

The background features a vibrant, abstract design with a color gradient from dark blue on the left to bright yellow and white on the right. The design consists of overlapping, wavy horizontal bands and a radial pattern of lines emanating from a bright white point on the right side, creating a sense of motion and energy.

CISCO *Live!*

Let's go



The bridge to possible

Secure Access with ISE in the Cloud

Eugene Korneychuk, Technical Leader
BRKSEC-2039



#CiscoLive



About Eugene Korneychuk

- Security TAC Technical Leadership Team
- 15+ years of security and networking experience
- 20+ published documents
- On personal note:
 - Family time
 - Travel
 - Football
- Lives in Cary, North Carolina, US



Session Objective



The Goal of this session is to:

- Make you familiar with ISE Cloud deployments and designs
- Cover ISE automation techniques
- Explain the SAML Authentication functionality and its implementation on ISE
- Walk you through ROPC authentication with ISE and Azure Active Directory

Agenda

- ISE Architecture Concepts
- ISE in the Cloud
- ISE in AWS and Azure
- Migration and Upgrade
- AWS Partner Solution
- ISE SAML SSO
- ISE Azure Active Directory Authentication
- Conclusion

ISE Architecture Concepts

ISE Design Concepts



Policy Administration Node (PAN)

- Single plane of glass for ISE admin
- Owns ISE database and replicates it to other nodes



Monitoring & Troubleshooting Node (MnT)

- Reporting and logging node
- Collects health and log information from other nodes



Policy Services Node (PSN)

- Makes policy decisions
- RADIUS / TACACS+ Servers



pxGrid Controller

- Facilitates sharing of context

ISE Scaling

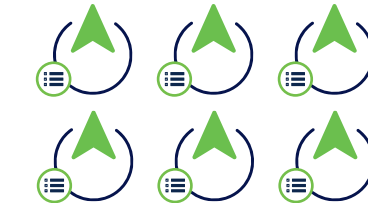


Lab and Evaluation

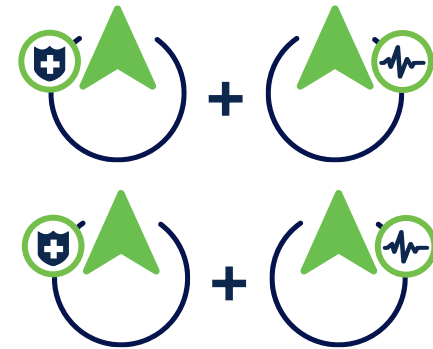
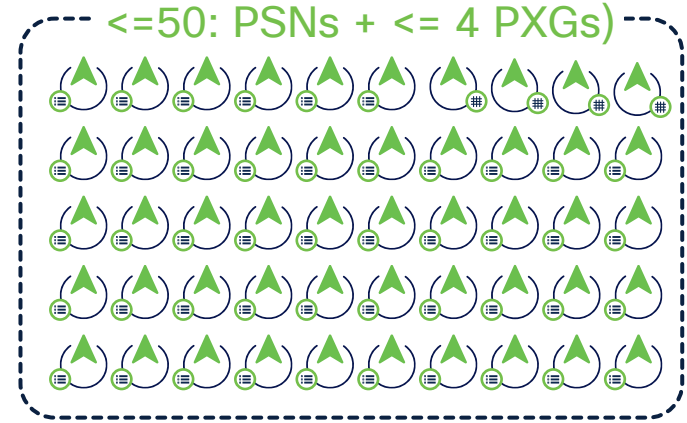


Small HA Deployment
2 x (PAN+MNT+PSN)+ Extra PSN

CISCO *Live!*



Medium Multi-node Deployment
2 x (PAN+MNT+PXG), <= 6 PSN



Large Deployment
2 PAN, 2 MNT, <=50: PSNs + <= 4 PXGs

PSN Maximum Concurrent Active Sessions

Cisco ISE



PSN Type

Concurrent active endpoints supported by a dedicated PSN (ISE node has only PSN persona)

Concurrent active endpoints supported by a shared PSN (ISE node has multiple personas)

SNS 3615

SNS 3715

SNS 3595

SNS 3655

SNS 3755

SNS 3695

SNS 3795

25,000

50,000

40,000

50,000

100,000

100,000

100,000

12,500

25,000

20,000

25,000

50,000

50,000

50,000

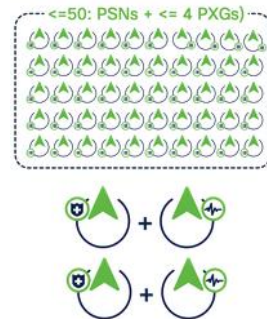
Small Deployment



Medium Deployment



Large Deployment



Total Maximum Concurrent Active Sessions

Cisco ISE



Deployment Type	SNS 3615	SNS 3715	SNS 3595	SNS 3655	SNS 3755	SNS 3695	SNS 3795
Large deployment	Unsupported	Unsupported	500,000	500,000	750,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Medium deployment	10,000	75,000	20,000	25,000	150,000	50,000	150,000
Small deployment	10,000	25,000	20,000	25,000	50,000	50,000	50,000

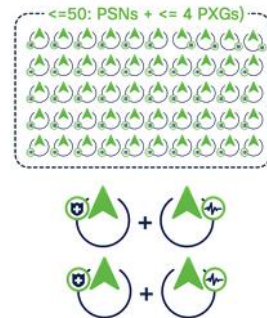
Small Deployment



Medium Deployment



Large Deployment



Cisco Cloud Platforms Sizing

Cisco ISE



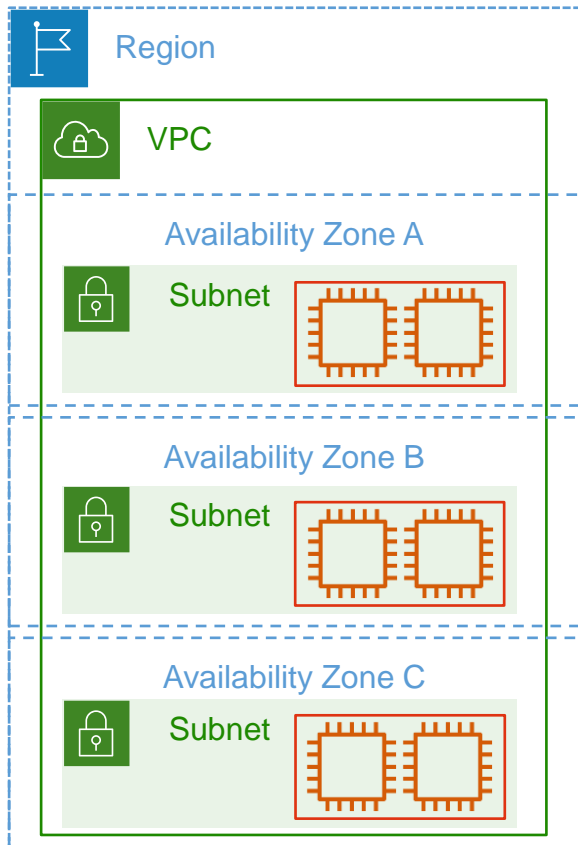
Models	SNS 3615	SNS 3595	SNS 3655	SNS 3695
VM Appliance	16 vCPU 32 GB	16 vCPU 64 GB	24 vCPU 96 GB	24 vCPU 256 GB
AWS	c5.4xlarge*	m5.4xlarge	c5.9xlarge* m5.8xlarge	m5.16xlarge
Azure	Standard_F16s_v2*	Standard_D16s_v4	Standard_F32s_v2* Standard_D32s_v4	Standard_D64s_v4
OCI	Optimized3.Flex* (8 OCPU** and 32 GB)	Standard3.Flex (8 OCPU and 64 GB)	Optimized3.Flex* (16 OCPU and 64 GB) Standard3.Flex (16 OCPU and 128 GB)	Standard3.Flex (16 OCPU and 256 GB)

* This instance is compute-optimized and provides better performance compared to the general purpose instances.

** In OCI, you choose CPU in terms of Oracle CPU (OCPU). Each OCPU equals two hardware execution threads known as vCPUs.

ISE in the Cloud

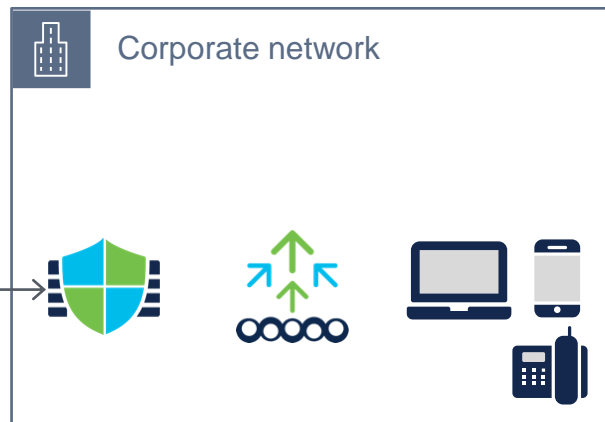
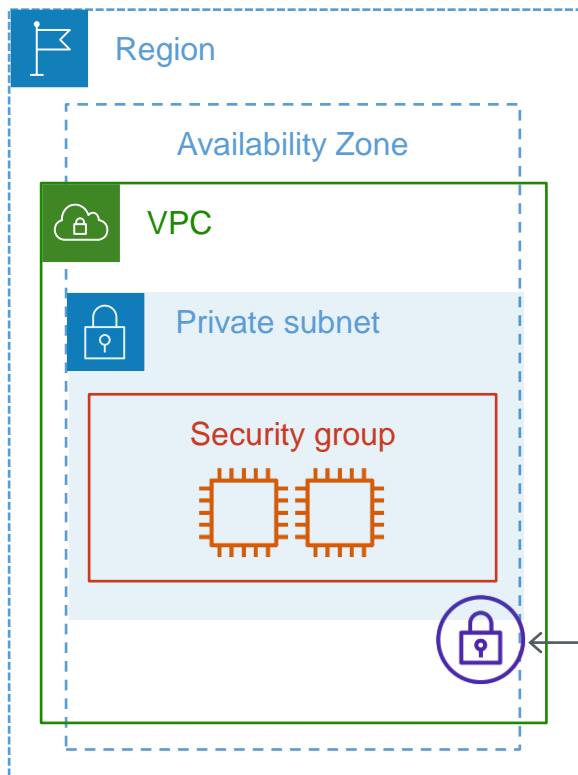
AWS basics



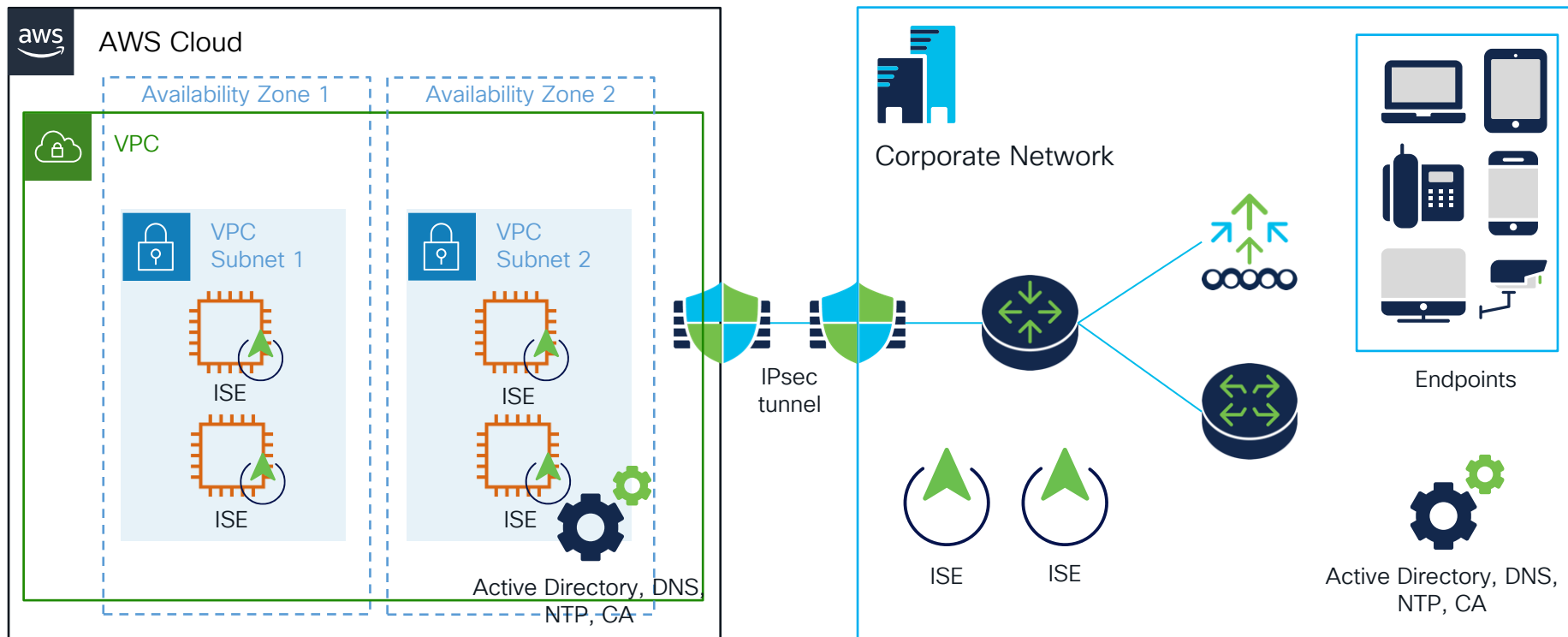
- Each Region is fully isolated from another region to achieve fault tolerance.
 - us-east-2 (Ohio)
 - eu-central-1 (Frankfurt)
 - ap-south-1 (Mumbai)
- Each Region has multiple isolated locations known as Availability Zones. The code for Availability Zone is its Region code followed by a letter identifier.
 - us-east-1a
 - us-east-1b
- VPC is a Virtual Network which spans all of the Availability Zones in the Region.
 - After creating a VPC you can add one or more subnets in each Availability Zone
- Security Group acts like virtual firewall, controlling the traffic which is allowed to reach and leave the resources associated with it.

