VQ COMMUNICATIONS

VQ Conference Manager Device Management & Automation (VQDMA) and its comparison with Cisco Unified Communications Manager (CUCM)

Cisco Unified Communications Manager (CUCM) is a widely adopted and mature solution that has been in existence for many years. It has served as a cornerstone in the field of call processing and device management for Cisco UC deployments. Many organizations have embraced CUCM and appreciate its reliability and feature set.

It's important to note that Cisco Unified Communications Manager (CUCM) was originally developed primarily for IP telephony deployments. While it has expanded its capabilities over the years, it may not provide the same level of native support and advanced features specifically tailored for video devices. While CUCM continues to be functional and supported, it is advisable for organizations to explore newer collaboration management solutions that align with Cisco's current strategic focus and product roadmap to ensure they leverage the latest advancements in UC technology.

Video conferencing and telepresence solutions often require specialized management and integration functionalities beyond what CUCM was initially designed for. Cisco recognized this need and introduced dedicated platforms like Cisco TelePresence Management Suite (TMS) and Cisco Meeting Server to address the unique requirements of video collaboration environments. However, it's crucial to recognize that TMS has reached the end of its technology lifecycle.

Cisco recently updated their TMS **product page** to announce that the End of Sale process has started for TMS.

As part of the End of Sale announcement, the migration detail section encourages customers who cannot migrate to Webex cloud services to consider VQ Conference Manager.

VQ DMA

VQ DMA embodies a contemporary architecture built on a modern platform, offering advanced functionality. DMA has been designed from the outset as the natural replacement for Cisco TMS, and is available to purchase via Cisco partners globally. It is deployed 'on premise' as part of a Cisco Meeting Server and Cisco videoconferencing devices eco-system.

VQ Communications has established itself as a leader in delivering comprehensive functionality for modern video collaboration needs.

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VQ DMA / CUCM Comparison Chart

This is a high level overview and we recommend further discussion on specific areas of interest.

Features	VQCM + DMA	CUCM	Notes
Device Provisioning			
Bulk Provisioning	Fully featured	Partial Support	CUCM lacks the scheduled provisioning which is an addition for VQDMA based bulk provisioning.
Template based provisioning	Fully featured	Partial Support	CUCM was built for Telephony and does not offer the Video Device based approach followed by VQDMA
Auto-Discovery	Partial Support	Fully featured	Roadmap for VQDMA
Auto Registration	Partial Support	Fully featured	
Configuration Templates	Fully featured	Partial Support	Limited customisation options in CUCM
Template Modules	Fully featured	Not Available	CUCM Phone Button Template offers not much for Video devices.
Device Labels	Fully featured	Not Available	
Role based access control	Fully featured	Partial Support	CUCM is limited to Administrator and user levels. VQCM adds ACL based access control for even video operators.
Configuration validation	Fully featured	Partial Support	
Audit trails & history	Fully featured	Partial Support	
Configuration Automation	Fully featured	Not Available	
Configuration Scheduling	Fully featured	Not Available	Can Schedule set of Device configurations to be run at off peak periods.
Phonebook Customisations	Fully featured	Partial Support	CUCM supports only flat directory, DMA supports hierarchial phonebooks
Device Monitoring			
Dashboard View (Real Time)	Fully featured	Not Available	Kibana based dashboard
Filter based view	Fully featured	Not Available	
Geo Map Dashboard view for devices	Fully featured	Not Available	
Custom Report Exporting	Fully featured	Partial Support	
Firmware Management			
Automatic Device Upgrades	Partial Support	Not Available	CUCM does not do automatic updates, only manual updates. Roadmap for DMA.
Call Analytics			
Data Storage for Historical Analysis	Fully featured	Partial Support	VQ Stores device details like packet loss, jitter, high RTT, video geometry & codec details and uses Elastic search to build advanced report visualisation.
Alarm & Alert Management			
Email Alerts	Fully featured	Not Available	Need to check if DMA does like CM.

Legend:
- Fully featured and supported
- Basic Features / Partial Support
- Not Available

Information current as of July 2023