Let's go cisco live!

ACI Troubleshooting: Expand your toolset with Nexus Dashboard Insights

Ivan Kovačević, Customer Delivery Engineering Technical Leader





- ND and NDI Intro
- Scenario 1: BD enigma
- Scenario 2: Broken backup
- Scenario 3: VM affair
- Scenario 4: Resource trouble
- Instead of Conclusion

ND and NDI Intro



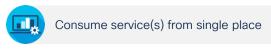
Cisco Nexus Dashboard



Cisco Nexus Dashboard: A unified platform

The operator view

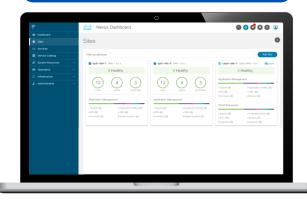




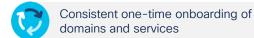


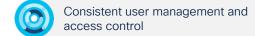






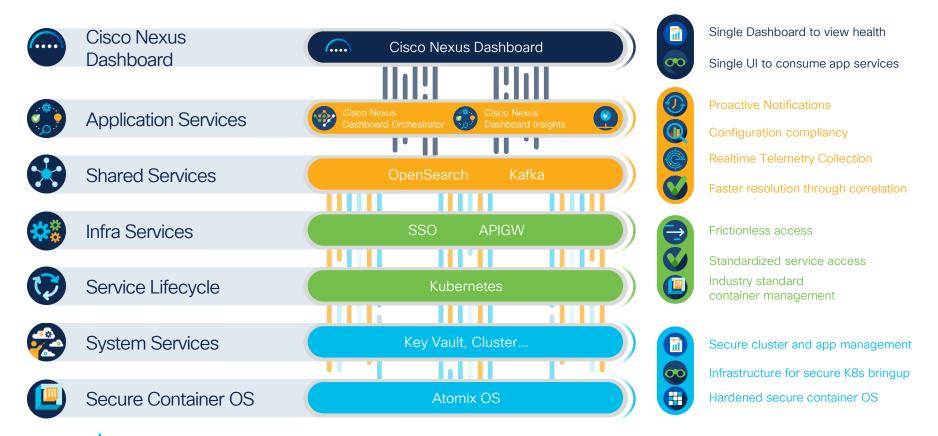








Cisco Nexus Dashboard platform under the hood





Nexus Dashboard Services



Fabric Controller



Orchestrator



Data Broker



Insights



9

Nexus Dashboard Services





Data Center Operations

Challenges

Assurance

Am I doing correct configuration?

Are interdependencies known?

Does the change impact something am not aware of?



Troubleshooting

Where is the problem and what's the blast radius?

How do I reduce MTTR?

How do I prove network is healthy?

Proactive advisories

Was the issue preventable?

Is the network exposed to known vulnerabilities?

Can I get proactive advice?

Single-pane-of-glass

Can I get visibility across datacenters?
Single point for monitor and control?



Nexus Dashboard Insights Benefits





Nexus Dashboard Insights

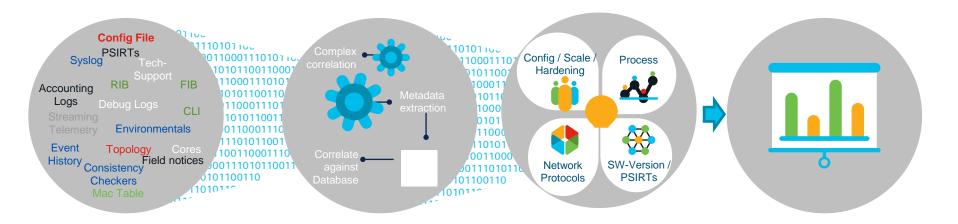
How Does It Work?

Sources of Telemetry Data

Ingest and Process

Derive Insights

Notify and Recommend Action



Reduce Time to Problem Awareness, Action and Resolution



Nexus Dashboard Insights

How Can It Help?



Identify, locate, root cause, remediate



Upgrade impact advisories



Error detection, latency packet drops
Control plane issue



Mitigate
Prevent outages



Automated alerts Visibility



Hardening checks
Software hardware recommendations



Pre-change analysis
Compliance alerts



PSIRT notices
EoS/EoL notices



End-to-end workflows

Automated remediation



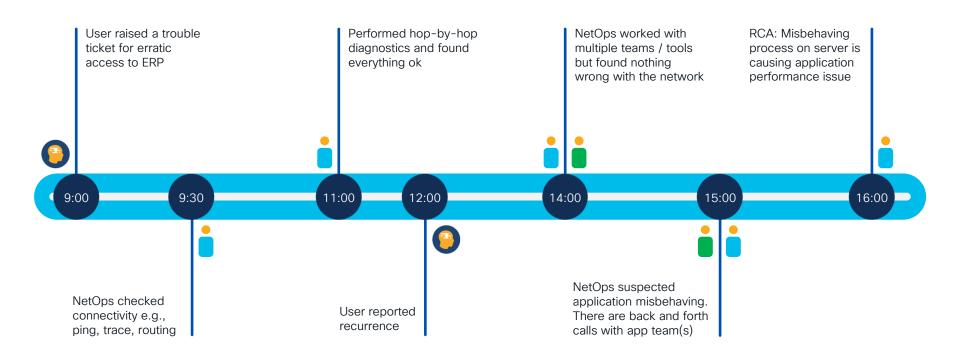
TAC assist
Topology checker



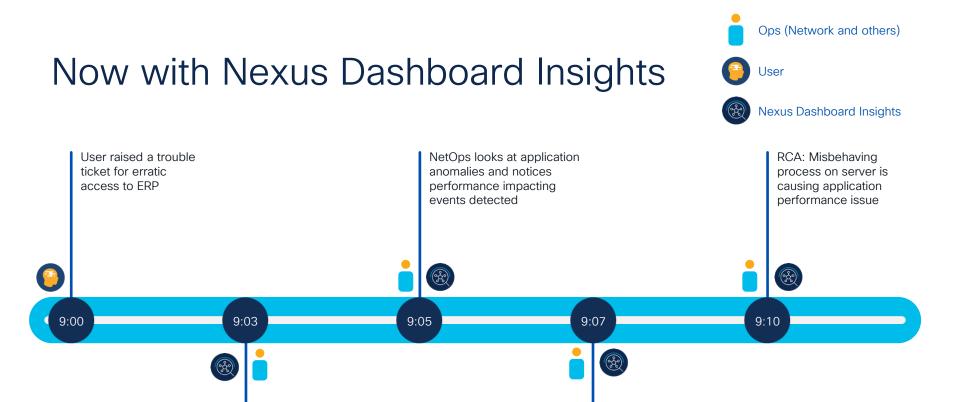


Traditional troubleshooting workflow





BRKDCN-2626





NetOps checks flow

health information,

and it is green

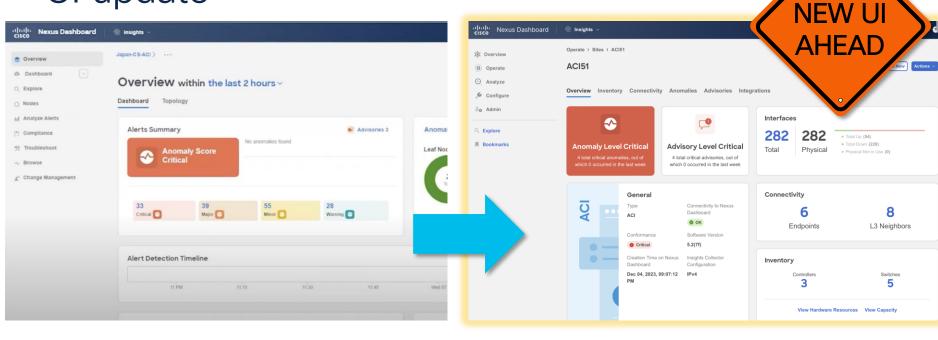
NetOps cross verifies

with Flow information

and time series-based

app performance data

Ul update



NDI 6.2 NDI 6.3



Scenario 1



"I added a new server to a precreated EPG and it doesn't work"

What exactly "doesn't work"? Let's collect some facts!

- Server needs to talk to a service outside of ACI fabric
- Someone created a new BD+Subnet+EPG earlier
- Server can ping the gateway and connectivity inside ACI seems to be fine
- There is a dynamic routing protocol between ACI and external router