AWS basics

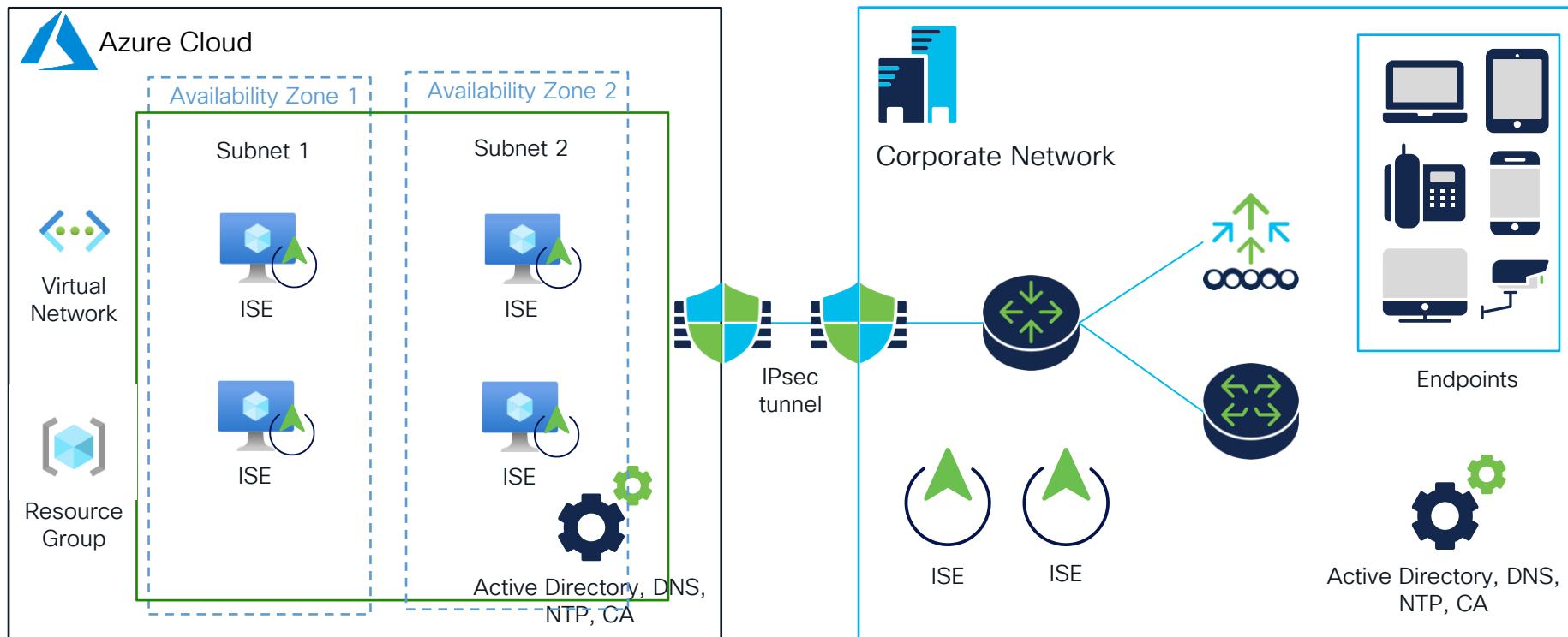
- To connect AWS resources to your Corporate network VPN tunnel can be used



Design Scenarios - AWS



Design Scenarios - Azure



Know Before You Go- Azure

Problem: EAP-TLS Authentications might fail due to the fragmentation issue.

Failure Reason: 5440 Endpoint abandoned EAP Session and started new

Failure Reason 5411 Supplicant stopped responding to ISE



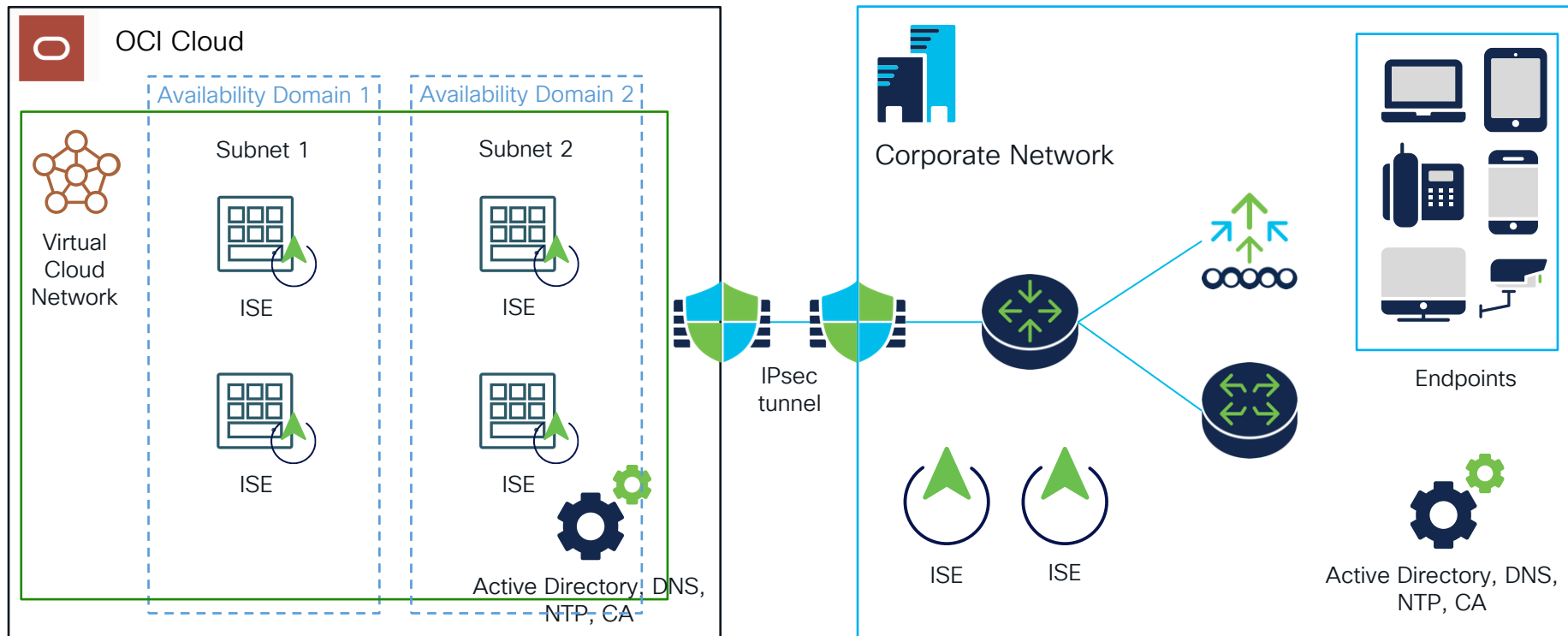
Technical Background and Solution:

There is a bug in the Azure fragmentation reassembly code. While Microsoft plans to address this issue, a temporary solution has been proposed for Cisco ISE customers utilizing Azure instances.

To implement the short-term fix, ISE customers are advised to raise an Azure support ticket. Microsoft has committed to:

1. Pinning the subscription to ensure that all instances within that subscription are deployed on Gen7 hardware.
2. Allowing out-of-order fragments to pass to the destination instead of being dropped.

Design Scenarios - OCI

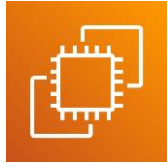


ISE in AWS

ISE Setup Options



AWS Marketplace



Amazon Elastic Compute
Cloud (Amazon EC2)



AWS CloudFormation

Setup ISE Manually

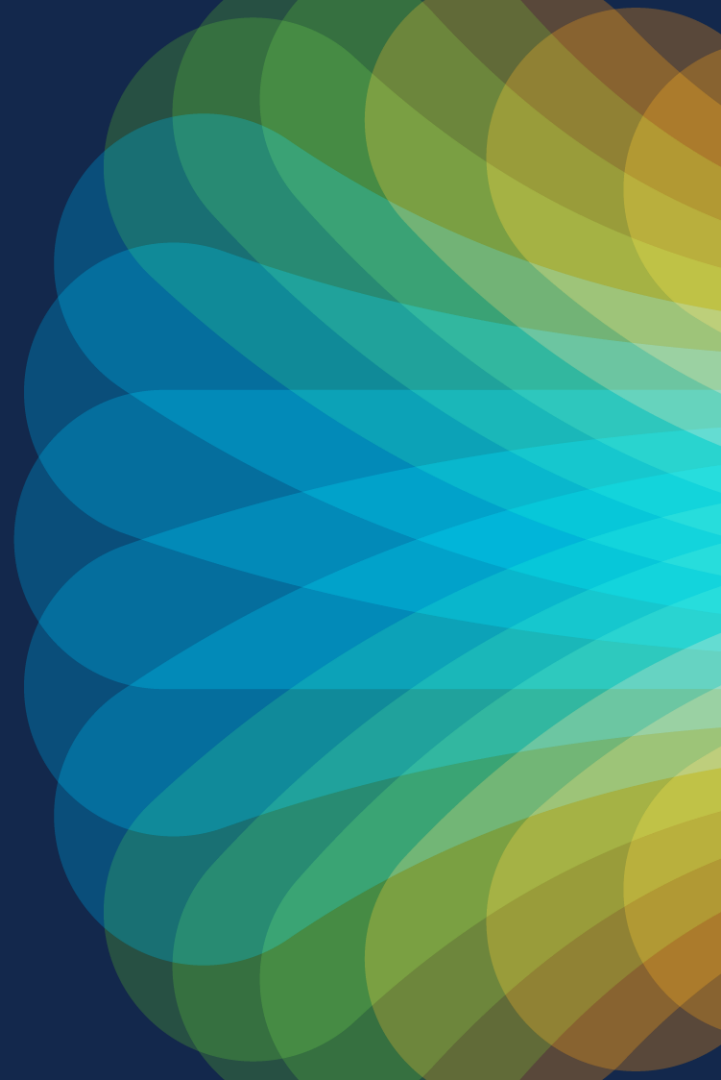


Automate ISE deployment

Checklist for ISE setup on AWS

1. Decide on Region and Availability Zone
2. Create a VPC and Subnet
3. Create a Security Group
4. Setup VPN between AWS and On-Prem Network
5. Create a Key Pair for SSH
6. Keep ISE setup information handy (hostname, DNS, Domain, NTP, Timezone, credentials)

Demo. ISE installation on AWS using CloudFormation



Console Home Info

Reset to default layout

+ Add widgets

📘

Introducing the new Managed instances, Ops summary, and Patch compliance widgets.

View new widgets

✕

☰ Recently visited Info

☑ CloudFormation

☑ EC2

☑ Route 53

☑ AWS Marketplace Subscriptions

☑ VPC

☑ Kinesis

☑ IoT SiteWise

☑ IAM

☑ Key Management Service

☑ API Gateway

☑ CloudWatch

View all services

☰ Welcome to AWS

🚀

Getting started with AWS [🔗](#)

Learn the fundamentals and find valuable information to get the most out of AWS.

📄

Training and certification [🔗](#)

Learn from AWS experts and advance your skills and knowledge.

💡

What's new with AWS? [🔗](#)

Discover new AWS services, features, and Regions.

