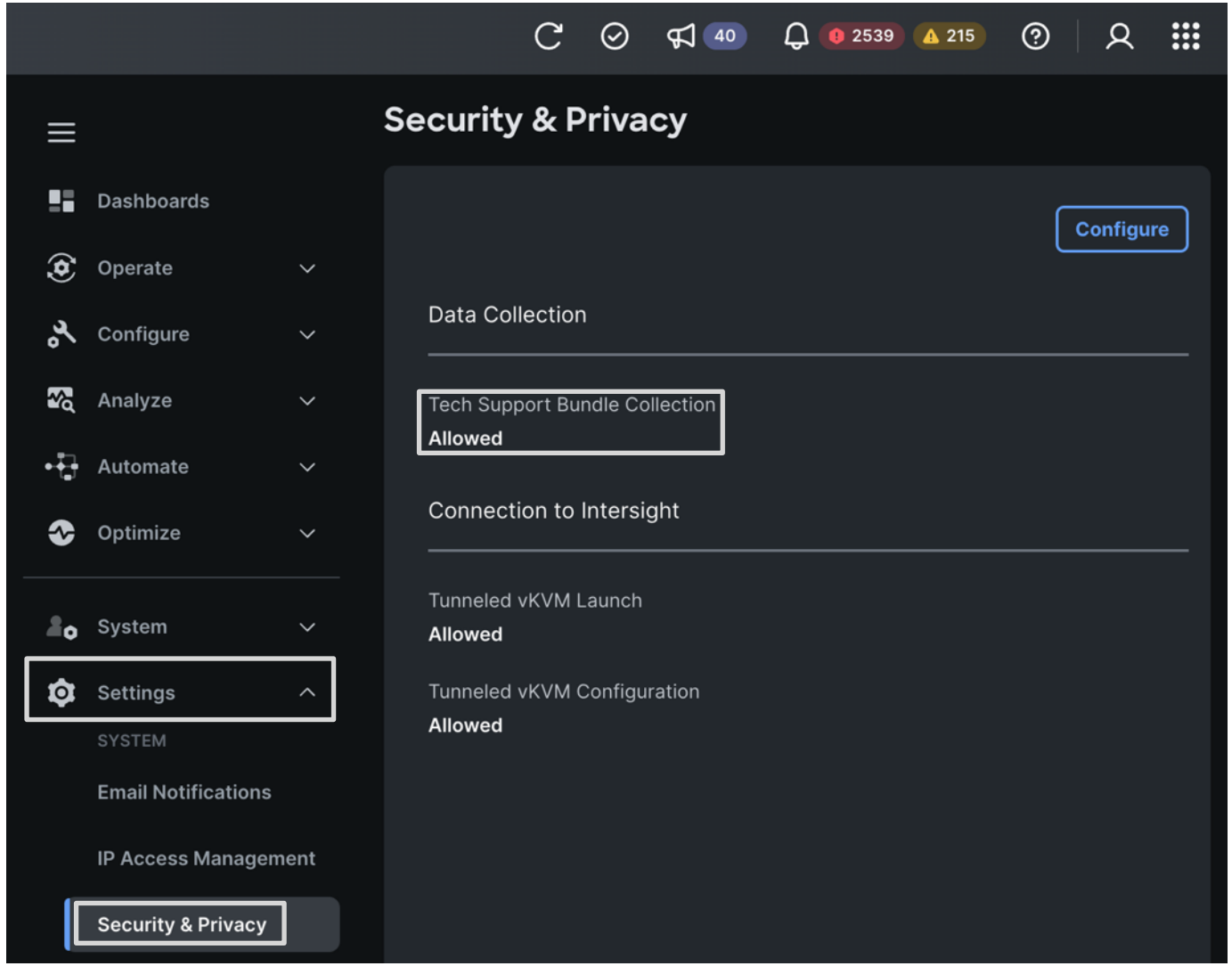
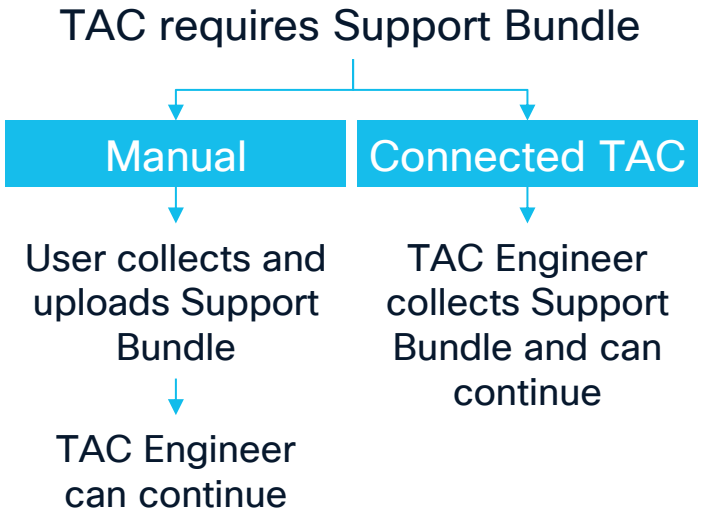
Connected TAC





