License Management

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Overview

Cisco Smart licensing is simple, flexible and a smart way of procuring, deploying and managing licenses in your environment. For more information on smart licensing, see http://www.cisco.com/web/ordering/smart-software-licensing/index.html

Smart Licensing

- Dynamic licensing. Licenses are associated with products and transferable within the virtual account.

- No license installation is necessary. The device initiates an HTTPS call home session and requests the licenses that it is configured to use.

- License pools are account-specific. Any device in your company can use them.

- Licenses can be transferred between product instances without any software installation. You can transfer unused licenses from one virtual account to another.

Smart Licensing

Smart licenses are server based licenses. You will purchase, deploy and track licenses for servers instead of domains. Instead of registering individual products with license files or PAKs, Smart Licensing provides the option to create a pool of licenses that can be used across your company's portfolio.

Smart licensing uses Virtual Accounts, Product Instances and Registration Tokens to procure, deploy and manage licenses in your environment.

Virtual Accounts

Virtual accounts are collections of licenses and product instances. You can create virtual accounts in Cisco Smart Software Manager to organize the licenses for your company into logical entities. You can use virtual accounts to organize licenses by business unit, product type, IT group, or whatever makes sense for your organization. For example, if you segregate your company into different geographic regions, you can create a virtual account for each region to hold the licenses and product instances for that region.

All new licenses and product instances are placed in a virtual account. You choose the virtual account when you register a product instance. You can transfer existing licenses or product instances from one virtual account to another.

For more information on creating virtual accounts in Cisco Smart Software Manager, see http://www.cisco.com/web/ordering/smart-software-manager/docs/smart-software-manager-user-guide.pdf.

Product Instances

A Cisco UCS Central product instance has a unique device identifier (UDI) that is registered using a product instance registration token. You can register several instances of a product with a single registration token. Each product instance can have one or more licenses that reside in the same virtual account.

Registration Tokens

Registration tokens are stored in the Product Instance Registration Token Table that is associated with your smart account. After you enable Smart Licensing in Cisco UCS Central, you can generate a new token in a virtual account on the Smart Software Licensing portal to register in Cisco UCS Central.
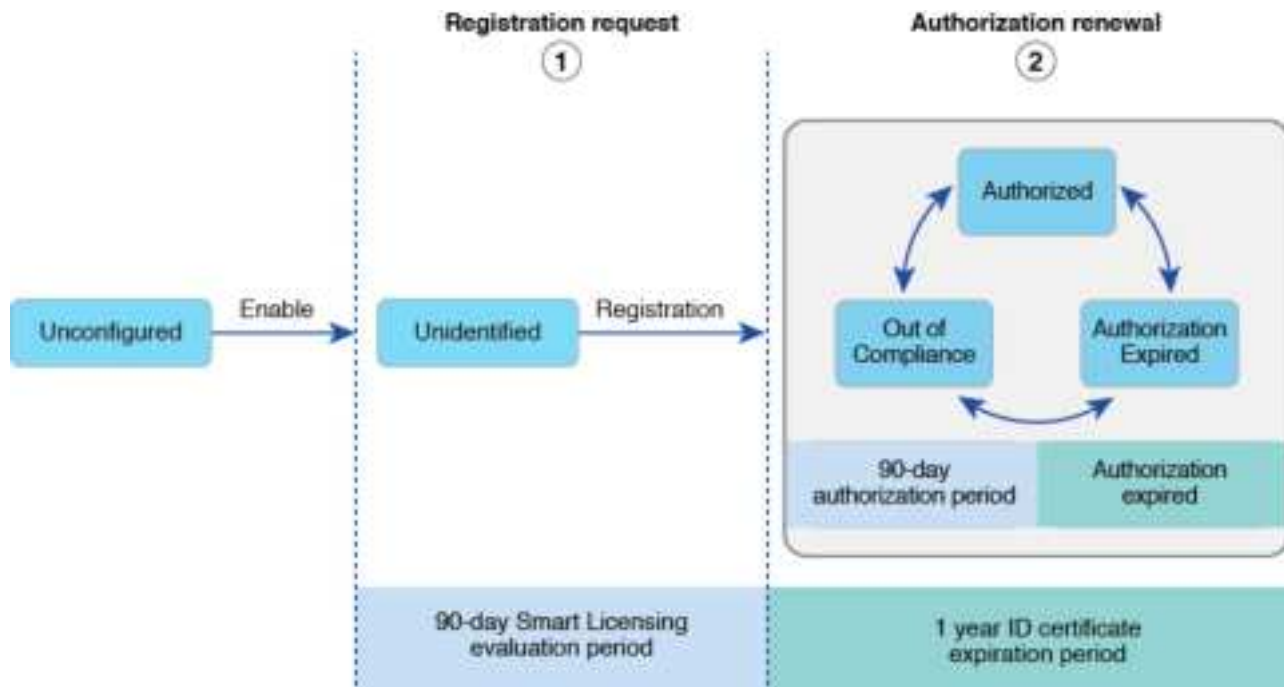
For more information on creating virtual accounts in Cisco Smart Software Manager, see http://www.cisco.com/web/ordering/smart-software-manager/docs/smart-software-manager-user-guide.pdf.