☰ AWS Health Info

Open issues

0

Past 7 days

☰ Build a solution Info

Start building with simple wizards and automated workflows.

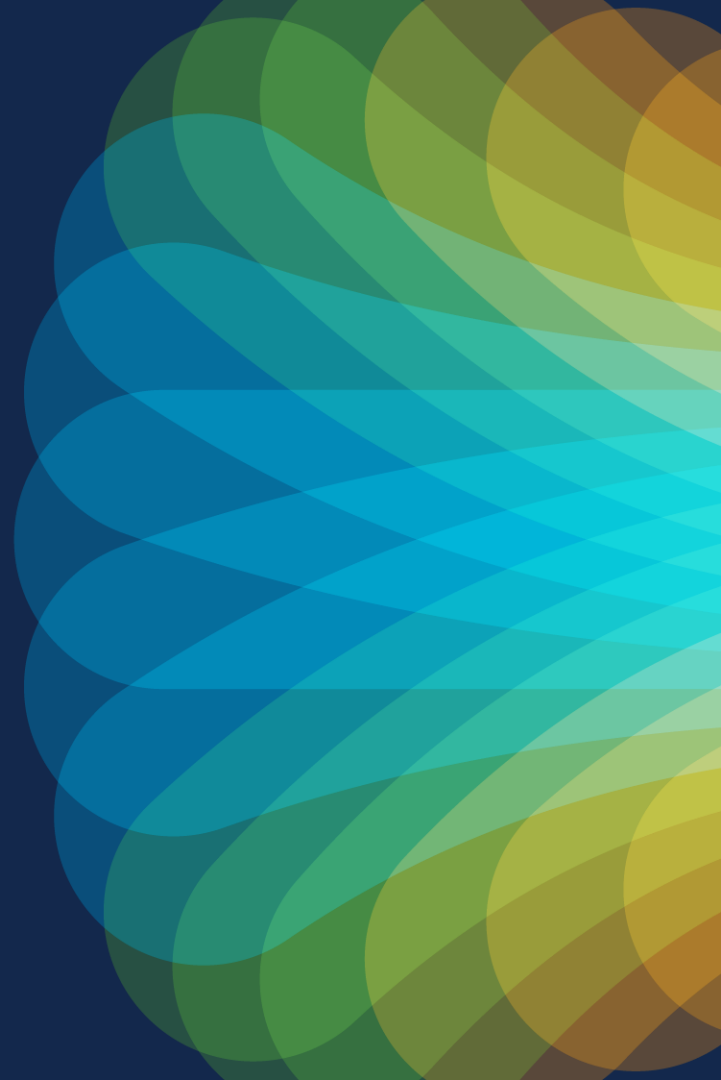
☑ Launch a virtual machine

With EC2 (2 mins)

☑ Register a domain

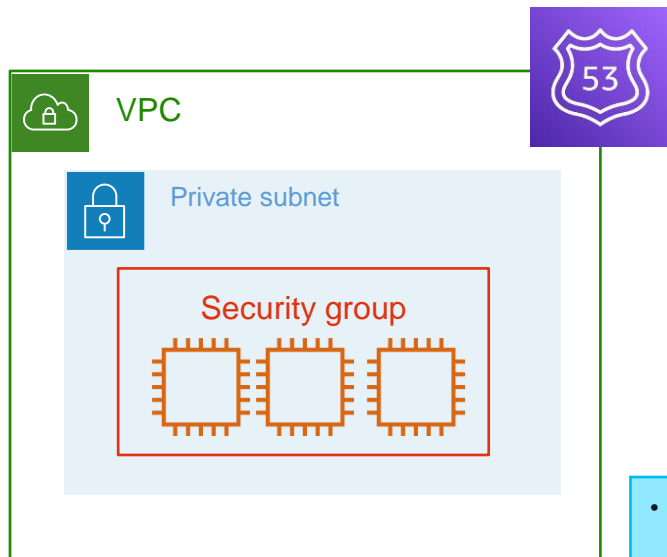
With Route 53 (3 mins)

What if you
would like to
install whole
infrastructure?



Terraform

- Infrastructure as a Code to automate the provisioning of your infrastructure resources

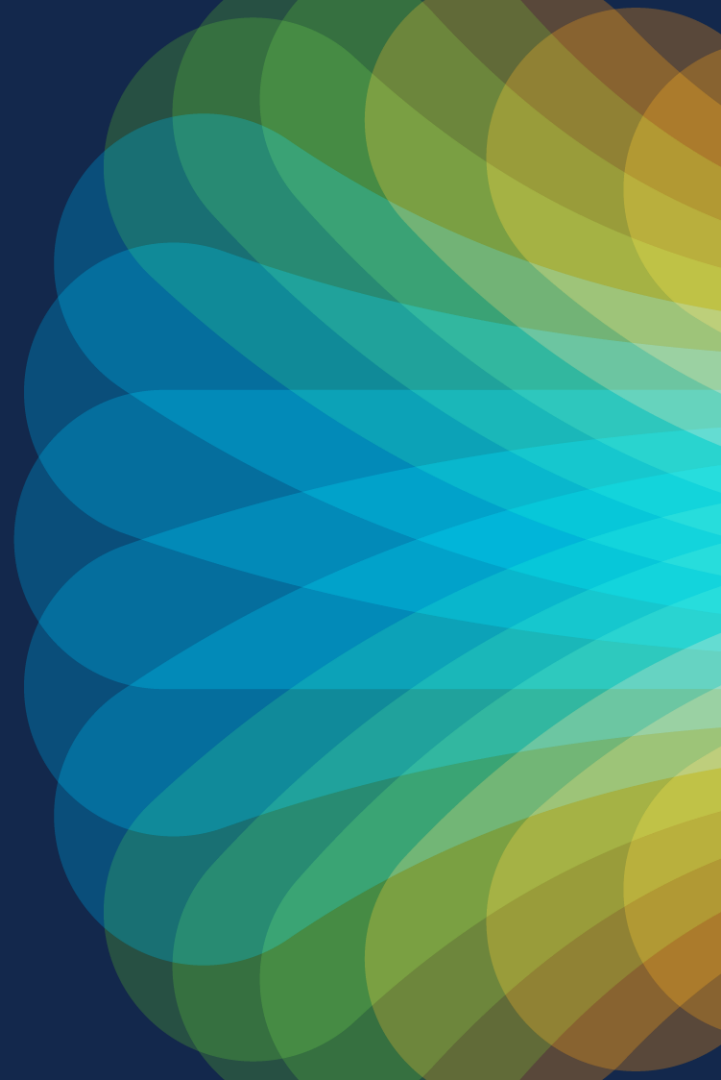


- Create VPC
- Create a Subnet
- Create Security Group
- Create EC2 Instances
- Create DNS records

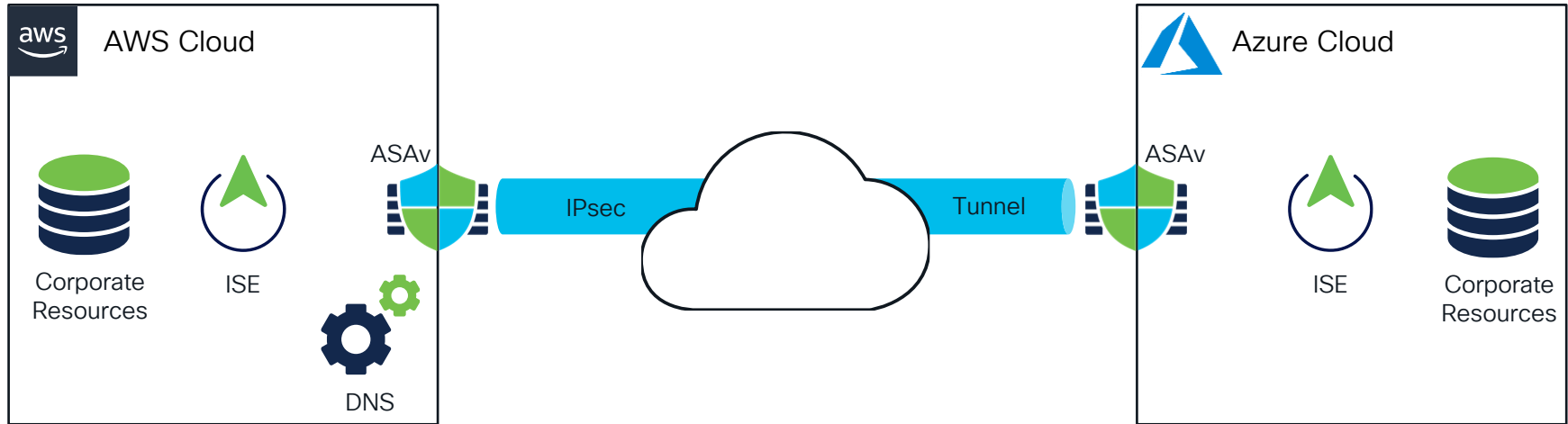
- Relies on the main.tf (terraform config) file to provision resources
- Terraform keeps the state of the infrastructure, compare the end result to what the current state is and provisions resources accordingly



Demo. ISE installation on AWS and Azure using Terraform



Deployment Topology



ekorneyc@EKORNEYC-M-20GN Terraform % terraform apply

Terraform used the selected providers to generate the following execution plan. Resource actions are indicated with the following symbols:

+ create

Terraform will perform the following actions:

aws_instance.ise1 will be created

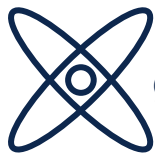
```
+ resource "aws_instance" "ise1" {
+   ami                  = "ami-08c545c5ef3cacedd"
+   arn                  = (known after apply)
+   associate_public_ip_address = (known after apply)
+   availability_zone     = (known after apply)
+   cpu_core_count        = (known after apply)
+   cpu_threads_per_core  = (known after apply)
+   disable_api_termination = (known after apply)
+   ebs_optimized         = (known after apply)
+   get_password_data      = false
+   host_id               = (known after apply)
+   id                   = (known after apply)
+   instance_initiated_shutdown_behavior = (known after apply)
+   instance_state        = (known after apply)
+   instance_type         = "c5.4xlarge"
+   ipv6_address_count     = (known after apply)
+   ipv6_addresses        = (known after apply)
+   key_name              = "AWS2"
```

That's not it, you
need to
configure
things...



Ansible

- Ansible playbooks are written in YAML
- Ansible playbooks consist of plays, which are sets of Tasks



galaxy.ansible.com

Community Authors > cisco > ise



Ansible Modules for Cisco ISE

cisco

Details

Read Me

Content

Info

Installation

```
$ ansible-galaxy collection install cisco.ise
```

NOTE: Installing collections with ansible-galaxy is only supported in ansible 2.9+

[Download tarball](#)

Install Version

2.5.11 released 4 days ago (latest)

Tags

cisco ise cloud collection networking sdn

Play (set of tasks)

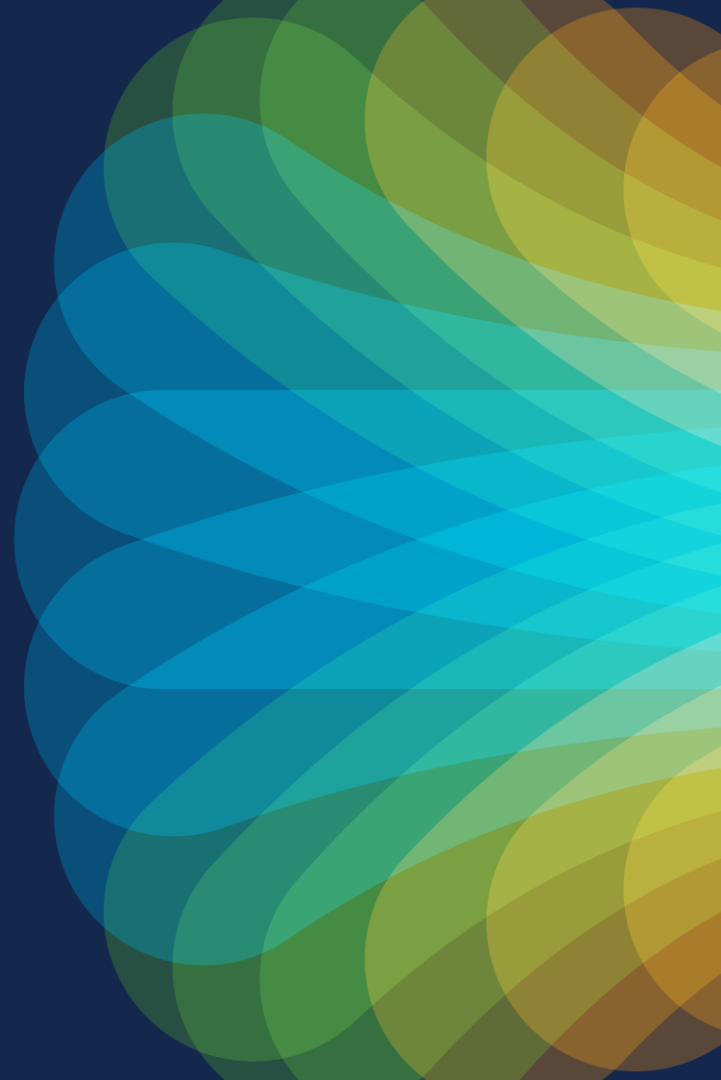
Task

Playbook (set of plays)

```
- hosts: ise_servers
  vars_files:
    - credentials_emea.yml
  gather_facts: no
  tasks:

- name: Create or update ASAv
  cisco.ise.network_device:
    ise_hostname: "{{ise_hostname}}"
    ise_username: "{{ise_username}}"
    ise_password: "{{ise_password}}"
    ise_verify: "{{ise_verify}}"
    state: present
    name: ASAv2
    NetworkDeviceIPList:
      - ipaddress: 172.31.108.43
        mask: 32
    authenticationSettings:
      radiusSharedSecret: 'cisco'
      networkProtocol: 'RADIUS'
    description: 'ASAv in AWS'
  register: result
```

