Cisco IOS Naming Convention

IOS Classic ver. 15, IOS XE ver. 16 & 17, IOS XE 3S

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Technical Marketing Engineer
December 2021

Consistent and Uniform

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IOS XE

Cisco IOS XE Software Release 16 and 17

Cupertino 17.7 → 17.9

Bengaluru 17.4 → 17.6

Amsterdam 17.1 → 17.3

Gibraltar 16.10 → 16.12

Fuji 16.7 → 16.9

Everest 16.4 → 16.6

Denali 16.1 → 16.3

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Cisco IOS XE Software Release 3S

3.1S → 3.18S

3.18SP

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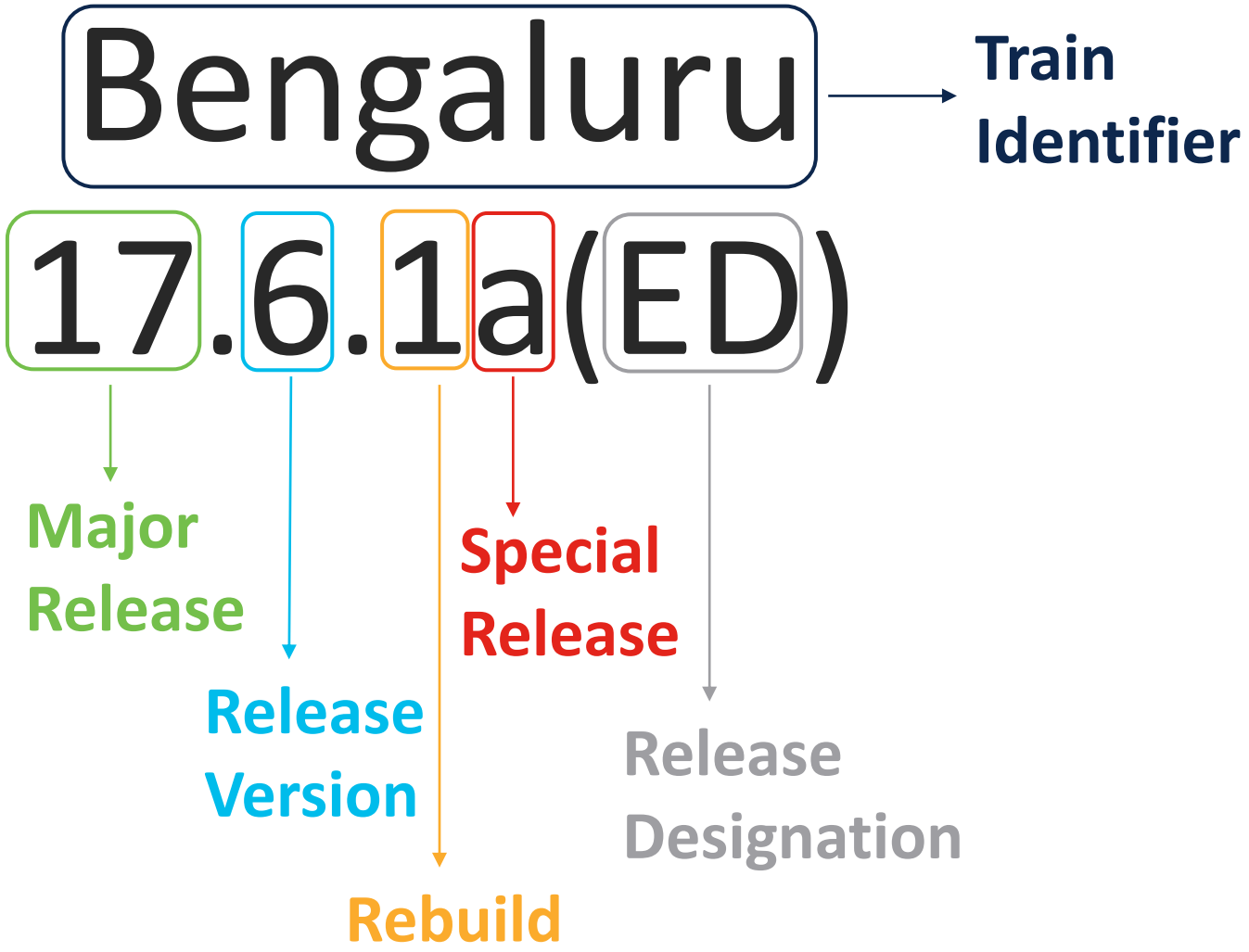

