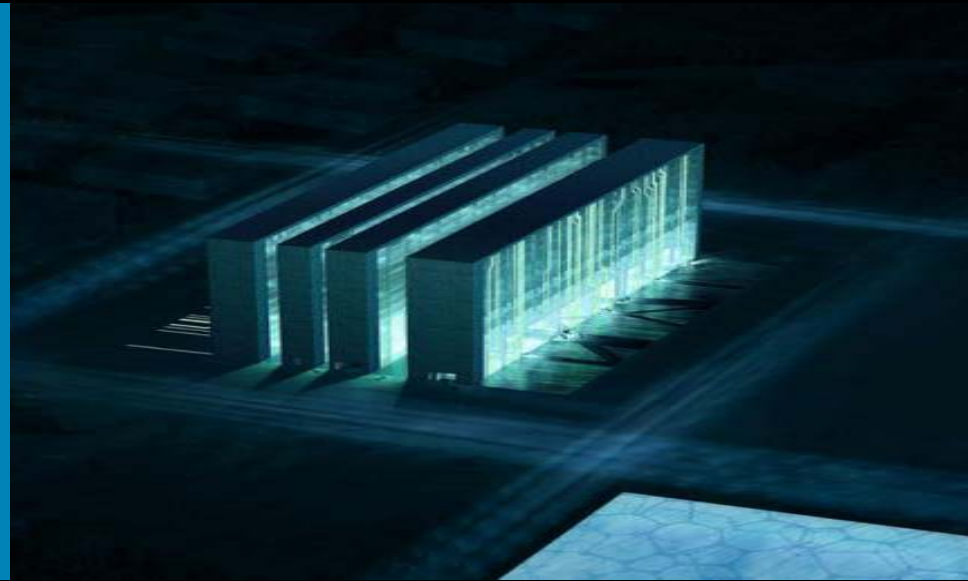




Cisco NX-OS: Release Lifecycle



**S/W PM Team
Data Center Business Unit**

Cisco NX-OS Life Cycle

Goals

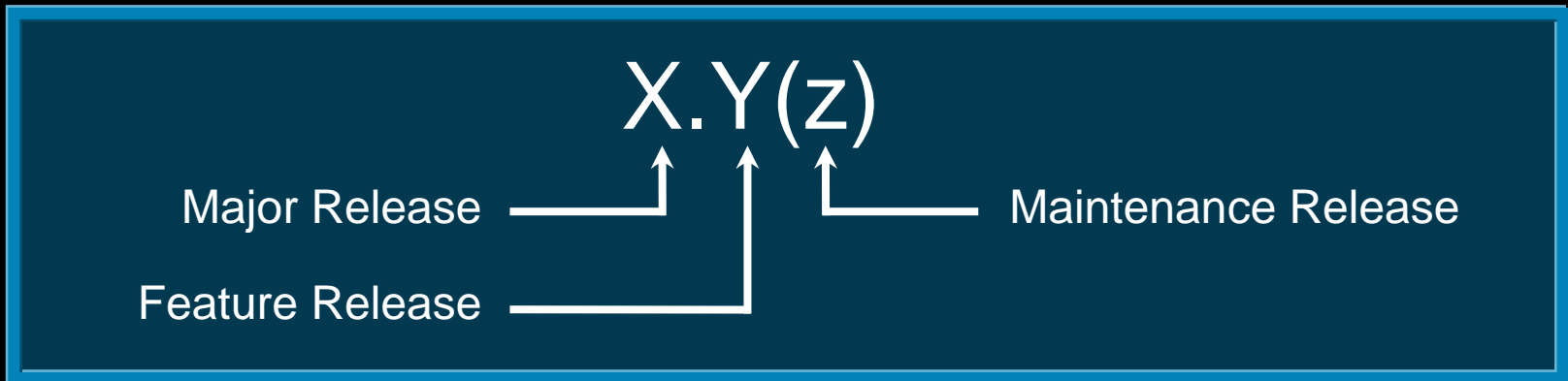
- Predictable product delivery
 - Decelerating maintenance releases (e.g., 4.0(1), 4.0(2), ...)
 - Feature release every 6 months (e.g., 4.0, 4.1, 4.2, ...)
 - Major release every 36 months (e.g., 4.0, 5.0, 6.0, ...)
- Maintenance patching
- Rapid general deployment status
- Rigorous certification testing
- Exhaustive trending and reviews
- Four-year lifecycle until end of life



Cisco NX-OS Life Cycle

Release Numbering

Each Cisco® NX-OS software release is uniquely numbered as X.Y(z), where X is the major release, Y is a minor release that enhances major release X, and z is a maintenance release that addresses product defects in minor release Y.