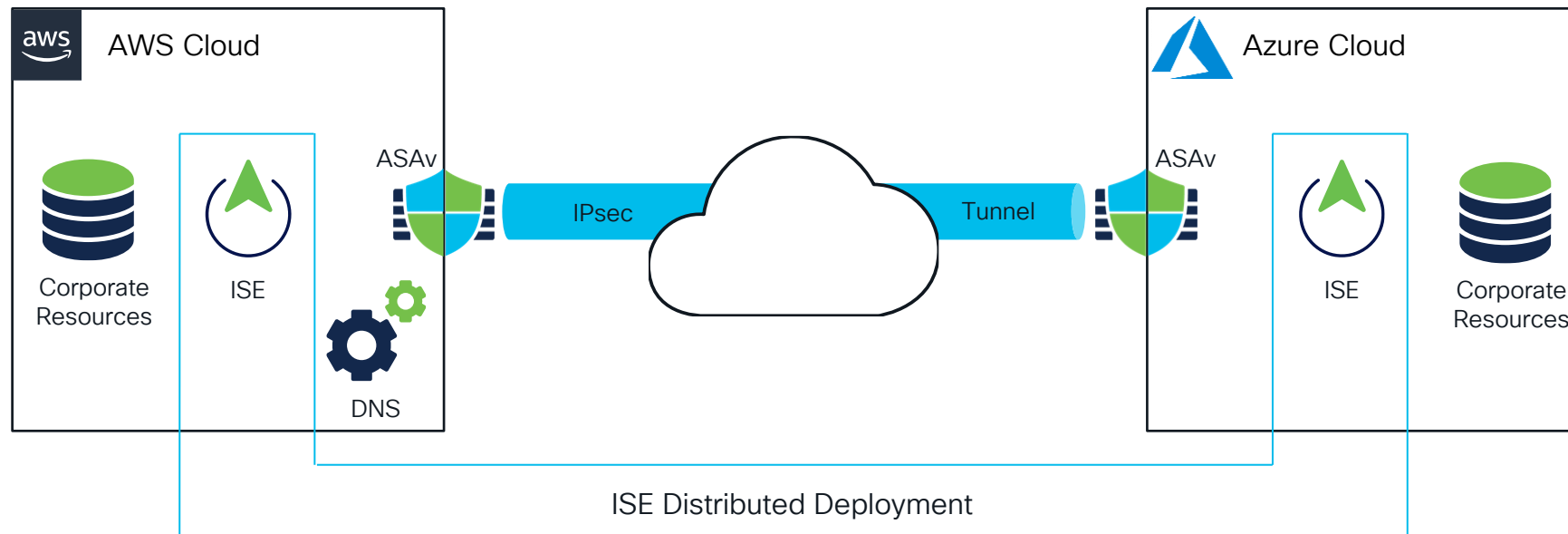
Demo. ISE configuration using Ansible



Deployment Topology



ISE Configuration



(Ansible) ekorneyc@EKORNEYC-M-20GN example % ansible-playbook -i hosts emea2023-ise-playbook.yaml

AWS Partner Solution – Cisco ISE

Partner Solutions Overview (formerly Quick Starts)

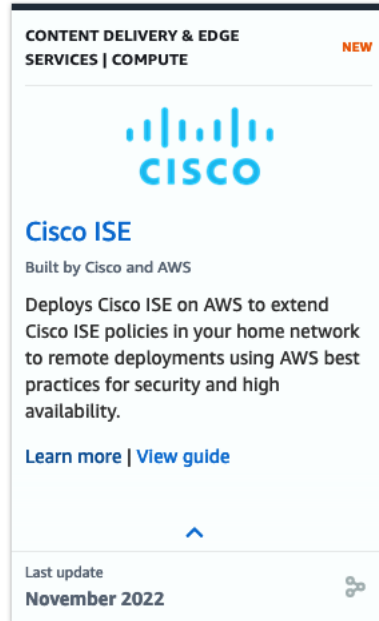
Automated Deployments built by Amazon Web Services solutions Architects and AWS Partners

Helps customers deploy popular technologies on AWS according to AWS Best Practices

Reduces hundreds of manual procedures into just few steps, so AWS customers can build production environments quickly

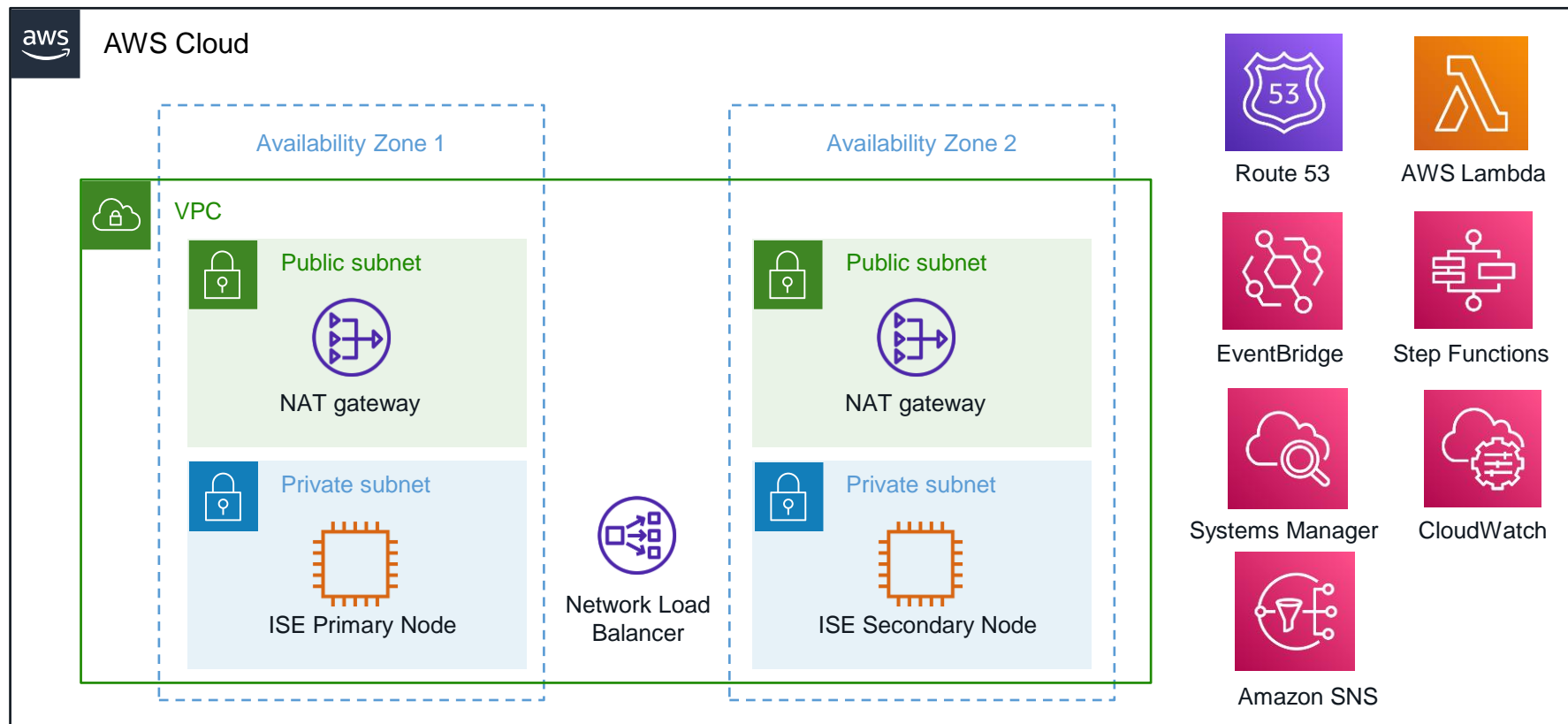


Automate deployments
to the AWS Cloud



<https://aws.amazon.com/quickstart/>

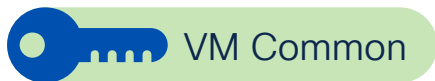
AWS Partner Solution – Cisco ISE Architecture



ISE in the Cloud. Licensing

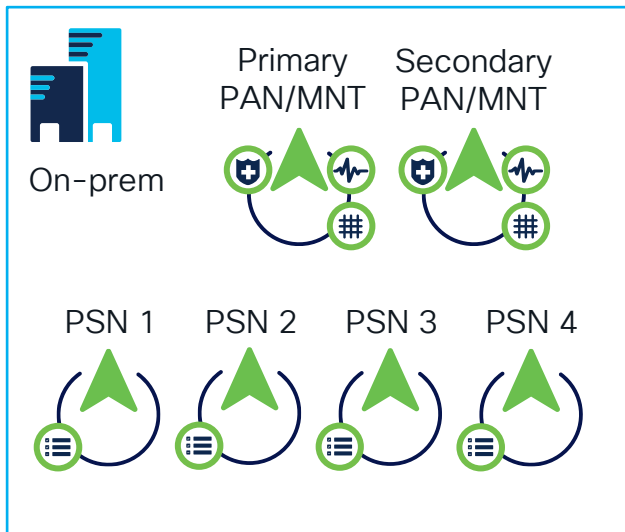
Cisco ISE leverages the Bring Your Own License (BYOL)

- ISE Comes with 90-days Evaluation License
- Use the Common VM License to enable Cisco ISE on cloud platforms, in addition to the other Cisco ISE licenses that you need for the Cisco ISE features you want to use.



ISE Migration and Upgrade

Migration

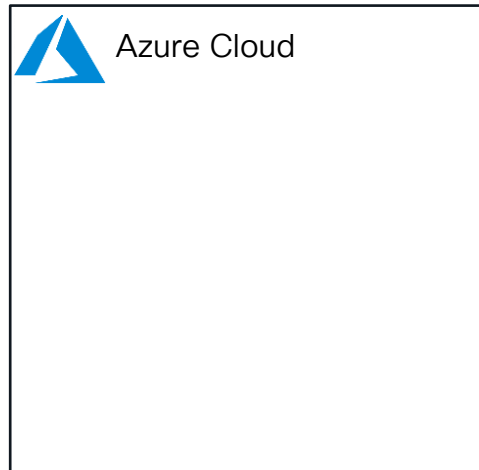


Scenario: ISE 3.2 patch 4 Medium Deployment Migration to Cloud Infrastructure

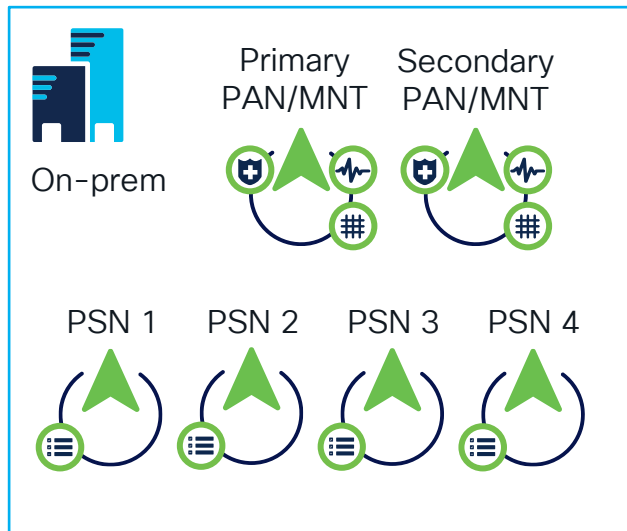


--- === Phase 0 === ---

- Plan
 - Take a Backup
 - Run Health Checks
 - FQDN's of ISE Nodes to be used
 - IP addresses of ISE Nodes to be used
 - End to End connectivity with the Cloud Providers
 - Test Infrastructure
 - Time and Date for MW



