

Deploying SD-WAN in Air Gap Networks

CISCO Live !

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IIOT Solution Engineering Manager

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SDWAN Solutions Engineer

Cisco Webex App

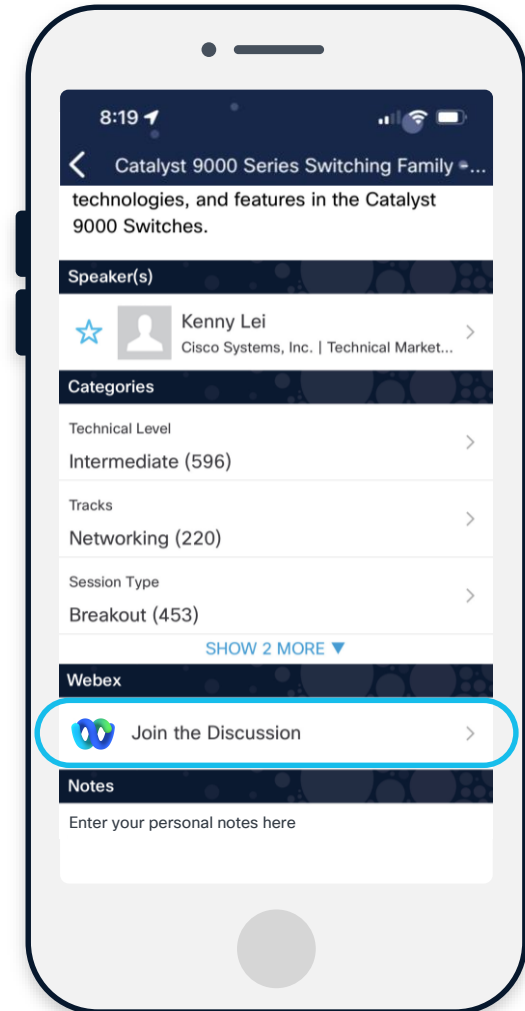
Questions?

Use Cisco Webex App to chat with the speaker after the session

How

- 1 Find this session in the Cisco Live Mobile App
- 2 Click “Join the Discussion”
- 3 Install the Webex App or go directly to the Webex space
- 4 Enter messages/questions in the Webex space

Webex spaces will be moderated by the speaker until June 13, 2025.

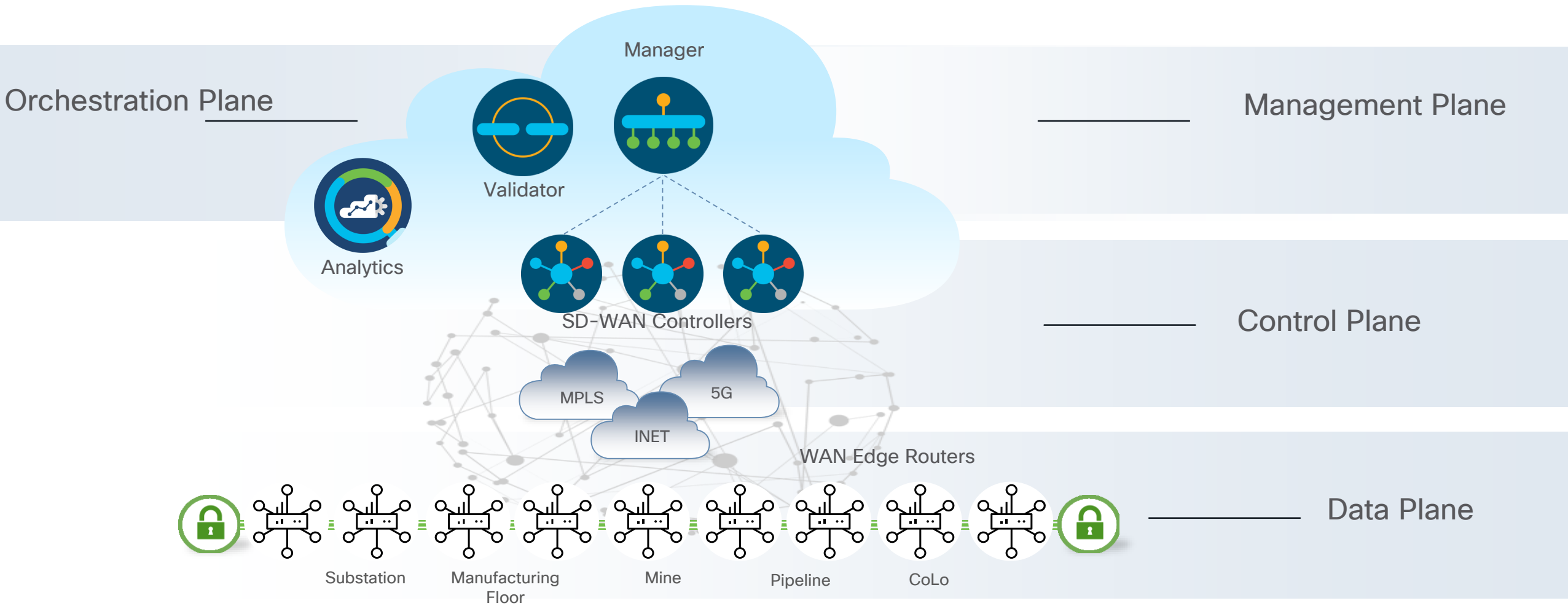


Agenda

- 01 Why Air Gap Networks?**
- 02 Why SD-WAN for Air Gap Networks?**
- 03 Building an Air Gap SD-WAN Fabric**
- 04 Additional Considerations**

Session Expectations

Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Solution Components



Why Air Gap Networks?

Securing What Matters Most



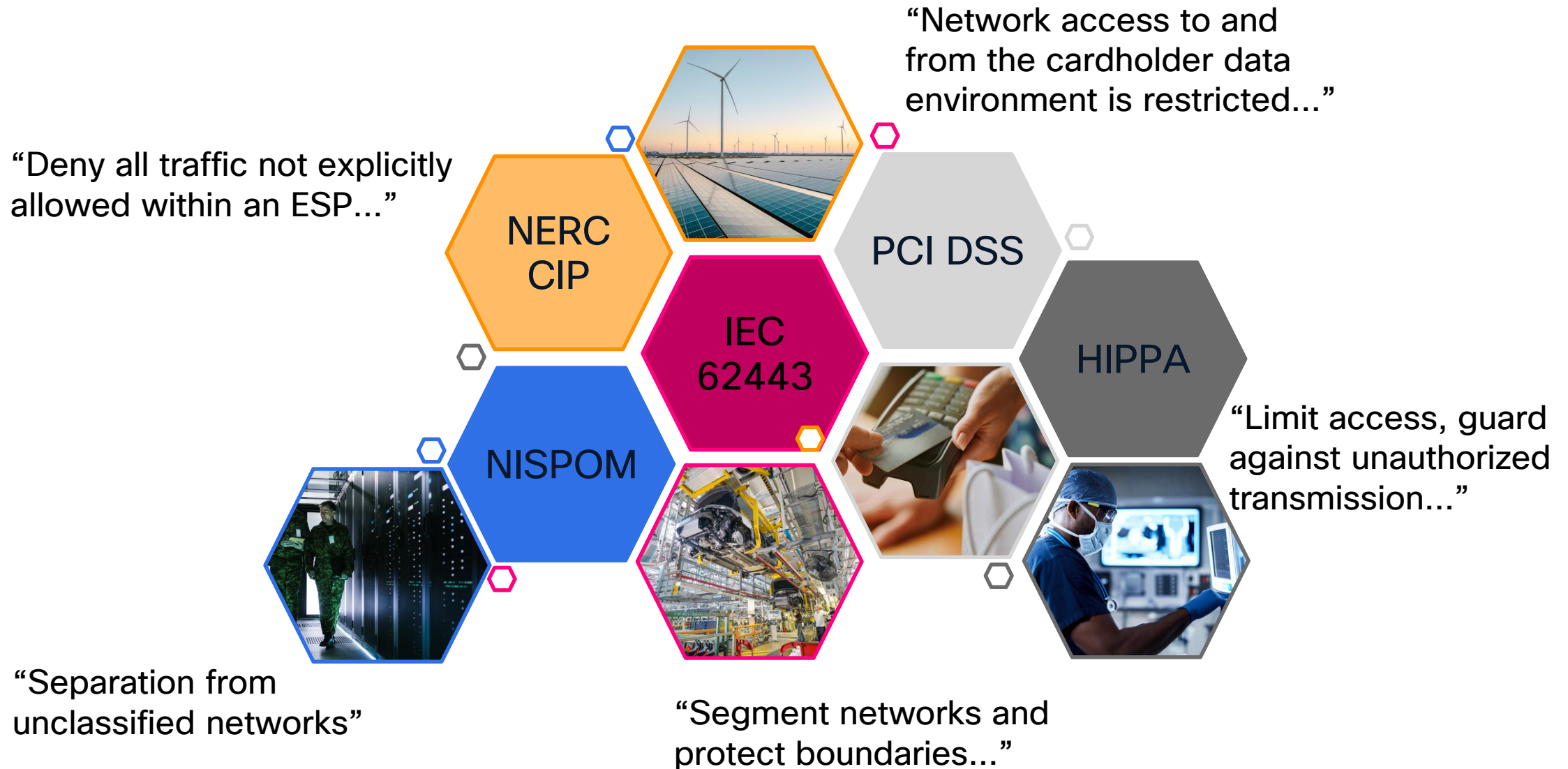
74% of data breaches involved network-based attacks

- 2021 IBM Cost of a Data Breach Report

Air-gapping critical systems reduces breach costs by up to **30%** compared to networked system