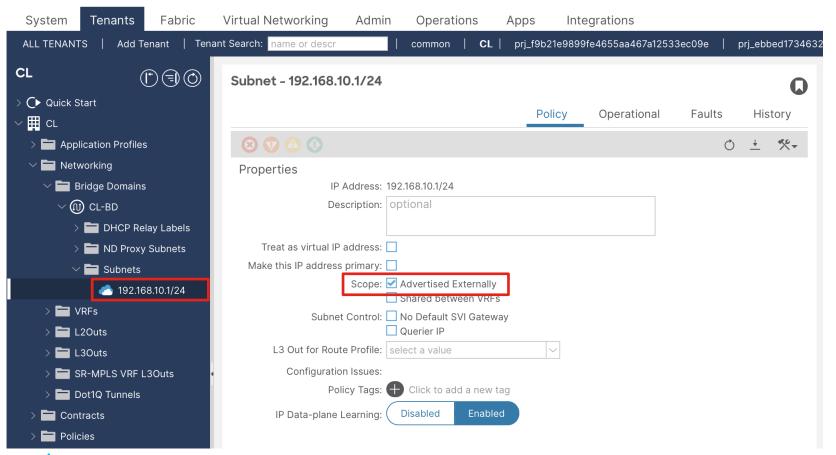






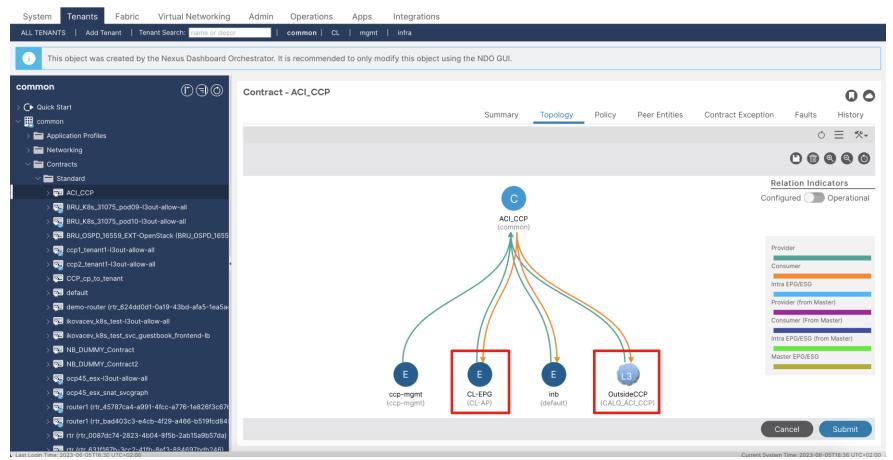












BRKDCN-2626



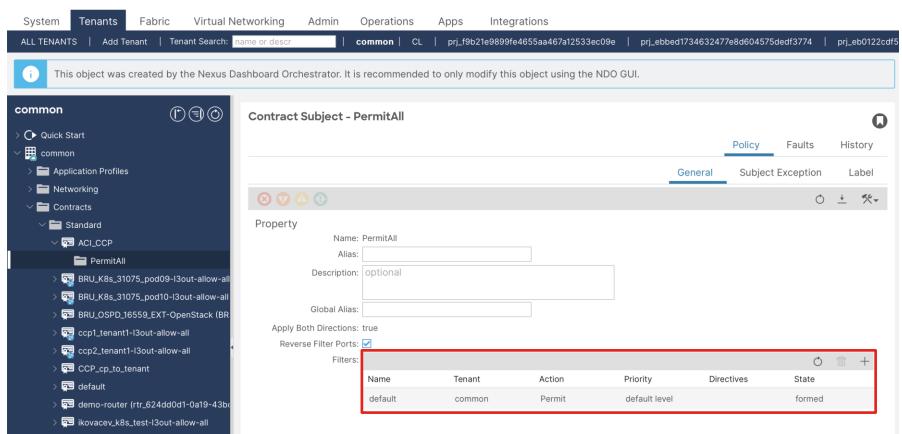






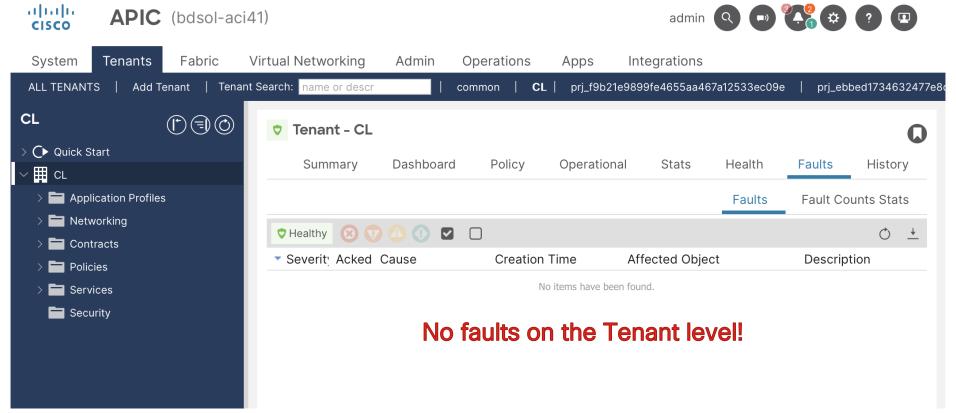


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No faults and internal connectivity is fine

-> Must be something with external network



A day later... (if you are lucky)

- Net Infra team checks and says everything OK on their side
- Only one Tenant is complaining on a shared L3Out

```
EMEA-STAC-A1K-F1#show ip route 192.168.10.0 255.255.255.0 % Network not in table EMEA-STAC-A1K-F1#
```

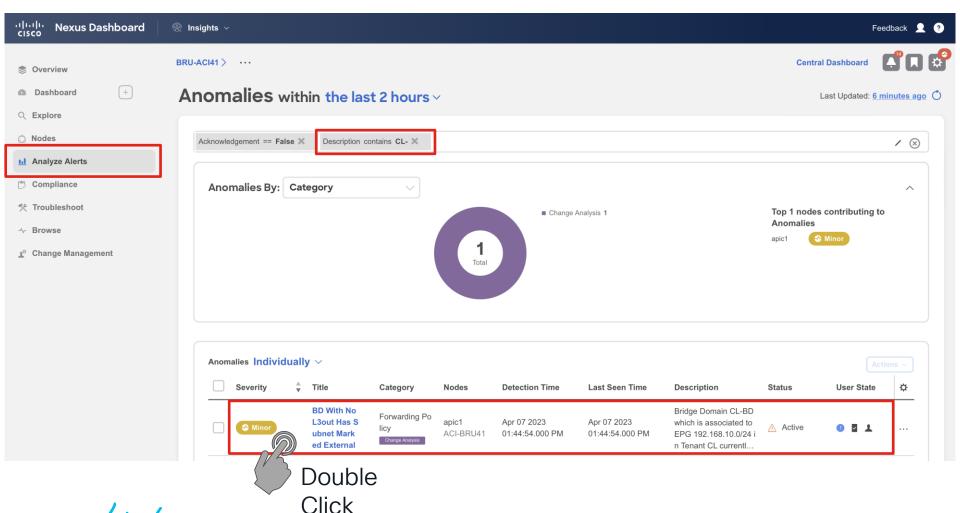
-> There is dynamic routing and ACI is not advertising our Subnet!

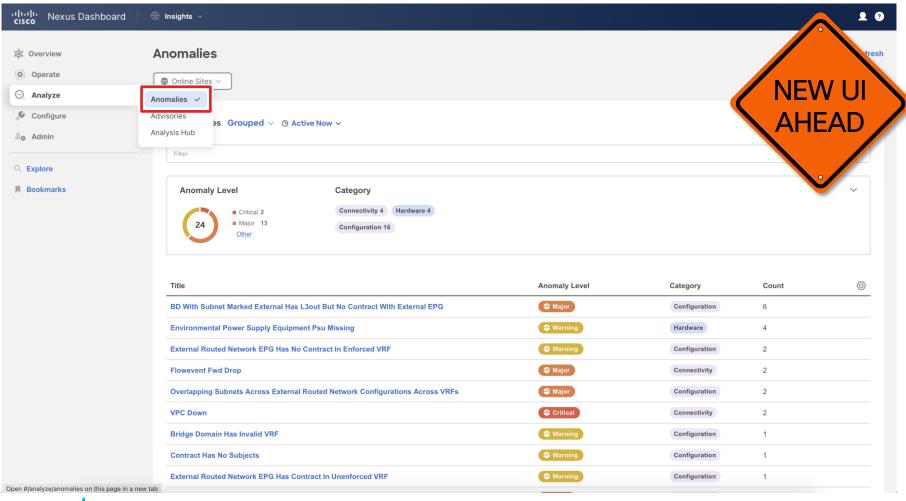
But we checked our ACI and everything is fine?!?!



Meanwhile on NDI...







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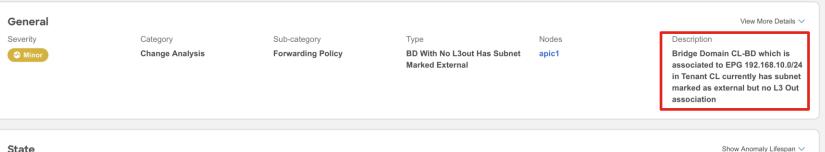












State Status Verification Status ∧ Active

New

Acknowledgement

Assigned To Unacknowledged

Not Assigned

Duration 29 Minutes

Detection Time Apr 07 2023 01:44:54.000 PM

02:14:51.000 PM

Last Seen Time Apr 07 2023

Cleared Time

Impact Analysis

If L3Out is using dynamic protocols, the subnet may not be reachable from external networks.



[192.168.10.1/24]*

Bd Subnet

BD

CL-BD*

BD's VRF CL-VRF*

CL*

VRF's Tenant

Down

Scroll



Analyze - Anomaly - BD With No L3out Has Subnet M...

ACI-BRU41





(I)

Proactive Diagnostic Report

Code

cisco

BD Without L3out Has Subnet Marked External

Description

There is no L3Out associated with this BD, and this BD has subnets marked as advertised externally.

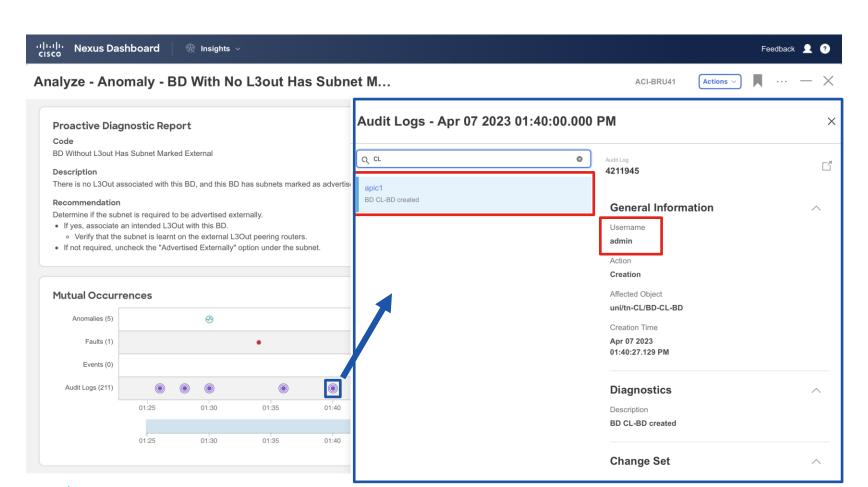
Recommendation

Determine if the subnet is required to be advertised externally.

- If yes, associate an intended L3Out with this BD.
 - Verify that the subnet is learnt on the external L3Out peering routers.
- . If not required, uncheck the "Advertised Externally" option under the subnet.









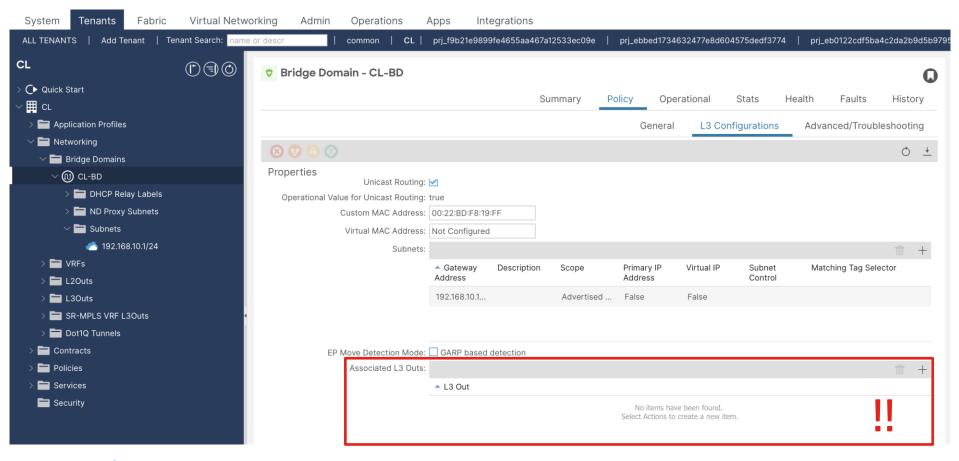












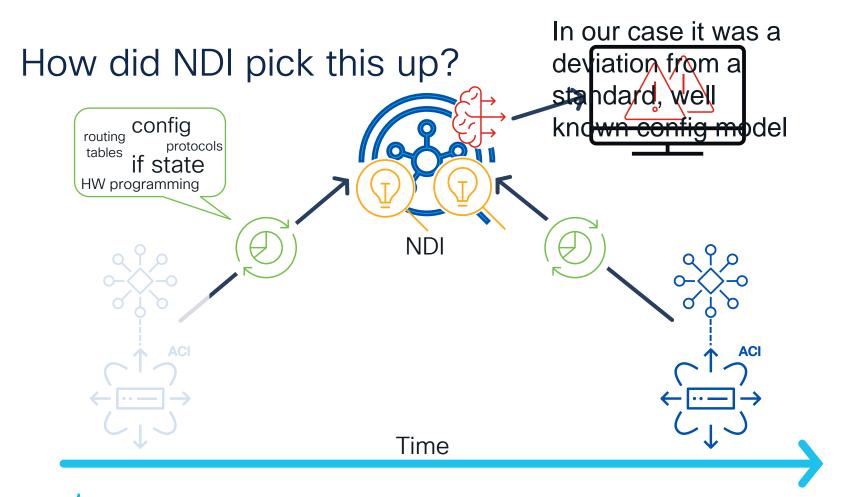


Problem fixed!