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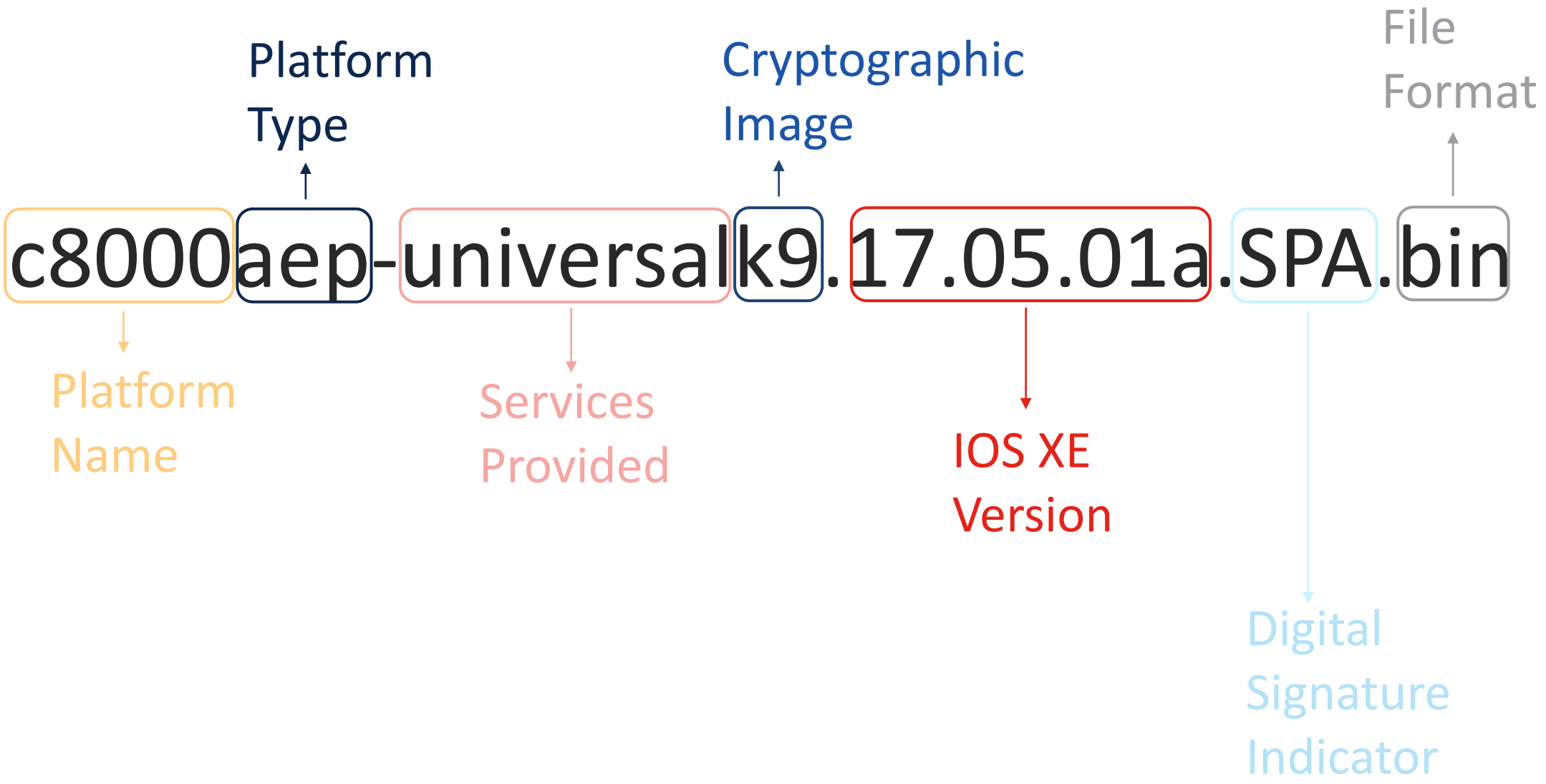
Catalyst 8500 Series Edge Platforms



