SolarWinds Hybrid Cloud Observability vs. Cisco Prime

OVERVIEW
Cisco has announced end-of-life (EOL) for the Cisco Prime® offerings, potentially exposing customers to security risks associated with running an out-of-maintenance/out-of-support solution. Cisco's proposed alternatives may not align to customer needs—for example, proposing multiple software as a service (SaaS) solutions gained through separate acquisitions and packaged as a full-stack observability solution.

As a stronger alternative, SolarWinds® Hybrid Cloud Observability provides a single, comprehensive solution with flexible deployment options (including a path to the cloud), which meets customers wherever they are in their digital transformation journeys. Our solution is powered by AIOps, and delivers anomaly-based alerts for proactive issue resolution.

This guide is intended to show how Hybrid Cloud Observability supports everyday use cases and functionality used by Cisco Prime customers and enhances it with advanced, AIOps-powered observability in a simple, powerful, secure solution built with world-class security methodologies with an exciting roadmap and an on-ramp to our cloud-native platform.

SolarWinds representatives have interpreted information on Cisco Prime from publicly available information in January 2023.

SolarWinds Hybrid Cloud Observability Overview
SolarWinds is a leading provider of simple, powerful, secure observability and IT infrastructure management software built to enable customers to accelerate their digital transformation. Our products provide organizations worldwide—regardless of type, size, or IT infrastructure complexity—with a comprehensive and unified view of today's modern, distributed, and hybrid network environments.

Cisco Prime Overview
Cisco Prime is an on-premises network management software suite consisting of different software modules by Cisco Systems®. Most modules are geared toward either enterprise or service provider networks. Cisco has announced the end of life for Cisco Prime, with announced end-of-support and end-of-maintenance dates in September 2023 (source).
### SolarWinds Hybrid Cloud Observability vs. Cisco Prime

#### Based on Product Analysis in January 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>SolarWinds Hybrid Cloud Observability</th>
<th>Cisco Prime</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Automated Network Discovery</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
<td>Yes. (source)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hybrid Cloud Observability automatically discovers devices across your network using a list of IP addresses, IP ranges, subnets, and SNMP credentials.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulk Configuration and Change Management</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
<td>Yes. (source)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Config management for multi-vendor networks, virtualization, servers, and applications.</td>
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<tr>
<td>End-to-End Views of the Physical and Virtual Network Topology and Inventory</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
<td>Yes. (source)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Display immediate dependencies, topology, or application connections between monitored entities with the SolarWinds Platform through auto-generated maps to showcase contextual relationships.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Up-to-Date Dashboards of Network Event, State, and Config Changes</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
<td>Yes. (source)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Historical and real-time dashboards.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Product vs. Bundle</td>
<td>Single product</td>
<td>Multiple products stitched together; e.g., Cisco Prime Network is an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) of a third-party product. (source)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>with a unified code base and user interface experience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-Vendor Support</td>
<td>Offers broad and deep multi-vendor support</td>
<td>Largely Cisco focused, although some pieces are multi-vendor (such as configuration management, which they OEM from another vendor). (source)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Licensing Model</td>
<td>Simple.</td>
<td>Complex licensing model.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>node-based licensing.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deployment Flexibility</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
<td>Can be deployed on virtual (VMware ESXi™-based) or physical appliances.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Flexible hybrid IT implementation—from the data center to multi-cloud—with per-node licensing flexibility.</td>
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<td>AIOps</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
<td>No. (source)</td>
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<td>Intelligent AIOps correlation, anomaly-based alerting, and customizable reporting.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Feature</td>
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<tr>
<td>IP Address Management</td>
<td>Yes. Native support for IP, DNS, and DHCP monitoring and scanning.</td>
<td>No. (source)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Note: Some customers also require IP address management services. Cisco has chosen not to provide this function on our price list.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Network Path Analysis</td>
<td>Yes, supported with NetPath™ technology.</td>
<td>Not included in Cisco Prime; requires the purchase of a Cisco acquisition called ThousandEyes®, which isn't integrated with Cisco Prime. (source)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Stack Dependency Visualization</td>
<td>Yes, supported with AppStack™ technology.</td>
<td>No advertised functionality. (source)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PerfStack™</td>
<td>Yes, supported.</td>
<td>No. Though the product may have data, there's no advertised way to visualize any metric side by side in a time series view like PerfStack. (source)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port and User Tracking</td>
<td>Yes, supported.</td>
<td>Yes. (source)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secure by Design</td>
<td>Yes. Next-Generation Build System centered around transparency and maximum visibility.</td>
<td>Cisco has announced end-of-sale (EOS)/EOL for the Cisco Prime suite and will stop releasing updates and bug fixes in 2023. This may increase the risk profile of customers still using the product. (source)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Multiple support options, including dedicated premium support and assisted onboarding.</td>
<td>End of maintenance, support, and life announced. (source)</td>
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</table>

Last updated February 2023

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