Our colleague forgot to asociate L3Out to the BD







How did NDI pick this up? (text version)

- NDI collects snapshots (datasets) every X minutes
- Snapshot is a list of CLI and API outpus from APICs and all switches in the fabric
- It contais config and current state of ports, routing tables, protocols, HW programming, etc
- All this data is processed and analyzed; detected anomalies are presented to the user in the UI
- In our case it was a deviation from standard, well known config model



Scenario 2





"Our external backup platform cannot reach servers hosted on ACI fabric"

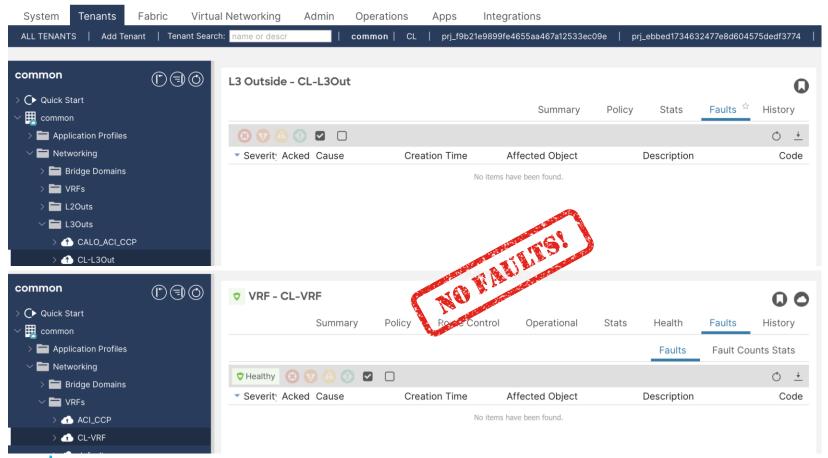


Let's collect some facts!

- This used to work until last week
- Backup platform is on a dedicated subnet outside of ACI
- All servers on ACI are impacted, spanning multiple EPGs
- Connectivity inside ACI fabric is fine and everything else seems to work fine
- There is a dynamic routing protocol between ACI and external router (same fabric as before)



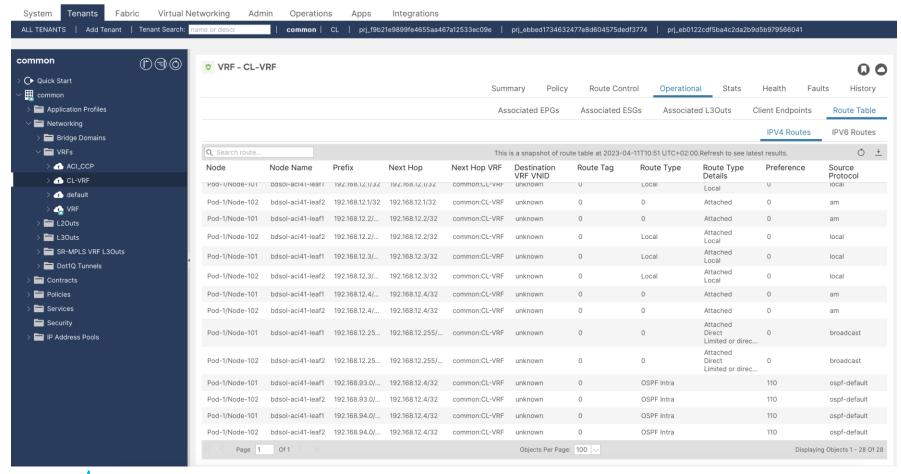














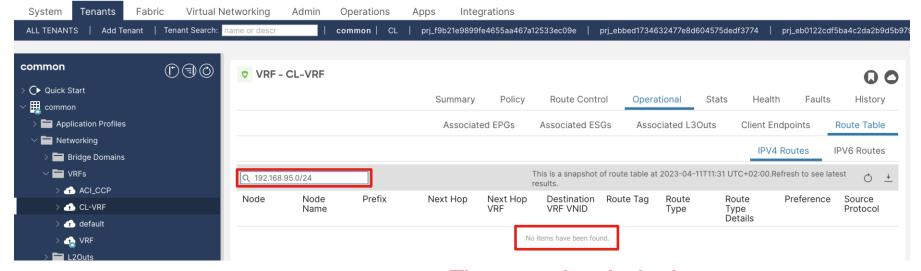












The route is missing!

Q 192.168.94.0	0/24				is is a snapshot sults.	of route table at	2023-04-11T11:	32 UTC+02:00.R	efresh to see late	est ♂ <u>+</u>
Node	Node Name	Prefix	Next Hop	Next Hop VRF	Destination VRF VNID	Route Tag	Route Type	Route Type Details	Preference	Source Protocol
Pod-1/Nod	bdsol-aci41	192.168.94.0/	192.168.12	common:CL	unknown	0	OSPF Intra		110	ospf-default
Pod-1/Nod	bdsol-aci41	192.168.94.0/	192.168.12	common:CL	unknown	0	OSPF Intra		110	ospf-default



What next?

- We are pretty sure that route should be there
- We cannot find anything wrong on ACI
 - -> Lets contact the Net Infra team (again)

Two days later...

- Net Infra team says there was not supposed to be any change
- They don't want to spend time on this, it must be something wrong with ACI



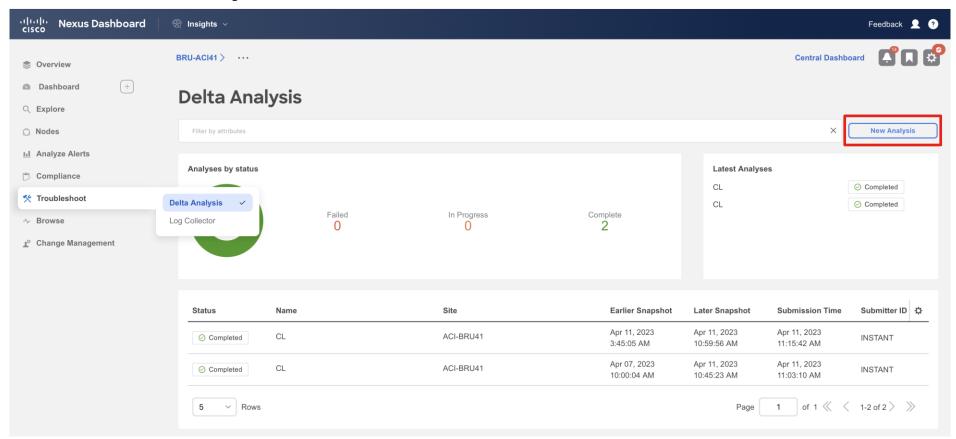
In doubt? Lets check what NDI has to say!



What is Delta-analysis?

- Shows difference in the policy, run time state, and the health of the network between two snapshots you specify
- Health Delta analyses the difference in the health of the fabric across the two snapshots
- Policy Delta analyses the differences in the policy between the two snapshots and provides a co-related view of what has changed in the ACI Fabric

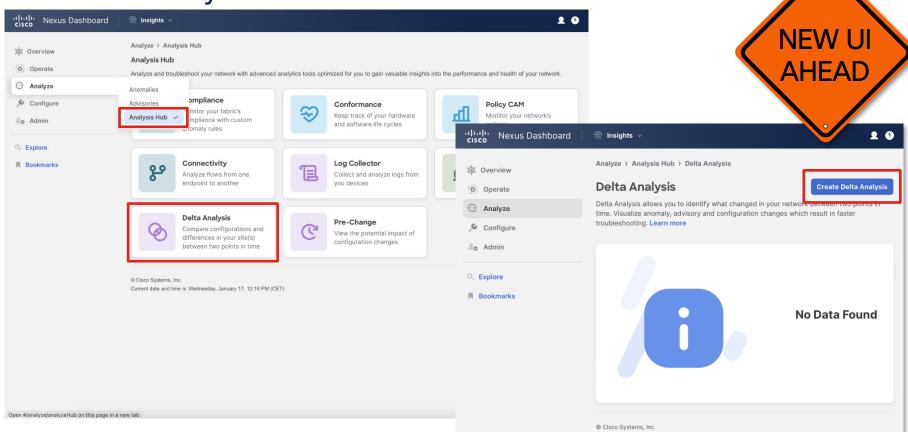
Delta Analysis





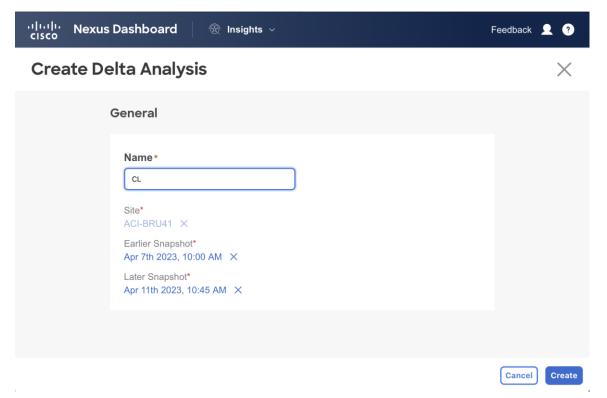
BRKDCN-2626

Delta Analysis





Creating new Analysis



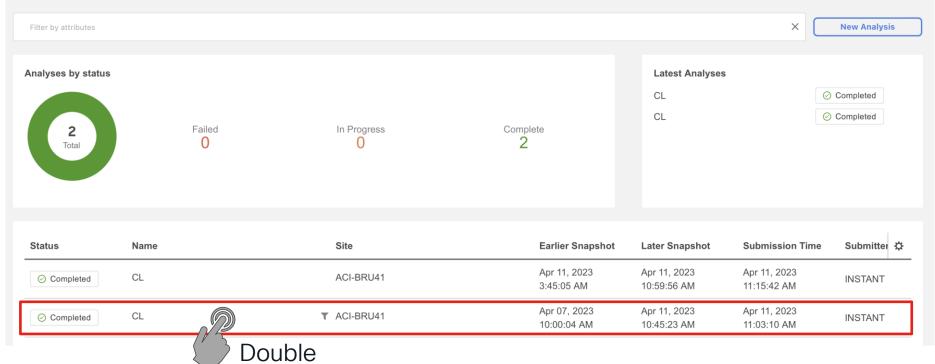








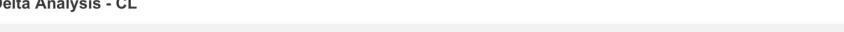






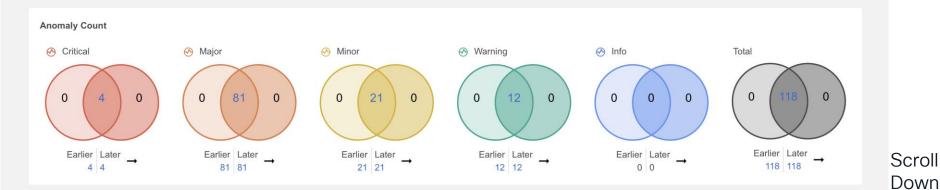
Click

Delta Analysis - CL



General 04/11/2023 10:45:23 AM 4d 0hr 45m 19s 04/07/2023 10:00:04 AM Earlier Time Range