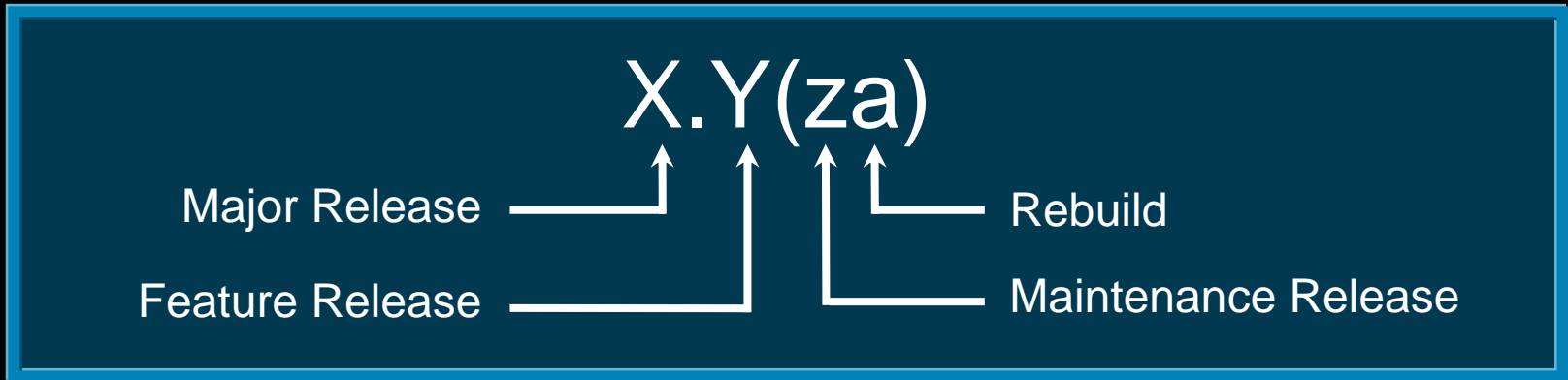
Major release: A major release introduces significant new features, functions, or platforms.

Feature release: Each major release consists of multiple feature releases. Each feature release enhances a major release.

Maintenance release: A maintenance release primarily resolves product defects in a feature release. Helping ensure that each maintenance release addresses product defects preserves the integrity and stability of a minor release. Few or no new features are added in a maintenance release.

Cisco NX-OS Life Cycle

Rebuilds



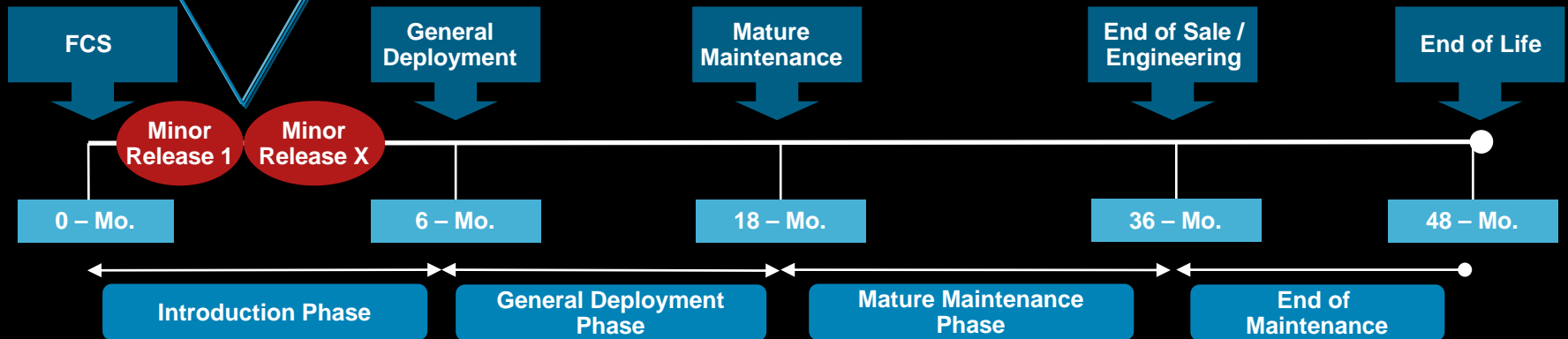
- Produced to quickly repair a catastrophic defect
- Fixes a single, specific problem or vulnerability for a given OS version
- Used in only the most extreme cases
- In many cases will defer prior releases

Cisco NX-OS Life Cycle

Introduction Phase

Introduction phase begins at FCS and is characterized by frequent maintenance releases, generally every 6 to 8 weeks; it is designed to rapidly address customer concerns.

