

MECM - Cisco AnyConnect VPN - Start Before Logon Module

Connecting a Windows laptop to the MIT VPN before logging on to Windows



This article refers to the [Cisco AnyConnect VPN](#). If you're looking for information on the Prisma Access VPN Beta that uses the GlobalConnect app, see: [Prisma Access VPN Landing Page](#).

If you're not sure which service you're using, see: [istcontrib:How do I know if I'm using the Cisco AnyConnect VPN or the Prisma Access VPN?]

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Context

Cisco offers a Start Before Logon (SBL) VPN component that provides a mechanism for joining MIT's network through the VPN before the typical Windows logon. This ensures that a computer can contact the domain controller for authentication as well as receive group policy. This also provides network connectivity at logon for mapped drives and printers but also can provide network connectivity for other MIT services that typically are only available while connected to MIT's network. This will provide for an overall computing experience that more closely replicates being on-campus.

Deploying the Start Before Logon Module via MECM

The [End User Computing](#) team has provided a Cisco AnyConnect Start Before Logon package in MECM for you to [deploy to your computers](#). This package is listed under MIT Applications and is labeled as "EPM - Cisco AnyConnect VPN Client *VersionNumber* with Start Before Login Module". This application will install both the Start Before Logon component as well as the main Cisco AnyConnect VPN client.

This package includes a component that provides an additional logon field at the Windows logon screen. This is located in the lower right corner of the logon screen as illustrated in the screenshot below.



Not Seeing the VPN Button at the Windows logon screen?

You may need to logon with a local account and/or reboot the computer before the Start Before Logon field is active

Once you've started the VPN logon process, simply proceed to authenticate to the VPN as usual.

Additionally, the Cisco AnyConnect VPN Client with Start Before Login Module has been made available in the Software Center for most computers already. Unless you've opted out your computer collection from receiving the standard set of software deployments, you should see this application in the Software Center on your client computers.

Installing the Cisco AnyConnect with SBL using the Software Center:

1. Connect to an [MIT VPN connection](#).
 2. Click the Windows key and type "Software Center".
 3. Search for "Cisco AnyConnect VPN Client (with Start Before Login Module)".
 4. Click "Install".
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5. Upon installation your computer will need to restart.

If you get the error "The software change returned error code 0x87d00607" [MECM](#) may need to check-in for your computer's policy and that will take 15 minutes. To do this manually:

1. Click the Windows key and type "Control Panel".
2. In the search bar in the top right type "Configuration Manager".
3. Click the **Actions** tab.
4. Select "User Policy Retrieval & Evaluation Cycle".
5. Click **Run Now**.