2024 Strategic Impact Award Winners and Finalists

2024 Pinnacle Awards for Engineering & Product Innovation

Strategic Impact

Innovations that have enabled Cisco to move into new markets.

Winner videos coming October 2024 - Watch this space!

Strategic Impact Winners

Catalyst SD-WAN Cloud OnRamp

Catalyst SD-WAN Cloud onRamp capabilities provide value for customers in their journey toward consuming the cloud applications in their networks.

The Catalyst SD-WAN Cloud onRamp solution has the following value propositions: unified solution across heterogenous clouds; discovery; automation and reliability; security and segmentation of traffic; intelligent application-aware routing; end-to-end visibility and telemetry; auto-remediation capabilities, and more.

Learn more: Catalyst SD-WAN Cloud OnRamp

Encrypted Traffic Visibility and Security using EVE

The prevalence of encrypted protocols like TLS and QUIC weakens the value proposition of network firewalls by impeding application identification and threat detection. The Encrypted Visibility Engine (EVE) addresses this problem by operating without decryption, instead using a lightweight AI/ML classifier to identify client applications, malware communications, and MITRE ATT&CK techniques.

EVE also helps prevent Loss of Visibility by allowing defenders to detect Encrypted DNS and unsanctioned proxies and identify applications like VPNs and remote access software in encrypted traffic. In addition to TLS and QUIC, EVE can operate on HTTP, to see for all these use cases. EVE operates on the initial message of each session, allowing its findings to be used to enforce policies in the data plane. It is implemented in the Cisco Firewall as a Snort 3 plugin, but integrations are underway to utilize it across the Cisco portfolio to ensure consistent security outcomes. Its classifier is trained on an unparalleled data pipeline, which processes 18+ unlabeled sessions, 100M+ labeled sessions, and 10K+ malware sessions daily from Secure Malware Analytics. The data pipeline is automated to adopt new emerging threats and applications without much effort.

Congratulations to the 2024 Winning Team Members!

Catalyst SD-WAN Cloud OnRamp

Team Lead: Nithin Raju

Preety Mordani
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Ankur Bhargava
Balaji Sundararajan
Chhavi Jain
Deepti Madhuri Baljepalli
Gaurang Mokashi
Giorgio Valentini
Gokul Krishnan
Jason Avery
Jegan Kumar Somi Ramasamy Subramanian
Karumbu Gunasekaran
Latha Tallapragada
Mahalakshmi Rajaram
Managa Sunitha Arun Kumar
Michalina Slomianska
Nitisha Bhatia
Partha Dukka
Ramakumara Kariyappa
Samir Thoria
Shu-Fen Lee
Steve Wood
Suchandan Reddy Marapareddy
Vipul Shah
Yogesh Mittal
Ram Singh
Vivek Agarwal
Usama Anjum
Ashish Sood
Dennis Blankenship
Hugo Vliegen
Jerin Justin
JP Shukla
Kapil Suri
Kushal Patel
Paddu Melanahalli
Prab Radhakrishnan
Sajeev Ramachandran
Sanjeev Sondale
Yin Wang
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Shailendra Pardeshi
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Syed Arslan Ahmed
Madhavi Cherukuri
Venkat Venkatapathy
Deepak Bagadawarmal
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Lucknell Madestin
Megan Gronstad
Samuel Liu
Mengwei Yuan
Alan Xiao-rong Wang
Xin Qu
Justine Huang
Priyam Saikia
Srija Temburni
Dylan Ceronio
Pratusha Singh
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Aditya Arun
Utkarsh Mittal
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Raghavi Reddy Poreddy
Bala Malireddi
Abhisek Talasu
Raji Vinayagam
Dharya Thakkar
Latha Byadarahalli
Vijitha Geereddy
Vandhana Somasekanthan
Jigar Parekh

(Continued)

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Guy Keinan
Kobi Vaknin
Omar Gawi
Itay Marom
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Randal Landry
Albert Tsui
Priyanka Chidambar Patil
Kartik Katti
Anirudh Kasturi
Unnathi Bhandary
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Anirudh Ramakrishna
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Abele Zhang
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Hashmukh Balha
Gabriel Atienza
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Mingchieh Wang

