

## Cisco Presents Intent-Based Networking

Written by Marco Attard  
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Cisco announces what it claims is one of the "most significant breakthroughs in enterprise networking"-- intent-based networking, a system able to anticipate actions, stop threats and, ultimately, "evolve and learn."



The principle behind intent-based networking is similar to self-driving vehicles. Whereas a traditional network requires an administrator managing of multiple tasks, an intent-based network can determine how to do a task, before automating specific tasks to make it happen.

Such a system involves a shift from hardware-centric to software-driven networking, making an intelligent, secure platform "powered by intent and informed by context." Behind the intuitive network is Digital Network Architecture (DNA), a suite of technologies and services running as a single system.

DNA offerings include the DNA Center (a centralised management dashboard), Software-Defined Access (automates policy enforcement and network segmentation over a single network fabric), Network Data Platform and Assurance (an analytics platform able to categorise and correlate data running on the network) and Encrypted Traffic Analytics (analyses metadata traffic patterns to identify known threats in encrypted traffic).

On the hardware side, Cisco presents the Catalyst 9000-- a switch family built for mobility, cloud, IoT and security, based on Cisco ASIC hardware and running on the company's IOS XE software. The company offers a pair of fixed form factor 9Ks (9300 and 9500) and the chassis-based 9400.

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Supporting the intent-based systems are "DNA Services" adding a lifecycle of advisory, implementation, optimisation and technical services. Partners can resell these services and build networking practices incorporating software, security, automation and analytics for customers.

The final intent-based product is the DNA Developer Center-- a package of learning tracks, sandboxes and support resources for using APIs and building skills aimed at developers and IT professionals.

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