Available in SaaS and Connected Appliance

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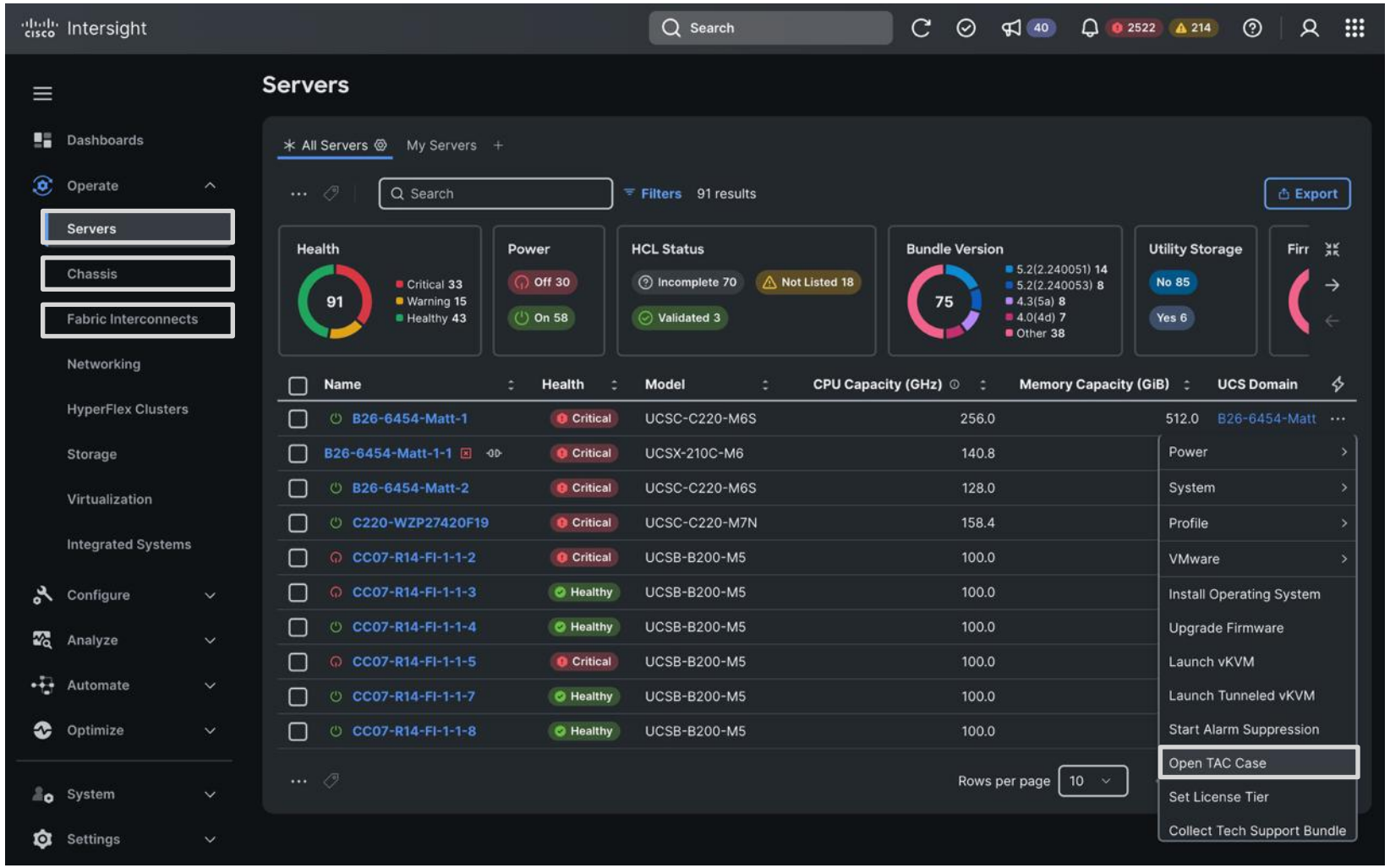
Opening a case for a device issue