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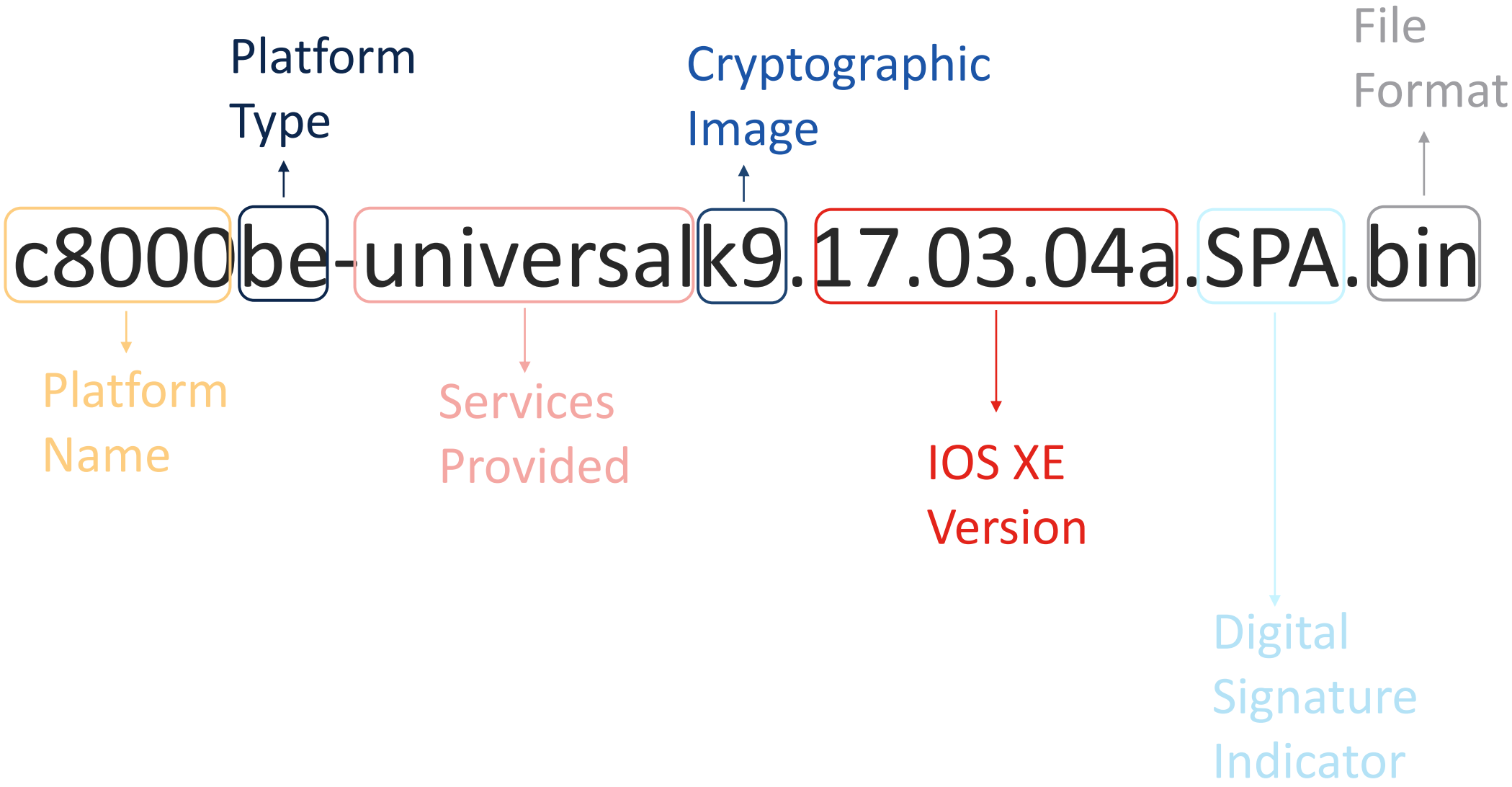
Catalyst 8300 Series Edge Platforms