- 2023 Gartner Cyber Security Trends

Regulations Drive Requirements

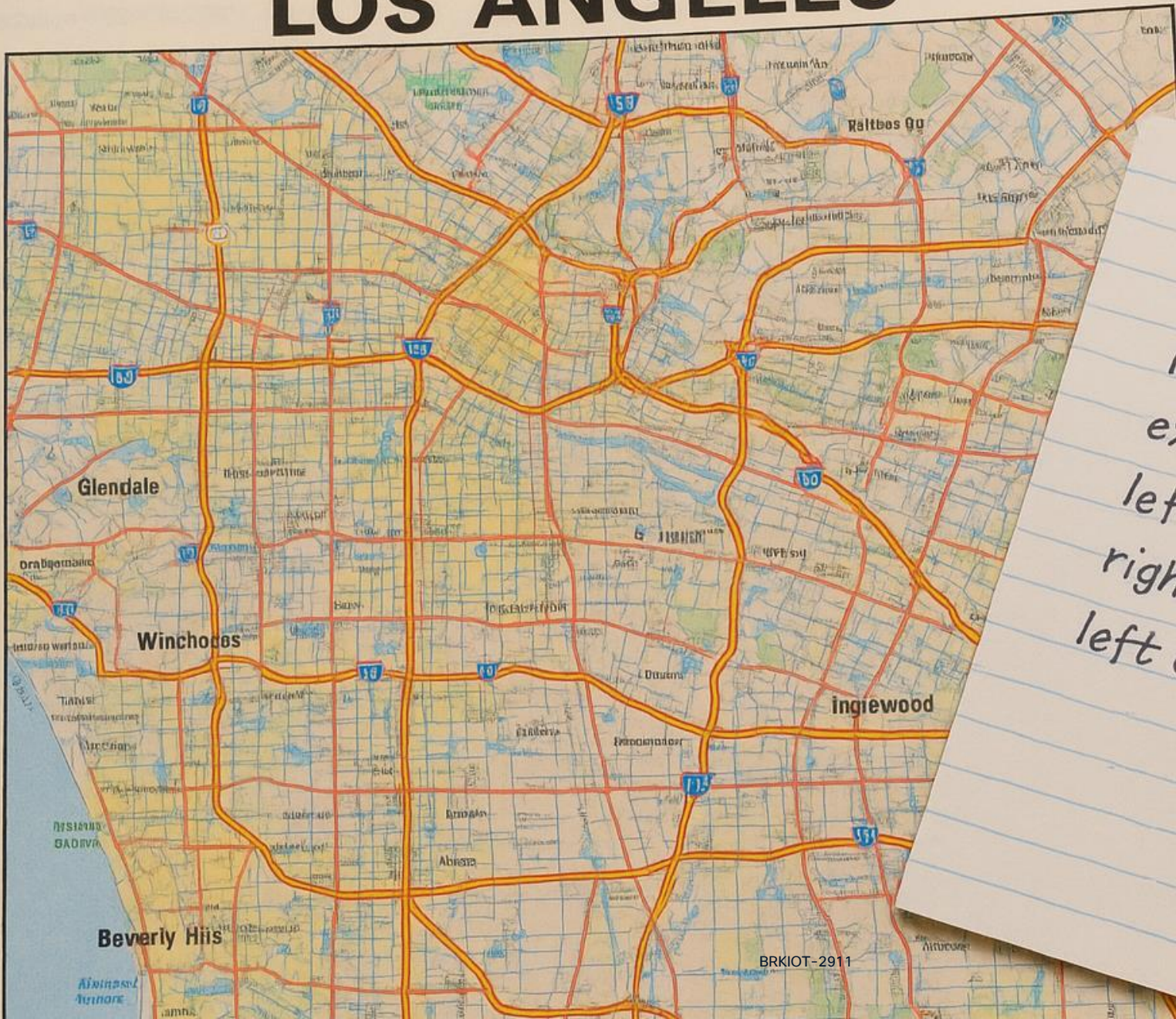




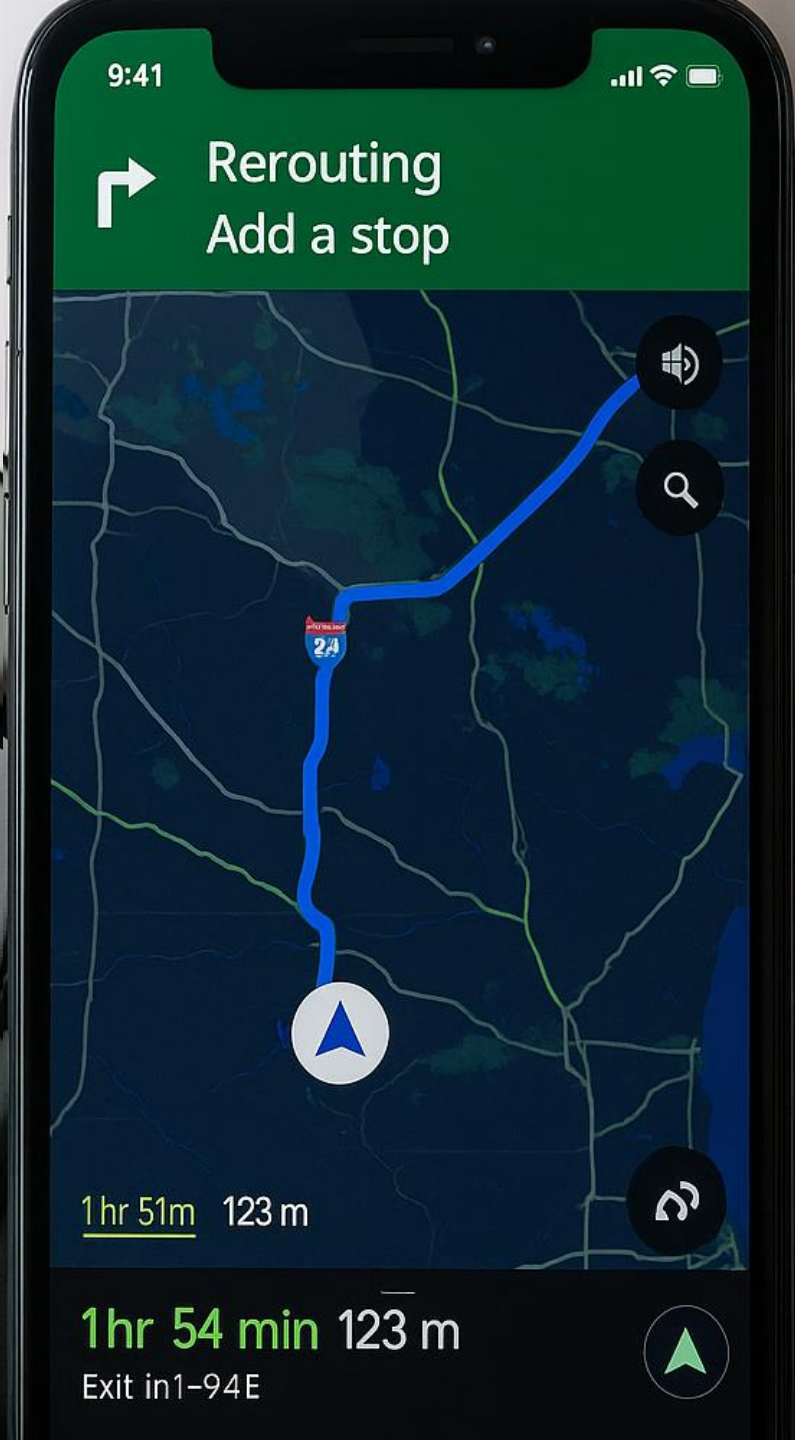
What Industry Do You Represent ?

Why SDWAN for Air Gap Networks?

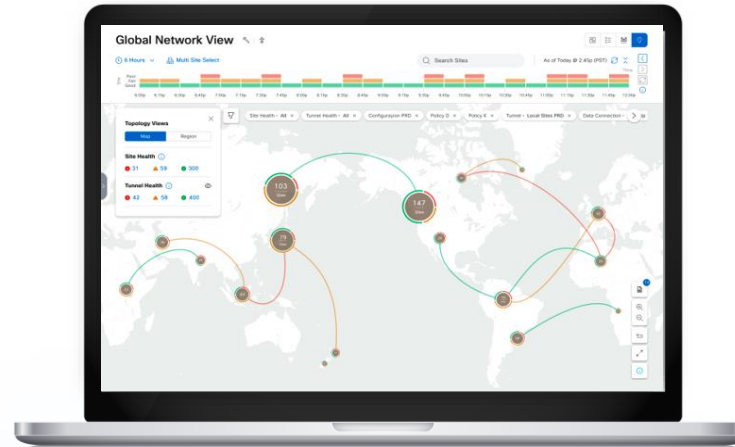
LOS ANGELES



DIRECTIONS:
101 S to I-110 S
exit 20A
left on S Flower St
right on W 9th St
left on Grand Ave



SD-WAN for Air Gap Networks Provide



Single Platform



Automation

Zero-Touch,
Templates, Guided
Workflows



Monitoring

Network health data
Enhanced topology



Advanced Security

Zero Trust,
Segmentation



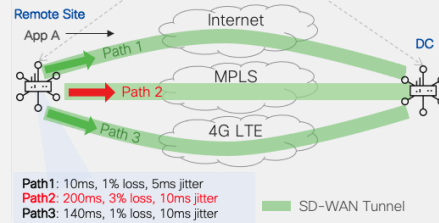
Application Experience

App Routing, QoS

Enhanced Application Experience

Application Aware routing

- Detects brownout conditions in overlay path.
- SLA based traffic steering
- Automatic failover to secondary path if primary path fails.



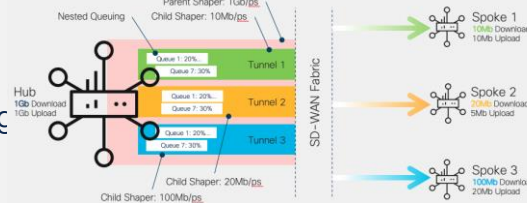
Packet Duplication

- Send duplicate packets over alternate path
- Mitigate packet loss for critical voice or video traffic
- Enhances Application quality of experience



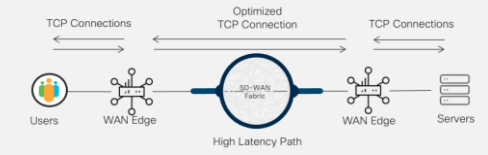
Quality of Service (QoS)

- Manage and avoid network congestion
- Guaranteed Bandwidth
- Traffic queueing and shaping
- Prioritize critical application traffic over other traffic.



TCP optimization

- BBR2 Congestion control algorithm
- Window scaling
- Large Initial windows
- Selective acknowledgement
- Helps in reducing latency and increase throughput



Forward Error Correction

- Protects against packet loss
- Protocol agnostic (TCP/UDP)
- Enhances Application quality of experience



DRE, LZW

- Traffic optimization techniques
- Byte level caching & Data compression
- Protocol agnostic



Advanced Security Capabilities

Fabric Security



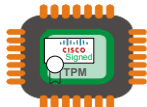
Encrypted
Control Plane



Encrypted
Data Plane



Enhanced
Security -
Pairwise keys



HW Based Device
Authentication
(SUDI)

Sec-Ops Monitoring & Visibility



Manager SecOps
Dashboard

splunk>

LiveAction

End-to-End
Monitoring & Visibility

Embedded Security



Firewall
Stateful
ZBFW



Segmentation
With Multi-Topology



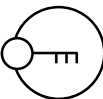
TrustSec



IPS
Protection



Unified Policy &
Logging



Zero Trust

L4-7 Security



DNS security



Simplified
Configuration



Traffic Steering
Policies



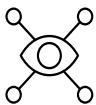
Layer-7 Health
Check



IPsec Tunnel
Connection



Traffic Load
Balancing
(ECMP)