Obtaining Licenses

To obtain licenses using smart licensing, you will have to do the following:

- Generate tokens in Cisco Smart Software Manager virtual accounts.

- Register licenses for product instances in Cisco UCS Central.

The following illustrations explains the smart licensing process:

1	**Registration request**	The Smart Licensing 90-evaluation period starts when the product instance begins using the licensing feature. It not renewable. When the evaluation period expires, the agent sends a notification to the platform.
2	**Authorization renewal**	Authorization requests can result in an **Authorized** or **Out of Compliance (OOC)** response, or in an error due to a communication failure. Authorization periods are renewed every 30 days as long as authorization requests return **Authorized** or **Out of Compliance (OOC)** responses. When the authorization period expires, the agent continues to retry renewal with authorization requests. If successful, a new authorization period starts. If ID cert renewal (authorization renewal) fails, the product instance moves to an Unidentified state and begins consuming the evaluation period.

Enabling Smart Licensing

Before you begin

Make sure you have enabled Smart Call Home before enabling Smart Licensing. Enabling Smart Call Home includes the following:

- Specify a DNS server.

- Set up Smart Call Home.

- Make sure your Smart Call Home URL is correct. This is the URL the system uses to connect to the smart license server.

Note Although you must enable Smart Call Home, a Smart Call Home contract ID is not required to use Smart Licensing.

Procedure

Step 1 Click the **System Configuration** icon and choose **Licenses**.

Step 2 Click **Enable Smart Software Licensing**.

System enables smart licensing and information related to traditional licensing is replaced with smart licensing related information.

Registering UCS Central Using a License Token

Before you begin

Make sure Smart Licensing is enabled.

Procedure

Step 1	Click the **System Configuration** icon and choose **Licenses**.
Step 2	Click the **Smart Software Manager** link to go to the Smart Software Manager portal.
Step 3	In the Smart Software Manager portal:

    a) Select a Cisco UCS Central virtual account.

    b) Click **New Token** in the **Product Instance Registration Tokens** panel and select **Copy**.

Step 4	In the Cisco UCS Central **Smart Software Licensing** panel, click **Register Smart Software Licensing**.
Step 5	In the **Register Smart Licensing** dialog box, paste the new token you generated in the **Product Instance Registration Token** text box.
Step 6	Click **Register**.

You will receive notifications on registration in progress, successful registration or failure to register. If there are problems with your Smart Call Home settings, a **Failed** message will appear with a link to the **Call Home Configuration**.

Renewing Authorization

License authorization is used to show if you have enough licenses for your system, or if you are out of compliance. Authorization is renewed automatically by the Smart Licensing agent every 30 days, provided the network is up and Cisco UCS Central can reach the Smart License server.

If authorization is not renewed for 90 days, the authorization will expire.

Procedure

Step 1	Click the **System Configuration** icon and choose **Licenses**.
Step 2	In the Cisco UCS Central **Smart Software Licensing** panel, click the **Tools** menu.
Step 3	Select **Renew Authorization Now**.

Renewing Registration

The agent automatically renews the Smart Software Licensing registration certificate or the ID certificate every six months. Certification lasts for one year. If Cisco UCS Central cannot communicate with the Smart License Server, it may fail to renew the certificate. If this occurs, the certification will revert to evaluation state after one year.

Procedure

Step 1   Click the **System Configuration** icon and choose **Licenses**.

Step 2   In the Cisco UCS Central **Smart Software Licensing** panel, click the **Tools** menu.

Step 3   Select **Renew Registration Now**.

Deregistering Smart Software Licensing

When you deregister a product instance from Smart Software Licensing, the product will not be associated with the license. The product will be removed from the list of registered products for the associated virtual account. You can use the license to register another product, or reregister a product that has been deregistered.

Procedure

Step 1   Click the **System Configuration** icon and choose **Licenses**.

Step 2   In the Cisco UCS Central **Smart Software Licensing** panel, click the **Tools** menu.

Step 3   Select **Deregister** to remove Cisco UCS Central from Smart Software Manager.

Disabling Smart Software Licensing

If you disable Smart Software Licensing, Cisco UCS Central automatically returns to the Traditional Licensing mode.

Note   Only one licensing mode is supported at a time.

Procedure

Step 1   Click the **System Configuration** icon and choose **Licenses**.

Step 2   In the Cisco UCS Central **Smart Software Licensing** panel, click the **Action** menu.

Step 3   Select **Disable Smart Software Licensing**.