What is VIRL (Virtual Internet Routing Lab)

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VIRL is Cisco's powerful network simulation platform. VIRL is shipped with Cisco OS virtual machines included in the software package. This is your flexible, all-in-one virtual networking lab. No more bulky network equipment and hours of wiring! Easy to deploy, easy to build and easy to collaborate. Easily create connections to actual networking equipment by extending your lab to physical and virtual networking devices. VIRL is your complete network simulation platform for testing, training, and learning.

In Detail

Cisco VIRL provides a scalable, extensible network design and simulation environment. VIRL includes some of the most popular Cisco Network Operating Systems as virtual machines, and Ubuntu Linux 14.04 LTS to simulate network nodes. VIRL also allows the ability to integrate with third-party vendor virtual machines like Vyatta, Juniper and others. VIRL is community-supported and is designed for individuals who are looking to learn or get certified, and network administrators needing a sand box environment.

Licensing

The VIRL Server software license provides the user with one year of operation from the day the user downloads the license key. All VIRL software upgrades and Cisco OS images upgrades and additions, are provided for free during the one year period. This also includes pre-release and full release versions. The VIRL Server license is not limited to a single deployment method. You may use your VIRL Server license to activate your server on ESXi, VMWare Workstation, VMWare Fusion, or bare-metal.

Limitations

The VIRL Server license determines the maximum number of Cisco nodes (virtual machines) that you can run at any one point in time on your VIRL server. The maximum number of Cisco nodes is based across all simulations running on a licensed VIRL server. The license does not limit the number of non-Cisco nodes (i.e. Juniper, Vyatta, Ubuntu server, etc.) that can run on your VIRL server. Note that the actual number of nodes that you can run at any one time, is also limited by the amount of memory and CPU of your physical hardware. For more information be sure to read Welcome to VIRL document.

The VIRL Server license may only be installed on a single running instance. You may install your VIRL Server license on multiple deployments, but the deployments may not be running concurrently. Running multiple concurrent VIRL Servers under the same license key is in direct violation of the license agreement and is not permitted.