

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
SCHEDULE 14A**

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240.14a-12

CISCO SYSTEMS, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

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The following is additional information regarding Cisco’s Executive Incentive Plan and the compensation of two of its Named Executive Officers.

Annual Incentive Plan (“EIP”)

Our revenue and operating income under the EIP resulted in a company performance factor (“CPF”) that increased from 0.79 in fiscal 2017 to 1.06 in fiscal 2018, reflecting above target achievement of these financial performance goals. Our year-over-year EIP targets and performance are set forth in the following table:

	Fiscal 2018 (Actual /Target)	Fiscal 2017 (Actual /Target)
Revenue Under the EIP (in billions)	\$49.2 / \$48.6	\$47.9 / \$49.4
Results as a Percentage of EIP Target	101%	97%
Operating Income Under the EIP (in billions)	\$15.3 / \$14.8	\$15.2 / \$15.4
Results as a Percentage of EIP Target	104%	99%

These are the same financial targets used under the company-wide bonus plan and were based on the Company’s financial plan for fiscal 2018 set by the Board of Directors. In setting the financial plan, the Board took into account a challenging fiscal 2017, the uncertainty in the macro economic environment, challenges in service provider spending, and continued competitive and commodity pricing pressure. The Company had also recently launched the Catalyst 9000 switches and it was uncertain how quickly the transition to the series of switches would take. The 2018 financial plan, and the corresponding financial goals set by the Compensation Committee under the EIP, were challenging given the above-mentioned factors. Compared to fiscal 2017, the target operating income for fiscal 2018 was only slightly less than the actual and target for the prior fiscal year (by nearly 3.0% and 4.2%, respectively).

The Company’s actual performance during fiscal 2018 exceeded fiscal 2018 targets as well as the fiscal 2017 performance. The CPF for fiscal 2018 of 1.06 was based on the following performance criteria and the pay-for-performance results:

Performance Criteria	Fiscal 2018 Goals (\$ billions)			Pay for Performance Results			
	Threshold	Target	Maximum	Fiscal 2018 Results (\$ billions)	Funding (% of Target)	Weighting	Contribution
	Revenue	\$43.7 (90% of target)	\$48.6	\$54.4 (112% of target)	\$49.2 (101% of target)	105.1%	20%
Operating Income	\$12.6 (85% of target)	\$14.8	\$17.7 (120% of target)	\$15.3 (104% of target)	106.5%	80%	0.85
							1.06

The individual performance factor (“IPF”) portion of the EIP formula is based on a “maximum average IPF”, which directly ties to the following objective and non-discretionary formula:

CPF	Fiscal 2018 Maximum Average IPF ⁽¹⁾
≤ 0.78	1.20
1.00	1.30
1.02	1.40
1.06	1.60
1.09	1.90
1.20	2.00

⁽¹⁾ To the extent the CPF falls between two discrete points, linear interpolation shall be used to determine the maximum average IPF.

If the Committee did not exercise any discretion, each named executive officer would have an IPF of 1.60 based on the CPF of 1.06 for fiscal 2018. However, based on their performance and leadership at the same exceptional level, the Compensation Committee assigned an IPF of 1.70 to each of Mr. Robbins, Ms. Kramer, and Mr. Goeckeler. The IPF of 1.45 for each of Ms. Martinez and Ms. Elliott reflects their time in their new roles and their performance relative to the other named executive officers. The chart below sets forth each named executive officer participant's actual IPF and shows that the average did not exceed the maximum average IPF of 1.60.

<u>Named Executive Officer</u>	<u>Fiscal 2018 Individual Performance Factor</u>
Charles H. Robbins	1.70
Kelly A. Kramer	1.70
David Goeckeler	1.70
Maria Martinez	1.45
Gerri Elliott	1.45

The approved IPFs did not significantly increase the EIP payouts above the formula determined IPF.

<u>Named Executive Officer</u>	<u>Base Salary</u>	<u>Target Award Percentage</u>	<u>Company Performance Factor</u>	<u>Individual Performance Factor</u>	<u>EIP Payment</u>
Charles H. Robbins	\$1,230,907	225%	1.06	1.70	\$4,990,711
Kelly A. Kramer	\$ 763,434	135%	1.06	1.70	\$1,857,206
David Goeckeler	\$ 749,501	135%	1.06	1.70	\$1,823,312
Maria Martinez	\$ 193,050	135%	1.06	1.45	\$ 400,569
Gerri Elliott	\$ 186,000	135%	1.06	1.45	\$ 385,941

Named Executive Officer New Hire Compensation

In March 2018, the Compensation Committee approved new hire cash bonus payments and equity grants for Ms. Martinez, our new Executive Vice President and Chief Customer Experience Officer, and Ms. Elliott, our new Executive Vice President and Chief Sales and Marketing Officer. These new officers fill critical roles on Cisco's Executive Leadership team to help Cisco achieve its strategic priorities.

Cisco has been undergoing a multi-year transition to sell more software and subscriptions while remaining focused on delivering the highest value to our customers and shareholders. Given the needs and scale of this transformation, we required highly talented leaders with skills that complemented our existing Executive Leadership team.

Ms. Martinez and Ms. Elliott both bring a wealth of software and subscription experience, and have demonstrated their ability to execute in highly complex environments. They have proven track records at large companies such as Microsoft, Salesforce.com, IBM and Juniper in building successful "sales go to market" models and driving software adoption, renewal and expansion. We believe their vast experience across software, networking, services and customer success are quite rare, and a powerful combination in helping to drive our transition to more software and subscription offerings across our entire portfolio.

