

Application: 5391

Cisco Secure Dynamic Attribute Connector

Page: General Information

Provide information about the company to be considered for the award. If you will be nominating an individual, specify the nominee's employer.

Name of Organization/Company

Cisco Systems Inc.

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Additional Contacts

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Page: Entry Information**Entry Title**

Cisco Secure Dynamic Attribute Connector

Category

Q06c. New Service of the Year- Information Technology - Cybersecurity

New Service Submission Format

Written Answers

a. Briefly describe the organization that developed the nominated new service: its history and past performance (up to 200 words). Required

Cisco Systems, Inc. is a global leader in networking, cybersecurity, and IT solutions, driving secure digital transformation. Founded in 1984 by Leonard Bosack and Sandy Lerner, Cisco has continuously advanced secure connectivity through innovations in networking, cloud security, AI-driven operations (AI-Ops), and automation.

With a strong legacy in cybersecurity, Cisco delivers solutions that protect enterprises, governments, and service providers against evolving threats. The Cisco Secure Firewall portfolio remains central to enterprise security, offering advanced threat defense, policy enforcement, and real-time security orchestration.

Expanding on this foundation, Cisco introduced the Cisco Secure Dynamic Attribute Connector (CSDAC)—a cloud-native solution that automates firewall policy updates using dynamic attribute-based access control (ABAC). CSDAC enables real-time security enforcement by integrating with multi-cloud security frameworks, ensuring adaptability to modern dynamic environments.

Cisco continues to innovate through AI-Ops best practice recommendations, providing customers with intelligent insights and automated optimizations to enhance security and performance. With advancements in zero-trust security, cloud security, and automated policy enforcement, Cisco remains at the forefront of modern IT security.

The development of CSDAC reflects Cisco's commitment to scalable, automated, and intelligence-driven security solutions, empowering organizations to proactively defend against evolving cyber threats.

b. Specify the date on which this nominated service was introduced to the marketplace. Outline the nominated service's features, functions, benefits and novelty (up to 250 words). Required

The Cisco Secure Dynamic Attributes Connector (CSDAC) as a Service was introduced in early 2023, leveraging a microservices architecture to enhance firewall policy automation and security enforcement across cloud and hybrid environments. This evolution enables seamless real-time integration with various cloud platforms and security sources, making CSDAC a scalable, adaptive, and intelligence-driven solution.

Features and Functions:

Dynamic Policy Adaptation:

CSDAC dynamically updates firewall policies in real-time, ensuring security enforcement adapts to evolving cloud workloads and SaaS applications.

Cloud-Native, Microservices Architecture:

Designed as a scalable, cloud-based service, CSDAC integrates seamlessly with multi-cloud security frameworks and diverse security sources.

Expanded Security Integrations:

Cyber Vision Connector: Pushes real-time CVE vulnerability intelligence to firewalls.

Workload Connector: Fetches dynamic attributes from cloud instances, IoT devices, and industrial machinery.

Predefined & Custom Connectors:

Supports built-in integrations with Office 365, GitHub, WebEx, Zoom, along with custom IP prefix ingestion via a Generic TXT connector.

Firewall Management Center (FMC) Integration:

Enables automated firewall policy updates, reducing manual overhead and improving security response times.

Benefits:

Enhanced Security: Automated, real-time security policies ensure continuous protection against threats.

Operational Efficiency: Reduces manual security rule management, freeing up IT teams for high-priority tasks.

Scalability & Flexibility: Cloud-native architecture ensures high scalability, supporting hybrid, multi-cloud, and enterprise deployments.

Novelty

CSDAC as a Service represents a paradigm shift in firewall policy automation, leveraging cloud-native technologies and microservices for real-time, adaptive security enforcement. By integrating with a broad range of security and cloud platforms, CSDAC enhances network security automation more efficiently than traditional static rule-based firewalls.

c. Explain why the nominated service is unique or significant. If possible compare the service to competitors' offerings and/or to the organization's other or past products (up to 250 words). Required

The Cisco Secure Dynamic Attributes Connector (CSDAC) is a groundbreaking solution that transforms firewall policy management through dynamic attribute-based access control (ABAC). Unlike traditional firewall solutions that rely on static IP-based rules, CSDAC automates security policies based on real-time cloud workload attributes, enabling seamless adaptation to constantly changing IT environments.

Uniqueness & Significance:

Real-Time Security Adaptation: CSDAC dynamically updates firewall policies by continuously integrating with public cloud platforms, SaaS applications, and Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center (FMC).

Predefined and Custom Attribute Feeds: It provides prebuilt connectors for services like Office 365, GitHub, WebEx, and Zoom, ensuring out-of-the-box functionality while allowing custom integrations for enterprise-specific needs.

Scalable Multi-Cloud Security: Unlike competitors that require manual policy updates, CSDAC enables real-time security enforcement across multi-cloud and hybrid environments.

Comparison with Competitors:

Traditional Firewalls vs. CSDAC: Unlike traditional firewalls that depend on IP-based rules, CSDAC dynamically fetches attributes from cloud environments and updates policies automatically.

Competitive Edge Over Palo Alto Networks & Fortinet: While Palo Alto's Panorama and Fortinet's FortiManager offer centralized firewall management, they lack CSDAC's native cloud attribute integration, requiring additional scripting or third-party tools.

Advancement Over Cisco's Past Products:

Unlike previous Cisco Secure Firewall solutions, CSDAC eliminates the need for static IP lists and manual policy adjustments, providing automated, scalable, and intelligent firewall management.

By bridging the gap between traditional firewalls and dynamic cloud security, CSDAC redefines adaptive security, making it a standout innovation in cybersecurity.

d. Reference any attachments of supporting materials throughout this nomination and how they provide evidence of the claims you have made in this nomination (up to 250 words). Optional

References:

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Cisco Blogs about CSDAC - <https://blogs.cisco.com/security/save-time-with-dynamic-attributes-for-cisco-secure-firewall>

CSDAC Config Guide - <https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/td/docs/security/secure-firewall/integrations/dynamic-attributes-connector/310/cisco-secure-dynamic-attributes-connector-v310.html>

YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gt5Yj7MgtG0>

YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnflM9HcgYo>

Cisco Community - <https://community.cisco.com/t5/security-knowledge-base/cisco-secure-dynamic-attribute-connector-csdac/ta-p/4465565>

Glocomp article - <https://www.glocomp.com/save-time-with-dynamic-attributes-for-cisco-secure-firewall/>

Likedin share - https://www.linkedin.com/posts/juan-carlos-carvente-juarez-014820176_deploy-csdac-for-dynamic-o365-objects-on-activity-7119429639554363392-2Rni/?trk=public_profile_share_view

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