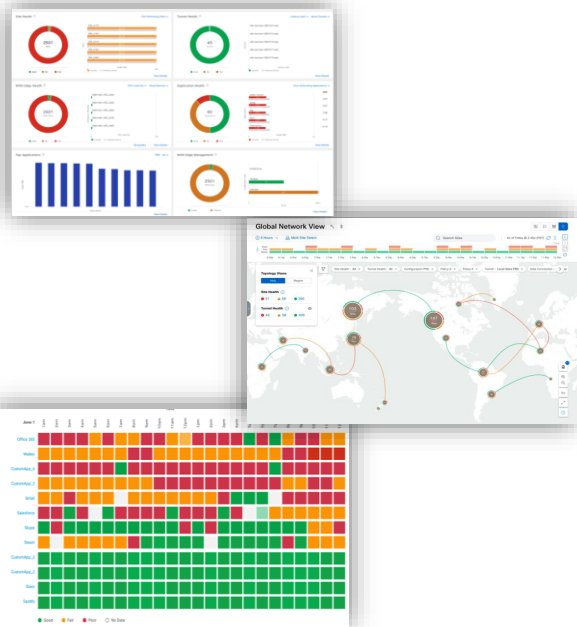
Cyber
Vision



Secure
Equipment
Access

Troubleshooting & Monitoring

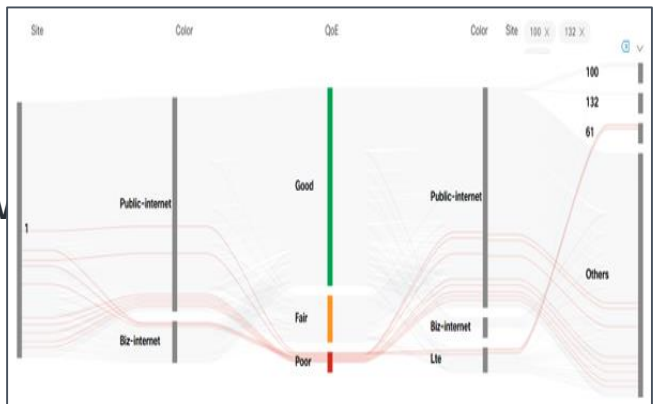
Visibility into Network & Applications



Historical Trends & Daily/Weekly/Monthly Aggregates



Troubleshooting w/ Extensive Traffic Analysis

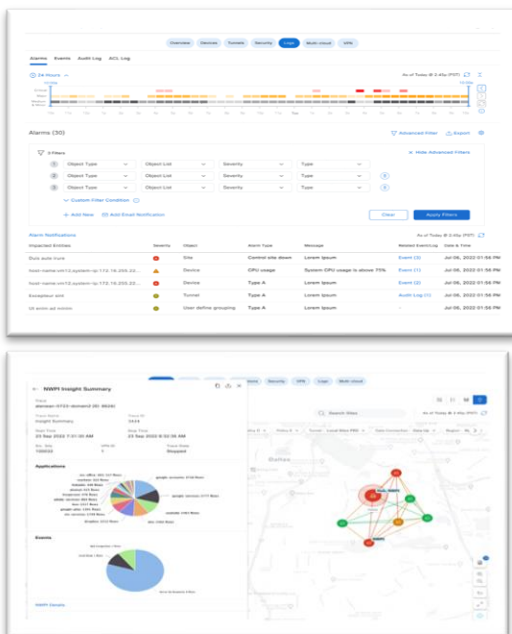


Traffic flow patterns

Underlay path tracing

App distribution across circuits

Advanced Troubleshooting



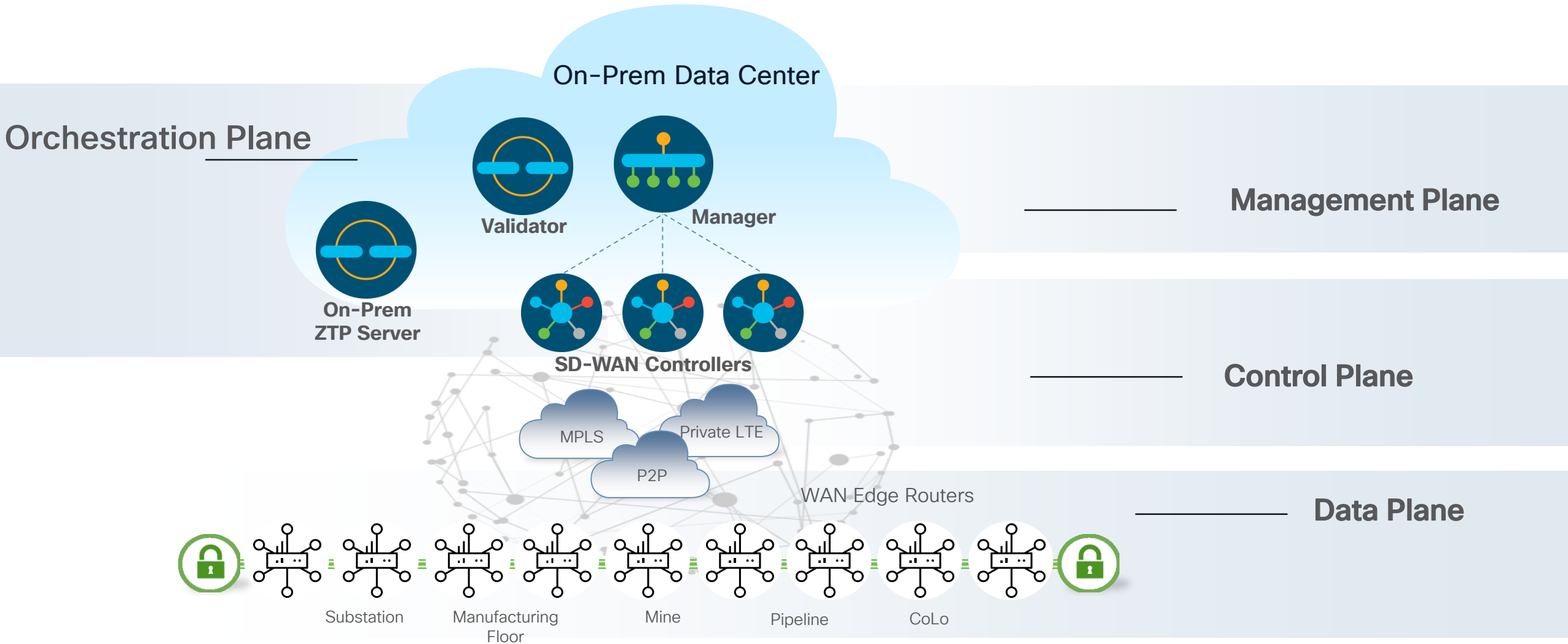
Site Topology w/ Troubleshooting Tools

Alarm Correlation

Building an Air Gapped SDWAN Fabric

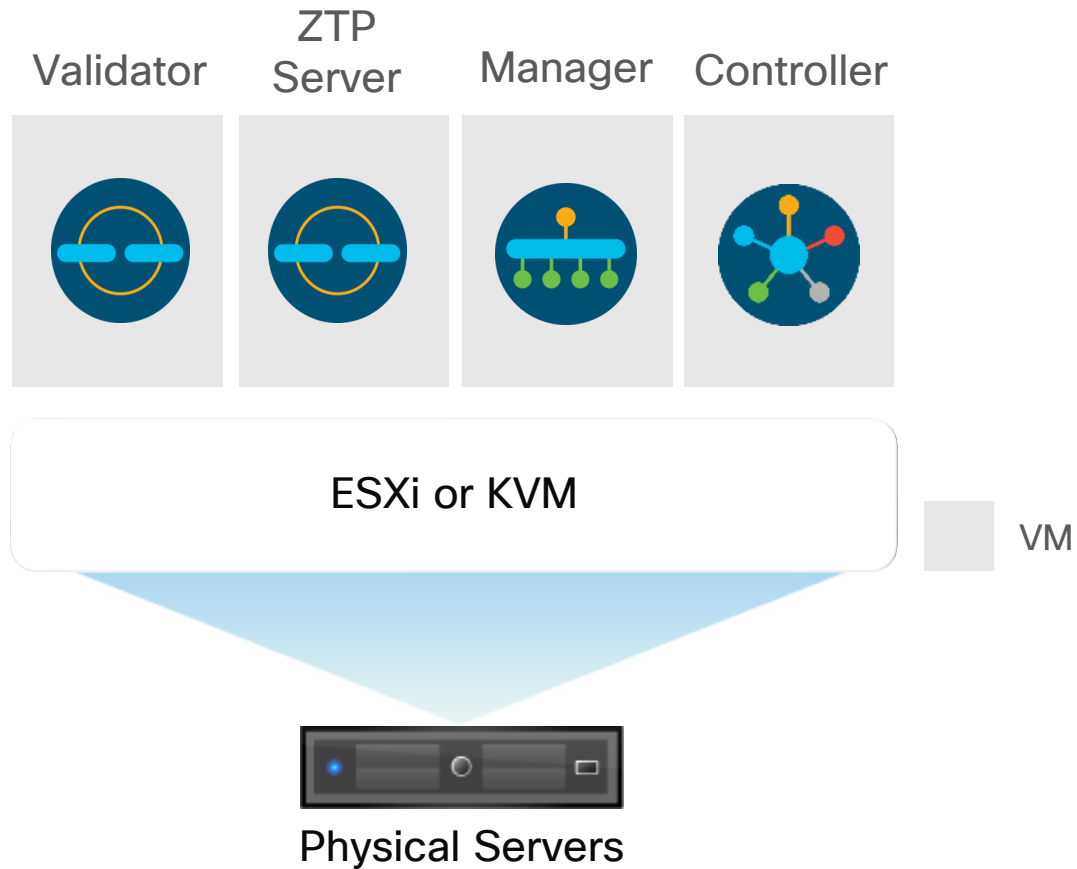


Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Solution Components

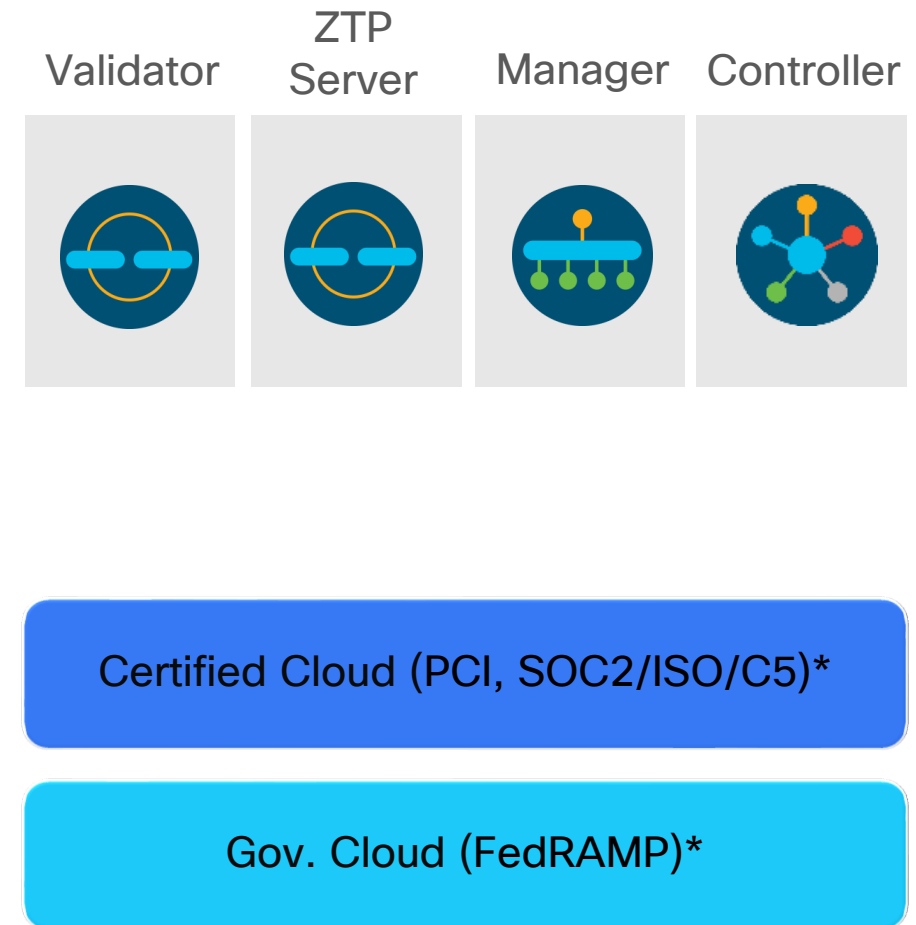


Control Element Deployment Options

On-Premise



Hosted



Please see the [Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Getting Started Guide](#) for details on Resource Requirements of all components

Comprehensive Portfolio of Data Plane Elements

SD-WAN + Services



C8500 Secure Router
Data Center



C8400 Secure Router
Campus



C8300 Secure Router
Large Branch



C8200 Secure Router
Medium Branch



C8100 Secure Router
Small Branch



Catalyst 8500L/8500



Catalyst 8300



Catalyst 8200



ISR1K / ISR 1100-4G/6G



Catalyst 8000V

Rugged Series Routers



IR 1101



IR 8300



IR 1800



IR 8140



450Mhz
(PIM)



Anterix
900Mhz
(PIM)



4G LTE
(PIM)



5G/sub-6
(PIM)



CG522
5G/Sub-6 GHz

Cellular
LTE / 5G

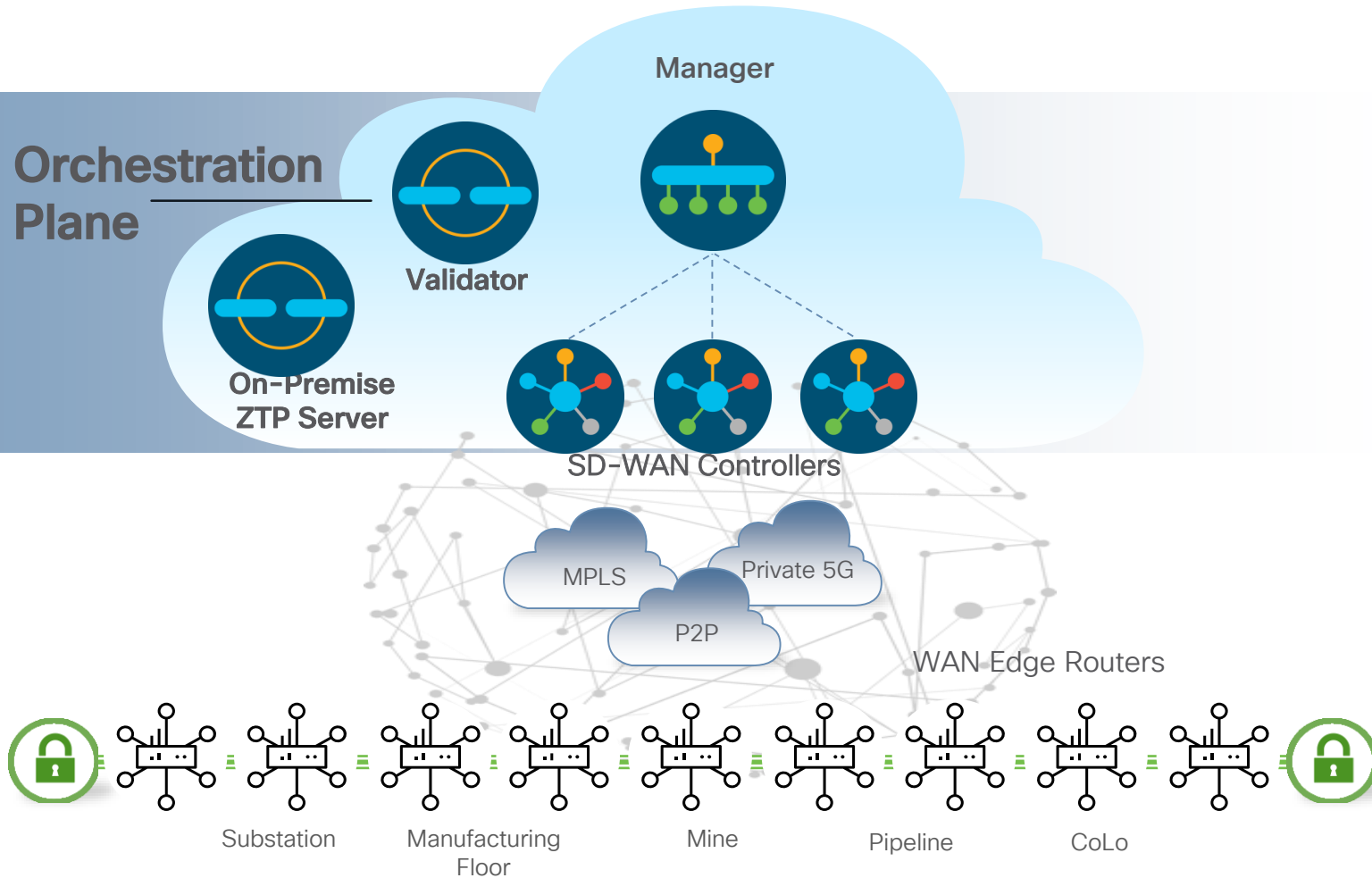


FIRSTNET
Built with AT&T

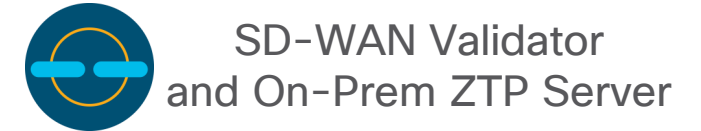
4G			5G
LTE	LTE Advanced		LTE Advanced Pro
CAT 4 150 Mbps DL	CAT 6 300 Mbps DL	CAT 11 600 Mbps DL	CAT 18 1.2 Gbps DL
			5G 6.5 Gbps DL

Orchestration Plane for Air Gap

Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Solution Elements



Orchestration Plane



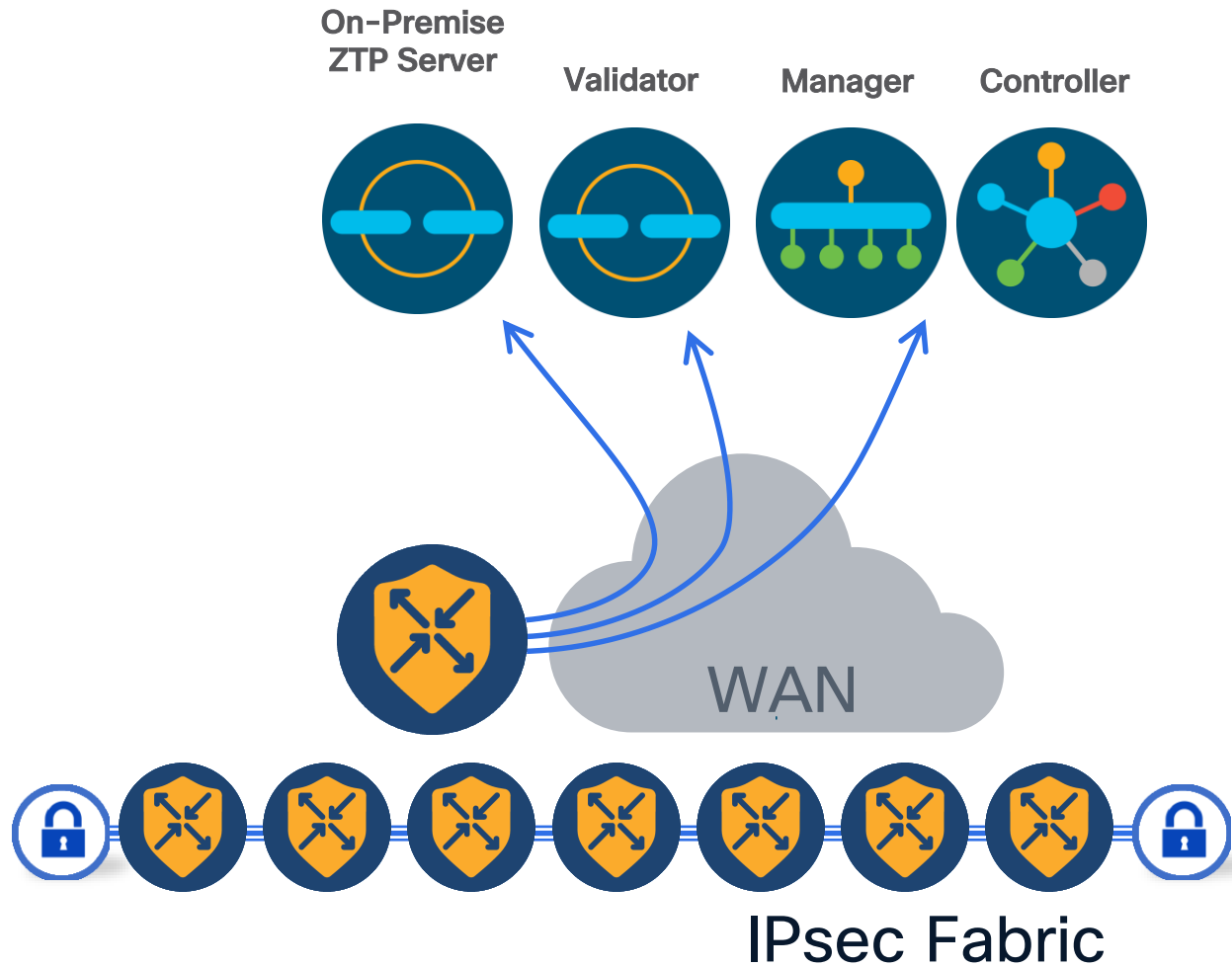
On-Premise ZTP Server

- Automates secure day-zero onboarding and deployment of WAN Edge devices with factory settings.
- Performs same function as **devicehelper.cisco.com** but for air gap deployments.

