

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](#)).

BASED ON PRODUCT ANALYSIS IN JANUARY 2023

	SOLARWINDS HYBRID CLOUD OBSERVABILITY	CISCO PRIME
Automated Network Discovery	Yes. Hybrid Cloud Observability automatically discovers devices across your network using a list of IP addresses, IP ranges, subnets, and SNMP credentials.	Yes. (source)
Bulk Configuration and Change Management	Yes. Config management for multi-vendor networks, virtualization, servers, and applications.	Yes, for Cisco network devices. (source)
End-to-End Views of the Physical and Virtual Network Topology and Inventory	Yes. Display immediate dependencies, topology, or application connections between monitored entities with the SolarWinds Platform through auto-generated maps to showcase contextual relationships.	Yes. (source)
Up-to-Date Dashboards of Network Event, State, and Config Changes	Yes. Historical and real-time dashboards.	Yes. (source)
Product vs. Bundle	Single product with a unified code base and user interface experience.	Multiple products stitched together; e.g., Cisco Prime Network is an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) of a third-party product. (source)
Multi-Vendor Support	Offers broad and deep multi-vendor support .	Largely Cisco focused, although some pieces are multi-vendor (such as configuration management, which they OEM from another vendor). (source)
Licensing Model	Simple , node-based licensing.	Complex licensing model.
Deployment Flexibility	Yes. Flexible hybrid IT implementation—from the data center to multi-cloud—with per-node licensing flexibility.	Can be deployed on virtual (VMware ESXi™-based) or physical appliances.
AIOps	Yes. Intelligent AIOps correlation, anomaly-based alerting, and customizable reporting.	No. (source)

SOLARWINDS HYBRID CLOUD OBSERVABILITY VS. CISCO PRIME

	SOLARWINDS HYBRID CLOUD OBSERVABILITY	CISCO PRIME
IP Address Management	Yes. Native support for IP, DNS, and DHCP monitoring and scanning.	No. (source) <i>(Note: Some customers also require IP address management services. Cisco has chosen not to provide this function on our price list.)</i>
Network Path Analysis	Yes, supported with NetPath™ technology.	Not included in Cisco Prime; requires the purchase of a Cisco acquisition called ThousandEyes®, which isn't integrated with Cisco Prime. (source)
Full-Stack Dependency Visualization	Yes, supported with AppStack™ technology.	No advertised functionality. (source)
PerfStack™	Yes, supported.	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)
Port and User Tracking	Yes, supported.	Yes. (source)
Secure by Design	Yes. Next-Generation Build System centered around transparency and maximum visibility.	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)
Support	Multiple support options, including dedicated premium support and assisted onboarding.	End of maintenance, support, and life announced. (source)

Last updated February 2023

* Product specifications and other information set forth herein have either been made accessible by suppliers, manufacturers, publications, or gathered from publicly available sources as of the date of this document. Although measures are taken to ensure the accuracy of the information, SolarWinds makes no representations or warranties as to the completeness or accuracy of the information and shall incur no liability for any errors or omissions.

** The SolarWinds trademarks, service marks, and logos are the exclusive property of SolarWinds Worldwide, LLC, or its affiliates. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.