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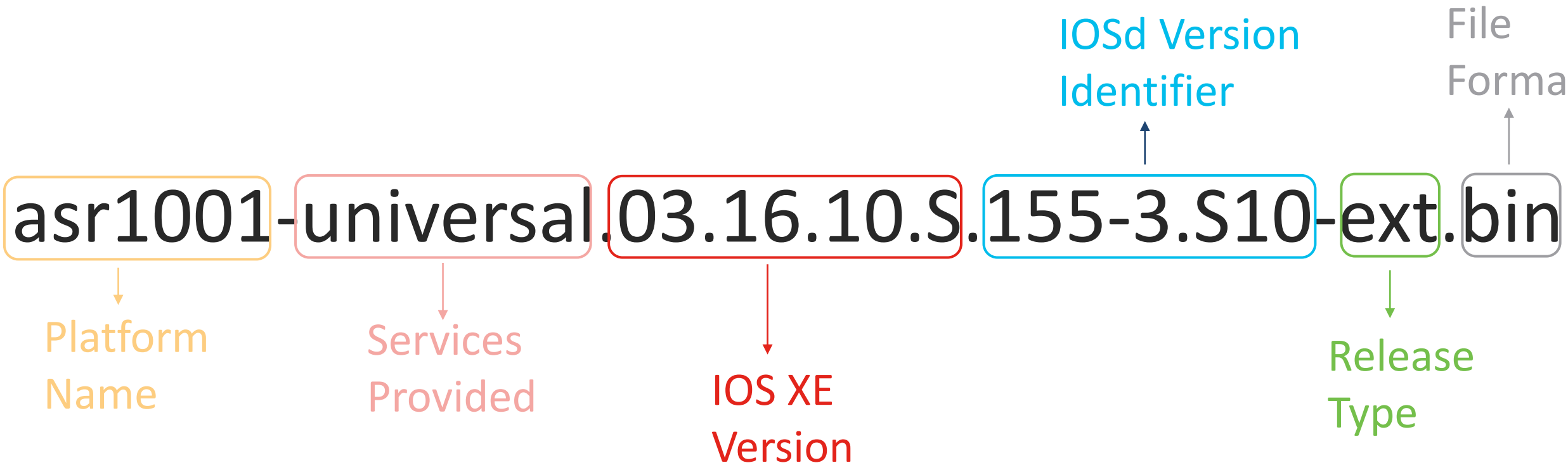