Migration

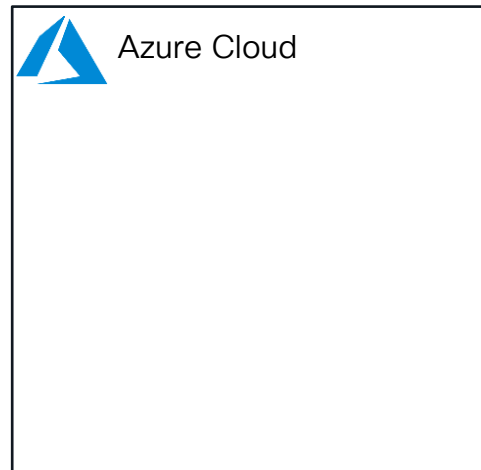
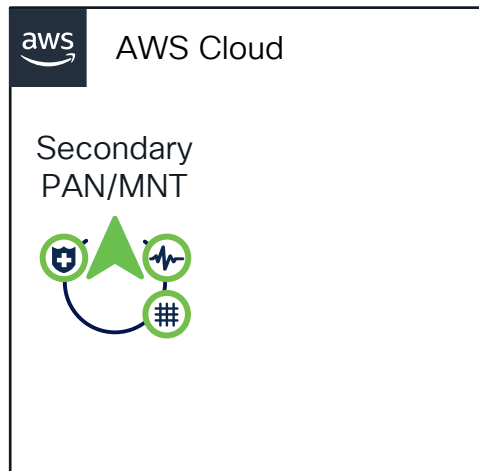


--- === Phase 1 === ---

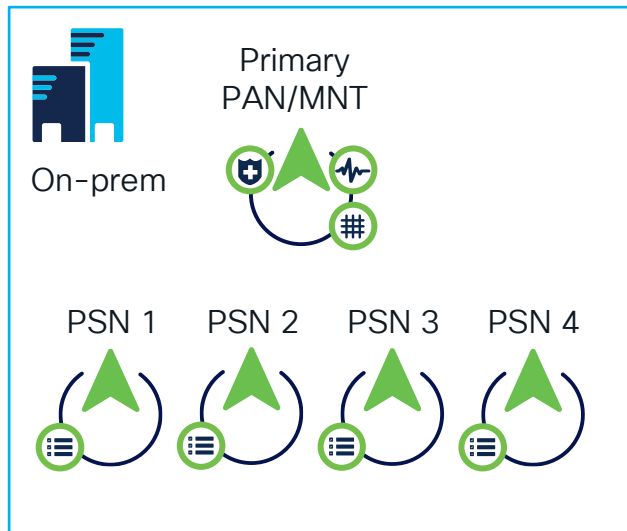
1. Deregister Secondary PAN/MNT
2. Deploy Cloud Instance
3. Install Patch
4. Add Node to the Deployment

Considerations:

- (Optional) Certificates to be exported prior Deregistration of Secondary PAN, imported before adding Node to the Deployment



Migration

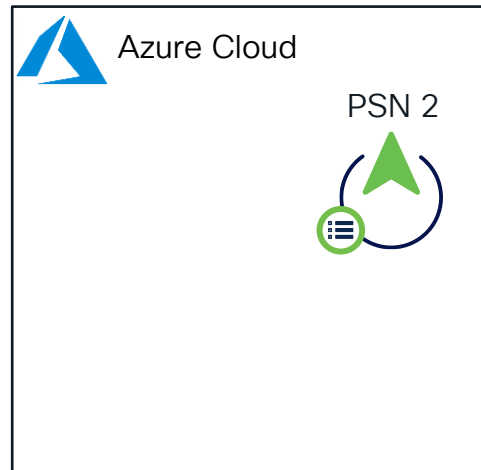
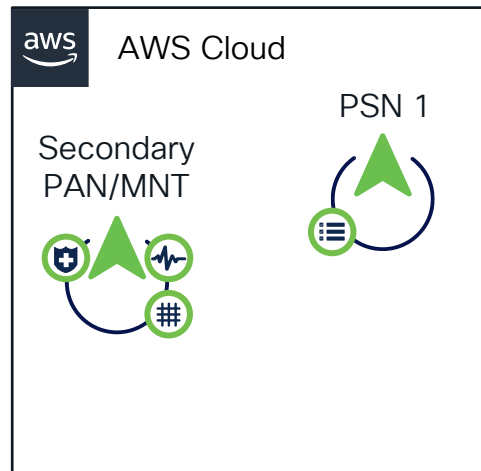


--- === Phase 2 === ---

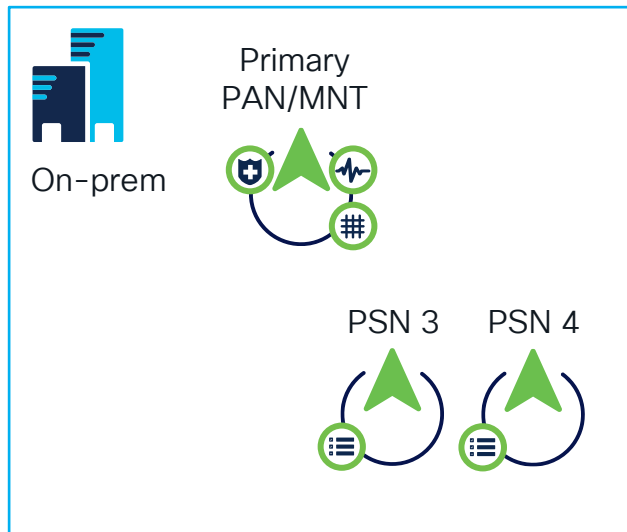
1. Deregister PSN1, PSN2
2. Deploy Cloud Instances
3. Install Patch
4. Add Nodes to the Deployment
5. Test

Considerations:

- (Optional) Certificates to be exported prior Deregistration, imported before adding Nodes to the Deployment
- NAD's configuration should be evaluated prior to Phase 2. Exclude PSN1 and PSN2 from LB Groups or ensure that high availability configuration includes PSN3 and PSN4



Migration

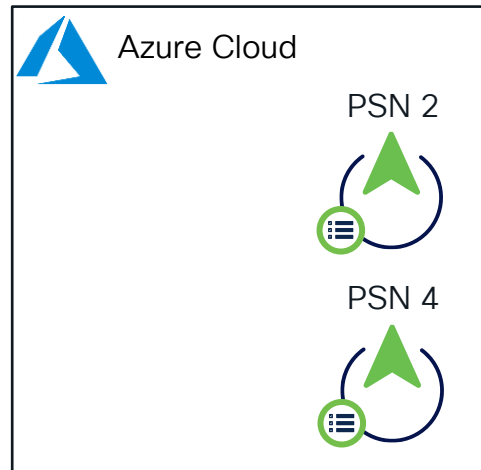
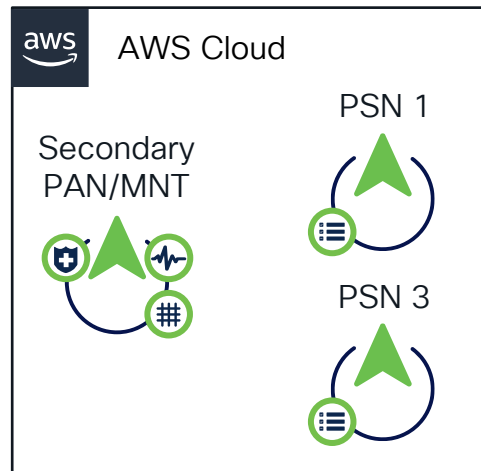


--- === Phase 3 === ---

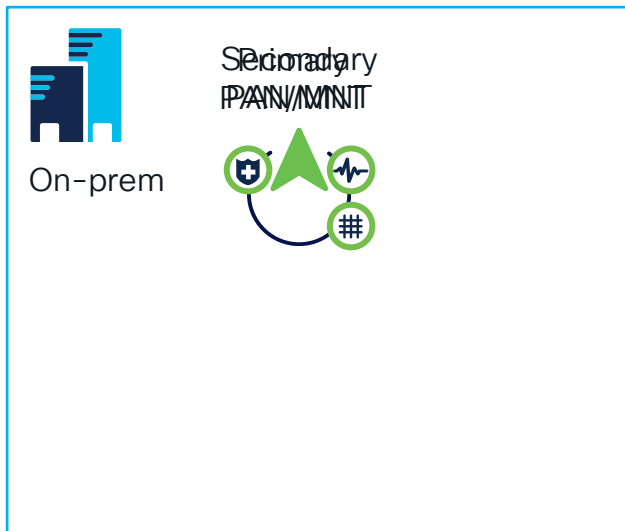
1. Deregister PSN3, PSN4
2. Deploy Cloud Instances
3. Install Patch
4. Add Nodes to the Deployment
5. Test

Considerations:

- (Optional) Certificates to be exported prior Deregistration, imported before adding Nodes to the Deployment
- NAD's configuration should be evaluated prior to Phase 3. Exclude PSN3 and PSN4 from LB Groups or ensure that high availability configuration includes PSN1 and PSN2



Migration

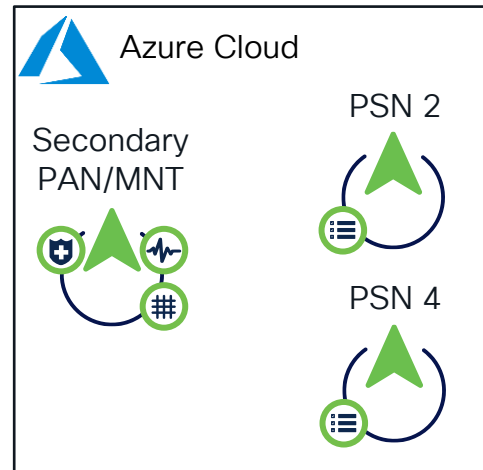
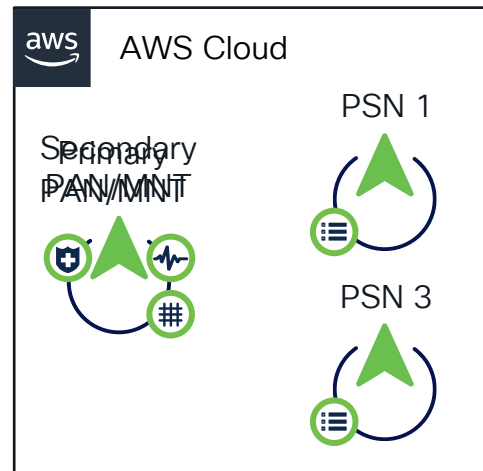


--- === Phase 4 === ---

1. Promote Secondary PAN/MNT to Primary
2. Remove Secondary PAN/MNT
3. Deploy Cloud Instance
4. Install Patch
5. Add Node to the Deployment

Considerations:

- (Optional) Certificates to be exported prior Removal of PAN, imported before adding Node to the Deployment



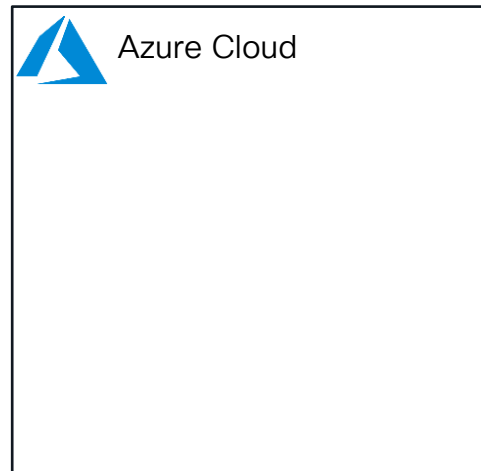
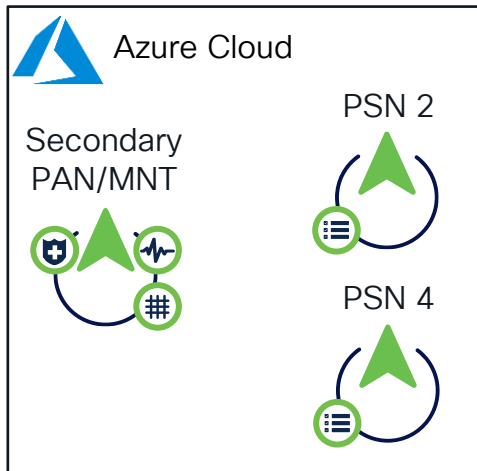
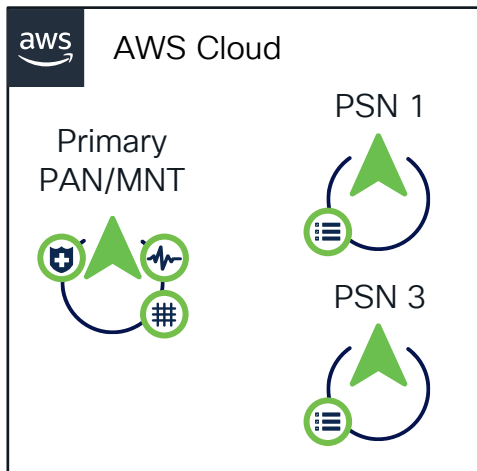
Upgrade



