Configure Secure SMTP server on ISE

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Introduction

This document describes how to configure the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) Server on the Cisco Identity Services Engine (ISE) in order to support Email notifications for multiple services. ISE version 3.0 supports both secured and unsecured connections to SMTP Server.

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Prerequisites

Requirements

Cisco recommends that you have a basic knowledge of the Cisco ISE and SMTP Server functionality.

Components Used

This document is not restricted to specific software and hardware versions.

The information in this document was created from the devices in a specific lab environment. All of the devices used in this document started with a cleared (default) configuration. If your network is live, ensure that you understand the potential impact of any command.

Configuration

This section describes the configuration of the ISE in order to support email notifications used to:

- Send email alarm notifications to any internal admin users with the Inclusion of system alarms in emails option enabled. The sender's email address to send alarm notifications is hardcoded as ise@<hostname>.
- Enable sponsors to send an email notification to guests with their log In credentials and password reset instructions.
- Enable guests to automatically receive their log In credentials after they successfully register themselves and with actions to take before their guest accounts expire.
- Send reminder emails to ISE admin users/Internal network users configured on the ISE prior to their password expiration date.

SMTP Settings

Before ISE can use any email services, it must have an SMTP relay server configured. In order to update the SMTP server details, navigate to **Administration > System > Settings > Proxy > SMTP server.**

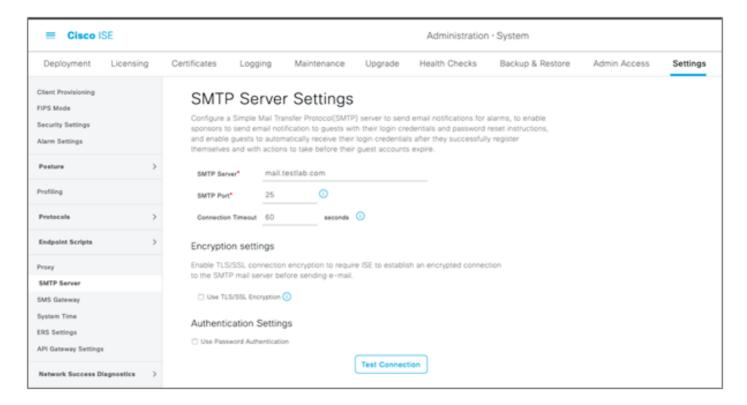
This table shows which node in a distributed ISE environment sends an email.

Email Purpose	Node that sends the Email
Guest account expiration	Primary PAN
Alarms Sponsor and Guest account notifications from	Active MnT
respective portals	PSN
Password expirations	Primary PAN

Configure the SMTP server in order to have the ability to accept any Emails from the ISE with or without authentication or encryption based on your requirement.

Unsecure SMTP Communication Settings without Authentication or Encryption

- 1. Define the SMTP Server hostname (outbound SMTP server).
- 2. SMTP Port (this port must be open in the network to connect to the SMTP server).
- 3. Connection Timeout (Enter the maximum time Cisco ISE waits for a response from the SMTP server).
- 4. Click Test Connection and Save.



Packet capture shows the ISE communication with the SMTP Server without Authentication or Encryption:

```
2856 2828-18-28 17158:28.478288 18.197.164.21 18.186.32.25 9RTP 184 5: 228 DC1.tentlab.com Microsoft ESMTP MAIL Service, Version: 8.5.9688.16384 ready at Wed, 28 Oct 2828 12:23:83 +8008 \rightarrow Response code: edomalno Service ready (228)

2857 2828-18-28 17158:28.47828 18.197.164.21 18.186.32.25 9RTP 27 C: DRL0 ISE3-1
2869 2828-18-28 17158:28.47849 18.187.164.21 18.186.32.25 9RTP 27 C: DRL0 ISE3-1
2861 2828-18-28 17158:28.47849 18.187.164.21 18.186.32.25 9RTP 27 C: DRL0 ISE3-1
2861 2828-18-28 17158:28.47848 18.187.164.21 18.186.32.25 9RTP 27 C: DRL0 ISE3-1
2861 2828-18-28 17158:28.47848 18.187.164.21 18.186.32.25 9RTP 28 C: DRL0 ISE3-1
2861 184 bytes on wire (1472 bits), 184 bytes captured (1472 bits)
Ethernet II, Src: Cisco_81881bf (bc:18:65:08)181bf], Dst: Wmaze_8b176:16 (08:58:56:8b:76:16)
Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 18.187.164.22, Dst: 18.186.32.25
Frammission Control Protocol, Src Part: 25, Dst Port: 28891, Seq: 1, Ack: 1, Len: 118

V Simple Mail Transfer Protocol
W Response 208 Cit.testlab.com Microsoft ESMTP MAIL Service, Version: 8.5.9608.16384 ready at Wed, 28 Oct 2028 12:23:03 +0008

Response parameter: DC1.testlab.com Microsoft ESMTP MAIL Service, Version: 8.5.9608.16384 ready at Wed, 28 Oct 2028 12:23:03 +0008

Nesponse parameter: DC1.testlab.com Microsoft ESMTP MAIL Service, Version: 8.5.9608.16384 ready at Wed, 28 Oct 2028 12:23:03 +0008
```