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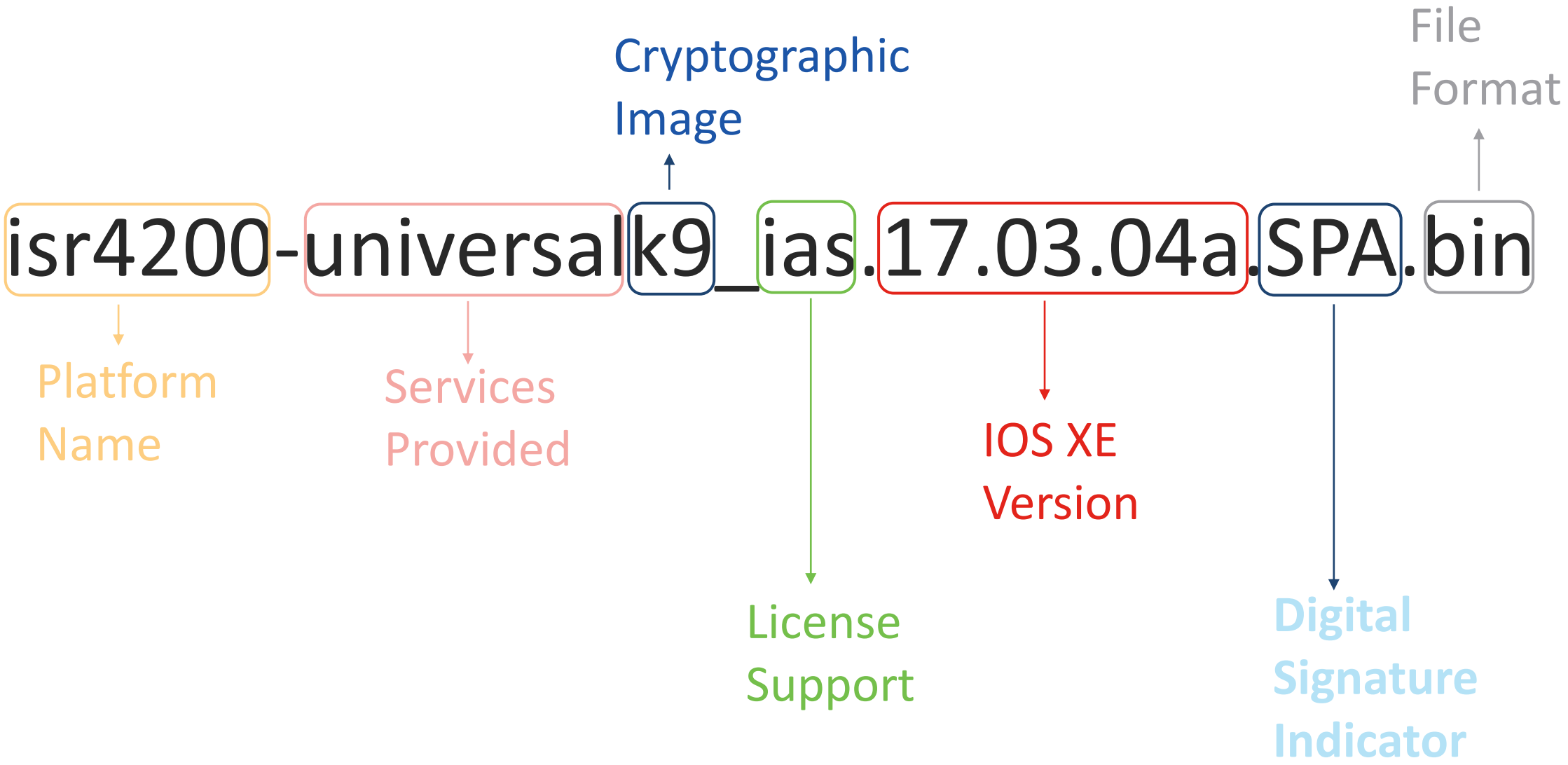