--- === Phase 0 === ---

- Plan
 - Review the Upgrade Guide
 - Take a Backup
 - Test Infrastructure
 - Time and Date for MW
 - Run Health Checks

Scenario: ISE 3.2 patch 4 Medium
Deployment Upgrade to ISE 3.3 patch 1



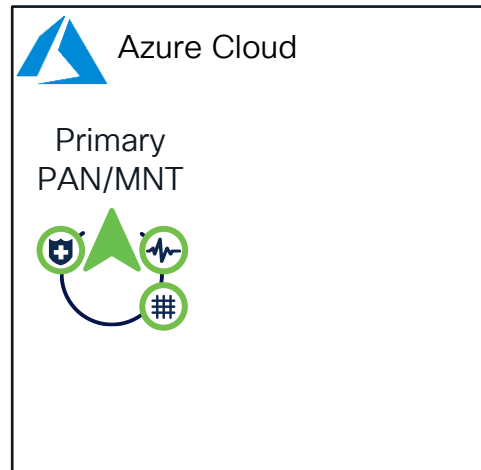
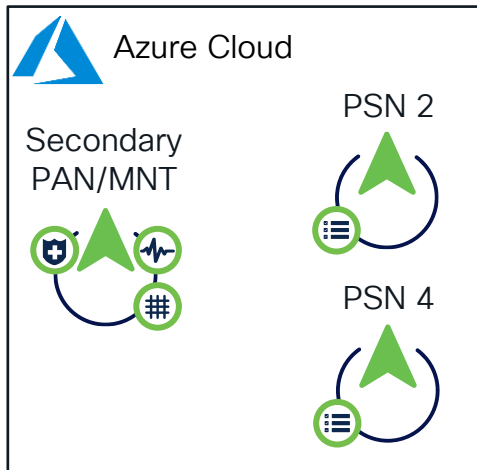
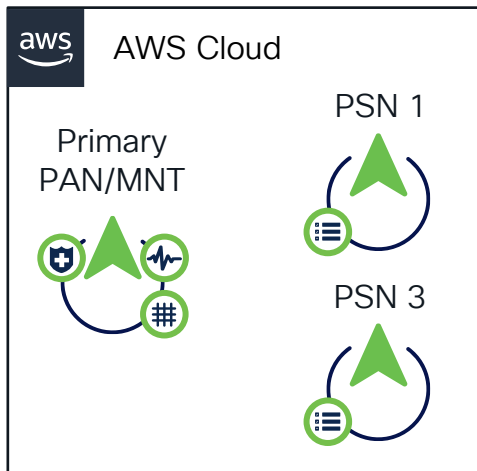
Upgrade

--- === Phase 1 === ---

- Deregister Secondary PAN/MNT and delete the instance
- Deploy the new instance to destination ISE release.
- Install the patch
- Restore the Backup
- Promote the Standalone Node to Primary PAN/MNT

Considerations:

- (Optional) Certificates to be exported prior Deregistration of Secondary PAN, imported after the Backup Restore



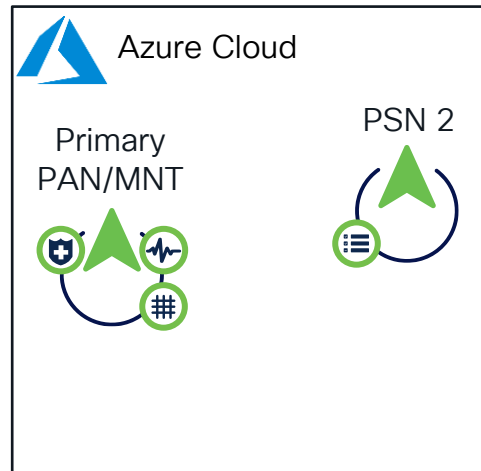
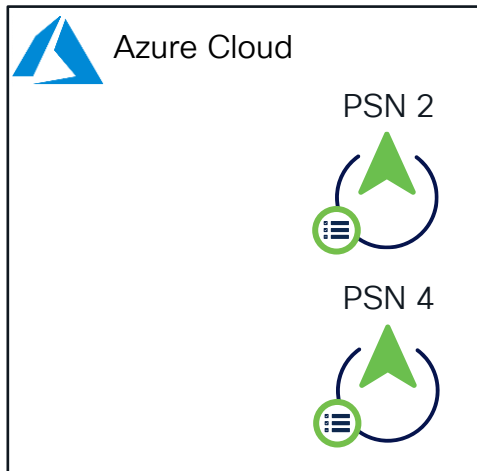
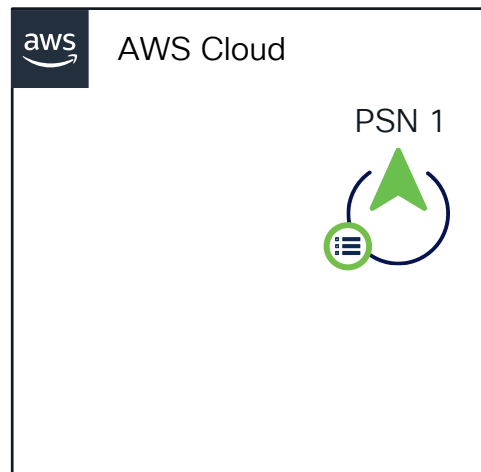
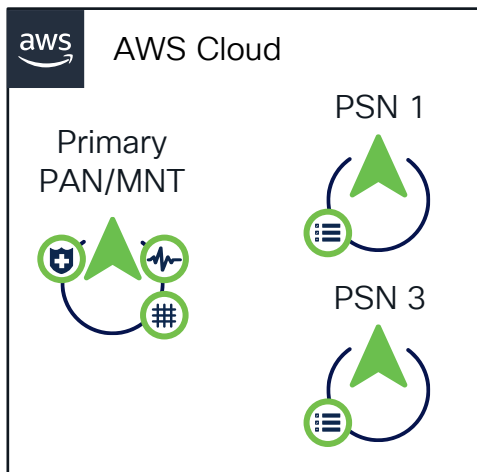
Upgrade

--- === Phase 2 === ---

- Deregister PSN1 and PSN2 and delete the instances
- Deploy the new instances to destination ISE release.
- Install the patch
- Join the new deployment
- Test

Considerations:

- (Optional) Certificates to be exported prior Deregistration of PSN1 and PSN2, imported before Joining the Deployment
- NAD's configuration should be evaluated prior Deregistration. Exclude PSN1 and PSN2 from LB Groups or ensure that high availability configuration includes PSN3 and PSN4



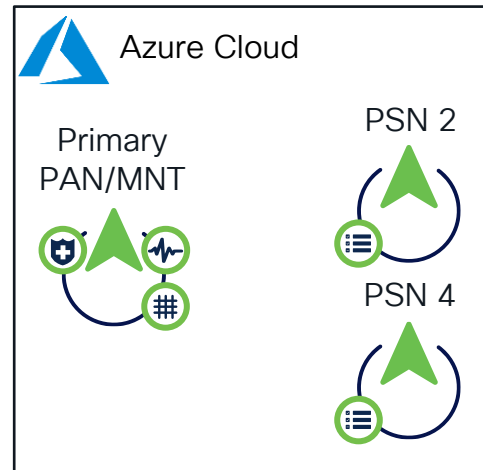
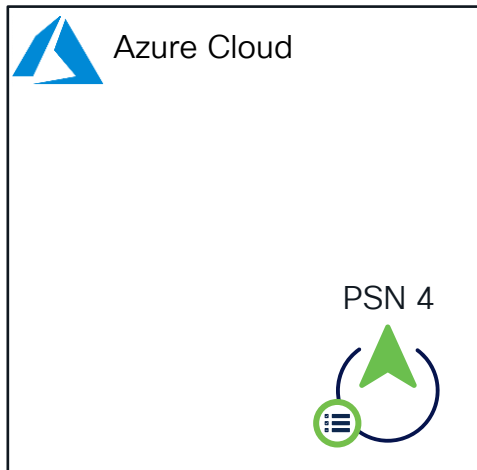
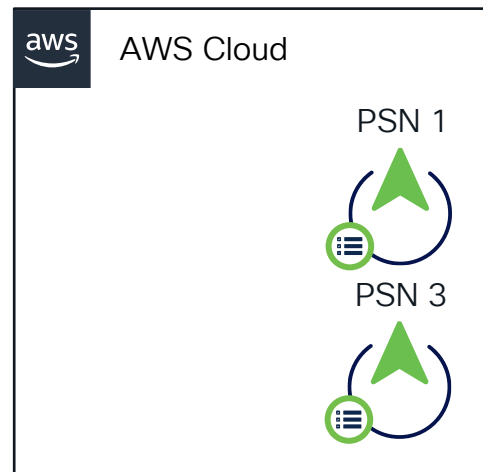
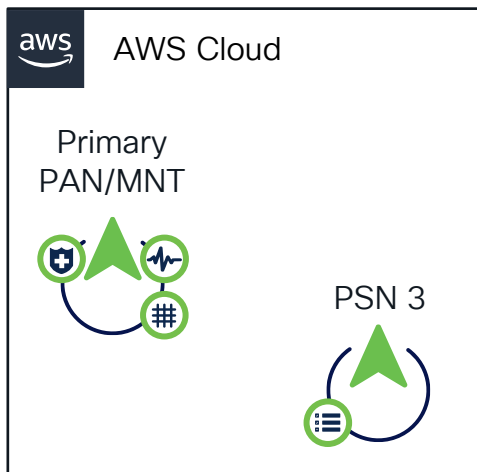
Upgrade

--- === Phase 3 === ---

- Deregister PSN3 and PSN4 and delete the instances
- Deploy the new instances to destination ISE release.
- Install the patch
- Join the new deployment
- Test

Considerations:

- (Optional) Certificates to be exported prior Deregistration of PSN3 and PSN4, imported before Joining the Deployment
- NAD's configuration should be evaluated prior Deregistration. Exclude PSN3 and PSN4 from LB Groups or ensure that high availability configuration includes PSN1 and PSN2



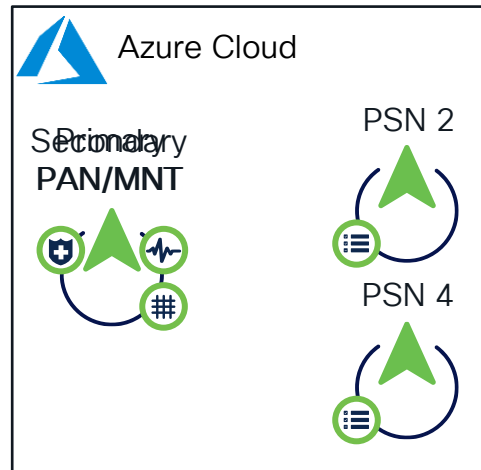
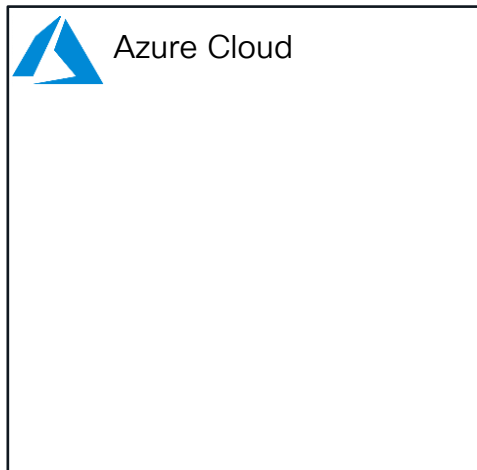
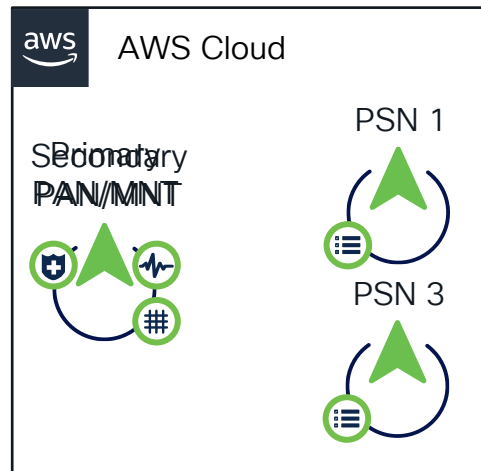
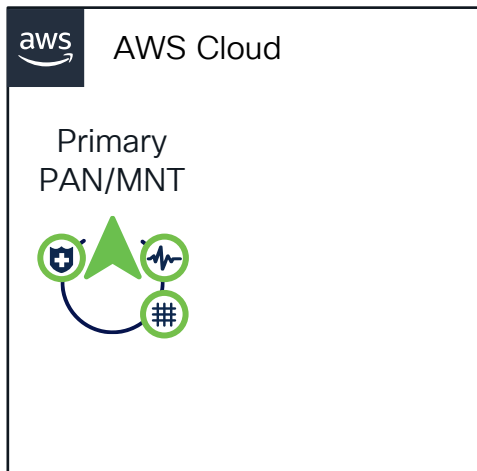
Upgrade