Secure SMTP Communication Settings

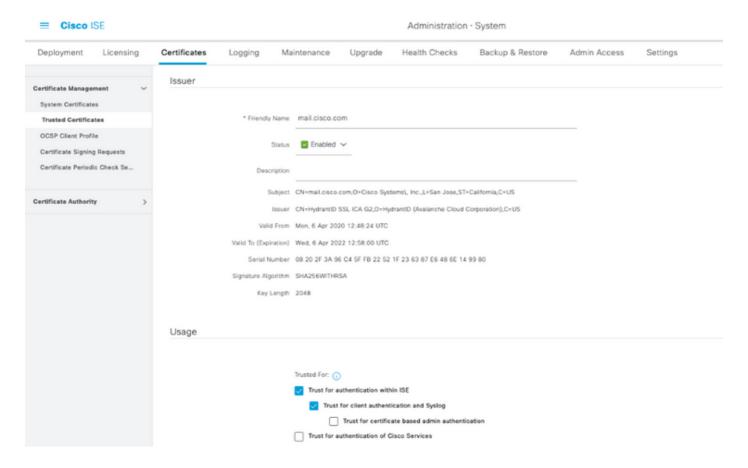
The secured connection can be made in two ways:

- 1. SSL Based
- 2. Username/Password-based

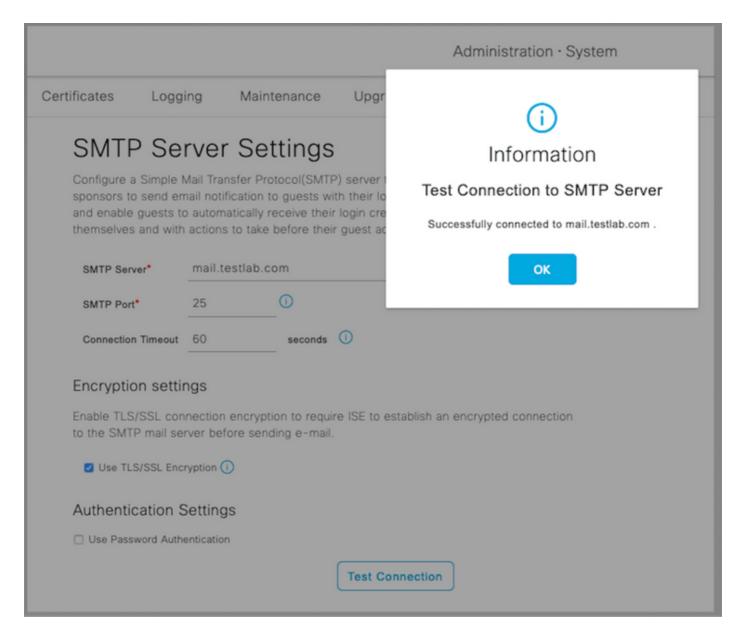
The SMTP Server used must support SSL and Credentials based authentication. Secured SMTP communication can be used with either of the options or both the options enabled simultaneously.

Secure SMTP Communication with Encryption Enabled

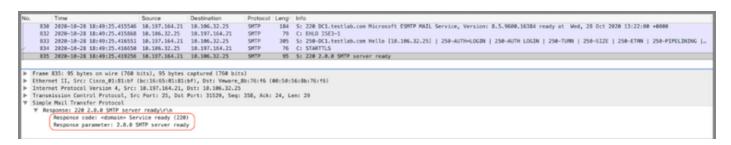
- Import Root CA Certificate of the SMTP server certificate in the ISE Trusted Certificates with usage: Trust for authentication within ISE and Trust for client authentication and Syslog.
- 2. Configure the SMTP server, Port configured on the SMTP server for encrypted communication, and check the option **Use TLS/SSL encryption**.



