

NEXUS UPGRADES WITH WWT LAB SERVICES

A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO UPGRADING

THERE ARE MANY BUSINESS DRIVERS FOR ORGANIZATIONS TO PERFORM UPGRADES TO THEIR CISCO NEXUS DATA CENTER SWITCHING PLATFORMS. NEW FEATURE SETS PROVIDE IMPORTANT FUNCTIONALITY THAT POSITIVELY AFFECT BUSINESS PROCESSES; CISCO RELEASES NEW CODE LEVELS TO FIX RECOGNIZED BUGS THAT COULD RESULT IN UNWANTED DOWNTIME; AND OLDER CODE LEVELS NEED TO STAY CURRENT WITH CISCO SUPPORT LEVELS.

PROBLEMS WITH UPGRADES

Every architect or engineer that manages Cisco Nexus platforms in the data center knows how crucial it is to have a migration plan that limits the potential downtime of revenue-generating traffic. But most organizations don't have separate labs or non-production equipment on Cisco Nexus platforms for testing the upgrade process before the upgrade change management window.

WWT LAB SERVICES

Organizations can streamline the upgrade process by developing, building and executing their upgrade strategies in our labs. They can use a wide range of Cisco Nexus platforms to functionally test out upgrade paths, new architectural designs and migration strategies. Depending on their scenarios and timelines, we also allow organizations to validate architectures at a granular level with "like for like" use cases between our labs and their production environment.

BENEFITS OF WWT LAB SERVICES

Using WWT Lab Services, organizations can test out the upgrade process before attempting "in-production change management windows." This roots out any risks and complexity ahead of the change management windows. By

ensuring Cisco Nexus upgrades are attempted on time only, the right way, organizations cut labor costs and mitigate lost revenue from unwanted downtime.

COMMON TEST USE CASES

1. Complete a "dry run" of the Cisco stepped upgrade path to become familiar with the process.
2. Test the Cisco ISSU process to measure any potential impact on production data flows during the upgrade.
3. Execute a design validation type lab to make sure other parts of the network infrastructure are working properly after a successful Cisco ISSU upgrade.
4. Assess the potential impact of a Supervisor upgrade (Sup1 to Sup2 or SUP2E upgrade) by porting production configurations from legacy SUP1s to SUP2Es in our lab, and then inserting the SUP2Es into production during change management windows.
5. Verify a new design which includes new line cards like Nexus M3 or F3 line cards that can potentially take the place of older M1 and M2 line cards.
6. Validate actual time frames during the ISSU upgrade path to understand the needed time for change management windows.

Contact your WWT Account Team to get started.