Validator

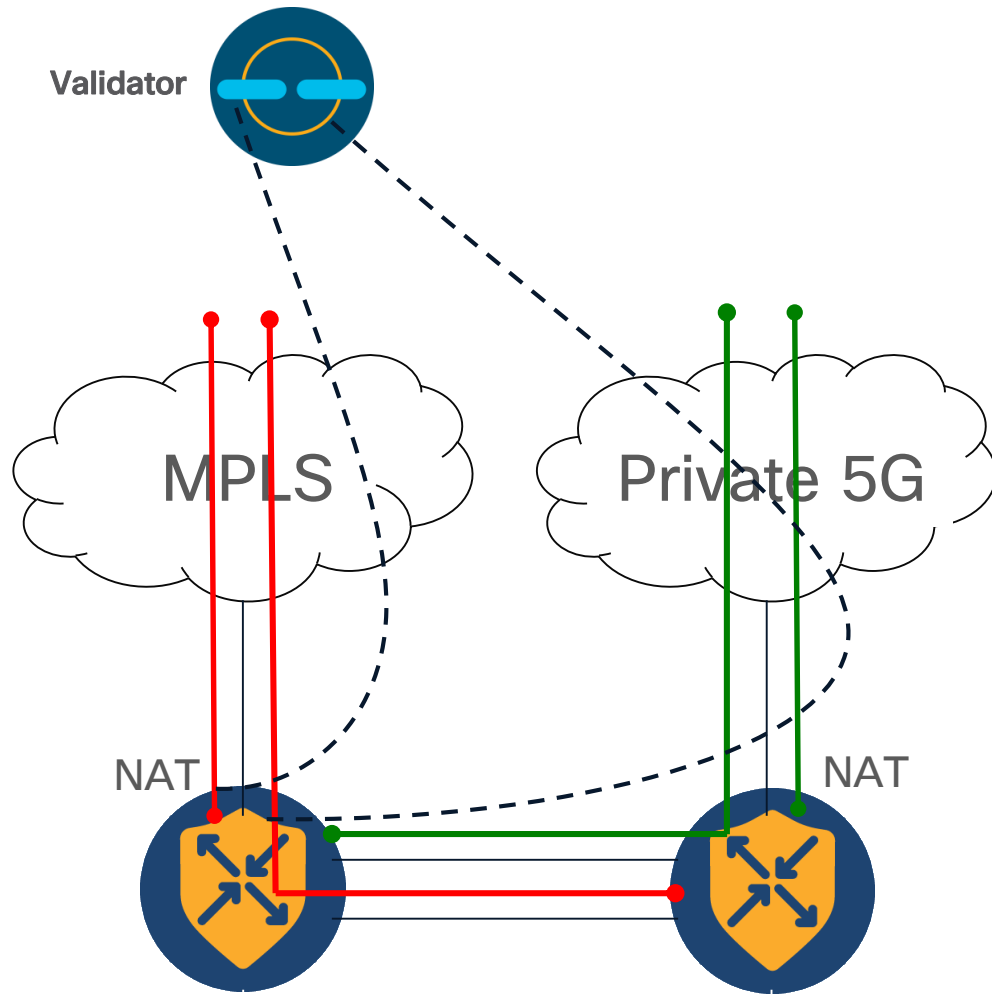
- Orchestrates control and management plane
- Functionally the same with no difference to non-air gapped deployment

Options for Onboarding Devices in Air gap



- **DHCP:** Connect the SD-WAN appliance to a WAN transport that can provide a dynamic IP address, default-gateway and DNS information.
- **AutoIP:** Allows SD-WAN appliances to “learn” their static IP assignment through ARP requests/responses. Programs itself with 8.8.8.8 for DNS server which would need to be represented in the air gap network if this choice is used.
- **Browser:** ZTP option to pre-stage SD-WAN Appliance. Requires L2 module.
- **USB:** Option to bootstrap SD-WAN appliance
- **Cellular:** If cellular network can provide APN information OTA, otherwise use options above

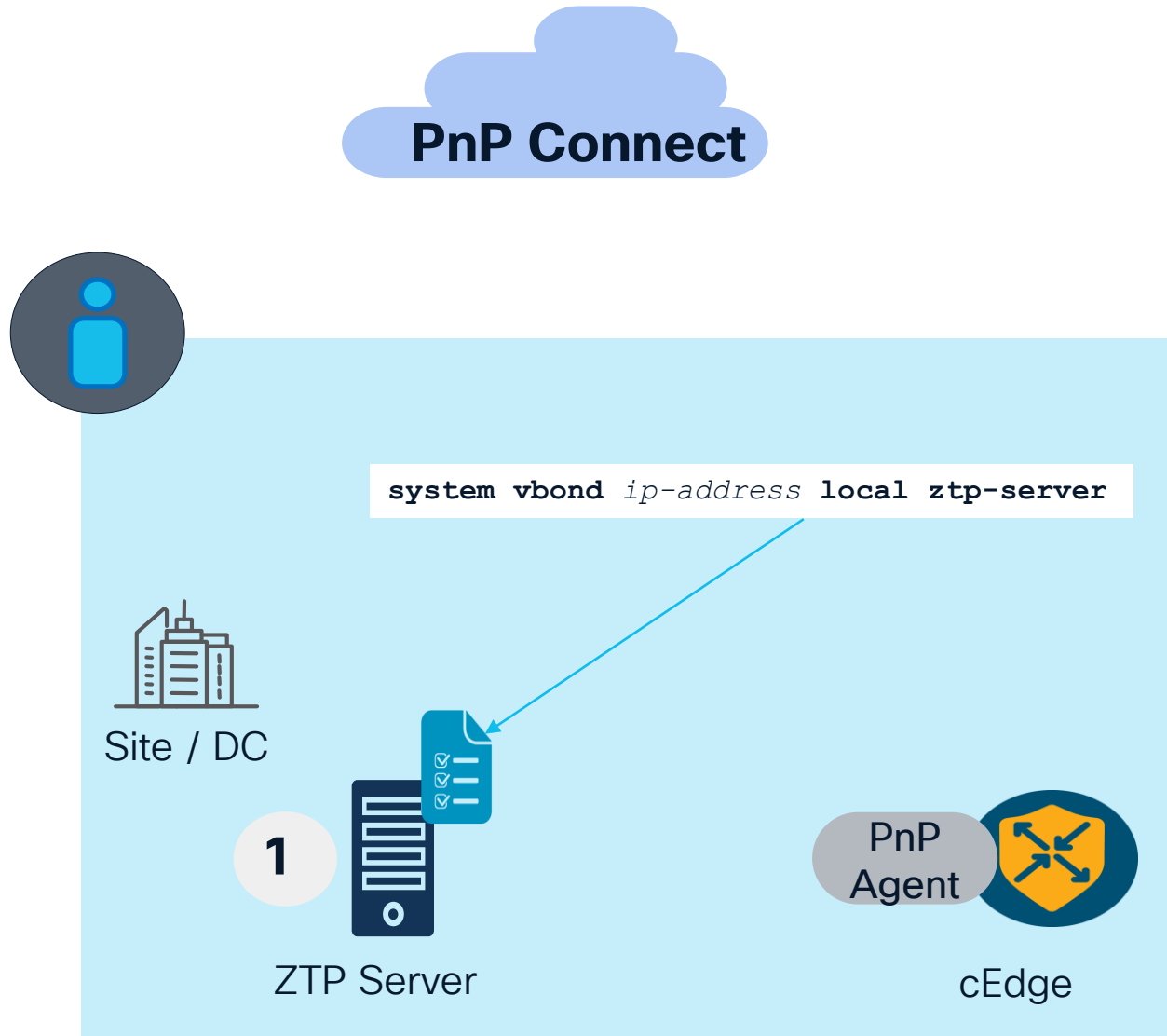
TLOC Extension in Air gap



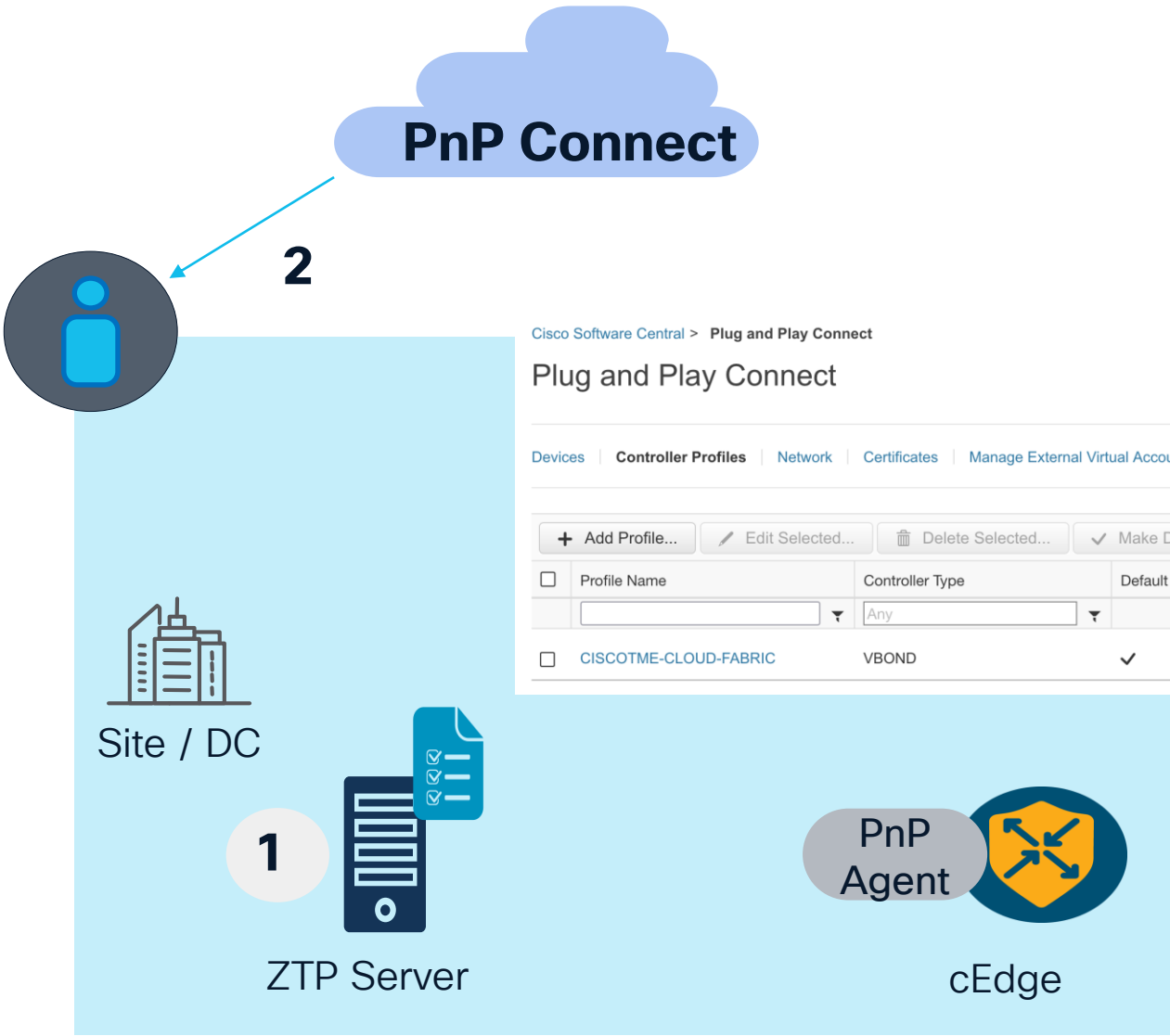
- Hybrid Networks: TLOC extension avoids NAT when using private IPs for tunnels. Typically requires use of BGP to advertise TLOC extension subnet
- Air Gap Networks: TLOCs can use NAT for TLOC-extensions if no NAT gateway exists between the WAN circuit and validator
- Note: Make sure to use public color for TLOC when using NAT and TLOC-Extension

On-Prem ZTP Overview

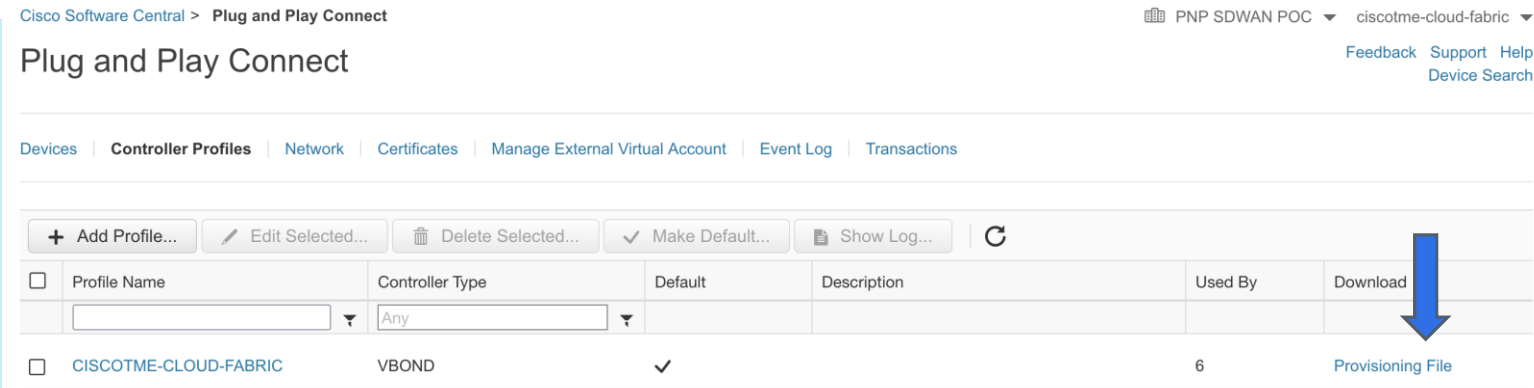
1. Start ZTP server by configuring a Validator as a ZTP server.