Health Delta Policy Delta



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Health Delta by Resources

Only Show Mismatch

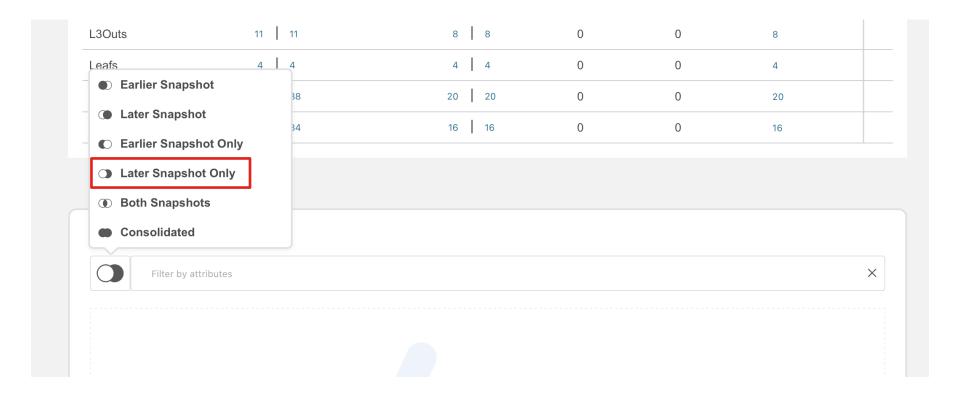
52

Health Delta by Resources

	Total	Unhealthy				
Resources	Earlier Later	Earlier Later	Total Unhealthy in Earlier Only	Total Unhealthy in Later Only	Total Unhealthy in Both	≎
App Profiles	40 40	19 19	0	0	19	
BDs	50 50	26 26	0	0	26	
Contracts	76 76	23 23	0	0	23	
Endpoints	122 123	0 0	0	0	0	
EPGs	94 94	40 40	0	0	40	
External Routes	15 14 🛰	0 0	0	0	0	
Interfaces	175 175	0 0	0	0	0	
Internal Subnets	137 137	15 15	0	0	15	
L3Outs	11 11	8 8	0	0	8	
Leafs	4 4	4 4	0	0	4	
Tenants	38 38	20 20	0	0	20	
VRFs	34 34	16 16	0	0	16	







No new anomalies!



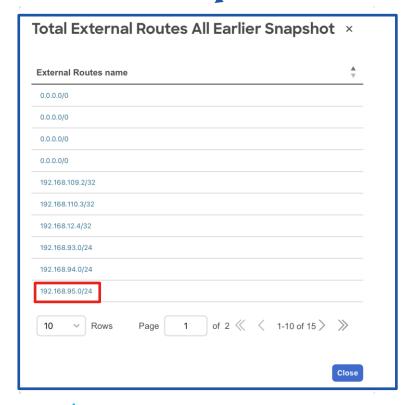
Delta by Resource - Only Mismatch

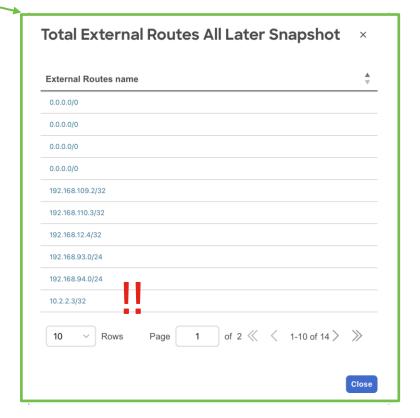


It looks like we lost a route!











Back to Net Infra team

 "Ah yes... we had a maintenance last week and due to config change error the route got dropped... sorry"





Scenario 3



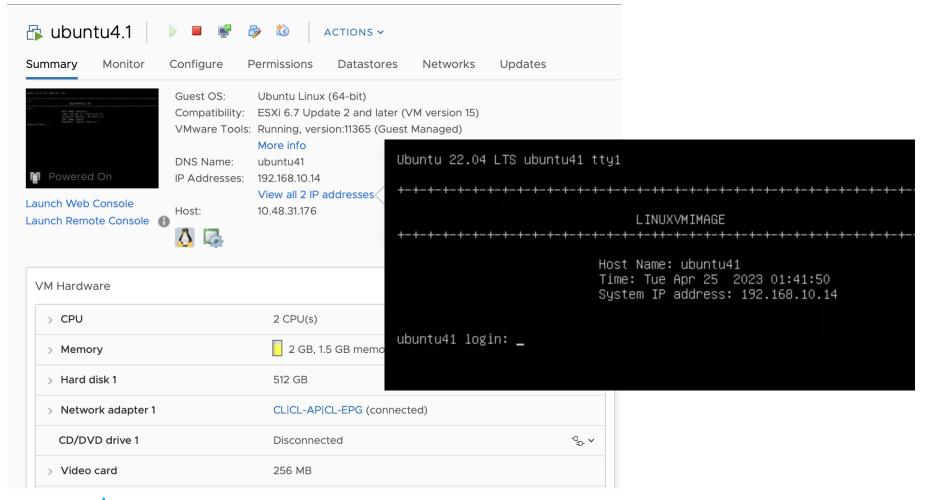


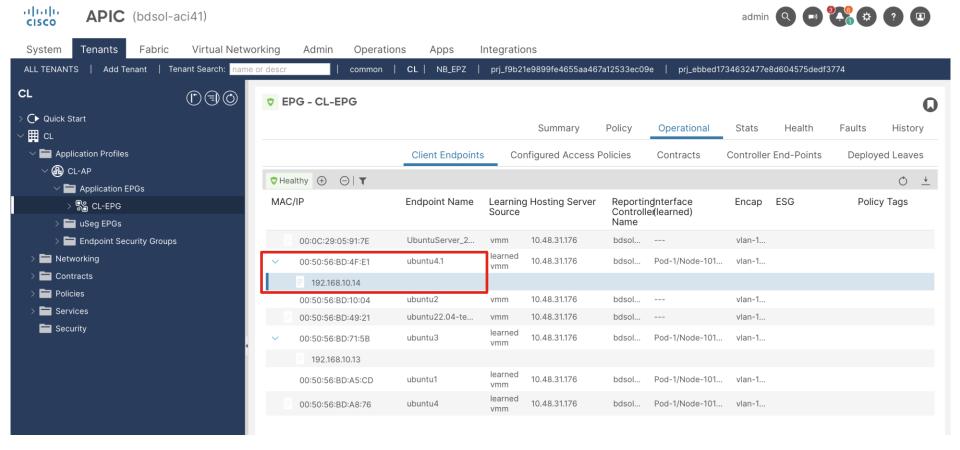
"My VM doesn't work"



Let's collect some facts!

- VM is on a Hypervisor hosted and intergrated with ACI
- VM is not accessible
- This is a "passwordles" VM accesible via SSH and public key (console login is not possible)
- Other VMs on same EPG are accesible
- Affected VM is also not accessible from other VMs in the same EPG
- VM name is "ubuntu4.1" and assigned IP is 192.168.10.14





IP seems to be there!



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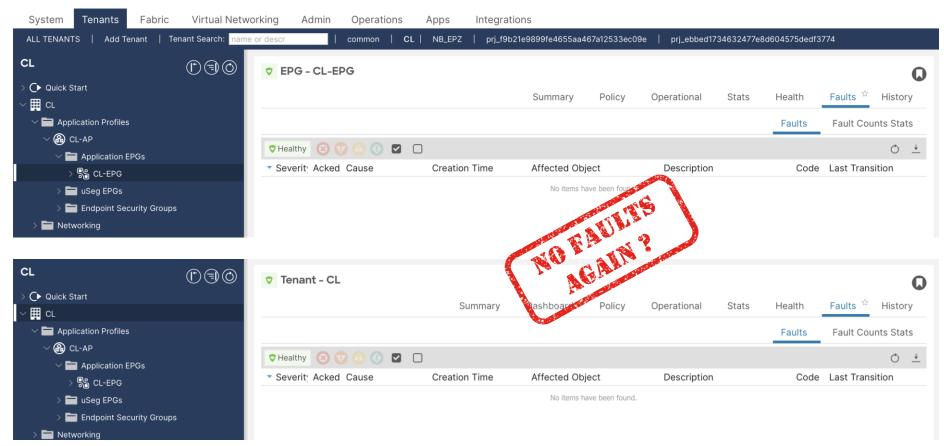
APIC (bdsol-aci41)











What do we do next?

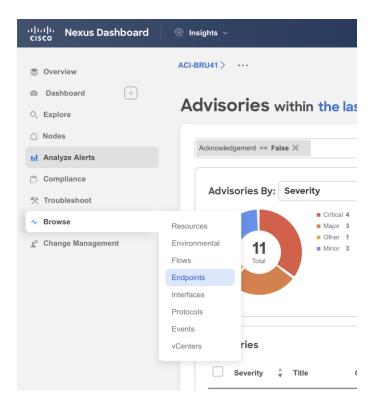
- Restart the VM? (Same result)
- Talk to Server/Virtualization Team? (They are very busy)
- What else?