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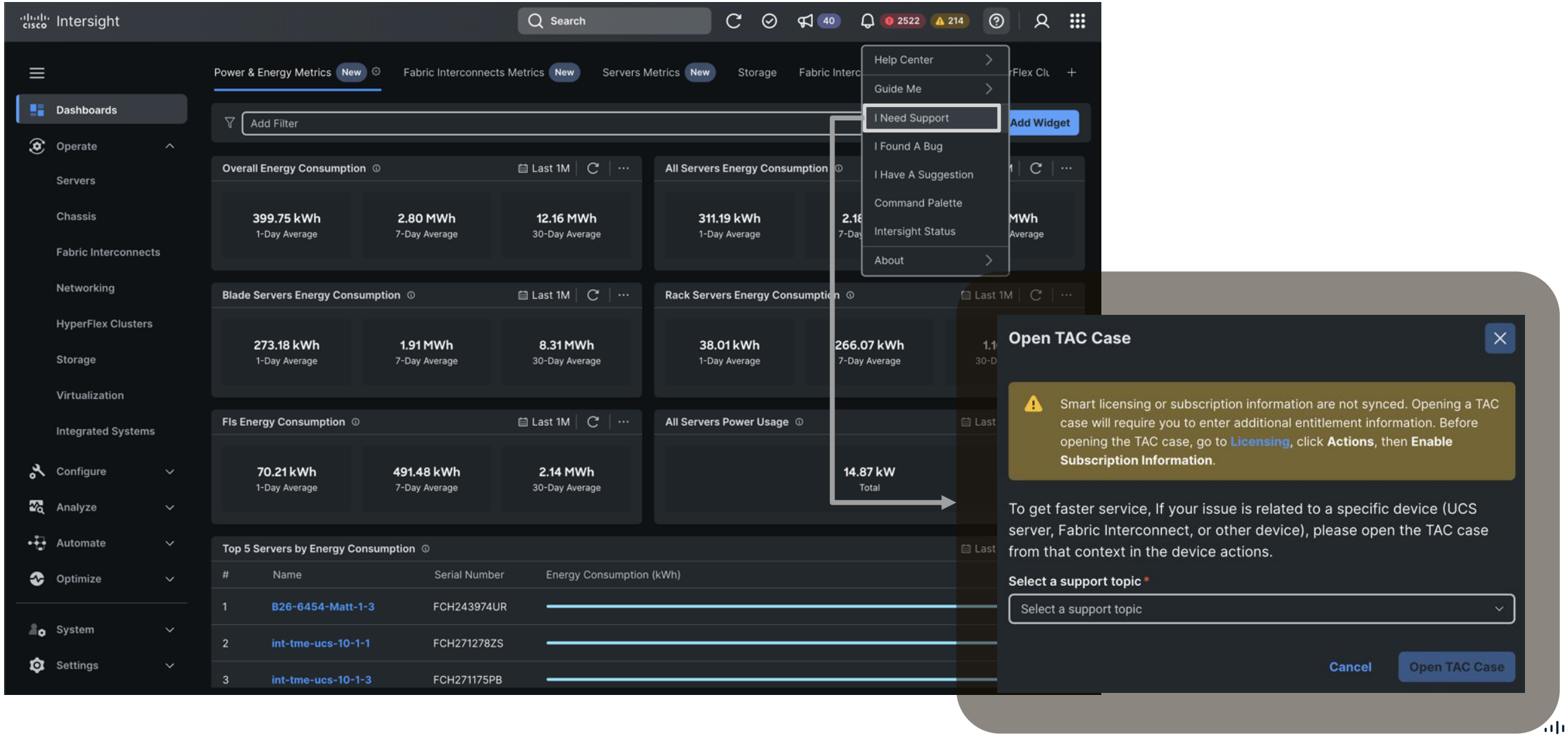
Opening a case for an Intersight issue