During this phase defects and minor feature enhancements are added; the introduction phase typically lasts 6 months.

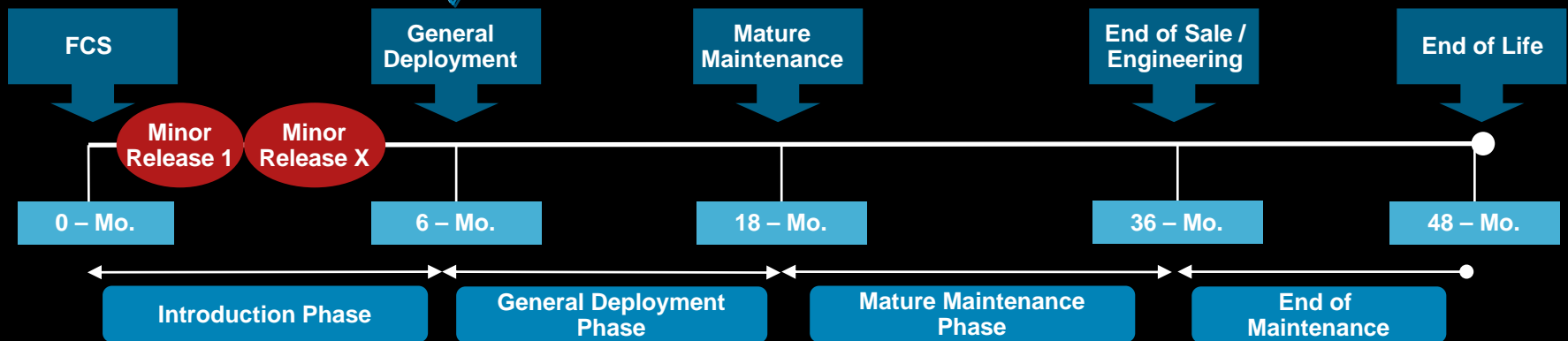


Cisco NX-OS Life Cycle

General Deployment Phase

After the integrity and stability of the final minor release is established, the major release achieves general deployment status, which indicates that the major release has been proven with extensive market exposure in diverse deployment scenarios and has passed rigorous metrics analyzing stability and bug trends.

No new features or functions are added after a release has achieved general deployment status; any defects in this phase are addressed in maintenance releases occurring at 8- to 12-week intervals. The general deployment phase typically lasts for 12 months.

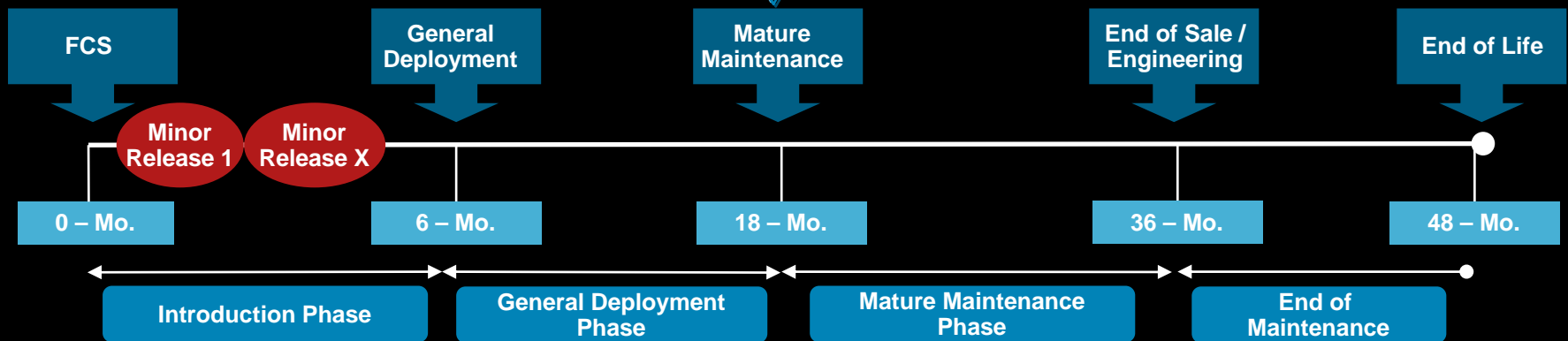


Cisco NX-OS Life Cycle

Mature Maintenance Phase

After the general deployment phase, the feature release transitions into the mature maintenance phase. In this phase, the release receives defect repairs only for severity 1 and severity 2 defects that customers find; problems found internally are addressed on a case-by-case basis.