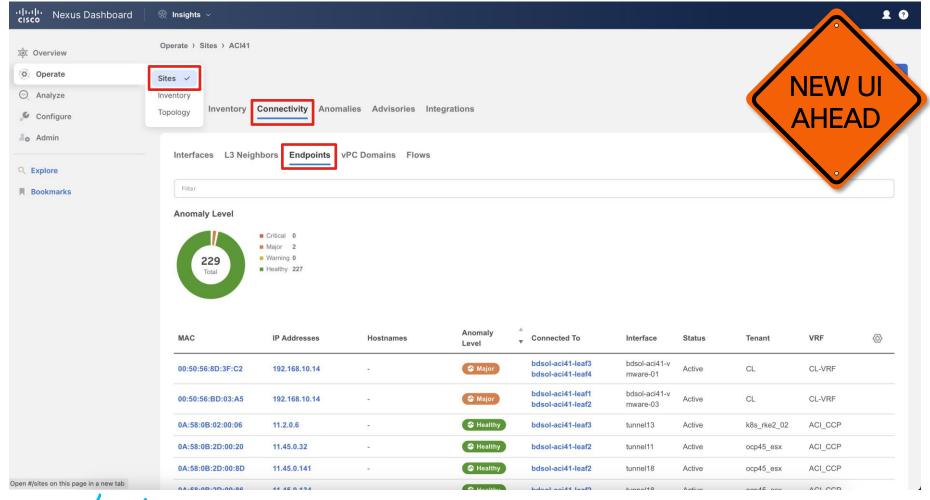
You know where this is going ©



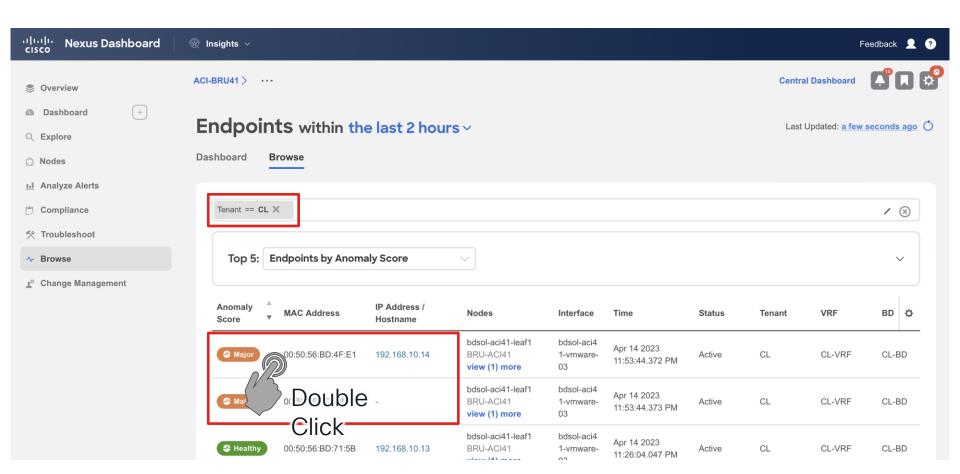
Let's browse some EPs...







67





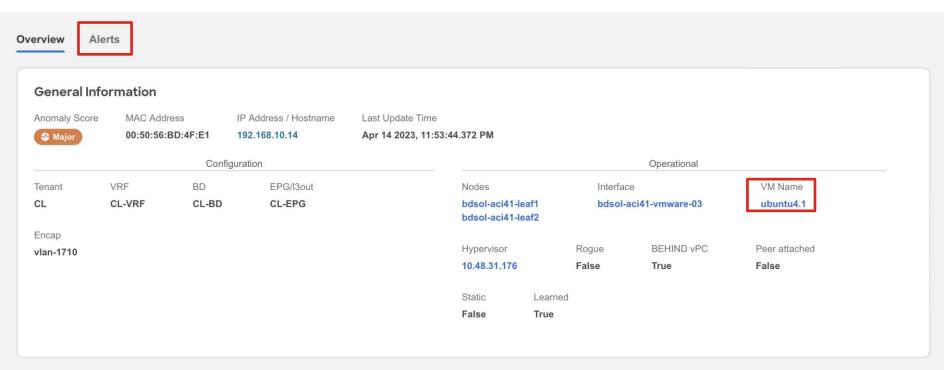
Endpoint Details - 192.168.10.14

Apr 14th 2023, 9:56 PM - Apr 14th 2023, 11:56 PM

BRU-ACI41



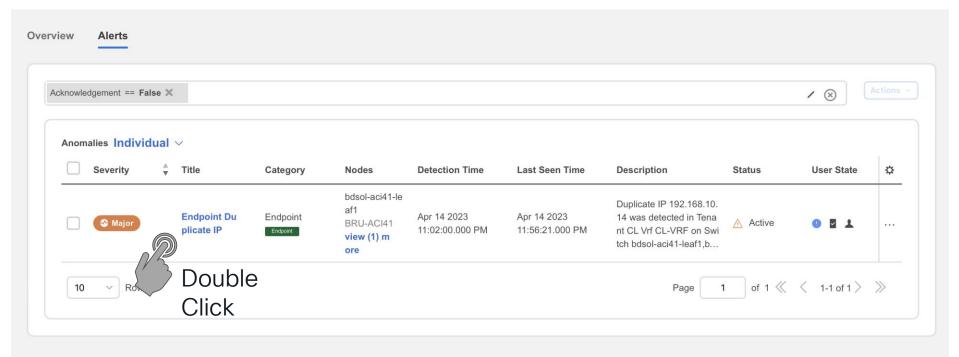






Endpoint Details - 192.168.10.14

Apr 14th 2023, 9:56 PM - Apr 14th 2023, 11:56 PM BRU-ACI41





Analyze - Anomaly - BRU-ACI41/CL/CL-VRF/192.1...

Verification Status

New

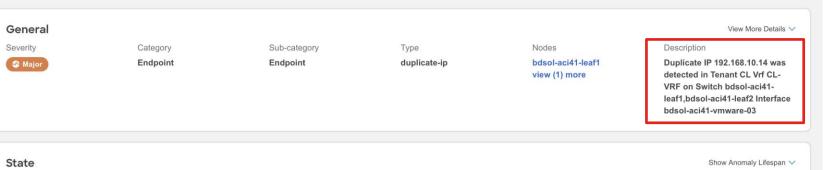












2 Endpoints

Status

Active

Unacknowledged

Acknowledgement

Assigned To

Not Assigned

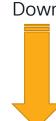
Duration 54 Minutes **Detection Time** Apr 14 2023

11:02:00.000 PM

Last Seen Time

Apr 14 2023 11:56:21.000 PM Cleared Time

Scroll Down



Estimated Impact

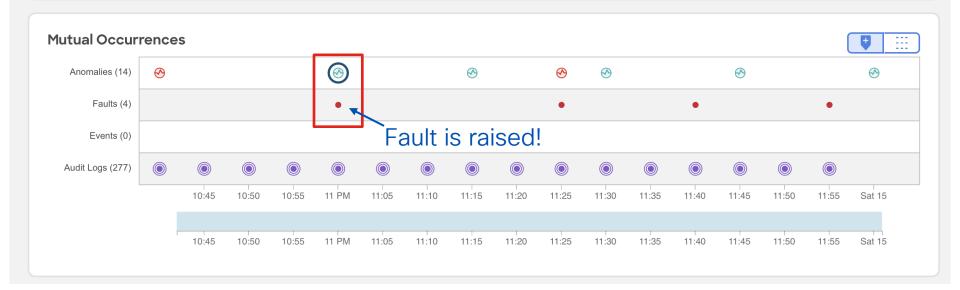
Affected Objects

Endpoints 00:50:56:BD:4F:E1, 00:50:56:BD:A8:76 may not be able to connect to network resources correctly Endpoints 00:50:56:BD:A8:76, 00:50:56:BD:4F:E1 may not be able to connect to network resources correctly



Recommendations

- 1. Check which Endpoint (either 00:50:56:BD:A8:76 or 00:50:56:BD:4F:E1) should be assigned to 192.168.10.14
- 2. If you are using static IP address assignments, simply assign a different IP address to either Endpoint 00:50:56:BD:A8:76 or 00:50:56:BD:4F:E1 to resolve the conflict.
- 3. If you are using DHCP, you may exclude the conflicting IP address from the DHCP Server Scope.





Estimated Impact

Endpoints 00:50:56:BD:4F:E1, 00:50:56:BD:A8: Endpoints 00:50:56:BD:A8:76, 00:50:56:BD:4F:E

Recommendations

- 1. Check which Endpoint (either 00:50:56:BD:A8
- 2. If you are using static IP address assignments
- 3. If you are using DHCP, you may exclude the c

Mutual Occurrences

Anomalies (14)

Faults (4) Events (0) Audit Logs (277) 10:45 10:50 10:45 10:50

Faults - Apr 14 2023 11:00:00.000 PM

Q Search bdsol-aci41-spine1 2 EPs are in freeze state.

