



Cisco SD-WAN **Health Check by** **WhiteSpider**

WhiteSpider is an industry expert in enabling business transformation through the power of digital technologies.

Working across the globe, we design, deliver, and manage Software Defined technologies that transform IT operations, secure business infrastructure, and enhance user experience.

Service overview

Cisco SD-WAN provides a scalable, cloud-managed WAN fabric that delivers security, performance, and operational efficiency across distributed enterprise environments. Deployments can range from small single-region topologies to global, multi-controller designs supporting thousands of sites.

Overview

SD-WAN environments are highly resilient and dynamic. As policies, applications, SLAs, and WAN circuits change over time, latent misconfigurations or degradation can accumulate unnoticed. These may later impact application performance, routing behaviour, security posture, or availability.

WhiteSpider's SD-WAN Health Check ensures your fabric is operating optimally, identifying hidden issues and recommending improvements that align with Cisco best practices.

What we do

The SD-WAN Health Check focuses on vManage, vSmart, vBond, and all WAN Edge devices. Our engineers use API-driven data extraction, telemetry review, and deep configuration analysis to provide a complete assessment of your SD-WAN fabric.

Findings and remediation steps are compiled into a detailed report and presented to your IT team.

Benefits

A WhiteSpider SD-WAN Health Check can help you:

- ✓ **Improve application performance:**
Identify issues with QoS, DIA offload, SLA classes, and policy mismatches.
- ✓ **Reduce risk:**
Surface routing inconsistencies, control-plane issues, and outdated security policies.
- ✓ **Optimise WAN utilisation:**
Analyse traffic paths, tunnel quality, and transport behaviours.
- ✓ **Strengthen zero-trust posture:**
Validate segmentation, firewall policies, and vManage RBAC.
- ✓ **Simplify operations:**
Identify orphaned templates, unused policies, EoL software, and misaligned configurations.

Typical activities

Controllers (vManage / vSmart / vBond)

- Cluster health, CPU, memory, disk
- Database consistency checks
- Software version/EoL review
- Control-plane reachability and certificate validity

Outcome:

Ensures controller stability and secure fabric operation.

WAN Edge Routers

- Transport interface health (MPLS, DIA, LTE)
- TLOC status and utilisation
- Tunnel quality (latency, loss, jitter)
- App-route policy behaviour
- Software and hardware lifecycle review

Outcome:

Validates branch/site performance and reliability.

Policies

- Centralised policies (traffic, control, data)
- ZBFW rules and IPS settings
- DIA/SIG offload configuration
- Segmentation (VPNs, VRFs, service-side routing)

Outcome:

Checks traffic forwarding, security, and segmentation consistency.

Routing & Control Plane

- OMP stability
- Route advertisement patterns
- Prefix inconsistencies or suboptimal paths

Outcome:

Checks traffic forwarding, security, and segmentation consistency.

Operations & Security

- Alarm/event analysis
- NTP/DNS/AAA configuration
- Backup and disaster recovery review
- RBAC and vManage access controls

Outcome:

Confirms operational hygiene and governance.

Platform terminology:

Legacy vs modern Cisco SD-WAN naming

Cisco has recently rebranded the SD-WAN controller components as part of the broader integration into the Cisco Catalyst portfolio. This Health Check applies to **both** naming models, ensuring clarity regardless of whether your organisation is using the classic vManage/vBond/vSmart terminology or the new Catalyst WAN naming.

Legacy SD-WAN terminology

Historically, Cisco SD-WAN has been built on three core controller roles:

- **vManage** – The centralised management, configuration, monitoring, and analytics tool.
- **vSmart** – The control-plane policy engine responsible for OMP routing and distributing policies.
- **vBond** – The orchestrator that authenticates and connects all fabric components.
- **vEdge/cEdge Routers** – WAN edge devices that form the fabric at branch, DC, and cloud locations.

This naming remains widely used across documentation, customer environments, and partner deployments.

New catalyst WAN terminology

Cisco's modernised branding aligns SD-WAN with the Catalyst ecosystem:

- **Cisco Catalyst WAN Manager** (formerly vManage)
- **Cisco Catalyst WAN Controller** (formerly vSmart)
- **Cisco Catalyst WAN Gateway** (formerly vBond)
- **Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Edge Routers** (formerly vEdge/cEdge)

Functionally, the architecture is unchanged. The rebrand is focused on unifying Cisco's cloud and network automation platforms under the Catalyst naming strategy (alongside Catalyst Center, Catalyst Wireless, Catalyst 9000 switching, etc.).

How this health check handles both models

WhiteSpider's SD-WAN Health Check is fully compatible with:

- ✓ Environments still operating exclusively with legacy SD-WAN naming,
- ✓ Environments using the new Catalyst naming, and
- ✓ Hybrid deployments where documentation, operational processes, and controllers may reference both.

All analysis, recommendations, and findings will reference both terms where appropriate, ensuring clarity for your IT operations team.



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