

# Biography



**Mario Mazzola**  
**Chief Development Officer**  
**Cisco Systems, Inc.**

Mario Mazzola is the Chief Development Officer at Cisco Systems. He is responsible for leading Cisco's overall R&D strategy and managing Cisco's entire engineering organization, which is comprised of eleven technology groups: IOS Technologies, Internet Switching & Services, Core Routing, Network Management Services, Optical, Storage, Voice, Aggregation, Access, Ethernet Access and Wireless.

Mazzola previously held the positions of Senior Vice President of New Business Ventures and Senior Vice President of the Enterprise Line of Business at Cisco Systems. As the senior VP of New Business Ventures, he was responsible for heading the incubation effort to explore new technologies that align and promote Cisco's business strategies. As the Senior Vice President of the Enterprise Line of Business, he helped guide Cisco's strategies for providing global, end-to-end solutions and the convergence of data, voice, and video since the formation of the group in 1997.

Prior to joining Cisco, Mazzola was the President and CEO of Crescendo, which he co-founded in 1990. From 1990 until 1993, when Cisco acquired Crescendo, he helped grow Crescendo's revenues to a run rate of approximately \$15 million. Crescendo was transformed into the Workgroup Business Unit at Cisco following the acquisition, and Mazzola continued managing the Business Unit as its Vice President and General Manager. Previously, he was the Vice President of Engineering of David Systems, which he co-founded in June 1982. David Systems, which stands for Distributed Architecture, Voice, Image, and Data, set out to integrate PBX technology (voice) with local area networking technology (data).

As an eight-year veteran of Cisco, Mazzola's guiding principles are communication, trust, fairness, and creating a challenging environment with opportunity for growth.

Mazzola has a M.S. degree in electrical engineering from Bologna University in Bologna, Italy. He holds several patents on networking-related technologies.