--- === Phase 4 === ---

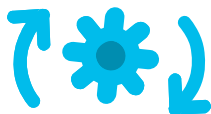
- Delete Primary PAN/MNT of old deployment
- Deploy the new instance to destination ISE release.
- Install the patch
- Join the new deployment
- Promote Secondary PAN/MNT to Primary PAN/MNT
- Test

Considerations:

- (Optional) Certificates to be exported prior Deregistration of Primary PAN, imported before joining the deployment



ISE in the Cloud. Design Considerations



- Upgrade workflow is not supported. Only fresh installs are supported. However, you can carry out backup and restore of configuration data



- SSH access to Cisco ISE CLI using password-based authentication is not supported. You can only access the Cisco ISE CLI through a key pair



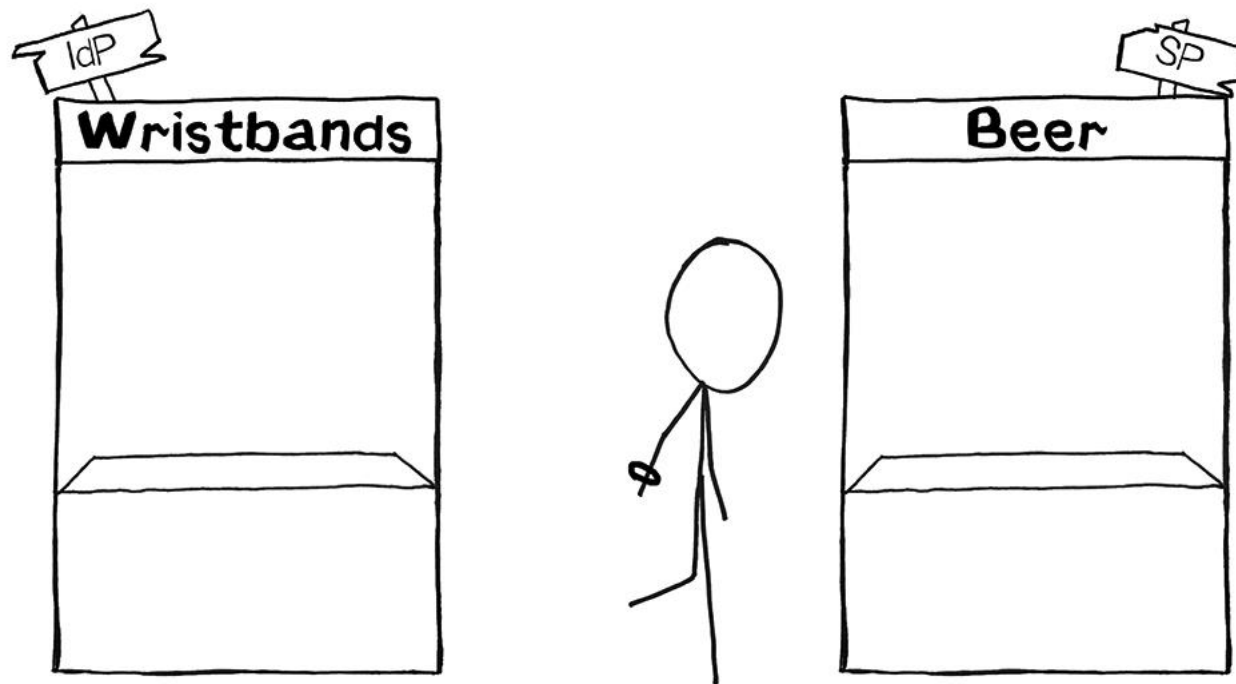
- Latency should be below 300 msec



- Starting ISE 3.2 default GUI username is “iseadmin”

ISE SAML SSO

What is SAML?



[The Beer Drinker's Guide to SAML](#)

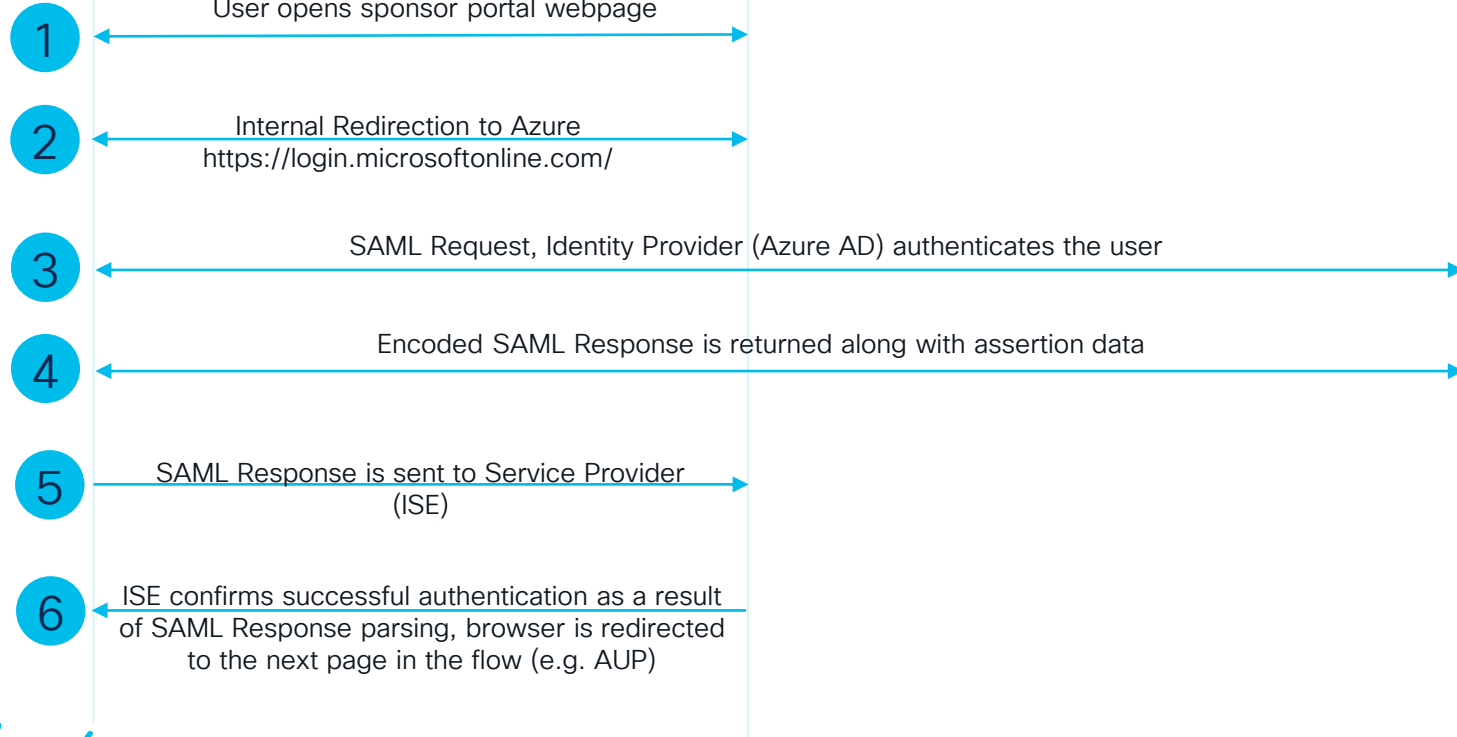
Web Browser



ISE

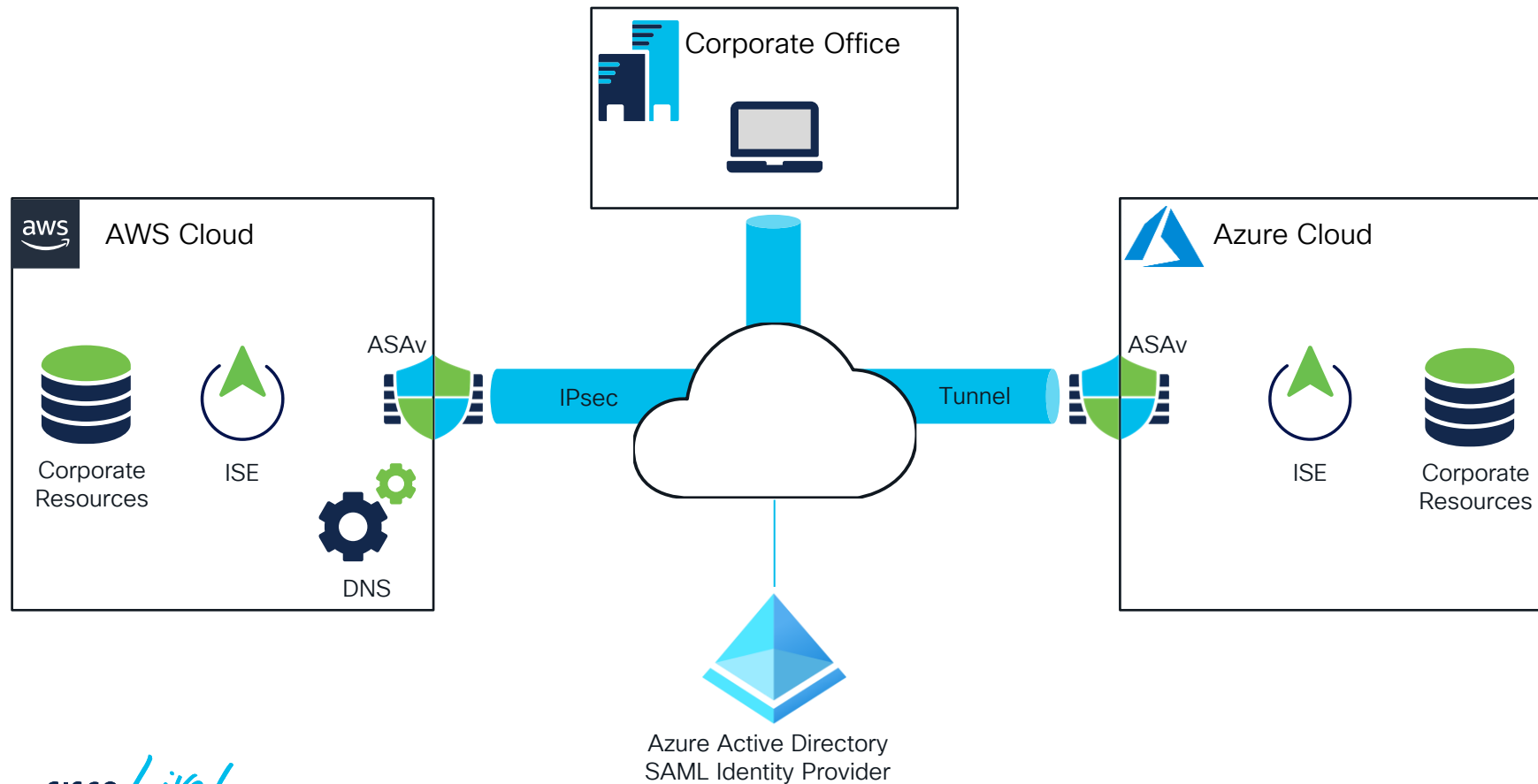


Azure AD



Demo. ISE Sponsor Portal Authentication with SAML

Deployment Topology



Route 53 Console Hosted Zones X

Identity Services Engine X

← → ↺

https://54.80.78.237/admin/#home

☆

E

APP

≡

Cisco ISE

Dashboard

Evaluation Mode 89 Days

🔍 ? 🗨 ⚙

Summary

Endpoints

Guests

Vulnerability

Threat

+

Manage

<

Total Endpoints

1

Active Endpoints

0

Rejected Endpoints

0

Anomalous Behavior

0

Authenticated Guests

0

BYOD Endpoints

0

C

>

AUTHENTICATIONS

Identity Store

Identity Group

Network Device

Failure Reason

NETWORK DEVICES

Device Name

Type

Location

ENDPOINTS

Profile

Logical Profile

BYOD ENDPOINTS

Type

Profile

ALARMS

Severity

Name

Occu...