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Intersight feedback vs TAC case

Intersight Feedback

Use the Intersight Feedback for:

- Feature Requests
- Reporting cosmetic problems
- Reporting bugs that do not require support from TAC

→ No technical support

VS

TAC Case

Please open a TAC Case for:

- Technical problems
- Outages
- Configuration issues

→ Support team will reach out to you

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TAC case handling and escalation

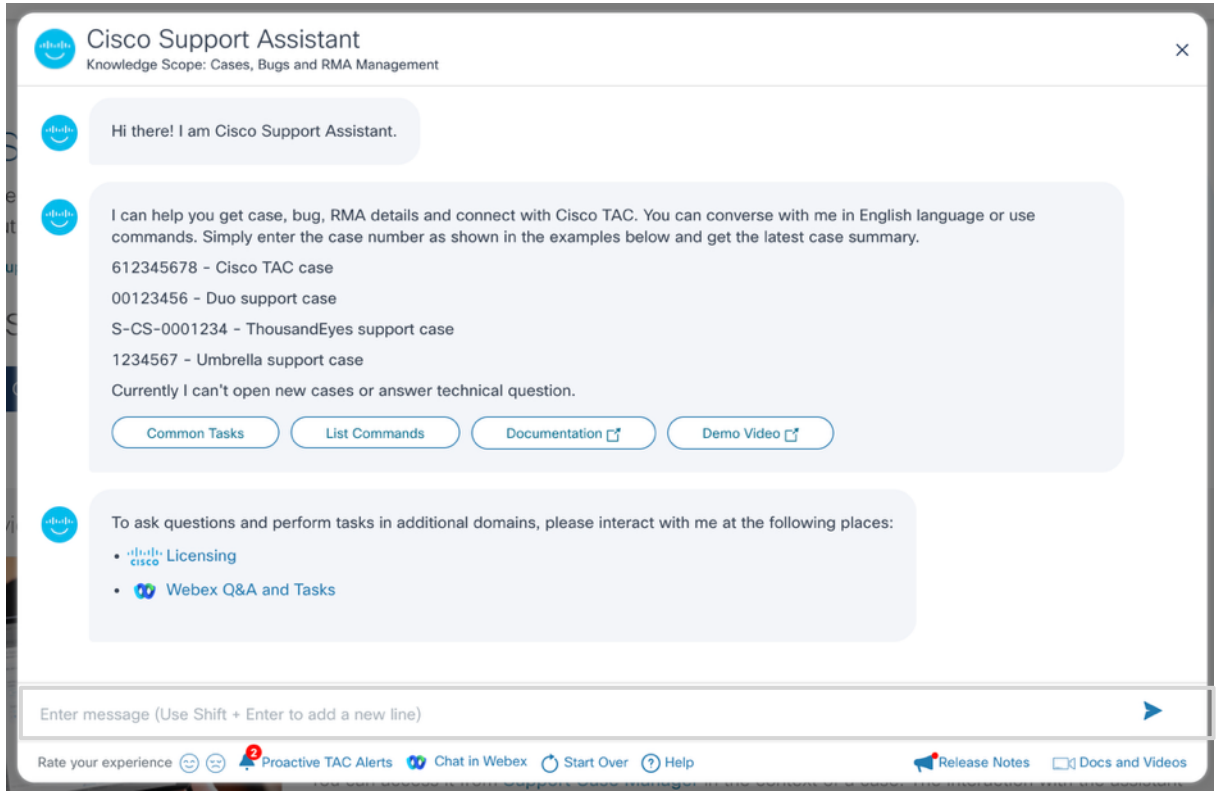
Urgent critical problem

Call TAC hotline to escalate, do not try to escalate in other ways!

otherwise

Case status and escalation via supportassistant.cisco.com

Use the following command: /escalate



Escalation not working?

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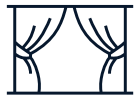
Continue your education



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