The Compensation Committee approved these new hire compensation packages after consulting with its independent executive compensation consultant regarding market custom and practice for such packages. The independent compensation consultant looked at non-CEO new hire packages of more than \$10M provided by large technology companies in the previous five years. The consultant advised that these packages were in line with market precedent as highlighted below:

- For Ms. Martinez, over half of her new hire awards were designed to compensate her for the unvested equity she forfeited by leaving Salesforce.
- Ms. Elliott's award level reflects an amount that was necessary to induce her out of retirement and join Cisco in a role that is critical to the execution of its long-term business strategy.
- The new hire cash payments to both of these officers are subject to recoupment upon voluntary termination or termination for cause by Cisco within 24 months.
- In order to further align the incentives of Ms. Martinez and Ms. Elliott, their inducement equity awards consisted of 50% performance-based restricted stock units, which vest after two and a half years from their start date based on relative TSR performance.

Based on the strategic need for the hiring of these two high quality and successful candidates, their unique ability to fit our need and the ultra-competitive talent market and demand for their services, the Compensation Committee concluded that the amount and structure of the packages was necessary and appropriate in order to bring these leaders onboard and contain appropriate performance requirements and clawback provisions.

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The following is additional information regarding Cisco’s Executive Incentive Plan and the compensation of one of its Named Executive Officers.

Annual Incentive Plan (“EIP”)

In determining the appropriate individual performance factors “(IPF)” for each individual named executive officer participant, the Compensation Committee considered leadership, innovation, execution, contributions to Cisco’s achievement of its financial goals, strategic planning, among other items. The following grid has the individual performance rankings for our CEO and each other Named Executive Officer. The grid is followed by a listing of key performance achievements.

<u>Leader</u>	<u>Leadership</u>	<u>Innovation</u>	<u>Strategic Planning</u>	<u>Execution</u>	<u>Contribution to Financial Goals</u>
Robbins	5	4	5	5	5
Kramer	5	4	5	5	5
Goeckeler	5	5	5	5	4
Martinez	4	3	4	3	3
Elliot	4	3	4	3	3

Scale: 5 – Exceptional, 4 – Outstanding, 3 – Meeting / Exceeding Expectations, 2 – Below Expectations, 1 – Unsatisfactory

<u>Leader</u>	<u>Leadership</u>	<u>Innovation / Strategic Planning</u>	<u>Execution</u>	<u>Contribution to Financial Goals</u>
Robbins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebuilt executive leadership team with strongest gender diversity balance in tech Led Cisco’s culture change Established expectations for Cisco leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Been a partner and enabler of his leaders’ new strategies including shift to Customer Experience, SaaS infrastructure, and recurring revenue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drove the necessary talent changes quickly – new sales, engineering, services & operations leadership Delivered on market guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TSR increase above peers Exceeded financial plan Fastest ramp of new product in Cisco history and accelerated innovation across portfolio
Kramer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drove business model shift internally and externally Drove the P&L mentality within Cisco 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Played a key role in leading dialogue with shareholders, providing greater transparency Worked with Wall Street to best report our new business model that is repeatable and fair Changed how we view finances vs. strategy & business changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensured that strategic & financial planning are aligned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TSR increase above peers Exceeded financial plan Successfully completed seven M&A deals \$23.6B returned to shareholders through share repurchase & dividends

Leader	Leadership	Innovation / Strategic Planning	Execution	Contribution to Financial Goals
Goeckeler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significantly shifted his leadership team Drove momentum to enable early-in-career and diversity to support a future pipeline of talent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Built a 3-5 year technical roadmap Drove new product lines to enable a new subscription model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of the new Catalyst platforms and new innovation across the portfolio Continued to influence our acquisition strategy to ensure it aligns to technical strategy Drove new & continuing collaborations with key partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceeded financial plan Drove significant productivity savings through value engineering
Martinez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebuilt the leadership team Bringing in new talent to execute on the new strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced new services business model Changed partner relationship to be more well balanced to position Cisco to generate greater revenue from our partners Drove more customer obsessed model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transformed more than 50% of leadership team Consistent revenue growth while driving the future Brought new level expertise that matches recurring revenue strategy and away from hardware 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First 3 months of employment was encouraging To be assessed in FY19
Elliot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated talent to those who drive long-term growth Successfully reset how the geographies work in the larger sales model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shifted the sales capability & processes to a recurring revenue model and away from a one-time sales model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnered with Engineering to ensure alignment with new strategy Partnered with Services to ensure aligned with new support model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First 3 months of employment was encouraging To be assessed in FY19

Named Executive Officer New Hire Compensation

In March 2018, the Compensation Committee approved a new hire cash bonus payment and equity grants for Ms. Martinez, our new Executive Vice President and Chief Customer Experience Officer. Ms. Martinez fills a critical role on Cisco's Executive Leadership team to help Cisco achieve its strategic priorities. The Compensation Committee approved her new hire compensation package after consulting with its independent executive compensation consultant regarding market custom and practice for such packages. As part of her new hire package, Ms. Martinez received a \$13 million new hire cash bonus payment, subject to recoupment if she voluntarily terminates employment with the Company or if her employment is terminated for cause within 24 months. The magnitude of this new hire cash bonus payment was designed to approximate the value of the unvested equity she forfeited by leaving Salesforce.com.