Guide to Select and Upgrade Cisco Data Center Switch

How to identify the right Cisco Data Center/Nexus Switch for your needs?
Whether you're acquiring a new switch or upgrading an old one, just read check a few simple questions and get your results.

1. Are you purchasing a new switch or upgrading an old one?	2. What functions are needed from the switch?	3. What's the purpose of the new switch?	Or Which Cisco switch are you upgrading?	4. What are your design requirements?	What are your connectivity needs?	5. Do you need a switch or a fabric extender?	6. What type of switch do you prefer?	Recommended Product	Alternative Product
New Switch	LAN or LAN/SAN	Access/Leaf	—	Converged LAN and SAN	—	Switch	Modular	Cisco Nexus 7000 Series / Cisco Nexus 1000V Virtual Switch	—
							Fixed	Cisco Nexus 5600 Series / Cisco Nexus 1000V Virtual Switch	
						Fabric Extender	—	Cisco Nexus 2300 Series	
				ACI-Ready		Switch	Modular	Cisco Nexus 9500 Series	Cisco Nexus 7000 Series
							Fixed	Cisco Nexus 9300 Series	Cisco Nexus 3000 Series
						Fabric Extender	—	Cisco Nexus 2300 Series	
		Aggregation/Spine		Converged LAN and SAN	—		Modular	Cisco Nexus 7000 Series	—
							Fixed	Cisco Nexus 5600 Series	
				ACI-Ready			Modular	Cisco Nexus 9500 Series	
							Fixed	Cisco Nexus 9300 Series	
		Core		—				Cisco Nexus 7000 Series	Cisco Nexus 9500 Series
	SAN Only	Access	—	Fibre Channel	—		Modular	Cisco MDS 9706 Multilayer Director	Cisco MDS 9710 Multilayer Director
							Fixed	Cisco MDS 9396S 16G Multilayer Fabric Switch	Cisco MDS 9148S 16G Multilayer Fabric Switch
				FCoE		—		Cisco Nexus 5600 Series	
		Core		Fibre Channel	—			Cisco MDS 9710 Multilayer Director	Cisco MDS 9706 Multilayer Director
				FCoE				Cisco Nexus 7000 Series	Cisco MDS 9700 Series Multilayer Directors
		SAN Extension	—					Cisco MDS 9250i Multiservice Fabric Switch	
Upgrade	LAN or LAN/SAN	—	Cisco Catalyst 6500 non-E	—	—			Cisco Nexus 9500 Series	—
			Cisco Nexus 2148T					Cisco Nexus 2300 Series	
			Cisco Nexus 2232					Cisco Nexus 2300 Series	
			Cisco Nexus 2248T					Cisco Nexus 2300 Series	
			Cisco Nexus 5010	Converged LAN and SAN	—			Cisco Nexus 5600 Series	
				ACI-Ready				Cisco Nexus 9300 Series	
			Cisco Nexus 5020	Converged LAN and SAN				Cisco Nexus 5600 Series	—
				ACI-Ready				Cisco Nexus 9300 Series	
			Cisco Nexus 5548P	Converged LAN and SAN				Cisco Nexus 5600 Series	
				ACI-Ready				Cisco Nexus 9300 Series	
			Cisco Nexus 6004	Converged LAN and SAN				Cisco Nexus 5600 Series	—
				ACI-Ready				Cisco Nexus 9300 Series	
			Cisco Nexus 7000 with Supervisor 1					Cisco Nexus 7000 (Supervisor 2E)	Cisco Nexus 9500 Series
	SAN Only	—	Cisco MDS 9020		—			Cisco MDS 9148S 16G Multilayer Fabric Switch	—
			Cisco MDS 9120					Cisco MDS 9148S 16G Multilayer Fabric Switch	
			Cisco MDS 9124					Cisco MDS 9148S 16G Multilayer Fabric Switch	
			Cisco MDS 9134					Cisco MDS 9148S 16G Multilayer Fabric Switch	
			Cisco MDS 9140					Cisco MDS 9148S 16G Multilayer Fabric Switch	
			Cisco MDS 9148					Cisco MDS 9148S 16G Multilayer Fabric Switch	
			Cisco MDS 9216/9216A					Cisco MDS 9250i Multiservice Fabric Switch	
			Cisco MDS 9216i					Cisco MDS 9250i Multiservice Fabric Switch	
			Cisco MDS 9222i					Cisco MDS 9250i Multiservice Fabric Switch	
			Cisco MDS 9509					Cisco MDS 9710 Multilayer Director	Cisco MDS 9706 Multilayer Director

Looking for other types of switches? View more brand network switches, Cisco Campus/Data Center Switches, HPE/Aruba/Data Center/ProCurve Switches, Huawei Campus Switches/5700/5720, 2700/3700 Switches, etc.

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Competitive Switching Comparison: Cisco vs. HPE/Aruba vs. Huawei vs. Dell vs. Netgear vs. Dlink vs. Meraki

Mapping between Catalyst 3850, Catalyst 4500E/4500X, Catalyst 6800 and Catalyst 9000

Cisco SMB Switching Portfolio Transition

Quiz for Cisco Nexus Product Family & Evolution of Data Center Architecture

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