But this one would not be that helpful on ACI side



F3696

General Information

Affected Object

topology/pod-1/node-201/sys/coop/inst/dom-overlay-1

Cause

coop-ep-dampening

Fault Code

F3696

Lifecycle

raised

Type

operational

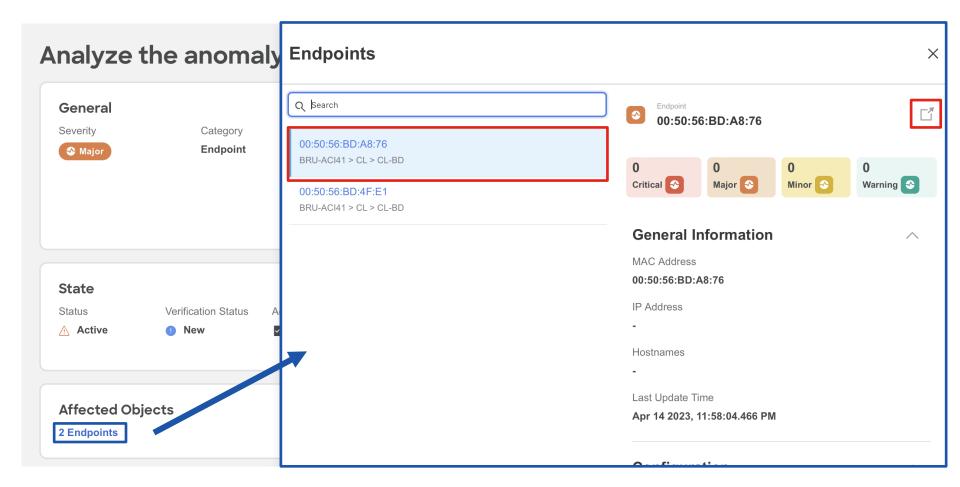
Creation Time

Apr 14 2023 11:04:15.220 PM

Number of occurrences



X







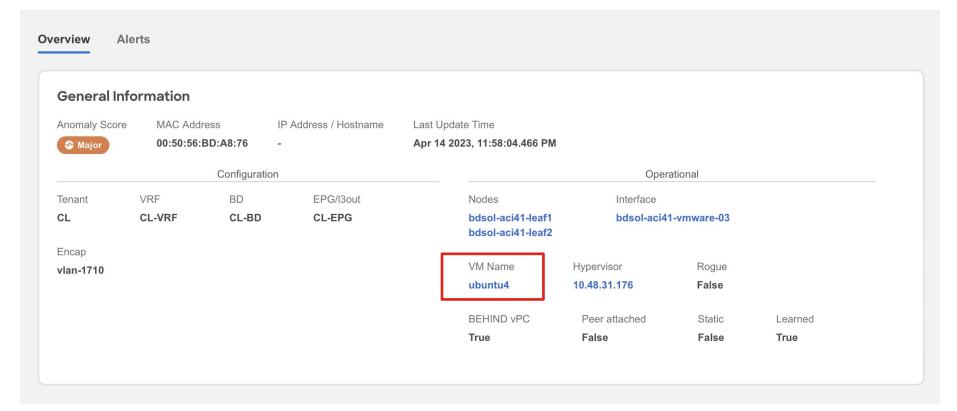
Endpoint Details - 00:50:56:BD:A8:76

Apr 14th 2023, 10:42 PM - Apr 15th 2023, 12:00 AM











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CISCO

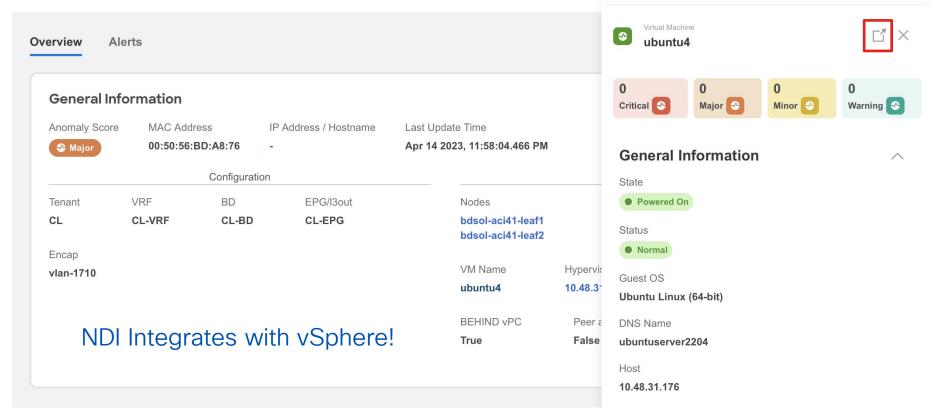
Endpoint Details - 00:50:56:BD:A8:76

Apr 14th 2023, 10:42 PM - Apr 15th 2023, 12:00 AM









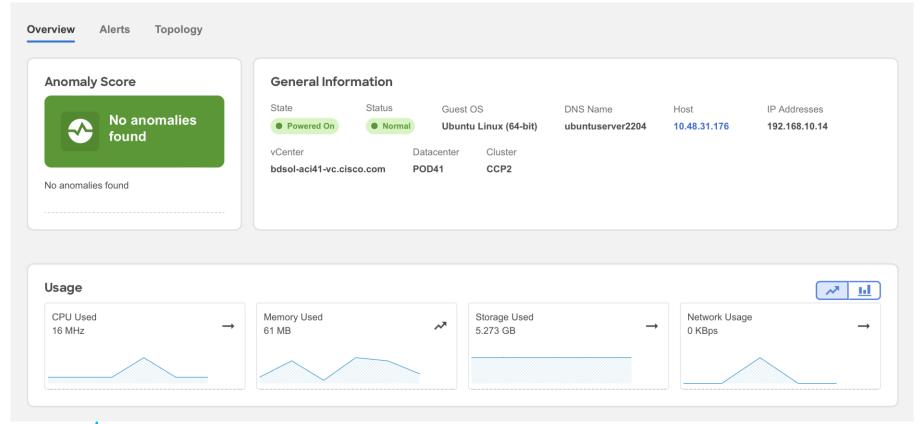


VM Details - bdsol-aci41-vc - ubuntu4

Apr 14th 2023, 10:42 PM - Apr 15th 2023, 12:00 AM







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Filter										/
Anomaly Score	IP Address / Hostname	Nodes	Interface	Time	Status	Tenant	VRF	EPG/I3out	Encap	Changes
ॐ Major		bdsol-aci41-leaf1, bd sol-aci41-leaf2	bdsol-aci4 1-vmware- 03	Apr 14 2023 11:58:04.466 PM	Active	CL	CL-VRF	CL-EPG	vlan-1710	IP Address, H
◆ Major	192.168.10.14	bdsol-aci41-leaf1, bd sol-aci41-leaf2	bdsol-aci4 1-vmware- 03	Apr 14 2023 11:57:44.451 PM	Active	CL	CL-VRF	CL-EPG	vlan-1710	-
❖ Major	192.168.10.14	bdsol-aci41-leaf1, bd sol-aci41-leaf2	bdsol-aci4 ▼ 1-vmware- 03	Apr 14 2023 11:57:01.463 PM	Active	CL	CL-VRF	CL-EPG	vlan-1710	-
◆ Major	192.168.10.14	bdsol-aci41-leaf1, bd sol-aci41-leaf2	bdsol-aci4 1-vmware- 03	Apr 14 2023 11:56:21.463 PM	Active	CL	CL-VRF	CL-EPG	vlan-1710	-
❖ Major	192.168.10.14	bdsol-aci41-leaf1, bd sol-aci41-leaf2	bdsol-aci4 1-vmware- 03	Apr 14 2023 11:53:24.358 PM	Active	CL	CL-VRF	CL-EPG	vlan-1710	-
❖ Major	192.168.10.14	bdsol-aci41-leaf1, bd sol-aci41-leaf2	bdsol-aci4 1-vmware-	Apr 14 2023 11:52:44.349	Active	CL	CL-VRF	CL-EPG	vlan-1710	-

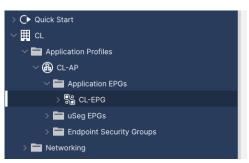


What actually happened?

 The user that reported the issue just created his VM with duplicate IP



- The other VM with the same IP had SSH on a different port -> this is what created "inacessible" symptom
- There was an actual fault on EPG but it flaps really fast







Scenario 4



"Help me, my TCAM is on fire!"

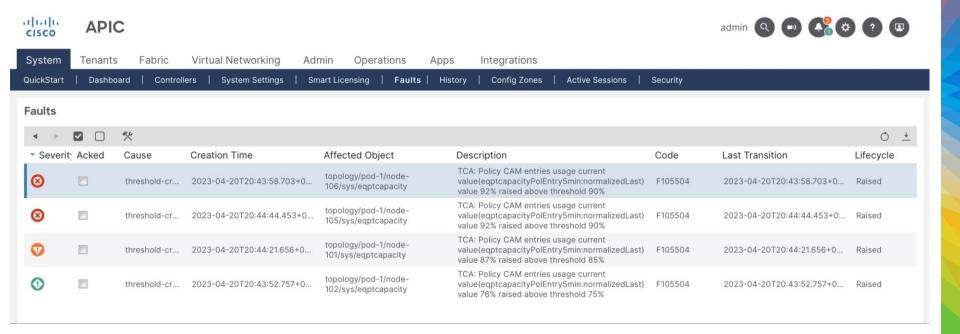


What is TCAM and Policy CAM?

- In ACI policy, contracts and filters are programmed in Policy CAM and TCAM (Ternary Content Addressable Memory)
- Specialized and precious local switch HW resources designed for rapid table lookups
- In an environment with many to many EPG contract relationship, multiple filters, and EPGs concentrated on few leaf switches can easily hit the Policy CAM limit and exhaust the hardware resources
- If the resources are exhausted additional policies / contracts won't be programmed on the hardware. As a result system will see unexpected behaviours

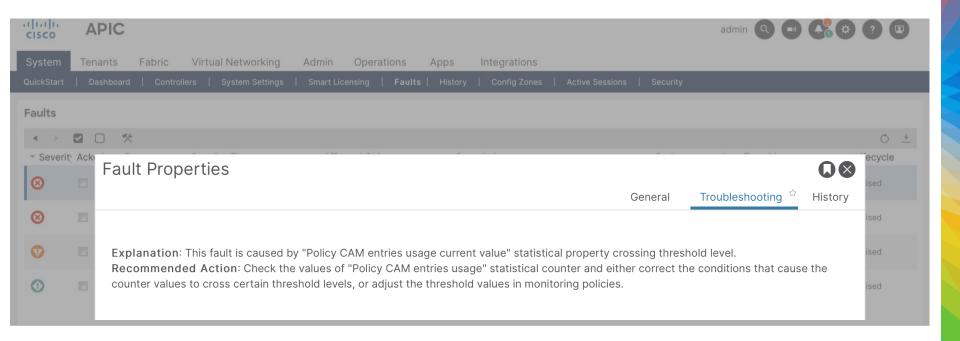


One day you wake up to this...





One day you wake up to this...













Tenants Fabric Virtual Networking Operations Integrations System Admin Apps

Visibility & Troubleshooting | Capacity Dashboard | EP Tracker | Visualization **Capacity Dashboard Fabric Capacity** Leaf Capacity C VRF BDEPG IPv6 (learned) Policy CAM -Switch ESG Mac (learned) IPv4 (learned) Multicast Mac Selectors Rules 93% 61219 of 65536 0% 0 of 5000 pod-1/node-105 114 of 24576 113 of 24576 0 of 12288 N9K-C93180YC-EX 9 of 800 106 of 3500 108 of 3960 0 of 8192 IP Selectors Labels Configure Profile Local: 110 Local: 108 Local: 0 0 of 5000 Remote: 4 Remote: 5 Remote: 0 Mac Selectors Rules 0 of 5000 92% 60461 of 65536 pod-1/node-106 112 of 24576 113 of 24576 0 of 12288 N9K-C93180YC-EX 8 of 800 109 of 3960 0 of 8192 IP Selectors Labels Local: 106 Local: 106 Local: 0 Configure Profile 0 of 5000 Remote: 6 Remote: 7 Remote: 0 Mac Selectors Rules 90% 59530 of 65536 0 of 5000 pod-1/node-101 118 of 24576 116 of 24576 0 of 12288 N9K-C93360YC-FX2 13 of 800 111 of 3500 113 of 3960 0 of 8192 **IP Selectors** Labels Configure Profile Local: 115 Local: 111 Local: 0 0 of 5000 Remote: 3 Remote: 5 Remote: 0 Mac Selectors Rules 0 of 5000 79% 51934 of 65536 pod-1/node-102 116 of 24576 0 of 12288 111 of 24576 N9K-C93360YC-FX2 0 of 8192 11 of 800 108 of 3500 109 of 3960 **IP Selectors** Labels Configure Profile Local: 112 Local: 106 Local: 0 0% 0 of 5000 Remote: 4 Remote: 5 Remote: 0



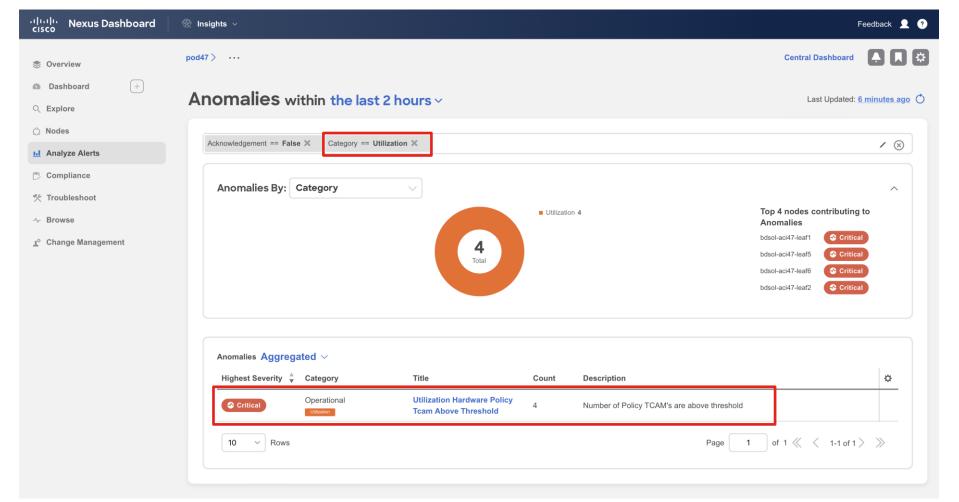
What do we do?