On-Prem ZTP Overview



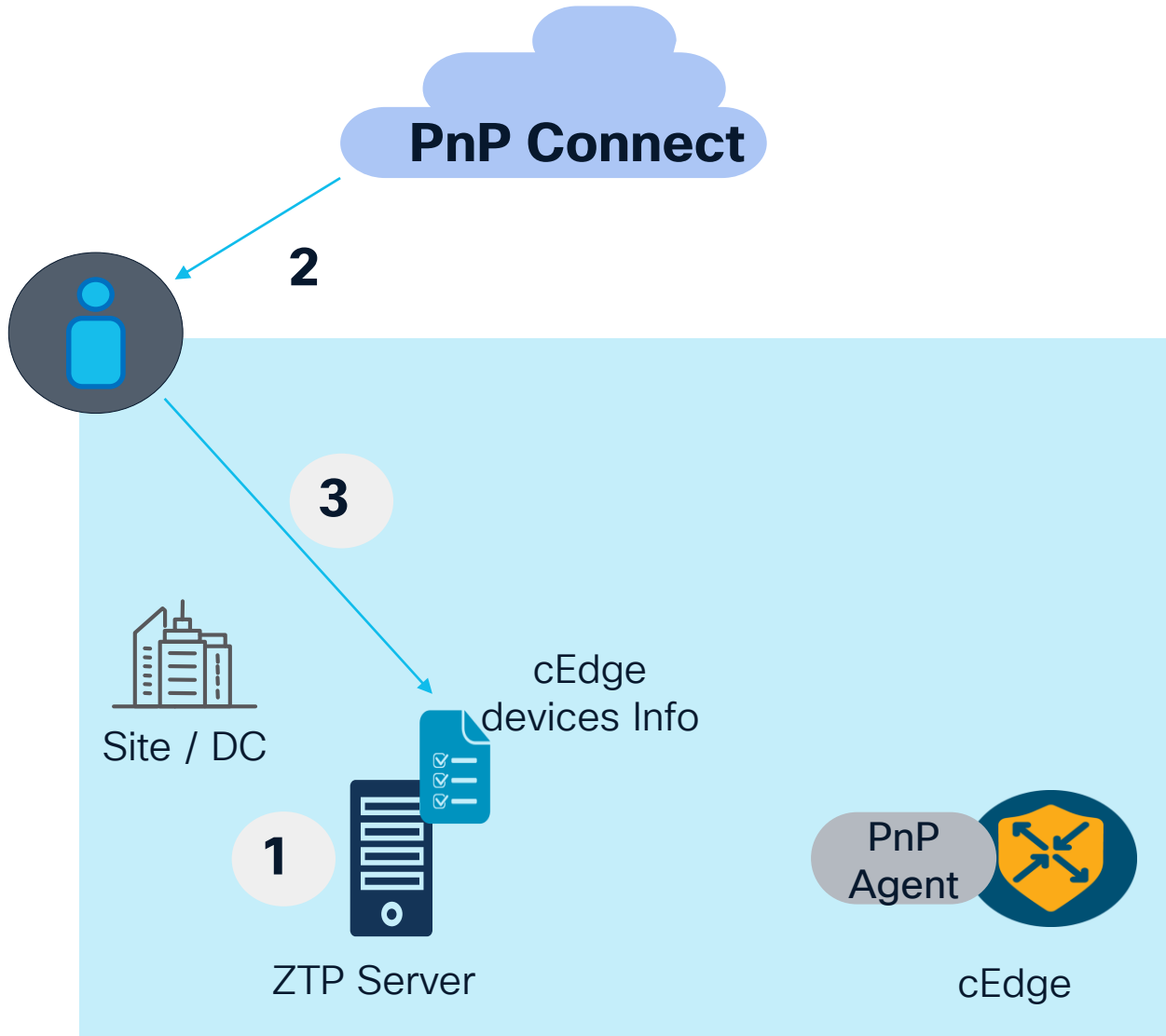
1. Start ZTP server by configuring a Validator as a ZTP server.
2. Manually download chassis zip file from PnP Connect portal and extract JSON file



Sample serial_file JSON file:

```
{
  "version": "1.1",
  "organization": "vIptela Inc Regression",
  "overlay": "vIptela Inc Regression",
  "root_cert_bundle": "-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----
<Certificate>
-----END CERTIFICATE-----",
  "controller_details": {
    "primary_ipv4": "10.0.12.26",
    "primary_port": "12346"
  },
  "chassis_list": [
    {
      "chassis": "JAE21491ABC",
      "SKU": "ASR1002-HX",
      "HWPID": "ASR1002-HX",
      "serial_list": [
        {
          "sudi_subject_serial": "JAE21491ABC",
          "sudi_cert_serial": "021c0203",
          "HWPID": "ASR1002-HX"
        }
      ]
    }
  ],
  "timestamp": "2019-10-21 23:40:02.248"
}
```

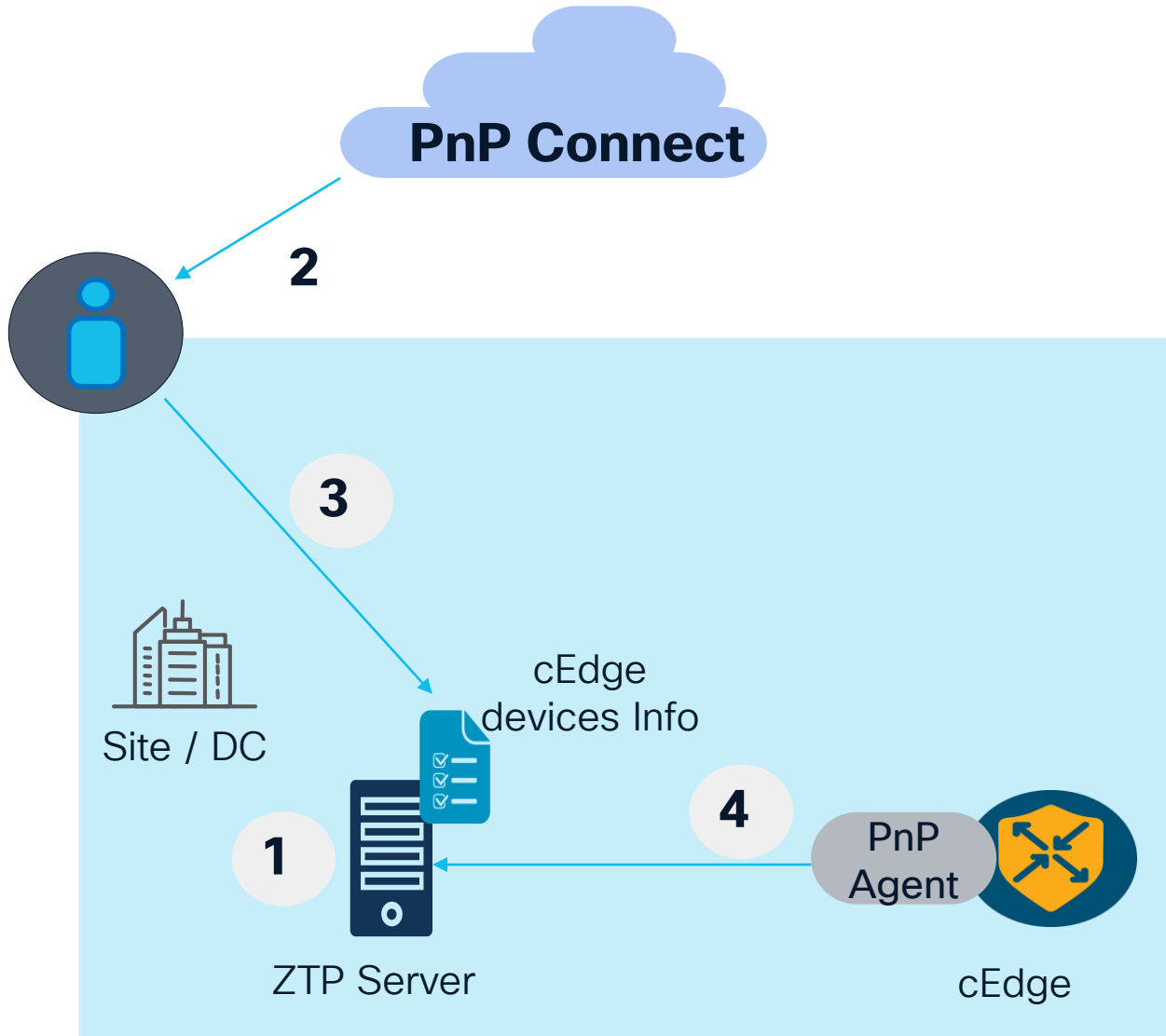
On-Prem ZTP Overview



1. Start ZTP server by configuring a Validator as a ZTP server.
2. Manually download chassis zip file from PnP Connect portal and extract JSON file
3. Upload/add JSON file to ZTP server and verify cEdge information

```
Add - Validator# request device-upload chassis-file JSON-file-name  
Verify -Validator# show ztp entries  
Verify - Validator# show orchestrator valid-devices
```

On-Prem ZTP Overview

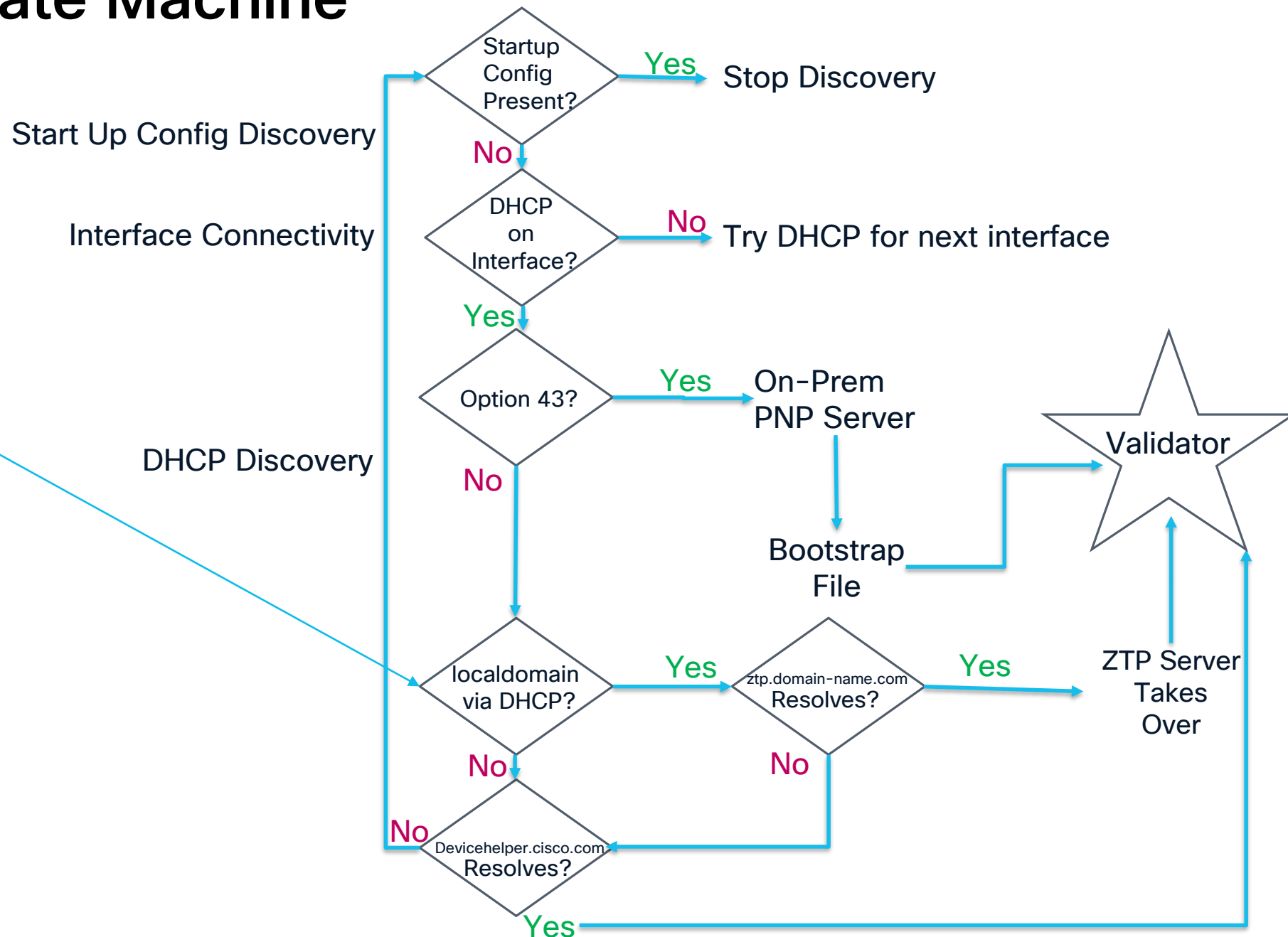


1. Start ZTP server by configuring a Validator as a ZTP server.
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3. Upload/add JSON file to ZTP server and verify cEdge information
4. Power-ON cEdge. PnP agent connects to ZTP server