The intent is to provide a minimum of change to the code base by allowing only customer-critical fixes. During this phase maintenance releases will occur as needed; this phase typically lasts for 18 months.

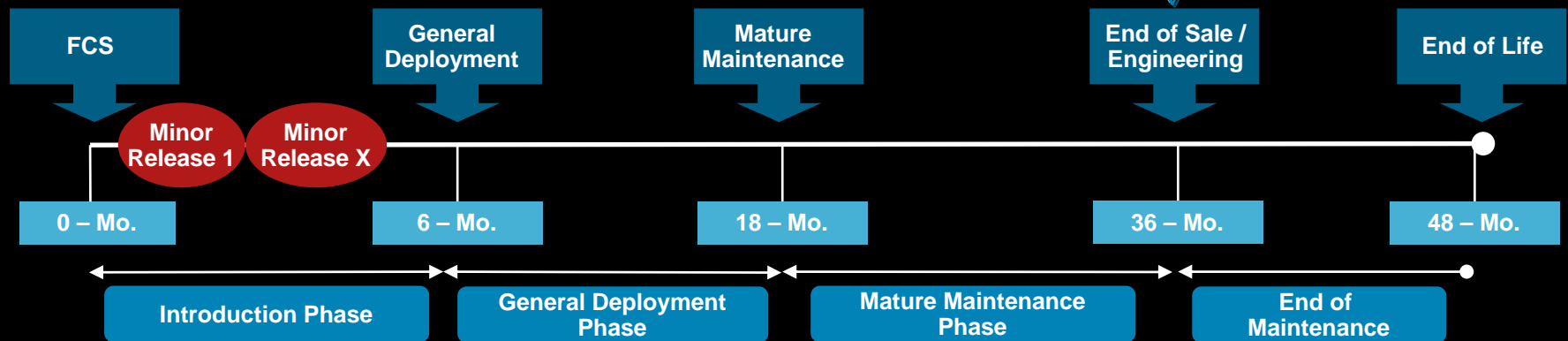


Cisco NX-OS Life Cycle

End of Sale and End of Engineering

Approximately 36 months after FCS, a feature release reaches the end-of-sale and end of engineering, which represents the last scheduled maintenance revision of the feature release.

At Cisco® discretion, bug fixes, maintenance releases, workarounds, patches, or new releases will be provided for a period of 5 years from the end-of-sale date; note that it may be necessary to upgrade software to a newer release to correct a reported problem.

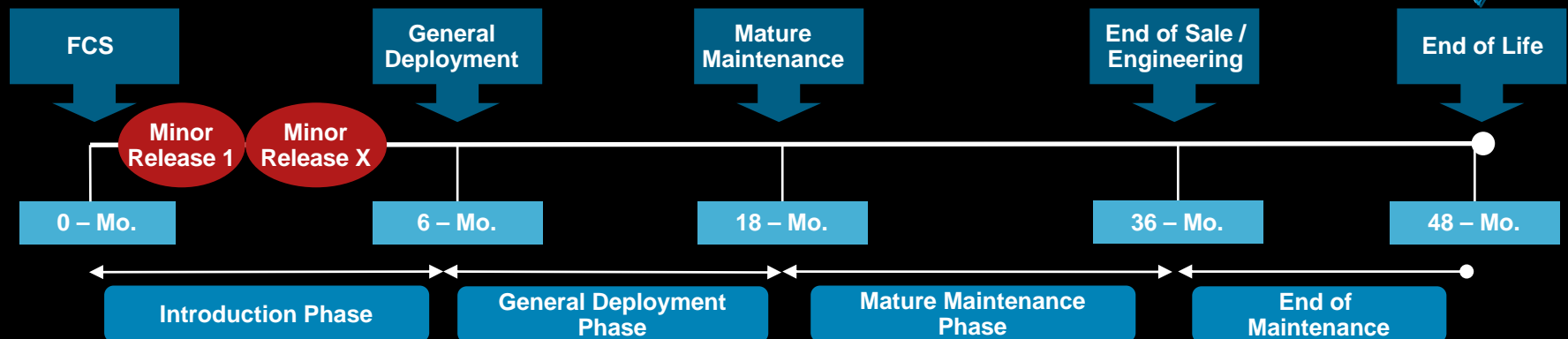


Cisco NX-OS Life Cycle

End of Life

After 48 months a major release reaches end of life, after which standard Cisco® end-of-life policies apply.

Access to the Cisco Technical Assistance Center (TAC) is available 24 hours a day for a period of 4 years from the end-of-life date.



Official Cisco end-of-life policy:

http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/products_end-of-life_policy.html