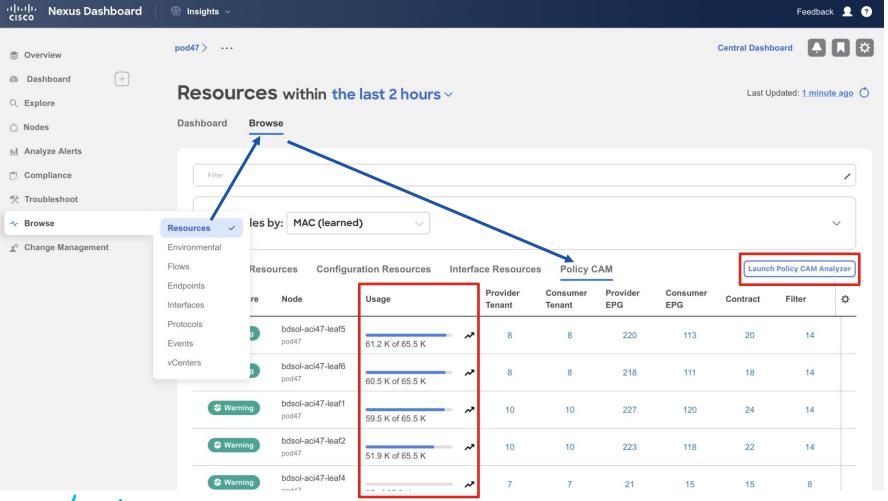
- Clearly there is "too much" config! But where?
- Even if we find it, can we remove it?

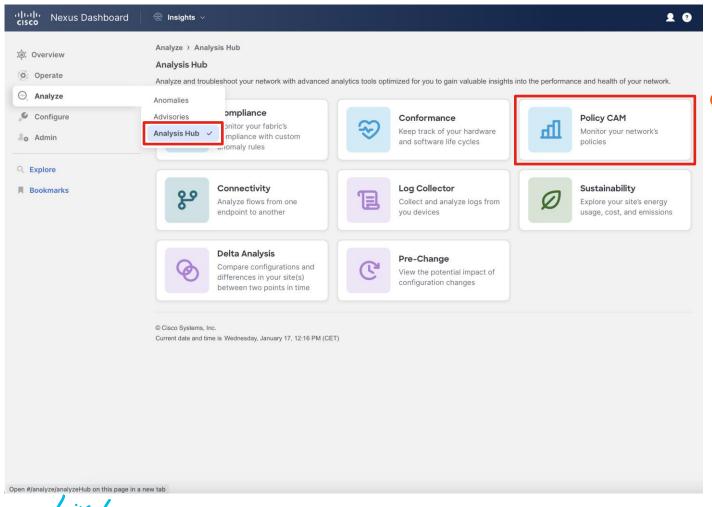


This is getting old...





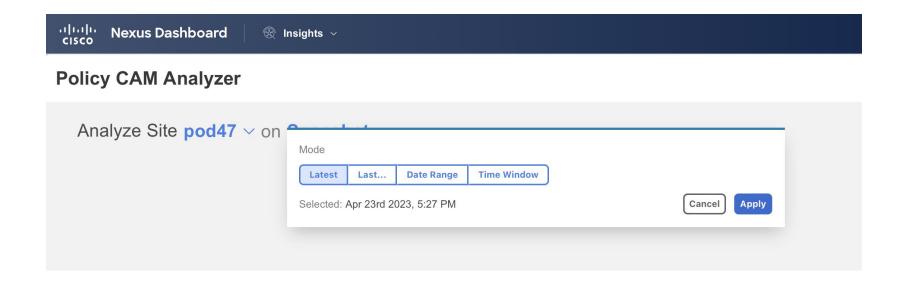






BRKDCN-2626

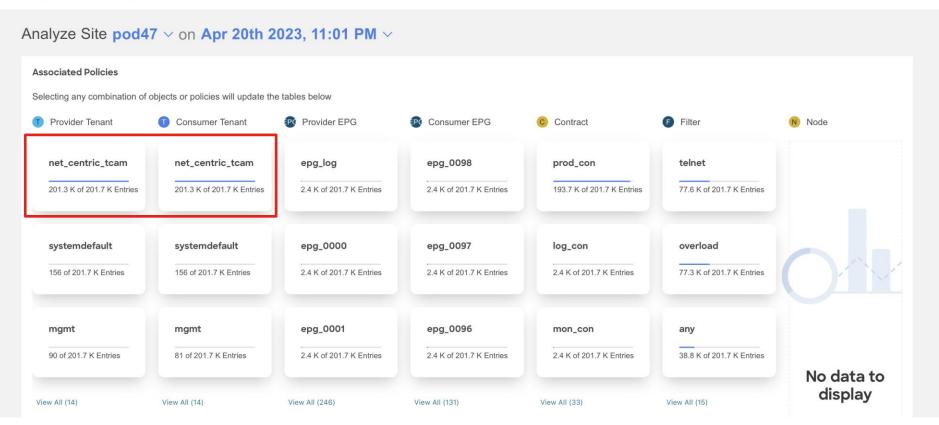
Select site and snapshot





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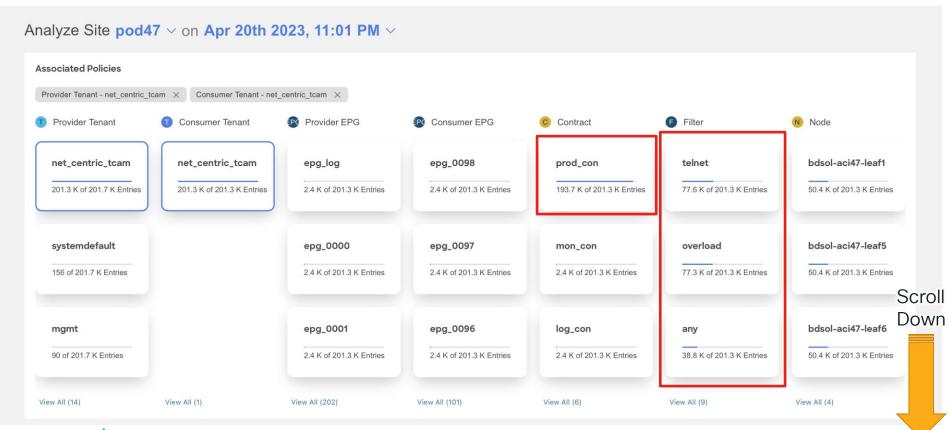
CISCO

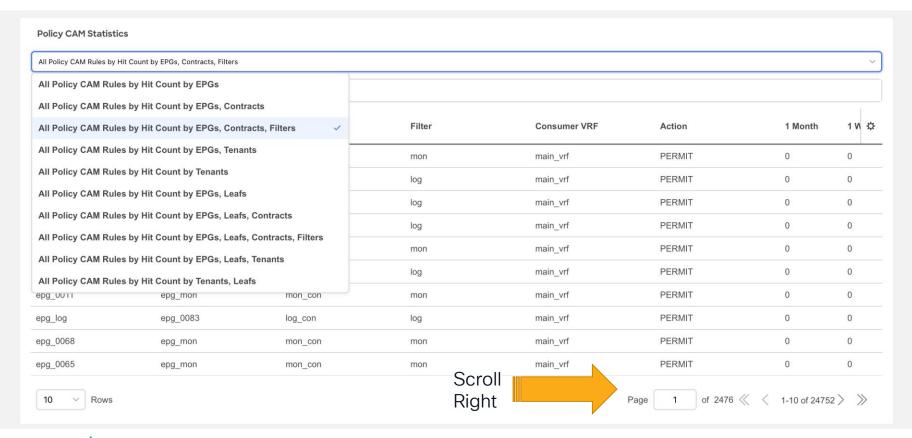




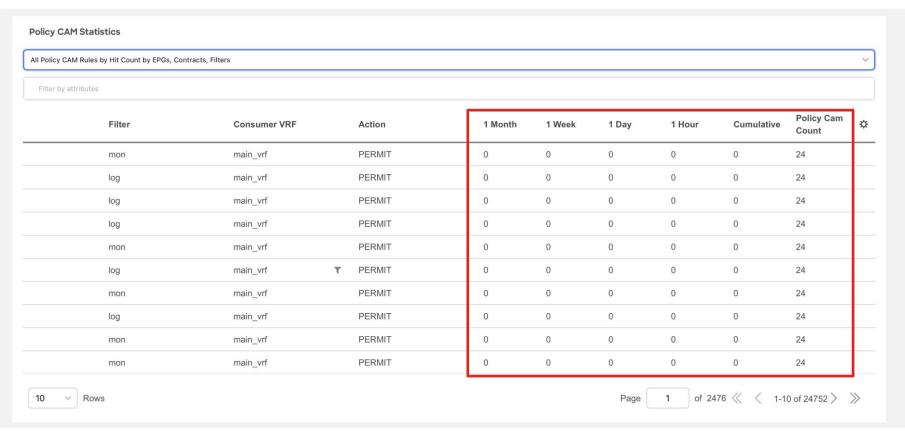
allulla

cisco





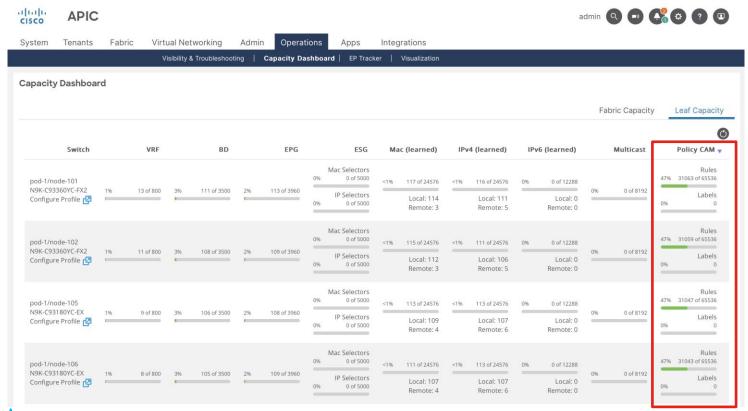




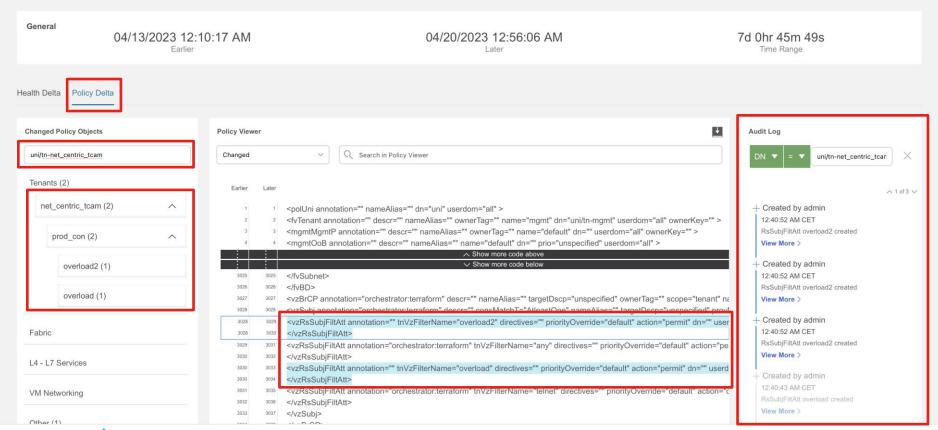
How did it get to this?