Test Connection shows a successful connection to the SMTP Server.



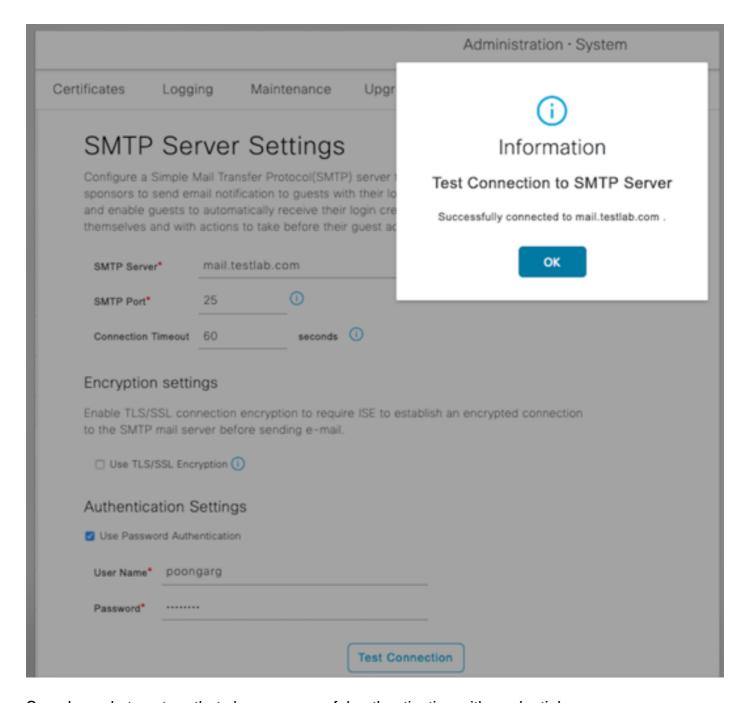
Packet captures show that the Server has accepted the **STARTTLS** option as requested by the ISE.



Secure SMTP Communication with Authentication Settings Enabled

- 1. Configure the SMTP Server and SMTP Port.
- 2. Under Authentication Settings, check the **Use Password Authentication** option and provide the username and password.

Successful **Test Connection** when password-based authentication works:



Sample packet capture that shows successful authentication with credentials:

```
No. Time Source Destination Protocol Leng Info

1631 2020-18-28 18:43:13.671815 18.197.164.21 10.106.32.25 9ffP 184 5: 228 DCI.testlab.com Microsoft ESMTP MAIL Service, Version: 8.5.9688.16384 ready at Wed, 28 Dct 2020 13:15:48 +0000

1633 2020-18-28 18:43:13.671229 18.106.122.25 18.197.164.21 18.106.32.25 9ffP 79 C: BNLD 158-1

1634 2020-18-28 18:43:13.672858 18.106.32.25 18.197.164.21 18.106.32.25 9ffP 305 5: 228-0CI.testlab.com Hello [10.106.32.25] [250-AUTH-LOGIN | 250-AUTH-LOGIN | 250-AUTH
```

Verify

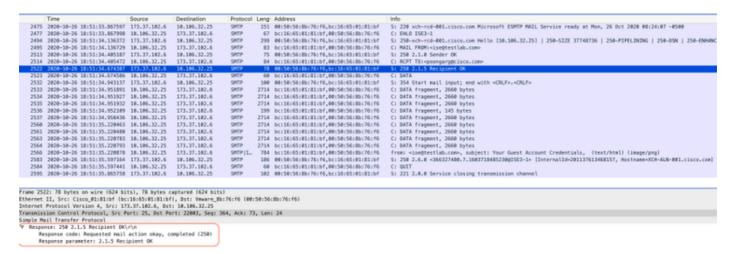
Use this section to confirm that your configuration works properly.