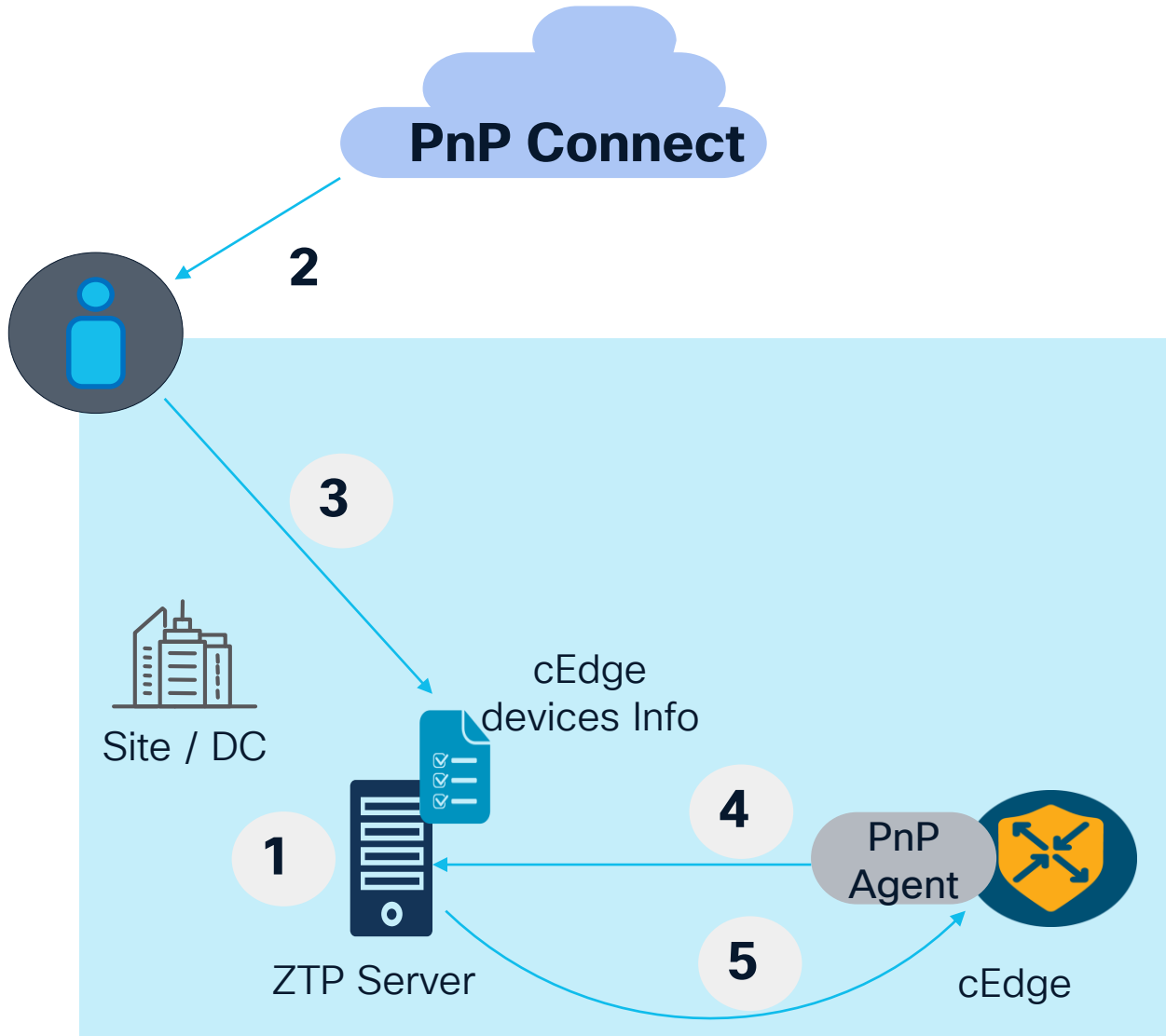
ZTP Discovery State Machine

PnP-agent on cEdge tries to connect to the on-prem ZTP server

If not available, it will try to connect to the cloud-based PnP server.

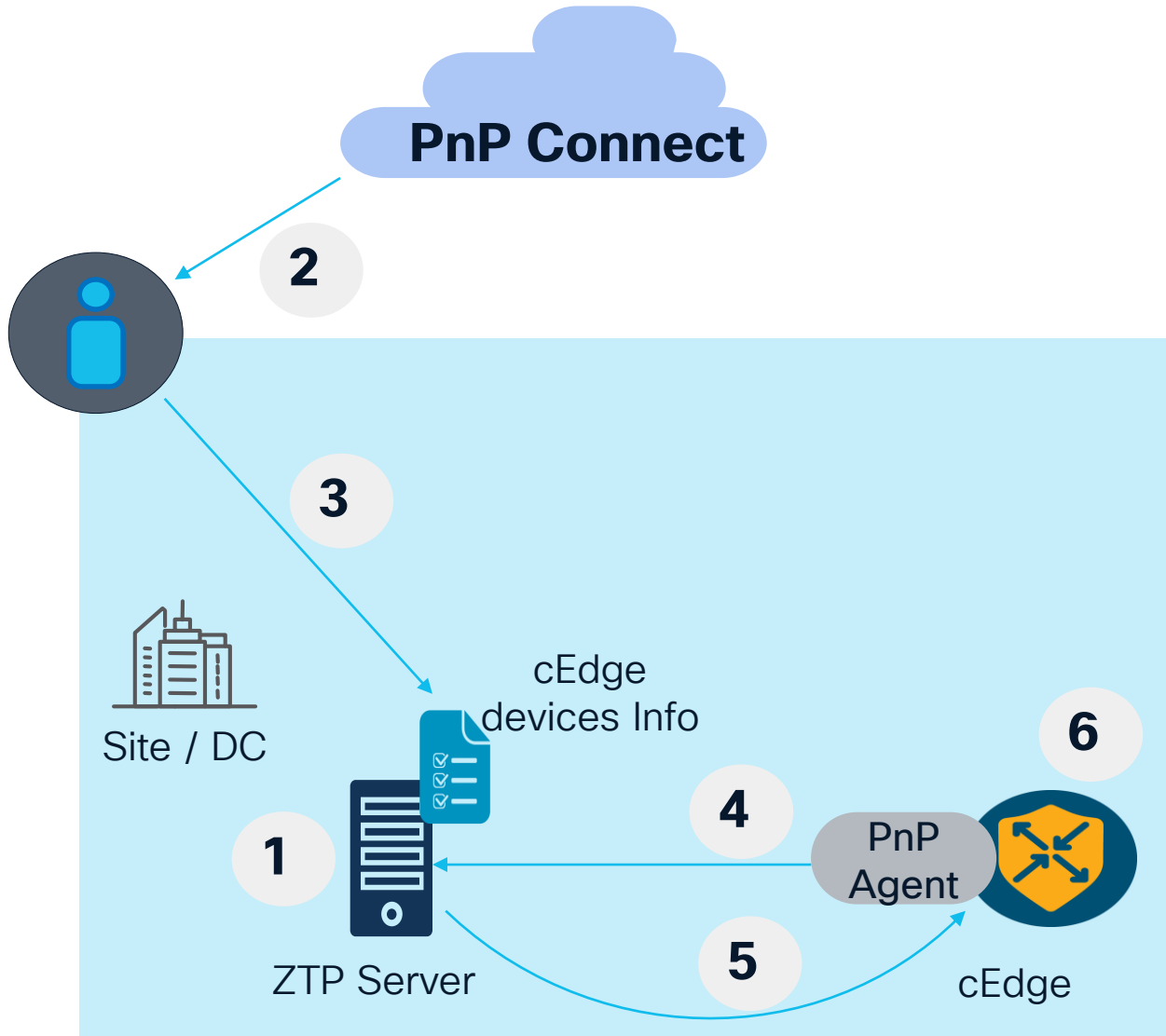


On-Prem ZTP Overview



1. Start ZTP server by configuring a Validator as a ZTP server.
2. Manually download chassis zip file from PnP Connect portal and extract JSON file
3. Upload/add JSON file to ZTP server and verify cEdge information
4. Power-ON cEdge. PnP agent connects to ZTP server
5. ZTP server authenticates cEdge and provides Validator IP or FQDN + OrgName + EntRootCA(Optional)

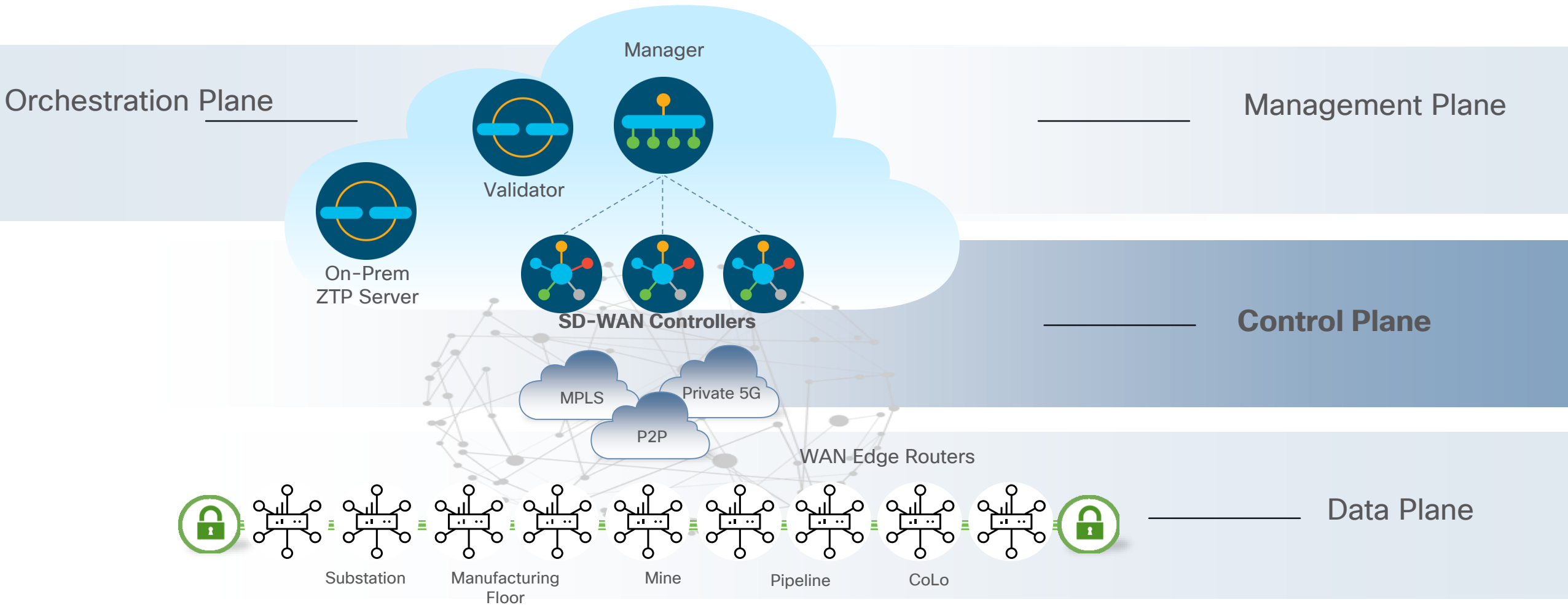
On-Prem ZTP Overview



1. Start ZTP server by configuring a Validator as a ZTP server.
2. Manually download chassis zip file from PnP Connect portal and extract JSON file
3. Upload/add JSON file to ZTP server and verify cEdge information
4. Power-ON cEdge. PnP agent connects to ZTP server
5. ZTP server authenticates cEdge and provides Validator+OrgName+EntRootCA
6. Update RootCA on cEdge if JSON file specifies it as Default

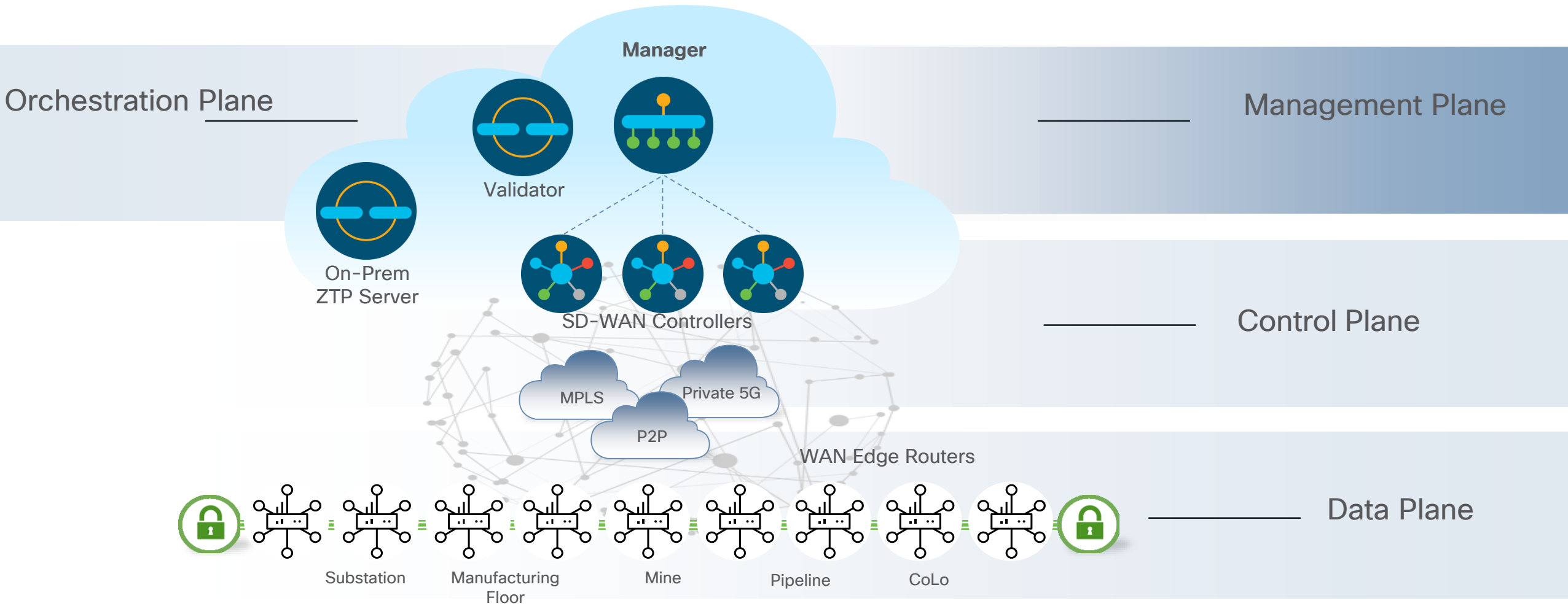
For Details See [ZTP Configuration Guide](#)

Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Solution Components

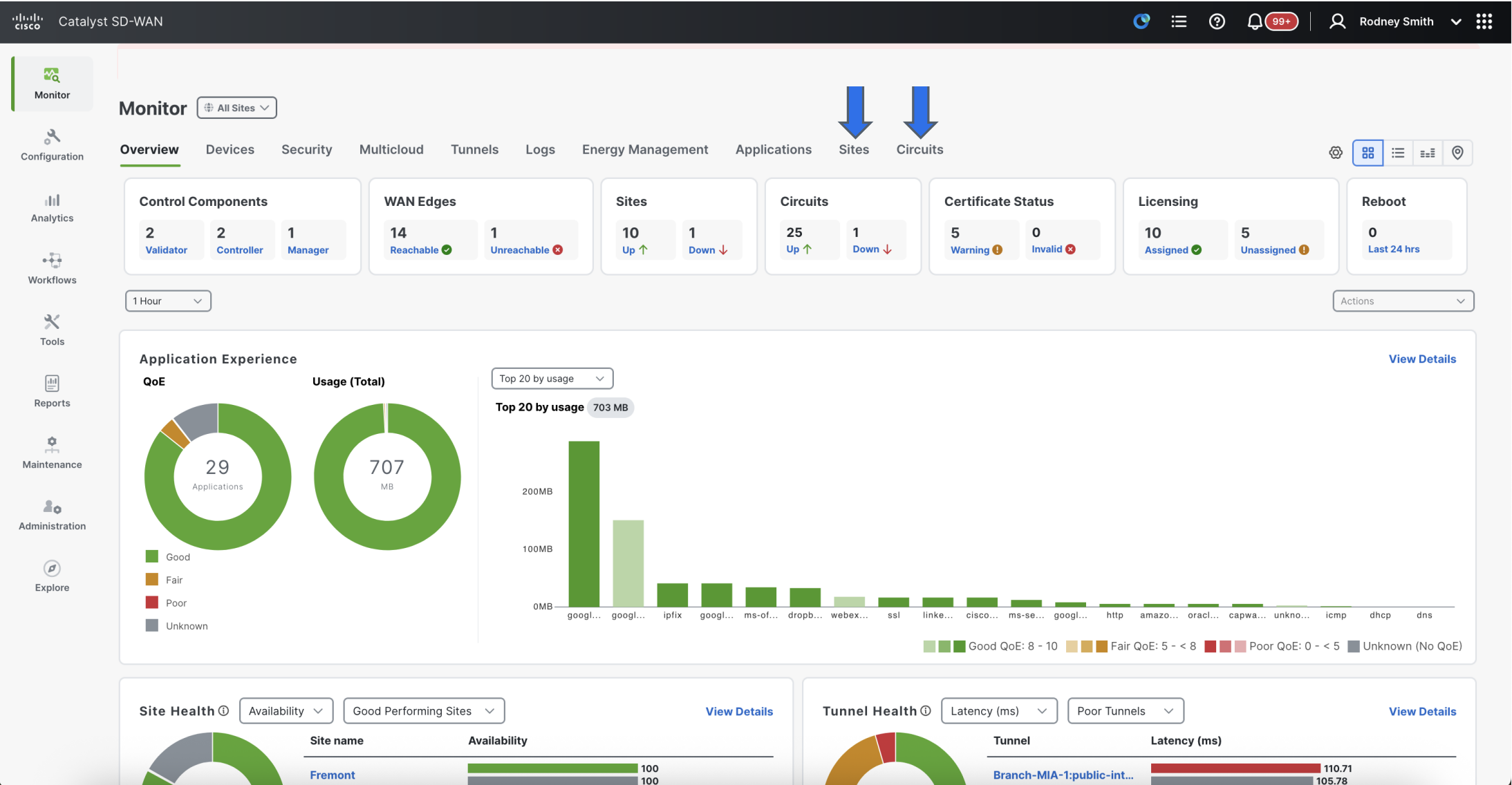


Management Plane for Airgap

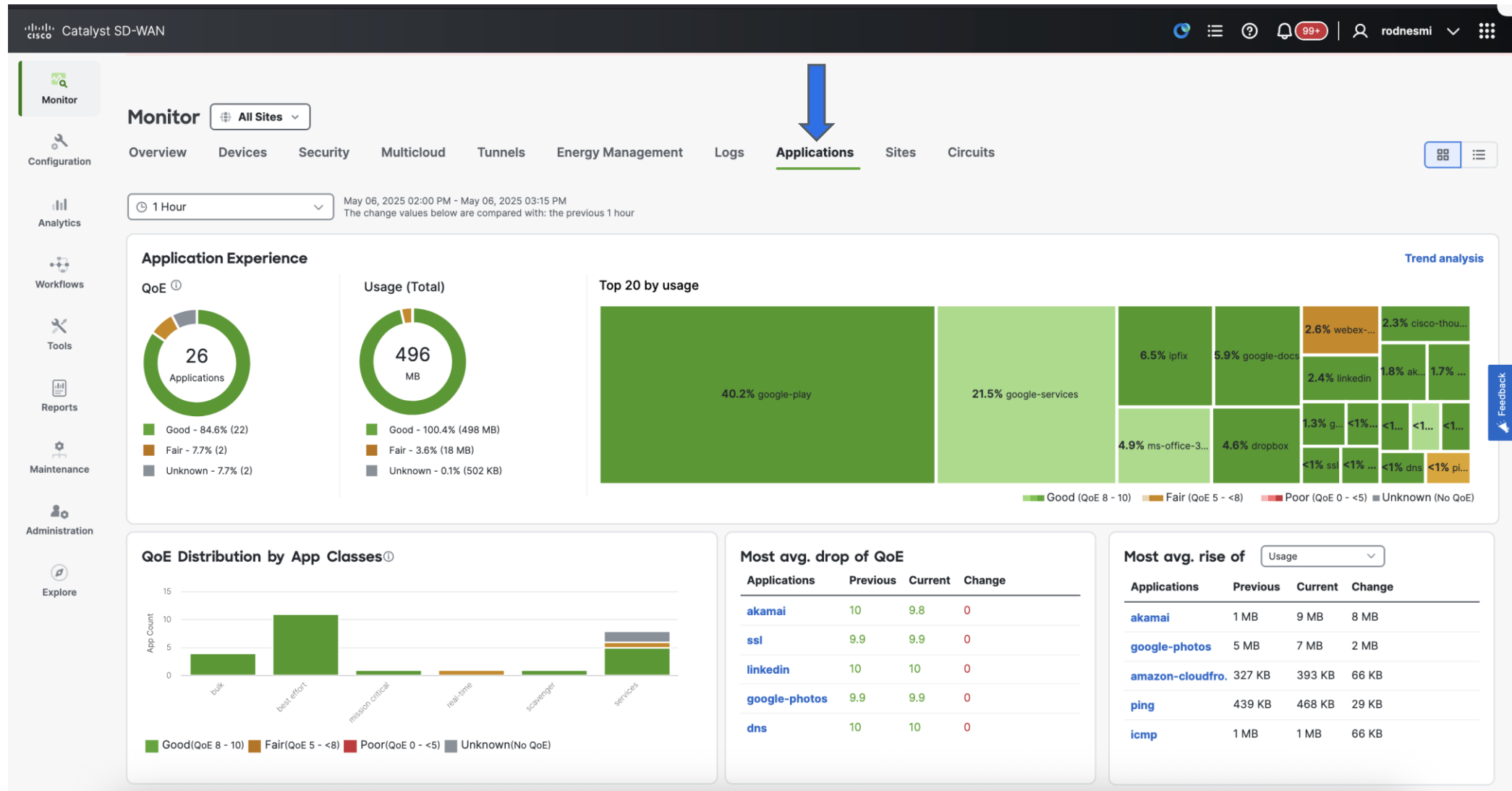
Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Solution Components



SD-WAN Manager Dashboard - With Cloud Connectivity



SD-WAN Manager Applications - With Cloud Connectivity



SD-WAN Manager Applications - No Cloud Connectivity

Monitor

Configuration

Analytics

Workflows

Tools

Reports

Maintenance

Administration

Explore

Cisco

Catalyst SD-WAN

Monitor

Overview

Devices

Security

Multicloud

Tunnels

Logs

Energy Management

Applications

All Sites

Monitor Applications

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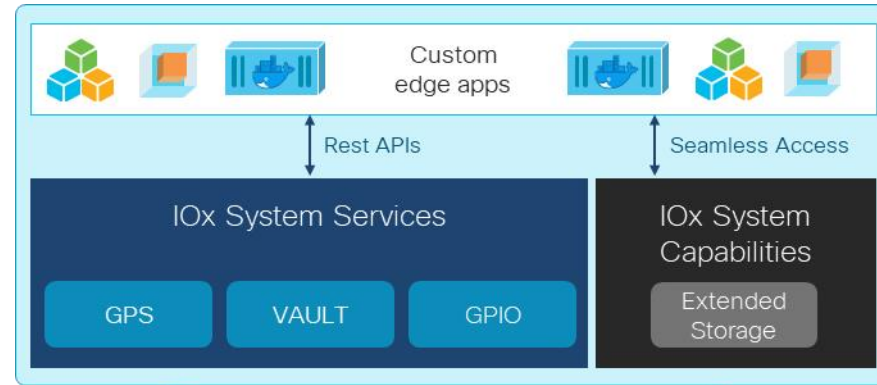
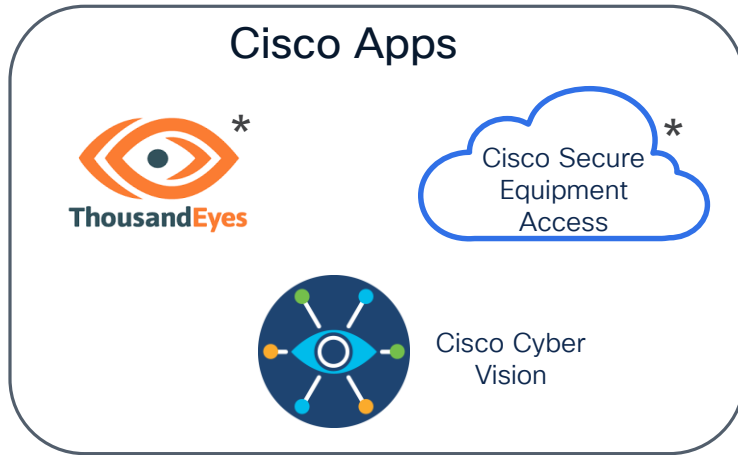
Export

Search Table

As of: May 30, 2025 03:23 PM

Application Name	Health ⓘ	Good Sites ⓘ	Fair Sites ⓘ	Poor Sites ⓘ	Application Family ⓘ	Action
webex-meeting	⚠	1	6	0	audio-video	...
gotomeeting	⚠	1	6	0	audio-video	...
zoom-meetings	✅	7	0	0	instant-messaging	...
oracle	✅	7	0	0	web	...
ms-teams	✅	7	0	0	instant-messaging	...
ms-office-365	✅	7	0	0	web	...
akamai	✅	7	0	0	web	...
linkedin	✅	7	0	0	forum	...
google-docs	✅	7	0	0	web	...

SD-WAN Container Application Management



Add Virtual Image with Remote Server Details

Image File Name
tcpdump

Image description (optional)
TCP Dump Application

Add Tags (optional)
Add Tags

Select service type
App-Hosting

Select app type
Custom-Application

Enter version
3.0

Select architecture
aarch64

Remote Server

Remote server 1

Remote server name
Cisco server



sdwanstest

Profile Features

Custom Application

Virtual Image

Virtual Image

tcpdump.tar.gz 4.0

Application Network Configuration

Name	Service VPN	VPG IP Address (optional)	Application IP Address (optional)	Subnet mask (optional)	Action
asset1	10	10.5.5.5	10.5.5.6	255.255.255.0	

Environment Variables

Key	Value	Action
url	https://cisco.com	

Data Configuration

Back No Changes Made

Cancel Save

*Requires cloud access

For details consult the [installation guide](#)

SD-WAN Manager IPS Signature Offline

- Download the latest signatures from Cisco, then use [Remote Server](#) or Local option to update signatures offline.

The screenshot shows the Cisco SD-WAN Manager interface. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Monitor, Configuration, Analytics, Workflows, Tools, Reports, Maintenance, Administration (highlighted), and Explore. The main content area is titled 'Settings' and 'Settings / External Services'. The specific configuration page is 'UTD Snort Subscriber Signature'. It includes a search bar with 'sign' and a description: 'SD-WAN Manager periodically downloads signature packages to the Snort sensors. Customize the time interval to check for and download signature updates.' Below this is a section for 'IPS Signature Download Interval (Range: 2hrs to 24hrs)' with input fields for 'Hours' (set to 24) and 'Minute' (set to 0). A toggle for 'IPS Signatures' is turned on. The 'Download From' section has three radio buttons: 'Cisco.com', 'Remote Server (Recommended)' (which is selected and highlighted with a red box), and 'Local'. Below this is a 'Remote Server Name' dropdown menu with the text 'Select Remote Server'. At the bottom, there is a 'Custom Signature' toggle (turned off) and 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons.