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Ian McLaughlin
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Srinivas Valamanchali
Gabriel Lee
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Ajeet Gill
Manish Mehra
Kannan Kumar
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Encrypted Traffic Visibility and Security using EVE

Team Lead: Hema Tripathi

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Prateek Somani
Vikas Ranjan
Vedika Rathi
Costas Kiropa
Mike Dorsey
Meghana Sindegeri
Adam Weller
Brandon Enright
Igor Dobrogorskiy
Andrew Ossipov
Catalin Cristian Negraia

Strategic Impact Finalists

ThousandEyes Open Integrations Platform

ThousandEyes' Open Integrations Platform empowers organizations with deep network visibility and seamless integration into operational workflows. It offers automation through Custom Webhooks and streamlined data management with OpenTelemetry, thus enhancing operational efficiency and positioning Cisco as a leader in adaptable operational intelligence solutions.

Team Lead: Kent Ross

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Vu Thiên Nga Nguyễn
Pedro Rocha Goncalves
Sowmya Krishnamoorthy
Sergio Freitas
Kair Dusenov

Cisco Devices for Microsoft Teams Rooms

Certifying Cisco's collaboration devices for Microsoft Teams Rooms marks a strategic shift to meet the diverse needs of the collaboration market. This resulted in a containerized Android solution that revitalized Cisco's video devices business with a 22% increase in bookings and expanded market reach while reinforcing Cisco's dedication to interoperability and customer-focused innovation.

Team Lead: Lars Gundersen

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Prerna Rau
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Espen Holmbakken
Rich Bayes
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Andras Aardal Hanssen

Quantum-Safe Networking with Cisco SKIP

Cisco's integration of the SKIP protocol and related technologies into its products offers a pioneering quantum-safe solution that protects against future quantum threats, influencing industry standards, and driving a $100M revenue impact while supporting a growing ecosystem of key management systems and securing a range of Cisco devices.

Team Lead: Michael Luken

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Sumit Agnihotri
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Jabir Mohammed
Basil Mohammed Ali
Rajiv Singh
Rakesh Kandula
Venkatesh Thota
Sujal Sheth
Krishna Priya Balakrishnan
Shailashree K
Gaurav Banerjee
Revati Mariappan
Varun Krishnan
Akash Shetty
Nikhil Thamminedi
Sridevi Srinivasan
Sangeetha Rajagopal
Vidhya Nandini Kasvisiwanathan
Bhavana Balraj
Subha Keshavaraj

Thousandeyes Internet Insights: Real-time, Data-driven View of Widely Used Networks and Applications

Internet Insights by ThousandEyes provides deep visibility into internet outages, offering intelligence beyond individual tests to identify broader failure patterns and rapidly resolve incidents. The ThousandEyes Internet Outage Map offers a data-driven, publicly accessible live view of global outages, significantly enhancing hybrid workforce productivity and marketing impact.

Team Lead: Pawash Ahuja

Prashant Baronia
Adam Newman
Nelson Rodrigues
Arash Molavi

Network Assurance Data Platform

The Network Assurance Data Platform is a cloud-based ecosystem enabling Cisco engineering teams to efficiently develop and scale AI/ML solutions for complex network management, providing services for data management, model training, and operational visibility, while ensuring compliance with privacy and security standards, leading to its adoption by 180 engineers and usage by over 5000 customers, driving a 60% annual growth rate in application deployment.

Team Lead: Sukrit Dasgupta

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Carlo Zapponi
Mohit Dubey
Sujay Kanungo
Joao Maria
Thomas Chemineau
Arthur Clement
Arun Bondada
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Andrea Di Pietro
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Tim Stirling
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Rui Filipe Monteiro
Luciano Falchetto Santana
JP Vasseur
Pierre-Andre Savalle
Gregory Mermoud
Derek Chen-Becker
Murtaza Doctor
Ravi Chandra
Kaushik Dam
Serene Fan
James Parnham
Karthic Balasubramani

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Kim Lambert (Islamber)
1 hrs ago

Great job to everyone! Keeping Cisco on the leading edge of technology!

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