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IOS Classic

Cisco IOS Software Release 15

15M&T

15S

15 Special and Early Deployments

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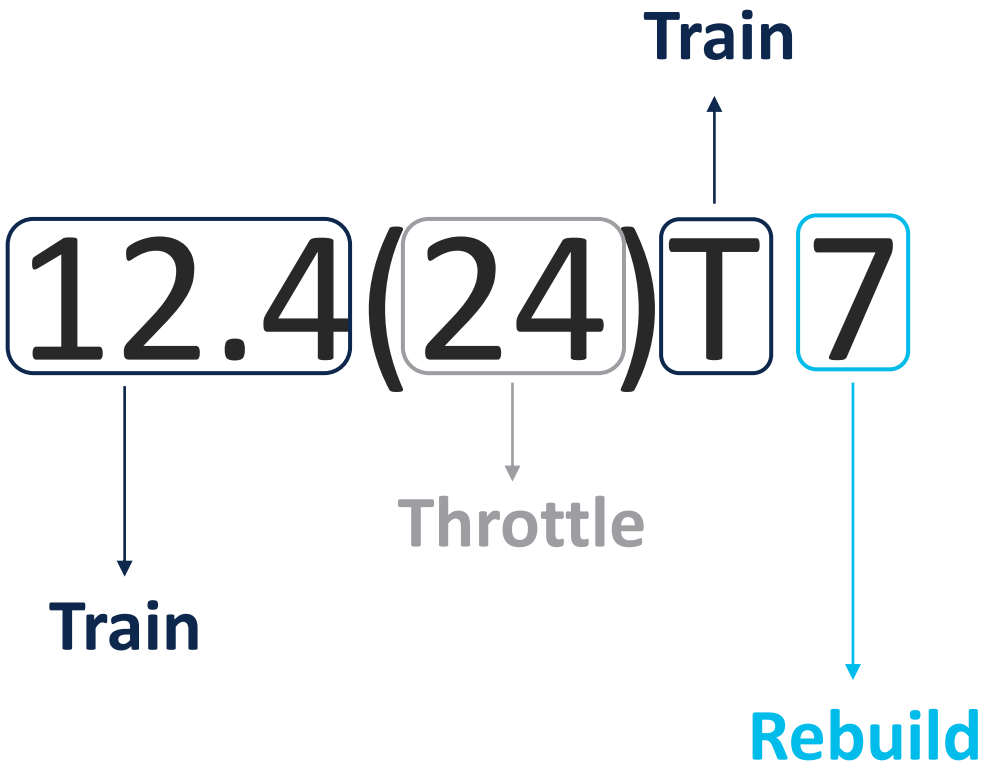
Trains, Throttles, and Rebuilds



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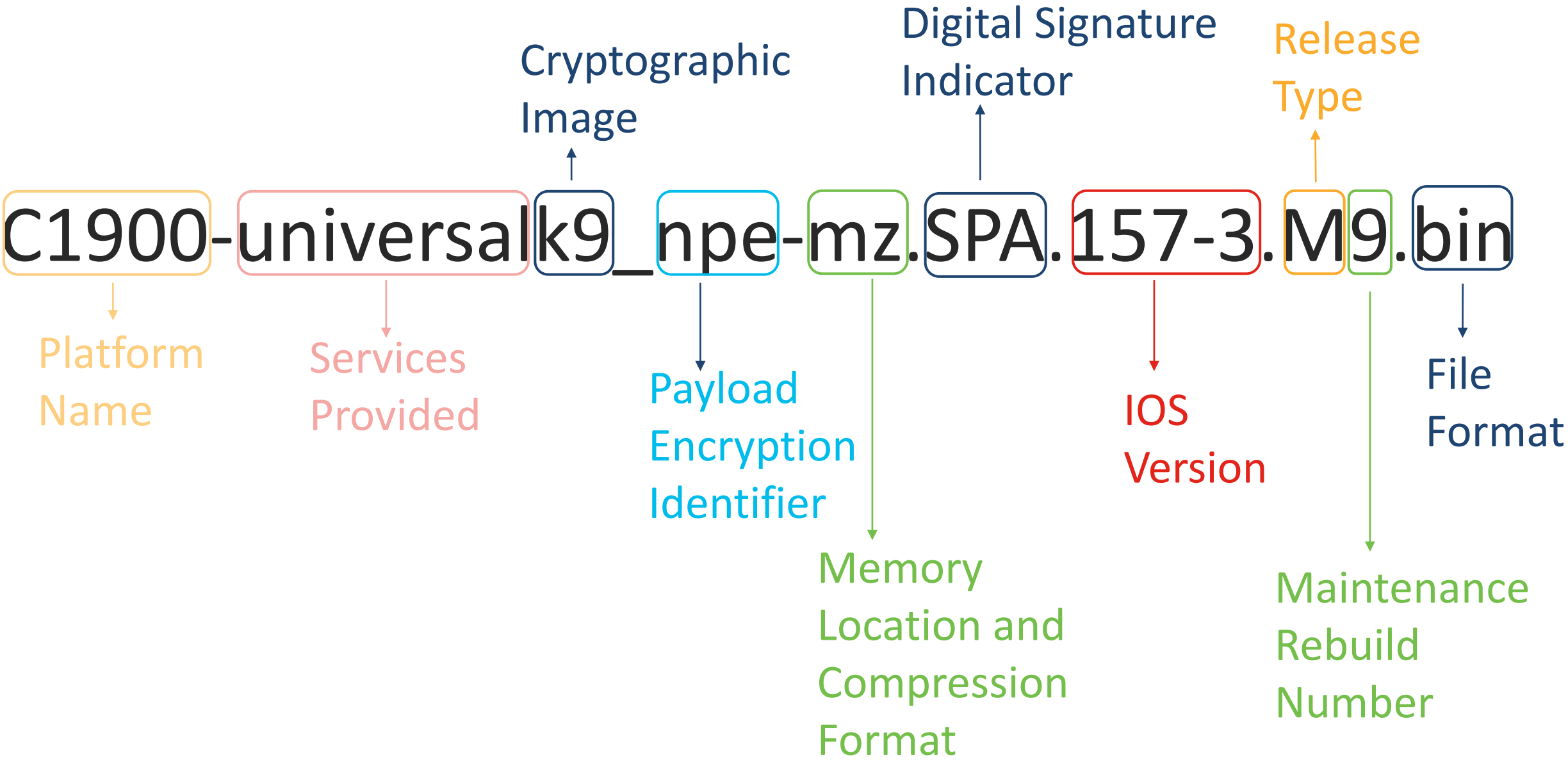