We recommend:

Remote Server option to
avoid scaling issues

Remotes servers can be:

HTTP

FTP

SCP

For details, visit the
[configuration guide](#)

Enterprise Certificate Configuration: Simple Certificate Enrollment Protocol/Enrollment over Secure Transport (20.18)



Enterprise certificate settings

Affected certificate authorizations

WAN edge cloud

Enrollment protocol type

☐ Manual

☐ EST

☒ SCEP

VPN

☐ 0

☒ 512

URL base

http://10.104.33.137/certsrv/mscep/mscep.dll

Challenge password (optional)

Challenge password

Show

Root CA fingerprint (optional)

c4:2c:4b:8b:4e

Root CA certificate

-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----
MIIDqDCCApCgAwIBAgIQTHAGIPII2IBEOxACGgibsjANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQsFADBU
MRMwEQYKCZImiZPyLQGQBGYDY29tMRYwFAYKCZImiZPyLQGQBGGR
YGcGtpLWR0MRMw
EQYKCZImiZPyLQGQBGGRYDcGtpMRAwDgYDVQQDEwdPQ1NQLUNB
-----END CERTIFICATE-----

Select a File

Enterprise certificate settings

Affected certificate authorizations

WAN edge cloud

Enrollment protocol type

☐ Manual

☒ EST

☐ SCEP

VPN

☐ 0

☒ 512

URL base

URL base

Username (optional)

Username

Password (optional)

Password

Show

CA Label (optional)

CA Label

Root CA certificate

Select a File

Generate EST Client CSR

Upload signed certificate file

Cancel

Save

WAN Edges Certificate Management

1

Certificate renewal method

Choose the certificate renewal type

Renewal Type

☒ Auto

☐ Manual

Auto generation of CSR, sending to CA for signing and installation of certificate

Generate CSR and installation of certificate

2

Schedule renew

System orchestrates in the right order sequentially to ensure network stability

Scheduler

☐ Now

☒ Later

Renew starts immediately once you finish the workflow

3

Select Date

Feb 22, 2025

Select Time

hh:mm

4

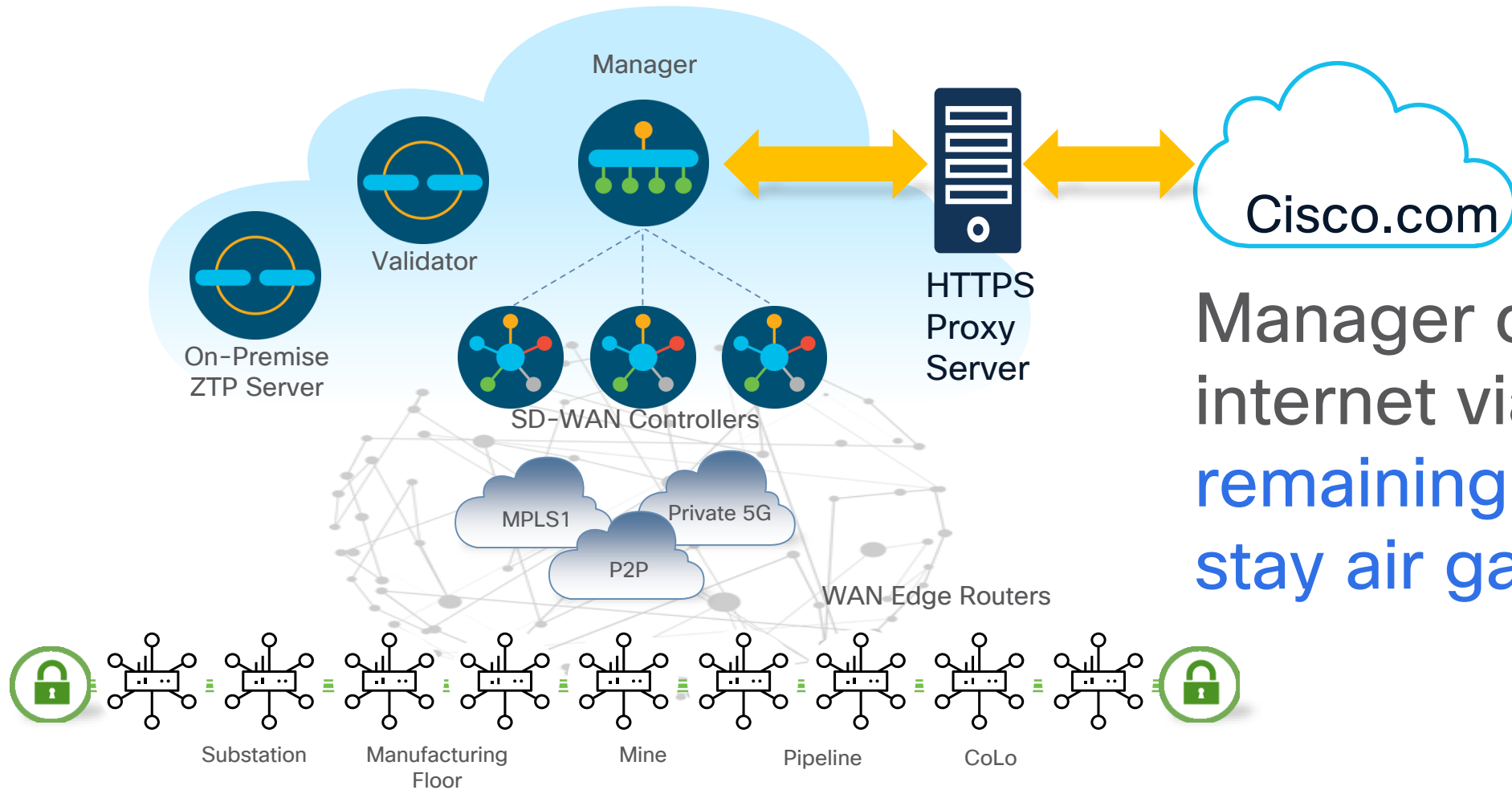
5

SD-WAN Manager Services **Cloud Only** Features

- **Following require connectivity to public internet and Cisco subscription to support**
 - Mainly Cloud Services - Analytics / Threat Grid / ThousandEyes / AI Assistant / Umbrella
 - Application signatures fed from cloud via SD-AVC. SD-AVC as a service still functions in airgap
 - Cloud for OnRamp for Multicloud
 - TAC Case integration
 - Meraki Integration
 - Synchronizing information via Cisco Smart Account
 - Microsoft and Webex telemetry
 - Cisco DNA Portal for providing online documentation
 - Controller Certificate Authorization (Automatic)
 - DUO MFA
 - Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Portal features:
 - Configuration feature template migration to configuration group
 - Configuration Catalogs

Additional Considerations for Air Gap Networks

Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN – Partial Air Gap



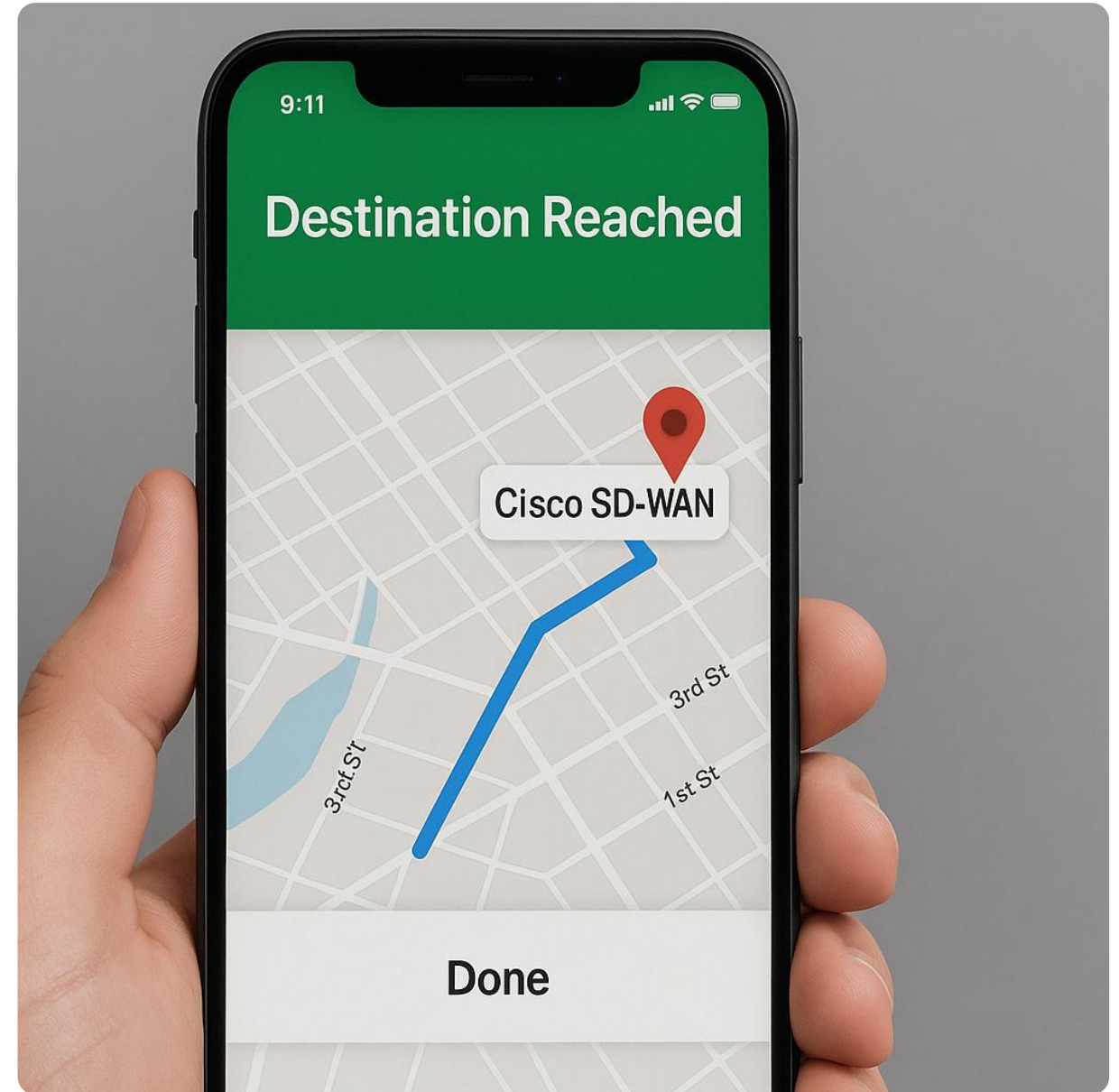
Manager connected to internet via proxy,
remaining elements
stay air gapped

Comparison of Deployment Types Partial Air Gap to Full Air Gap

	Partial Air Gap (Only SD-WAN Manager has access to internet)	Full Air Gap (All control elements)
Cisco SD-WAN Analytics	Yes	No
Cisco Smart Software Manager (CSSM) for Licensing	Yes	Partial, on-prem CSSM*
Smart Account Management – Cisco PKI Certificate Management TAC Case integration PNP Connect device sync	Yes	No
Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Portal – Configuration Catalog Migration Assistant	Yes	No
IPS Signature automatic updates	Yes	Partial, Offline updates
Interactive Helper & Online Documentation	Yes	No
Managed Cellular Activation via Cisco IoT Control Center	Yes	No
DUO MFA	Yes	No
ThousandEyes WAN Insights / Predictive Path Insights	Yes	No

Key Takeaways

- **Cisco SD-WAN supports Air Gap Networks**
- ZTP automation can be done
- SD-WAN Provides Automation, Monitoring, Troubleshooting, Advanced Security Capability and Enhanced Application Experience compared
- Separation of Orchestration, Management, Control and Data Planes allows greater deployment flexibility with Air Gap environments
- SD-WAN Manager accessing cisco.com via HTTPS proxy enables additional capabilities whilst still ensuring a completely Air Gapped control and data plane



Complete your session evaluations



Complete a minimum of 4 session surveys and the Overall Event Survey to be entered in a drawing to win 1 of 5 full conference passes to Cisco Live 2026.



Earn 100 points per survey completed and compete on the Cisco Live Challenge leaderboard.



Level up and earn exclusive prizes!



Complete your surveys in the Cisco Live mobile app.

Continue your education



Visit the Cisco Showcase for related demos



Book your one-on-one Meet the Engineer meeting



Attend the interactive education with DevNet, Capture the Flag, and Walk-in Labs



Visit the On-Demand Library for more sessions at www.CiscoLive.com/on-demand

Thank you

CISCO Live !



Explicit vs Implicit Definitions

Industry	Regulation	Key Section	Requirement	Details
Government, Military, Intelligence	NISPOM (U.S.)	32 CFR, Part 117 Source: 32 CFR Part 117, NISPOM	“Physical or logical separation from unclassified networks...”	Directly mandates isolation for classified systems, often air-gapped.
Energy and Utilities	NERC CIP (U.S.)	CIP-005-7, R1 & R2 Source: NERC CIP Standards , specifically CIP-005-7	“Deny all traffic not explicitly allowed within an ESP...”	Implies air-gapping by requiring strict isolation of critical energy assets.
Industrial Manufacturing	IEC 62443 (Global)	SR 1.1, SR 1.2, SR 7.1 Source: IEC 62443 Series , particularly IEC 62443-3-3	“Segment networks and protect boundaries...”	Implies air-gapping for OT systems to restrict communication between zones.
Financial Services	PCI DSS (U.S.)	Requirement 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 Source: PCI DSS v4.0	“Network access to and from the cardholder data environment is restricted...”	Implies air-gapping as a method to isolate cardholder data environments.
Healthcare	HIPAA (U.S.)	§ 164.310, § 164.312(a)(1), (e)(1)	“Limit access, guard against unauthorized transmission...”	Implies air-gapping by requiring ePHI protection; common for sensitive systems

Appendix A – On-Premise ZTP

Getting the JSON file with device details

The JSON file can be extracted from the .zip chassis file which can be downloaded from PnP Connect portal.

```
tar -xvf serialFile.viptela.tar
x viptela_serial_file
x viptela_serial_file.sig
x cisco_cert.cer
```

Sample serial_file JSON file:

```
{
  "version": "1.1",
  "organization": "vIPtela Inc Regression",
  "overlay": "vIPtela Inc Regression",
  "root_cert_bundle": "-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----
<certificate>
-----END CERTIFICATE-----",
  "controller_details": {
    "primary_ipv4": "10.0.12.26",
    "primary_port": "12346"
  },
  "chassis_list": [{
    "chassis": "JAE21491ABC",
    "SKU": "ASR1002-HX",
    "HWPID": "ASR1002-HX",
    "serial_list": [{
      "sudi_subject_serial": "JAE21491ABC",
      "sudi_cert_serial": "021C1ABC",
      "HWPID": "ASR1002-HX"}]
    }
  ],
  "timestamp": "2019-10-21 23:40:02.248"
}
```

Appendix A – On-Premise ZTP

Add cEdge device information

- Use the following command to load the JSON file onto the ZTP server
Validator# **request device-upload chassis-file** *JSON-file-name*
- **Cert Sudi#** followed by **Subject Sudi#** is order of precedence for import at the ZTP server. This means that **Subject Sudi#** is imported for validation only when **Cert Sudi#** is not present in the JSON file.

NOTE: On-Prem ZTP for vEdges uses a CSV file for router chassis information.

Appendix A – On-Premise ZTP

Verify cEdge device information

Verify the list of router chassis numbers present on the on-Prem ZTP server, using one of the following commands:

```
Validator# show ztp entries
```

```
Validator# show orchestrator valid-devices
```