1. Use the Test Connection option in order to verify the connectivity to the configured SMTP

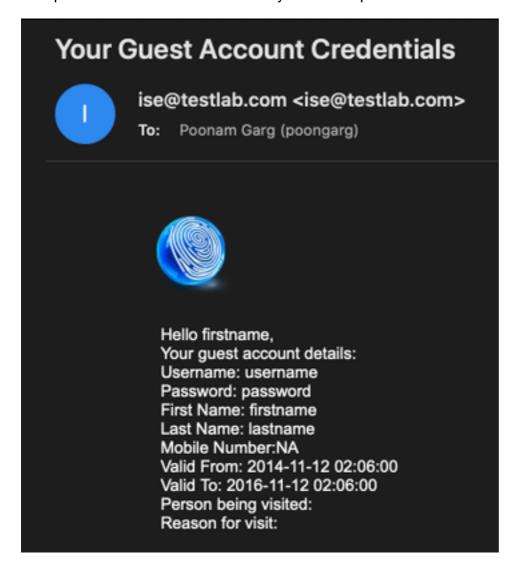
server.

2. Send a test email from Guest portal at Work Centers > Guest Access > Portals & Components > Guest Portals > Self-Registered Guest Portal(default) > Portal Page Customization > Notifications > Email > Preview window Settings, enter a valid email address and Send Test Email. The recipient must receive the Email from the configured email address under Guest Email Settings.

Sample email notification sent for Guest Account Credentials:



Sample email notification received by Email recipient:



Troubleshoot

This section provides the information you can use in order to troubleshoot your configuration:

Problem: Test connection shows: "Could not connect to SMTP Server, SSL Error. Please check the trusted certificates".



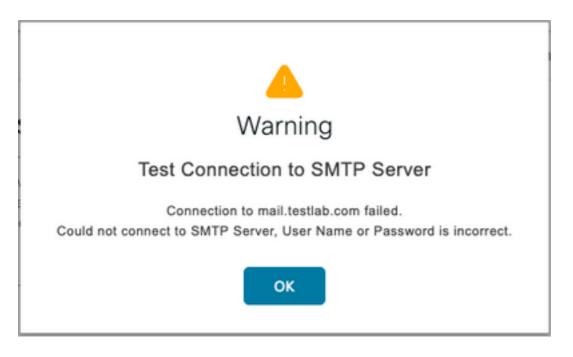
Packet capture shows that the certificate presented by the SMTP server is not trusted:

```
1698 2828-18-28 17:58:22.659934 10.106.32.25
1700 2828-18-28 17:58:22.661340 10.106.32.25
1702 2828-18-28 17:59:22.662379 10.106.32.25
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      20881 - 25 [SYN] Seq=0 Min=29200 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM=1 TSval=462914240 TSc
20881 - 25 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Min=29312 Len=0 TSval=462914240 TSccr=919415203
20881 - 25 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=119 Min=29312 Len=0 TSval=462914249 TSccr=919415203
                                                                                                                                                                                                     10.197.164.21
10.197.164.21
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            TCP
TCP
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     66
66
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            SMTP
SMTP
TLSv1.2
       1703 2020-10-28 17:50:22.662672 10.106.32.25
                                                                                                                                                                                                      10, 197, 164, 21
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      79
76
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     C: EHLO ISE3-1
C: STARTTLS
       1705 2020-10-28 17:50:22.665865 10.106.32.25
1707 2020-10-28 17:50:22.667148 10.106.32.25
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   Client Hello
                                                                                                                                                                                                      10.197.164.21
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  238
                            2020-10-28 17:50:22.680617 10.106.32.25
                                                                                                                                                                                                      10.197.164.21
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      20881 - 25 [ACK] Seq=196 Ack=2295 Win=34176 Len=8 TSval=462914267 TSecr=919415285
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     73 Alert (Level: Fatal, Description: Certificate Unknown)
66 20881 - 25 [FIN, ACK] Seq-203 Ack-2295 Win-34176 Len-8 TSval-462914273 TSecr-9194152
1714 2020-10-28 17:59:22.609752 10.100.32.25 10.197.104.21 TCP 66 20851 - 25 1714 2020-10-28 17:59:22.6097552 10.100.32.25 10.197.104.21 TCP 66 20851 - 25 1718 3073 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 10.1018 1
  Secure Sockets Layer
             TLSv1.2 Record Layer: Alert (Level: Fatal, Description: Certificate Unknown)
                          Content Type: Alert (21)
Version: TLS 1.2 (0x8303)
                            Length: 2
                ♥ Alert Message
                                  Level: Fatal (2)

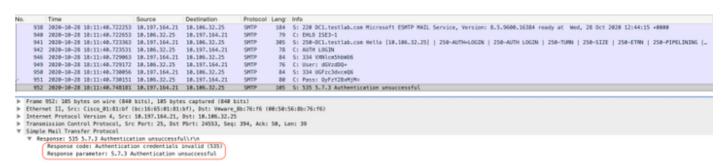
Description: Certificate Unknown (46)
```

Solution: Import Root CA Certificate of the SMTP server in the ISE Trusted Certificates and if TLS support is configured on the port.