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The bridge to possible

Cisco IOS XE Software Release 16 and 17

Provides an open and flexible operating system that is optimized for a new era of enterprise networks. The software provides standards-based programmable interfaces that automate network operations and enable deep visibility into user, application, and device behavior. In addition, it reduces business and network complexity by providing a single operating system for enterprise wired and wireless access, aggregation, core, and WAN. New services can be qualified and deployed faster.

This software release family uses a cross-platform integrated model and is the result of merging the Cisco IOS XE Software Release 3E and 3S trains.

Source: Cisco IOS and NX-OS Software Release Reference Guide

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Cisco IOS XE Software Release 3S

Provides Cisco IOS XE Software functionality that is optimized for compact routers at the network edge, delivering in-service software upgrades and software redundancy in a form factor that is much smaller than was previously possible. The software also provides Cisco IOS command-line control to provide a familiar look and feel for Cisco IOS Software users, and it includes the ability to restart processes individually, with emphasis on fault-management features and in-service software upgrades.

This software release family primarily supports the following products: Cisco ASR 900, 903, 920, and 1000 Series Aggregation Services Routers; Cisco ISR 4300 and 4400 Integrated Services Routers; Cisco Network Convergence System 4200 Series; and Cisco Cloud Services Router 1000V Series.

Source: Cisco IOS and NX-OS Software Release Reference Guide

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Some Routing Platform Image Prefixes

- ias: IP Base + AppX + Sec
- efi: Extensible Firmware Interface
- be – Branch Edge
- aep – Aggregation Edge Platform

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Cisco IOS Software Release 15

- 15M&T
  - Provides Cisco IOS Software functionality and hardware support for enterprise, access, and commercial networks. This software release family incorporates hardware support and software features that were introduced in the Cisco IOS Software 12.4T and 12.4 Mainline trains.
- 15E
  - Provides Cisco IOS Software functionality in a converged release train that is designed primarily for Cisco Catalyst Switches and Cisco Industrial Ethernet Switches.

