

A Short History of Cisco Operating Systems

- Most people think of Cisco as primarily a routing and switching company, but they actually started out with just routers in 1984.
- IOS is the operating system that has been used on Cisco routers since their inception.
- Cisco Catalyst switches evolved from the acquisition of Crescendo in 1993.
- The original Cisco switch operating system was CatOS, which has now been deprecated.

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- Cisco firewalls evolved from the acquisition of Network Translation's PIX firewall with Finesse operating system in 1995.
- Cisco switches and firewalls were ported over to the IOS operating system over the following years.

Other Cisco Operating Systems



- IOS remains as the operating system used on the majority of Cisco enterprise grade network devices.
- Other operating systems have been developed for some more recent router and switch platforms.

Other Cisco Operating Systems



- The Cisco Nexus and MDS data center switch product lines run on **NX-OS**.
- The **IOS-XR** operating system runs on the service provider NCS, CRS, ASR9000 and XR12000 series routers.
- **IOS-XE** runs on the ASR1000 series service provider routers.
- The Command Line Interfaces for the other operating systems are nearly identical to IOS.