Problem: Test Connection shows: Authentication failure: Could not connect to SMTP Server, User Name or Password is incorrect.

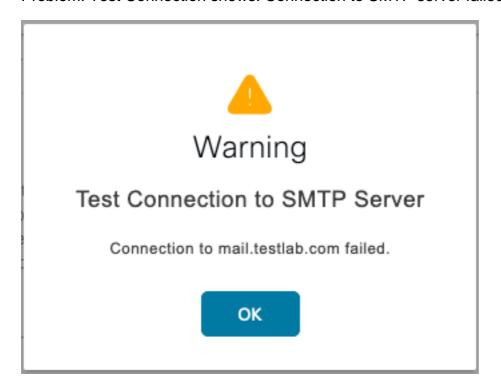


Sample packet capture here shows that the authentication was not successful.



Solution: Validate Username or Password configured on the SMTP server.

Problem: Test Connection shows: Connection to SMTP server failed.



Solution: Verify the SMTP Server Port configuration, Check if the SMTP server name is resolvable by the configured DNS server on ISE.

The example here shows a reset is sent by the SMTP server on 587 port which is not configured for SMTP service.

```
1103 2020-10-28 18:24:18.330613 10.106.32.25
                                                                                                                    10.197.164.21
                                                                                                                                                                                      76 Standard query 0x2a06 A mail.testlab.com
                                                                                                                                                             1104 2020-10-28 18:24:18.330643 10.106.32.25 10.197.164.21 1105 2020-10-28 18:24:18.331978 10.197.164.21 10.106.32.25 1106 2020-10-28 18:24:18.332020 10.197.164.21 10.106.32.25
                                                                                                                     10.197.164.21
   1107 2020-10-28 18:24:18.332281 10.106.32.25
                                                                                                                    10.197.164.21
   1108 2028-18-28 18:24:18.335520 10.197.364.21 10.106.32.25
1109 2020-18-28 18:24:18.336787 10.106.32.25 10.65.91.198
1110 2028-18-28 18:24:18.362481 Vmware_8b:6e.. Broadcast
                                                                                                                                                                                       68 Mho has 10.106.32.5? Tell 10.106.32.15
Frame 1108: 60 bytes on wire (480 bits), 60 bytes captured (480 bits)
Ethernet II, Src: Cisco_0:181:bf (bc:16:65:01:81:bf), Dst: Wmware_8b:76:f6 (00:50:56:56:8b:76:f6)
Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 10.197.164.21, Dst: 10.106.32.25
Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 587, Dst Port: 21243, Seq: 1, Ack: 1, Len: 0
        nsmission Control Protoc
Source Port: 587
Destination Port: 21243
[Stream index: 34]
         [TCP Segment Len: 0)
        Sequence number: 1 (relative sequence number)
[Next sequence number: 1 (relative sequence number)]
Acknowledgment number: 1 (relative ack number)
       Acknowledgment number: 1 (relative ack number)
0101 ... = Header Length: 20 bytes (5)
Plags: 0x314 (RST, ACX)
0800 ... = Reserved: Not set
... 0... = Comgestion Window Reduced (CAR): Not set
... 0... = COM-Echo: Not set
... 0... = ECM-Echo: Not set
... 0... = Ligent: Not set
... 1 ... = Acknowledgment: Set
... 0... = Push: Not set
... 1... = Reset: Set
... 0... = Sym: Not set
... 0... = Fin: Not set
... 0... = Fin: Not set
... 0... = Fin: Not set
... 0... = Compenies (Calculated window size: 0)
[Mindow size value: 0]
[Mindow size scaling factor: -1 {unknown}]
        [Mindow size scaling factor: -1 (unknown)]
Checksum: 0xe949 [unverified]
[Checksum Status: Unverified]
         Urgent pointer: 0
        [SEQ/ACK analysis]
```

Related Information

- https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/td/docs/security/ise/3 0/admin guide/b ISE admin 3 0/b ISE admin 30 basic setup.html#id 121735
- Technical Support & Documentation Cisco Systems