Source: Cisco IOS and NX-OS Software Release Reference Guide

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Cisco IOS Software Release 15 Continued…

- 15S
  - Provides Cisco IOS Software functionality and hardware support for routers that were designed primarily for service providers, such as Cisco 7200 Series Routers, Cisco 7300 Series Routers, and Cisco 7600 Series Routers.
- 15 Special and Early Deployments
  - Provides Cisco IOS Software functionality and hardware support for emerging platforms and features. These trains are intended to be short-lived and ultimately integrated into the 15M&T train.

Source: Cisco IOS and NX-OS Software Release Reference Guide

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Train Identifier Definitions for Cisco IOS Classic Release Trains

- A = Aggregation/Access Server/Dial technology
- B = Broadband
- C = Core routers (11.1CA, 11.1CT, 11.1CC)
- D = xDSL technology
- E = Enterprise feature set
- F = Feature Specific enhancements (11.2F)
- G = Gigabit Switch Routers (GSR)
- H = SDH/SONET technology (11.3HA)
- J = Wireless Networking technology (Aironet)
- M = Mobile (Restricted to Mobile Wireless BU usage and further reserved for Mainline)
- N = Voice, Multimedia, Conference (11.3NA)
- P = Platform features (11.2P)
- R = Reserved for ROMMON reference
- S = Service Provider
- T = Reserved for Consolidated Technology Train
- W = LAN Switching/Layer 2 routing
- X = A short lived, one-time release (12.0XA)
- Y = A short-lived, one-time release (when Xs are exhausted)
- Z = A short-lived, one-time release (reserved if Ys are exhausted)

Source: Guide to Cisco IOS Release Naming

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Types of Deployments

- Deferral (DF)
  - The purpose of the Deferral Advisory is to announce the removal of affected IOS image(s) from Cisco's offerings (i.e.CCO) and to introduce its replacement IOS image(s). At the time that the Deferral of an IOS image is advised, customers are strongly urged to migrate from the affected image(s) to the replacement image(s).

- Early Deployment (ED)
  - Software releases that provide new features and new platform support in addition to bug fixes. Cisco IOS CTED, STED, SMED, and XED are variations of ED software releases.

- Maintenance Deployment (MD)
  - A Cisco software release that provides bug fix support and ongoing software maintenance.

Source: Release Designations

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Types of Deployments (continued)

- General Deployment (GD)
  - Date at which this software release reached the "General Deployment" milestone in its lifecycle. A Major Release of Cisco IOS software reaches the "General Deployment" milestone when Cisco feels it is suitable for deployment anywhere in customer networks where the features and functionality of the release are required. Criteria for reaching the "General Deployment" milestone are based on, but not limited to, customer feedback surveys from production and test networks using the releases, CE bug reports, and reported field experience. Only Major Releases are candidates to reach the General Deployment milestone. Note: GD will not be applied to any future Cisco IOS Software maintenance releases or rebuilds starting from Cisco IOS Software Release 12.4. Please refer to the Cisco IOS Software General Deployment (GD) Program Retirement Product Bulletin for more information click here

Source: Release Designations

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Types of Deployments (continued)

- Limited Deployment (LD)
  - A Major Release of Cisco IOS software is said to be in the "Limited Deployment" phase of its lifecycle during the period between initial FCS and the General Deployment (GD) milestones. Note: LD will not be applied to any future Cisco IOS Software maintenance releases or rebuilds starting from Cisco IOS Software Release 12.4. Please refer to the Cisco IOS Software General Deployment (GD) Program Retirement Product Bulletin for more information click here

- F
  - A Cisco NX-OS software release that provides new features and new platform support in addition to bug fixes.

  M
  - A Cisco NX-OS software release that provides bug fix support or Product Security Incident Response Team (PSIRT) fixes as part of ongoing software maintenance.

Source: Release Designations

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More Resources

- Cisco IOS and Cisco NX-OS Software Release Reference Guide
- Cisco IOS XE Software Support Timeline for Cisco IOS XE Software Release…
- Understanding Cisco IOS Naming Convention
- Understanding Cisco IOS Naming Conventions, Academy Conference 2005 (PDF)

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