Last Occurred

▼ Name

ISE Authentication In... 75 less than 1 min ...

SYSTEM SUMMARY

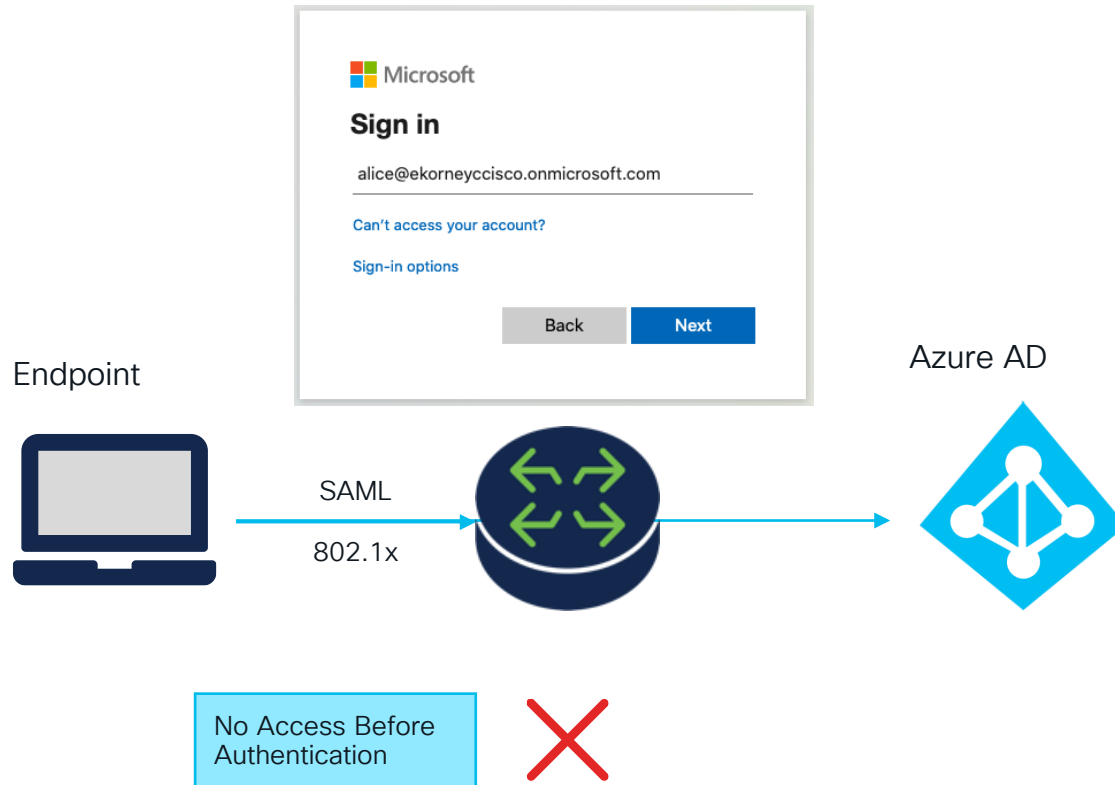
2 node(s)

ISE31-aws1

62

ISE Azure Active Directory Authentication

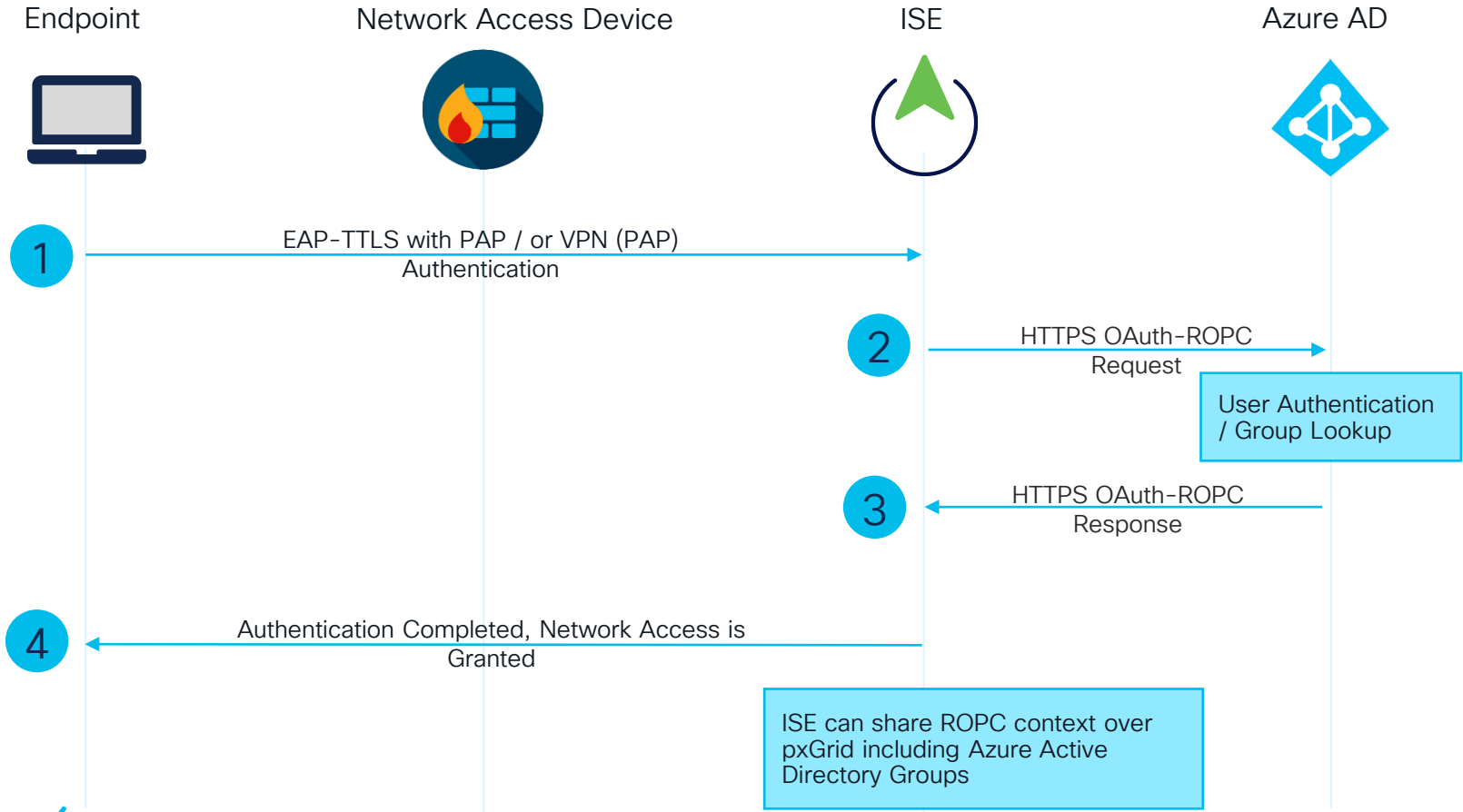
802.1x Authentication Problem with SAML



SAML assumes network connectivity, so the Endpoint can reach Identity Provider

802.1x being a Layer 2 authentication protocol, will grant Network Access after Authentication is completed

ROPC Flow Diagram



EAP-TLS Authorization with Azure Active Directory

Endpoint

Network Access Device

ISE

Azure AD



1

EAP-TLS / TEAP Authentication

2

REST API Group Lookup

Group Lookup

3

REST API Group Lookup
Response

4

Authentication Completed, Network Access is
Granted



NEW. ISE 3.2+

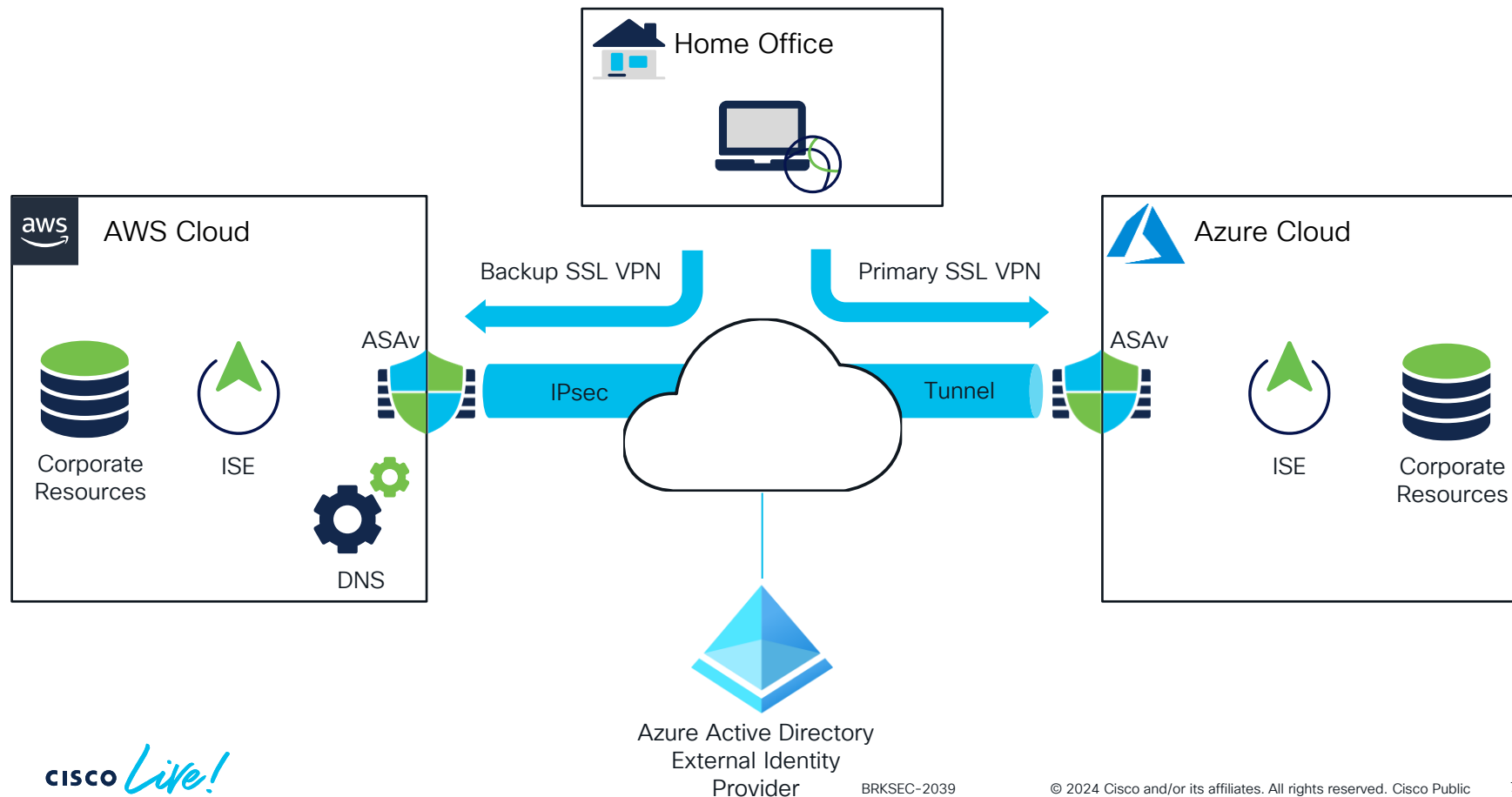
ROPC Limitations



- No user interactions allowed for password changes, MFA, or AUPs
- No new accounts that have not yet changed the default password
- Azure AD tenants and accounts only. No invited personal accounts or federated IdPs like Microsoft, Google+, Twitter, AD-FS, Facebook
- Only user authentication is supported

Demo. Remote Access VPN Authentication with Azure Active Directory

Deployment Topology



×

Manage 

Authenticated Guests ⓘ

C

- windo...ation - 100%

2 node(s)

71

Conclusion

Key Takeaways

- ISE can be deployed natively on AWS, Azure, OCI
- SAML SSO is available on ISE for Portals (Admin, Guest, Sponsor, etc.)
- 802.1X authentications, RA VPN authentications are possible with Azure Active Directory as an External Identity Store



The bridge to possible

Thank you

CISCO *Live!*

The background features a vibrant, multi-colored abstract design. On the left, there are overlapping, wavy shapes in shades of red, orange, and yellow. On the right, a bright white light source emits a series of colorful rays in shades of blue, green, and yellow, creating a sunburst effect. The overall composition is dynamic and energetic.

cisco *Live!*

Let's go