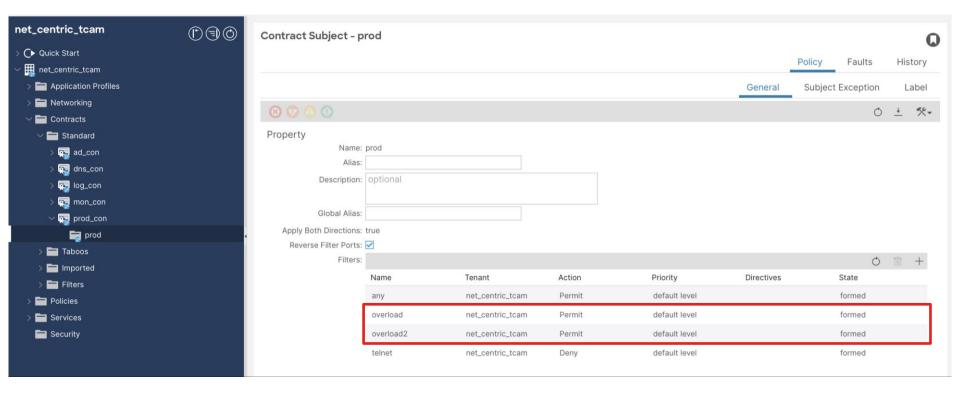
Previous stable situation



Delta Analysis - TCAM



But I added just two more filters to an existing contract!





Two inosent looking filters

									1 +	
Name Alias	EtherType	ARP Flag	IP Protocol	Match		Source Port / Range		Destination Port / Range		
	Only Fragme		From	То	From	То				
1	IP		tcp	False	False	unspecified	unspecified	1000	2000	
									1 +	
Name Alias	EtherType	ARP Flag IP Protocol Match Statef Only Fragme	Statefu	Source Port / Range		Destination Port / Range				
				-		From	То	From	То	
1	IP		tcp	False	False	unspecified	unspecified	3000	3200	

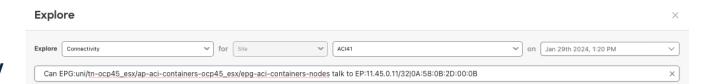


Instead of Conclusion: What else can NDI do?

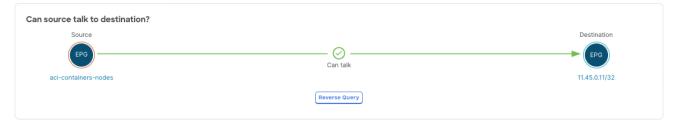


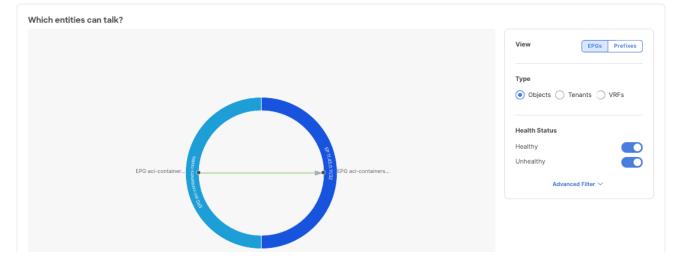


Explore connectivity



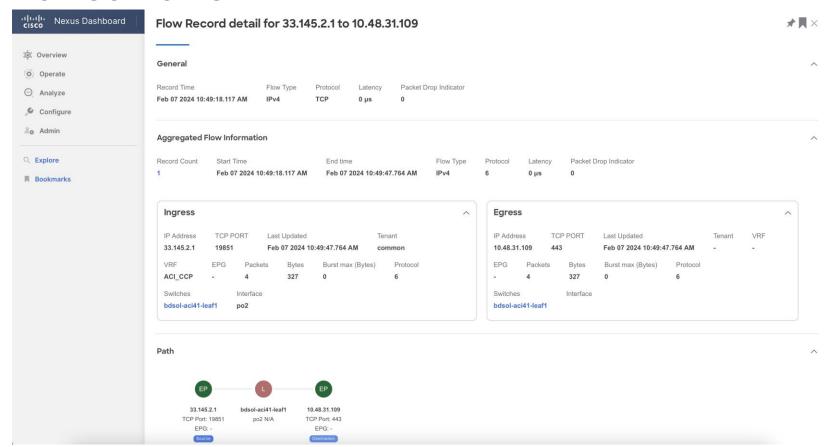
Query Results







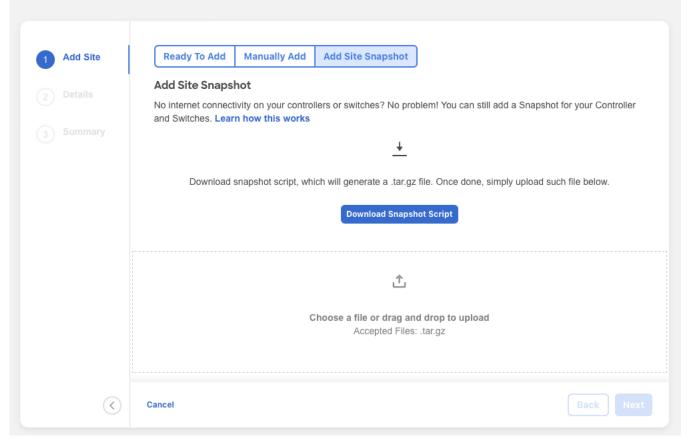
Browse flows



Offline sites

Operate > Sites

Add site to Insights

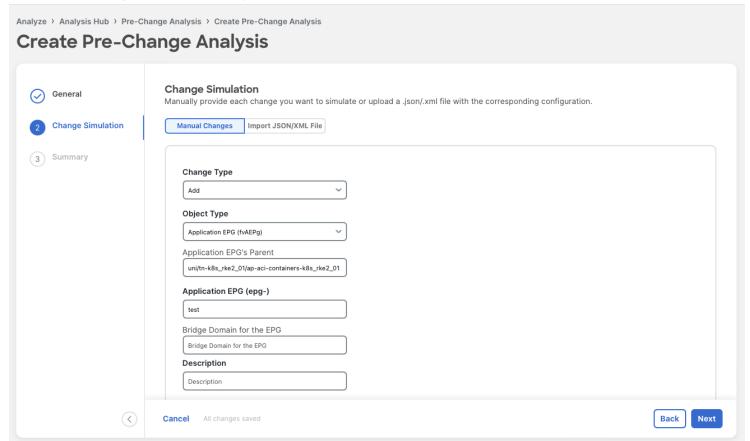




NDI API

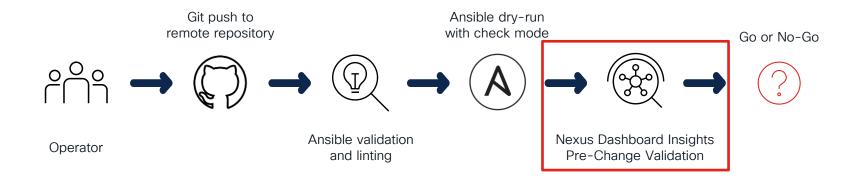
Device Connector	>	Get Anomalie	s details list				
device_connector_versions_info	>	Get the list of anom	alies for a given IG or site	Run Example			
Configuration	>	Get /sedgeapi/v1	/cisco-nir/api/api/v1/anomalies/details	Over proper			
Advisories	>	D		Query params			
Advisories		query Parameters		siteGroupName			
Anomalies	~	siteGroupName	string	DC-WEST-IG			
			Example: siteGroupName=DC-WEST-IG				
Return the anomalies buckets	GET		Name of the Site Group - limit the records pertaining to the sites				
	OFT		in this site group. One out of siteName / siteGroupName is mandatory.	siteName			
Get Anomalies details list	GET		mandatory.	DC-WEST			
Get the list of default resources	GET	- siteName	string				
Get the fist of default resources	107/		Example: siteName=DC-WEST	siteNameList			
Get the list of related objects	GET		Name of the Site - limit the records pertaining to the site. One out	siciamens			
			of siteName / siteGroupName is mandatory.	DC-WEST,Candid5,FabricName			
Get the summary of anomalies	GET	_ siteNameList					
*070		siteNameList	string Example: siteNameList=DC-WEST,Candid5,FabricName	filter			
Get Top Fabrics based on Anomaly	GET		Name of the sites - limit the records pertaining to given				
Score			siteNames. One out of siteName / siteGroupName / siteNameList	acknowledged:false			
			is mandatory.				
Get top flow records by anomalies	GET	0.000		nodeName			
		— filter	string	ifav-leaf1			
Get the top flows by anomalies	GET		Example: filter=acknowledged:false	Hav-real I			
	-		Lucene format filter - Filter the response based on this filter field. For example, cleared:true to get cleared anomalies or				
Get top nodes list based on anomaly	GET		acknowledged:true to get acknowledged anomalies. We also	offset			
score			support and, or operations	0			
Get the aggregate affected objects for an	— nodeName						
anomaly		- nodeName	string				
			Default: "None"	count			
Get the affected objects for an anomaly	GET		Example: nodeName=ifav-leaf1	10			
			Name of the fabric node, limit the anomaly score to given				
Given an anomaly, show the impact	GET		nodeName				

Pre-change analysis



IaC CI/CD Pipeline featuring NDI

Validation



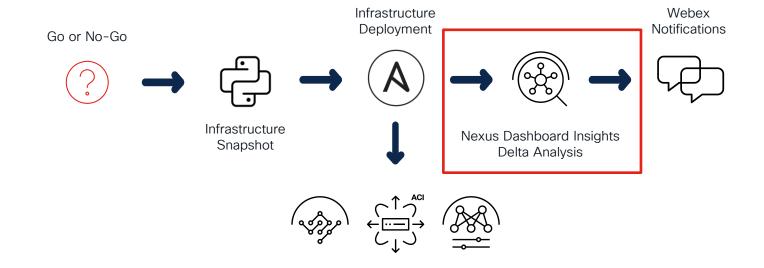


IaC CI/CD Pipeline featuring NDI

Deployment

Refference:

- cisco.nd Ansible Collection
- DEVNET-2473 on GitHub





Wrapping it up...





Test Drive?

Walk-in Lab:

LABDCN-2215
Nexus Dashboards
Insights Hands-on lab





Thank you





